



Churches Together in Fordingbridge and District
Minutes of the General Meeting
held on Thursday 30th January 2025 at 7pm
at The Salvation Army Hall, Roundhill, Fordingbridge

Present: Julian Sims (Chair)
Mike French, Dale Kratzke, Leslie Player & Paul Williams (Church Ministers)
Rachel Edwards (Secretary)
David Williams (Foodbank manager)
Pat Bloomfield, Jeremy Houghton-Brown, Michael King, Sarah Perrelle, Jo Williams

(The following churches were represented at the meeting:

Avon Valley Churches – Fordingbridge, Hyde & Sandleheath
New Life Community Church, Fordingbridge
The Salvation Army, Fordingbridge
Western Downlands Churches)

1. **Opening Prayer** - Mike French opened in prayer.
2. **Apologies for absence** - Apologies were received from Tim Edwards and Sue Ledger.
3. **To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 10th October 2024 and report on any matters arising** - The minutes were circulated prior to the meeting. The Chair thanked the Secretary for her work for Churches Together.
4. **Election of Officers**
 - a. **Chair** - Julian Sims resigned his position as Chair. There was no volunteer to take on this role, which is usually undertaken by a member of the clergy. It was agreed to continue without a Chair, with the hope that this position be filled at the next CTIFD meeting. Named individuals would take responsibility for events instead. Julian chaired the remainder of the meeting.
 - b. **Treasurer** - Sarah Perrelle was elected treasurer.
 - c. **Other committee positions** - None.
5. **Finance report** - No finance report received.
 - a. **Bank account signatories**

It was agreed that the following people would be signatories on the CTIFD bank account: Julian Sims (current signatory), Sarah Perrelle (treasurer), Rachel Edwards (secretary) and Jo Williams (NLCC administrator). It was requested that two people be required to authorise payments in future, rather than just one.

Action: Julian Sims, Sarah Perrelle, Rachel Edwards and Jo Williams to arrange for signatories to be changed on the bank account.

b. Insurance

The sub-team for The Chosen film shows paid the CTIFD insurance in 2024. It was agreed that in 2025 this cost should be shared by member churches instead. The insurance policy is due for renewal on 1st April each year.

c. Church contributions for 2025

It was agreed to ask 12 member churches for a contribution of £25 each to cover the cost of the annual insurance with a small excess to support events and activities in the coming year. The 12 churches being: Avon Valley Churches (5 = Breamore, Fordingbridge, Hale & Woodgreen, Hyde and Sandleheath), New Life Community Church (1), Our Lady of Sorrows & St Philip Benizi Church (1), The Salvation Army (1) and Western Downlands Churches (4 = Damerham, Martin, Rockbourne and Whitsbury). St James Church, Alderholt would not be asked to contribute as they do not generally participate in shared events.

Action: *Sarah Perrelle (Treasurer) to ask churches for a contribution of £25 each, with support from Julian Sims*

6. Feedback on recent CTIFD events

a. Unity Service & Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

The Service of Christian Unity was hosted by St Mary's Church, Fordingbridge with music led by both St Mary's Church choir and the NLCC worship group, and representatives from each of the local churches taking part in the service. The church was full. Michael King said that the preparation came through, with a warmth and nice atmosphere to the service. The NLCC worship group appreciated the acoustics in the church. Julian Sims was thanked for his work behind the scenes.

Other than the Unity Service on the Sunday, there were no joint prayer meetings or services during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and this was especially missed by Jeremy Houghton-Brown. The Secretary published prayer points for the CTIFD churches for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and this was appreciated by those at the meeting. **Date of 2026 Unity Service: 10.30am on Sunday 18th January 2026.** (Venue TBD.)

Action: *Secretary to invite Mayor to 2026 Unity Service*

b. Christmas Services advertising

The churches agreed it was good to be visible in the local press and they would like to pay for a Christmas Services advert in the Ringwood & Fordingbridge News again this coming Christmas. The secretary suggested expanding this in 2025 to also print a card or flyer with CTIFD Christmas Services which can be hand delivered to households. It was noted there would be an additional cost involved with printing leaflets, on top of the cost of the newspaper advert.

