

57. Ecumenical Partnerships and Sharing Agreements

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Standing Order 334(4) states that the Connexional Ecumenical Officer (CEO) shall be responsible for the making of recommendations to the Conference on applications for the designation of ecumenical areas under schemes involving partnership at circuit level; section A of this report deals with the termination of such an ecumenical area. SO 334(5) requires all new schemes approved by the Synods under SO 412(2) and all sharing agreements authorised by the Connexional Ecumenical Officer to be reported to the Conference; these are covered by sections B and C of this report.

Key

B	Baptist
CLED	Committee for Local Ecumenical Development
CCP	Churches in Covenanted Partnership
CE	Church of England
CM	Circuit Meeting
JLtd	Joint ownership, vested in a Limited Company
JMC	Joint ownership, vested in the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes
JO	Joint ownership, vested in Official Custodian for Charities
JT	Joint ownership with body of trustees
LEP	Local Ecumenical Partnership
MC	Methodist Church
MCC	Methodist Church Council
Mor	Moravian Church
SCP	Single Congregation Partnership
SF	Society of Friends (Quakers)
URC	United Reformed Church

A: ECUMENICAL AREAS

SO 512(1) provides for the Conference to designate Ecumenical Areas. The South West Sussex United Area (36/8), a Methodist and URC partnership at circuit level, was constituted on 1 September 2010. The District Policy Committee (DPC) of the South East District has reported to the Connexional Ecumenical Officer that the Area Meeting, which is the Circuit Meeting for the purposes set out in SO 512(1), has voted in favour of the termination of the Area on 31 August 2016. The DPC also reported that, aware that approval was being given to this development by the Ministries Committee of the Southern Synod of the United Reformed Church, it had given its approval so that the churches in the Area can refocus their energies on serving the purposes of God's mission in their particular context.

The constitution of the Area states that the Area 'shall be terminated only with the approval of the denominational authorities and having notified the Sponsoring Committee of Churches Together in Sussex.' The latter body no longer exists. As the denominational authority able to designate an Ecumenical Area, the Conference is asked to approve the termination of the South West Sussex United Area.

***RESOLUTION

57/1. The Conference approved the termination of the South West Sussex United Area.

B: SCHEMES APPROVED BY THE DISTRICT SYNODS UNDER SO 412(2)

1 Ecumenical Partnerships in Extended Areas

The following list records those ecumenical partnerships in extended areas established by the Synods and reported to the Connexional Ecumenical Officer. It indicates the names of the Partnerships, which Synod(s) established them, which local Methodist churches are involved (and whether they are also party to a LEP), and which other churches are involved.

Name of Partnership	Synod(s) establishing the Partnership	Churches in the Partnership	
		Methodist (Circuit Number)	Others
Sheffield City	Sheffield	To be supplied on the Order Paper.	To be supplied on the Order Paper.

*****RESOLUTION**

57/2. The Conference adopted the Report.

2 Local Ecumenical Partnerships

The following list records those schemes approved by the Synods and reported to the Connexional Ecumenical Officer since the 2014 Conference. It indicates which other Churches are involved and the nature of the Partnership. It also records those Partnerships in which a new constitution has been adopted and whether the Synod has issued or revoked a direction under SO 611. Some Synods are in a process of clarifying whether the Church Councils of local Methodist churches in single congregation LEPs are constituted in accordance with SO 610 or SO 611; those directions marked with an asterisk in the table below give the current position but the previous position cannot be implied from it.

Circuit No	Trustee Body	Other Church(es)	Single Congregation Partnership (SCP), Churches in Covenanted Partnership (CCP), or Mission Partnership (MP)	New Partnership (NP) or New Constitution (NC)	Direction issued (DI) or revoked (DR) under SO 611
2/15	Llanelli Hall Street MCC	URC	SCP	NP	DI
2/20	Christ Church MCC	URC	SCP	NP	DI
2/24	Sketty MCC	URC	SCP	NP	DI
2/27	Barry MCC	URC	SCP	NP	DI
5/1	Hazelwell	CE	SCP	NC	DI
7/16	Somerton MCC	URC	SCP	NP	DI
9/16	Dalton MCC	URC	SCP	NP	DI
11/1	Garden Lane MCC	URC	SCP	NP	DI
14/20	St Faith's, Gaywood MCC	CE	SCP	–	DI
14/26	Bar Hill MCC	B, CE, SF, URC	SCP	NC	DI

