

CTAL Constitution (Agreed at the November 2013 AGM)

1. Name:

The organisation shall be called *Churches Together around Ludlow (CTAL)*.

2 Basis:

Churches Together around Ludlow brings together Churches and Christian Fellowships in and around Ludlow

- who have agreed in ecumenical partnership to discern and follow God's will,
- who in the power of the Holy Spirit commit themselves to seek a deepening of their Communion with Christ and with one another, and
- who strive to fulfil their mission of proclaiming the Gospel by common witness and service in the world, to the glory of God.

3 Aims:

The aims of *Churches Together around Ludlow* are:

- a) to enable the Churches, as pilgrims together, to develop growing relationships, to seek a common mind, and to make decisions together.
- b) to encourage each of the Churches to share with others the treasures of its tradition.
- c) to encourage Churches to worship, pray and reflect together on the nature and purposes of the Church.
- d) to enable the Churches to respond together to the needs of society, and to witness together to the good news of the Gospel.
- e) to enable the Churches to live, serve and evangelise together and to take further steps towards fuller unity.

4 Area:

Churches Together around Ludlow seeks to serve the town of Ludlow and its surrounding rural area.

5 Relationships:

Churches Together around Ludlow exists in association with Churches Together in Shropshire and, through it, Churches Together in England.

6 Membership:

Membership of *Churches Together around Ludlow* shall be effected by signing the CTAL Covenant and shall be open to:

- a) any local Church, Christian Fellowship or group of Churches in the area that is affiliated to a Church or Association which is a full member of Council of Churches for Britain and Ireland
- b) any other local Church or Christian Fellowship in the area which affirms the Basis and commits itself to promote the aims of Churches Together around Ludlow
- c) any local Church which on principle has no creedal statements in its tradition and therefore cannot formally subscribe to the statement of faith in the Basis, provided that it manifests faith in Christ as witnessed to in the Scriptures and is committed to the aims and purposes of *Churches Together around Ludlow*, and that it will work in the spirit of the Basis.

7 Organisation:

a) CTAL is governed by an *Assembly*, which appoints an *Executive Committee* and *Officers*.

b) The CTAL Assembly – There shall be an Annual General Meeting called the *CTAL Assembly*, normally taking place each November but meeting additionally if special major decisions are required. Such meetings shall be called by the *Executive Committee* or at the written request of no less than three (3) of the participating Churches. At least two weeks' notice in writing of any meeting of the *Assembly* shall be given. The *Assembly* shall consist of all those linked with member churches who wish to attend.

The Annual General Meeting of the *Assembly* shall:

- determine membership
- set annual objectives
- elect the four main officers
- receive the accounts
- agree the annual budget
- decide subscriptions
- receive reports
- and such business may be followed by an *Address to the Assembly*.

c) There shall be a *CTAL Executive Committee* consisting of two representatives (one ordained and one lay) from each member church and fellowship. In their absence, an alternate may attend.

The *Executive Committee* shall

- meet at least quarterly
- review progress, opportunities, challenges, resources
- further CTAL's aims and annual objectives
- plan and arrange the programme
- encourage new developments
- prepare the business agenda and speaker for each Annual Assembly, including proposals for election of the key officers listed at 7 (d).

d) *Officers* – CTAL's officers shall be Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer as elected by the annual *Assembly*. Between annual *Assemblies* the *Executive* may appoint replacements as necessary and additional officers as required. Officers may not serve for more than three (3) years continuously, unless re-nominated and re-elected at the end of that period to serve for up to a further two (2) years.

8 Finance:

Each participating member body shall pay such annual sum to *Churches Together around Ludlow* as shall be agreed at the Annual CTAL Assembly. The financial year shall be from 1 November to 31 October. Cheques shall require the signature of any two of the four *Officers*. An Honorary Scrutineer of the accounts shall be appointed by the Annual *Assembly*.

9 Covenant:

Churches Together around Ludlow shall conduct five yearly reviews of the Covenant agreed among participating members. The existing Covenant is printed below.

10 Constitution:

The Constitution and any subsequent amendment to it shall require the approval of 75% of the member Churches, acting through their normal decision-making bodies.