

CONSTITUTION OF CHURCHES TOGETHER IN STROUD AS AT 5TH FEBRUARY 2003

1. The organisation shall be called Churches Together in Stroud, hereafter referred to as CTS.
2. CTS shall be associated with Gloucestershire Churches Together (GCT) and with Churches Together in England (CTE).

3. BASIS

CTS Unites in pilgrimage those churches in Stroud which, acknowledging God's revelation in Christ, confess the Lord Jesus Christ as incarnate Son of God and Saviour according to the scriptures, and in obedience to God's will and in the power of the Holy Spirit, commit themselves to seek a deepening of their communion with Christ and with one another in the Church, which is His body and to fulfil their mission to proclaim the Gospel by common witness and service in the world, to the glory of the one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

4. AIMS

The Aims of CTS shall be

- (i) To provide a means of consultation between the churches
- (ii) (ii) to facilitate common witness to Christ by member churches
- (iii) (iii) to work and pray for Christian unity in association with GCT and CTE

In particular, CTS shall seek

- (a) To encourage the churches to worship, pray and reflect together on the nature and purpose of the church in the light of its mission, each church, sharing with others the treasures of its tradition.
- (b) To enable the churches as pilgrims together, to develop growing relationships, to seek a common mind, and to make decisions together, encouraging them to face the differences that separate them so far that members may grow in understanding of one another and work for fuller unity in truth and love.
- (c) To enable the churches to live and share the Gospel, to bear a united witness in the community and to evangelise together.
- (d) To enable the churches to respond together to the needs of society, acting as the voice of the Christian Church, and to sponsor and encourage ecumenical posts and activities, and in particular to serve and work with the local community.

5. MEMBERSHIP

FULL MEMBERSHIP OF CTS shall be open to any church in Stroud which affirms the Basis and commits itself to promote the aims of CTS

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP OF CTS shall be open to any organisation in the Stroud area bringing together Christians of different denominations for purposes in accord with the Basis and Aims of CTS.

6. REPRESENTATIVES

Each member church will be entitled to appoint as its representatives its ordained clergy or equivalent and one other person. Each church must inform the Secretary of CTS of the names of their representatives. Representatives will have the following duties: -

- (a) To report decisions and news and represent the views of their church to CTS.
- (b) To report from CTS to the decision-making body in their church.
- (c) To promote the aims of CTS in their church
- (d) To seek to provide a proxy is unable to attend a meeting with written authorisation from the representative.

Associate members may provide a representative, without voting rights.

7. OFFICERS

The officers of CTS shall consist of Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Past Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. The vice-chairman will become chairman at the following annual general meeting. The secretary and treasurer will serve for a three-year term, which may be renewed for one further term. (A minute secretary and publicity officer may also be elected if desired)

8. THE FORUM

Representatives of member churches will constitute the Forum, which will be the decision-making body of CTS. It will meet not less than four times a year, one of these meetings being the Annual General Meeting at which the accounts shall be presented, annual reports submitted, and officers elected from among the Forum. The Forum will have the power to co-opt no more than three additional members. The officers of CTS will act as a standing committee between meetings, with such authority as is given to it by the Forum. Working parties may be set up to facilitate projects. Representatives of associate organisations may attend meetings of the Forum, and others may be invited to attend at the discretion of the forum, but without voting rights.

9. FINANCE

Each member church shall pay to CTS such annual sum, due on 1st January, as shall be agreed at the annual general meeting.

10. CONSTITUTION

The constitution and any subsequent amendment to it require the approval of seventy five percent of the member churches, acting through their normal decision-making bodies.

11. REVIEW

It is intended that CTS shall reflect the developing life of the Christian Churches as they continue their pilgrimage together. Every five years, a Review Group shall be appointed by the member churches in consultation With GCT to report on the progress of the pilgrimage and to make proposals for desirable changes.