Circuit No	Trustee Body	Other Church(es)	Single Congregation Partnership (SCP), Churches in Covenanted Partnership (CCP), or Mission Partnership (MP)	New Partnership (NP) or New Constitution (NC)	Direction issued (DI) or revoked (DR) under SO 611
22/14	Wirksworth MCC	B	SCP	NP	DI
22/15	Central, Grantham MCC	URC	SCP	NP	DI
23/29	North Marston MCC	CE	SCP	–	DI
24/20	Braunton MCC	URC	SCP	NC	DI
26/1	Totton MCC	URC	SCP	NC	DI
26/2	St Francis, Valley Park MCC	CE, URC	SCP	NC	DI
27/9	St Andrew's Penistone MCC	URC	SCP	–	DI*
27/9	West Bretton MCC	CE	SCP	–	DI*
27/18	St Andrew's MCC	URC	SCP	–	DI*
27/31	Cononley MCC	CE	SCP	–	DI*
27/31	Eldwick MCC	CE	SCP	–	DI*
27/32	Christchurch MCC	CE	SCP	–	DR*
27/32	Little Lane MCC	B, URC	SCP	–	DI*
27/32	Northcliffe MCC	URC	SCP	–	DI*
27/32	Wilsden MCC	URC	SCP	–	DI*
27/33	Cornerstone MCC	URC	SCP	–	DI*
27/34	Christ Church MCC	URC	SCP	–	DI*
27/34	St Matthew's MCC	CE	SCP	–	DI*
27/35	United Church Marsden MCC	URC	SCP	–	DI*
27/35	Kirkheaton MCC	URC	SCP	–	DI*
27/35	Trinity Honley MCC	URC	SCP	–	DI*
27/36	Longcauseway MCC	URC	SCP	–	DI*
34/1	Lidlington MCC	B, CE	SCP	NP, NC	DI
35/26	Worcester Park MCC (Christ Church with St Philip)	CE	SCP	–	DI
36/1	CM	CE	MP	NP	–
36/7	Sheerwater MCC	CE	SCP	NC	DI

Circuit No	Trustee Body	Other Church(es)	Single Congregation Partnership (SCP), Churches in Covenanted Partnership (CCP), or Mission Partnership (MP)	New Partnership (NP) or New Constitution (NC)	Direction issued (DI) or revoked (DR) under SO 611
36/27	United Church Herne Bay MCC	URC	SCP	–	DI
36/27	Sturry MCC	CE	SCP	–	DI

*****RESOLUTION**

57/3. The Conference adopted the Report.

C: SHARING AGREEMENTS

The consent of the Connexional Ecumenical Officer is required for the making or amendment of any Sharing Agreement (SA) under the Sharing of Church Buildings Acts 1969 and, where any such Agreement requires consent, to its termination (SO 334(3)).

The first list in section 1 below reports the Sharing Agreements authorised by the Connexional Ecumenical Officer and not previously reported to the Conference. Since not all Sharing Agreements so authorised come into effect, and some of those that do take a considerable time to reach that stage, further lists are provided to indicate those Sharing Agreements that have come into effect since the last Conference.

The list in Section 2 reports those Sharing Agreements to whose termination the Connexional Ecumenical Officer has given consent during the past year.

1 Consents

Circuit No	Local or Circuit Trustee Body	Building(s) to be shared and other details (including owner)	Other Church(es) party to the SA	Date of CEO consent	Date of SA	Registered No	Date SA registered
2/20	Christ Church MCC	Priory Road Milford Haven SA73 2DT (Church: MC)	URC	27/11/14	28/4/15	39/282	17/8/15
2/24	Sketty MCC	Sketty MC Dillwyn Road Sketty Swansea SA2 9AE (Church: MC)	URC	30/7/14			
2/24	Sketty MCC	Bethel URC Sketty Park Road Sketty Swansea SA2 9AS (Church: URC)	URC	30/7/14			
7/16	Somerton MCC	West Street Somerton TA11 7PR (Church: MC)	URC	26/4/16			
11/1	Garden Lane MCC	Garden Lane MC 66 Garden Lane Chester CH1 4EW (Church: MC)	URC	27/1/15			

