

# ANGLICAN-METHODIST COVENANT FOR WOODSTOCK

We the people, lay and clergy, of St Mary Magdalene's Parish Church and Woodstock Methodist Church:

- confess our faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour according to the scriptures, and acknowledge our calling to serve Him and His mission in the world;
- give thanks for all that we have in common, and rejoice that our two Churches nationally have covenanted together to work towards closer collaboration.

Since we recognise in one another faith in the gospel of Jesus Christ; and since we recognise one another as within the one Church of Jesus Christ, pledged to serve His kingdom, and sharing in the unity of the Spirit; we therefore, insofar as it lies within our power, and in fellowship with our sisters and brothers in the wider Anglican and Methodist Churches, covenant together to make more visible the unity of Christ's people in our locality, not yet knowing what form that unity may eventually take, but believing that, by taking the steps to which we now commit ourselves, we shall be led to a fuller understanding of that unity which is Christ's will for all his people.

WE THEREFORE PLEDGE OURSELVES:

- to pray regularly for one another;
- to support one another in deepening, sharing and renewing the treasures of our respective traditions so that the life of the whole Church and of individual believers may be enriched;
- to celebrate our unity in Christ, and to give each of our traditions the opportunity to learn about and value the spiritual treasures of the other, by holding acts of worship including eucharistic worship on a regular basis which are shared by both congregations\* or led by one another's clergy;
- to encourage joint fellowship and study of our common faith together with other churches in the area, enabling us to find mutual encouragement for our Christian pilgrimage;
- to co-operate in Christian education and youth work;
- to co-operate and share, where we can, in ministry and pastoral care, working together in caring for the community and serving within it;
- to encourage one another in support for world development and aid agencies and other charities;
- to co-operate in seeking to share God's love with our community by witnessing to our Christian faith and helping people to commit themselves to Christ and his kingdom;
- to co-operate in publicising our activities and informing others about them;
- to continue to develop wider ecumenical co-operation with other Christians in the locality in all the above activities wherever possible;
- to begin to consider shared use of our buildings and resources;
- to hold joint meetings of the members of our Church Councils at least once a year, and of representatives of these Councils as and when appropriate;
- to exchange Church Council minutes and other information about our respective decision-making, including any impending changes of staffing or personnel;
- to review this Covenant regularly in order to encourage and develop its aims and objectives and incorporate new thinking, and to renew it at least every five years.

\* If there is an offering at such a service, each envelope will go to the church identified on it, and loose cash will be split between the churches or given to an agreed charity.