Circuit No	Local or Circuit Trustee Body	Building(s) to be shared and other details (including owner)	Other Church(es) party to the SA	Date of CEO consent	Date of SA	Registered No	Date SA registered
11/4	Weaverham MCC	St Mary's Parish Church Weaverham Northwich CW8 1TA (Church: CE)	CE	10/8/09	29/8/14	39/275	9/10/14
11/4	Weaverham MCC	St Mary's Parish Church House Weaverham Northwich CW8 1TA (Church Hall: CE)	CE	10/8/09	29/8/14	39/275	9/10/14
14/1	St Peter's MCC	Jessopp Road URC Jessopp Road Norwich NR2 3QA (Church: URC)	URC	11/2/15	24/5/15	39/278	5/6/15
19/1	Gorton MCC	Gorton Churches Community Centre Wellington Street Gorton Manchester M18 8TX (Church/Hall: JO)	CE	26/3/15	27/3/15	39/279	27/5/15
19/1	Gorton MCC	1 Mercer Road Gorton Manchester M18 8JR (Manse: JO)	CE	26/3/15	27/3/15	39/279	27/5/15
20/1	CM	3 Crompton Road Heaton Newcastle upon Tyne NE6 5QL (Manse: URC)	URC	8/7/14			
22/14	Wirksworth MCC	Wirksworth MC 49 St John's Street Wirksworth Matlock DE4 4DS (Church: M)	B	7/9/15	20/10/15	39/283	24/11/15
23/22	Barnack MCC	Main St Barnack Stamford PE9 3DN (Church: MC)	B	4/7/14			
23/29	Weedon MCC	Weedon Chapel Aston Abbots Road Weedon Aylesbury HP22 4NH (Church: MC)	CE	9/3/16			
23/29	Weedon MCC	St Mary the Virgin Lower Road Hardwick HP22 4DT (Church: CE)	CE	9/3/16			
25/19	North Wheatley MCC	Low Street North Wheatley Retford DN22 9DS (Church: MC)	CE	13/2/15			

Circuit No	Local or Circuit Trustee Body	Building(s) to be shared and other details (including owner)	Other Church(es) party to the SA	Date of CEO consent	Date of SA	Registered No	Date SA registered
25/19	North Wheatley MCC	Church of St Peter and St Paul Middlefield Road North Wheatley Retford DN22 9DA (Church: CE)	CE	13/2/15			
25/19	The Crossing MCC	Site of Wesley Methodist Church and Sunday School Newcastle Street Worksop S80 2AT (Church: JMC)	URC	-	5/10/04	39/280	7/7/15
25/19	The Crossing MCC	Site of Worksop URC Worksop (Church: URC)	URC	-	5/10/04	39/281	7/7/15
36/1	CM	45 Scarlett's Road Wellesley Aldershot GU11 4AD (Manse: MC)	CE	16/6/15			
36/27	Beacon MCC	Beacon Church Christian Centre London Road Dover CT17 0SS (Church: MC)	URC	25/7/14			

Sharing Agreements registered since the 2014 Conference to which CEO consent was reported to the Conference in 2007:

23/26	Stantonbury MCC	St James Church Street New Bradwell Milton Keynes MK13 5LG (Church: CE)	B, CE, URC	26/11/07 (CLED)	8/7/14	39/272	9/7/14
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Sharing Agreements registered since the 2014 Conference to which CEO consent was reported to the Conference in 2013:

5/1	Hall Green MCC	609 Reddings Lane Hall Green Birmingham B28 8TE (Church: MC)	Mor, URC	26/7/12	24/9/14	39/274	24/9/14
21/3	Trinity Great Harwood MCC	King St Great Harwood Blackburn BB6 7JN (Church: MC)	URC	19/4/13	19/11/14	39/277	3/3/15
22/15	ChristChurch MCC	Finkin Street Grantham NG31 6QZ (Church: MC)	URC	25/3/13	8/12/14	39/276	16/12/14
24/16	Tiverton MCC	St Peter Street Tiverton EX16 6NU (Church: MC)	URC	20/11/12	8/7/14	39/271	8/7/14

Sharing Agreements registered since the 2014 Conference to which CEO consent was reported to the Conference in 2014:

5/18	The Bridge Church CC	St Luke's Church Evesham Road Headless Cross Redditch B97 4JX (Church: CE)	CE	25/10/13	15/1/16	39/284	26/1/16
36/7	Guildford CC	St Mary's Church Quarry Street Guildford GU1 3TY (Church: CE)	CE	21/2/14	15/7/14	39/273	16/7/14

2 Terminations of and Retirements from Sharing Agreements

Circuit No	Local or Circuit Trustee Body	Building(s) shared and other details (including owner)	Other Church(es) party to the SA	Date of notice given by CEO	Date of SA	Registered number	Date of termination
5/1	CM	New Street, Frankley New Street Rubery Rednal Birmingham B45 0EU (Church: MC)	CE	9/9/14	18/10/00	39/087	9/3/15
6/1	Westhoughton MCC	Church premises at St George's CE Primary School The Hoskers Westhoughton (Church: CE)	CE, URC	22/1/16	4/5/00	39/082	1/2/16 and 22/7/16
9/16	Roose CC	St Perran's Mission Church North Road Roose Barrow-in-Furness (Church: CE)	CE	-	4/11/91	38/867	23/12/14
11/24	Bradnop CC	School Lane Bradnop Leek ST13 7ND (Church: MC)	CE	2/2/15	25/8/95	39/007	14/4/15
12/7	CM	Rosemorran Ava Mevagissey St Austell PL26 6RY (Manse: MC)	URC	29/6/15	18/1/94	38/958	22/11/15

Circuit No	Local or Circuit Trustee Body	Building(s) shared and other details (including owner)	Other Church(es) party to the SA	Date of notice given by CEO	Date of SA	Registered number	Date of termination
13/2	CM	20 Fox Howe Coulby Newham (Manse: JMC)	URC	-	28/4/80	38/152	29/1/15
17/1	CM	St Andrew's East Butterwick Scunthorpe DN17 3AG (Church: CE)	CE	23/6/15	26/11/71	32/166	4/8/13
17/7	CM	All Saints Church Street Beckingham DN10 4PP (Church: CE)	CE	17/5/16	25/1/09	39/223	
17/7	CM	St Mary's Main Street West Stockwith DN10 4EZ (Church: CE)	CE	17/5/16	23/1/00	39/078	
20/1	CM	Holy Family Killingworth Newcastle Upon Tyne NE12 0AA (Church: JT)	B, CE, URC	-	10/12/84	38/420	30/9/03
20/15	CM	Winlaton URC Front Street Winlaton Gateshead NE21 4RF (Church: URC)	URC	-	30/12/02	39/131	26/7/15
23/6	Well Street MCC	19 Well Street Buckingham MK18 1ET (Church: URC)	B, URC	-	29/6/05	39/175	10/5/16
26/10	Lymington MCC	All Saints All Saints Road Lymington SO41 8FD (Church: CE)	CE	24/9/15	6/3/00	39/076	31/12/15
27/33	CM	Greenhill Lane Bradford BD3 8DZ (Church: MC)	B	-	28/5/86	38/538	16/11/14
34/12	CM	St Mary the Virgin Peldon Road Great Parndon Harlow CM19 4HT (Church: MC)	CE	-	1/3/79	38/028	30/6/15

Circuit No	Local or Circuit Trustee Body	Building(s) shared and other details (including owner)	Other Church(es) party to the SA	Date of notice given by CEO	Date of SA	Registered number	Date of termination
35/33	Trinity MCC	Trinity MC Mannock Drive Loughton IG10 2JD (Church: MC)	CE	–	31/1/89	38/712	5/11/15
36/27	CM	Whitehill MC Painters Forstal Faversham ME13 0EE (Church: MC)	CE	11/12/15	31/1/96	39/017	11/12/15

*****RESOLUTION**

57/4. The Conference adopted the Report.