Action: *Secretary to organise a 2025 Christmas Services advert and ask if it could be placed immediately after the Ringwood Churches Together advert.*

Action: *Secretary to add Christmas Services flyer as an agenda item for AGM in October.*

c. The Chosen Season 1 Film Screenings

Pat Bloomfield reported that God has blessed this outreach with volunteers from different churches and between 18 to 43 people attending each film showing. It is planned to show Season 2 this year, with the first episode scheduled for Saturday 15th February. The Chair asked Pat Bloomfield if she would continue as Chair of this CTIFD sub-team, Pat confirmed she would.

7. Proposed Plans for the year

Showing monthly	The Chosen Season 2 (Town Hall) – see Appendix 1 for dates.
Fri 7 th Mar 2025 at 2pm (First Friday in March)	World Day of Prayer (Our Lady of Sorrows & St Philip Benizi Catholic Church) Prepared by a group of Christian women from the Cook Islands “I made you wonderful” Psalm 139:14. All are invited to share in a Lenten Lunch beforehand at 12noon in the Church Hall. (Preceded by Stations of the Cross in the church at 11.30am to which all are also very welcome) – see Appendix 2 for details.
Fri 18 th Apr 2025	Good Friday Walk of Witness 10.30am - Gather outside either St Mary’s Church, or Our Lady of Sorrows and St Philip Benizi Church 10.40am - Departure and Walk 11.00am - Arrive at Market Place outside the Town Hall for an open-air act of worship Approx. 11.30am - An invitation to watch The Chosen S2 Ep3 in the Town Hall (Matthew 4:24) <i>Action: Dale Kratzke to organise Walk of Witness using the 2024 times above</i>
Sat 10 th May 2025	Victory Picnic in the Park for 80th Anniversary of VE Day (Town Council Event) <i>Action: Jeremy Houghton-Brown to organise CTIFD stall. Volunteers also needed to help with event – stewarding, litter picking, etc.</i>
Sun 11 th May 2025	10am VE Day Anniversary Service at St Mary’s Church, Fordingbridge
29 May – 8 Jun 25	Thy Kingdom Come CTIFD prayer meetings <i>Action: Julian Sims to organise dates & locations of prayer meetings & send to Secretary by end April to advertise</i>
Wed 23 July (TBC)	<i>Action: Paul Williams to organise biannual CTIFD prayer meetings</i>
Wed 19 Nov (TBC)	<i>Action: Paul Williams to organise biannual CTIFD prayer meetings</i>
Sun 9 th Nov 2025	Remembrance Sunday - starting with an Act of Remembrance at the Memorial Gates (entrance to the Rec) at 10.10am, before a procession to St. Mary's Church for the main service at 10.50am. A two-minute silence will be observed at 11am.
Tues 11 th Nov 25	Remembrance Day <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - short service of commemoration at Stuckton Road Cemetery at 10.50am. - brief Remembrance Service at the 'end of the runway' of Ibsley WWII airfield', held in Ellingham Drove, at 10.55 am.
Fri 28 Nov? (TBC)	Fordingbridge Christmas Lights Switch On (Town Council Event) – Date TBC
Sun 18 th Jan 2026	10.30am Service of Christian Unity (Venue TBD)
18 th – 25 th Jan 26	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

8. Notices from Churches

- The Branch Café launches on Tuesday 11th February and an invitation is extended to other churches to be a part of this initiative, with volunteer roles available as baristas, befrienders or to help with cleaning. Training is provided.
- Jeremy Houghton-Brown reported that the former congregations of the URC and Methodist Churches are looking for a new spiritual home. The Salvation Army invited them to join their new 10.30am Sunday Service.
- The Western Downlands Churches will be running The Bible Society's Bible Course during Lent, are taking Open The Book into schools, and will be holding prayer meetings for the Thy Kingdom Come week.
- St James Church has begun a new informal "Soul Food" service at 10.30am on the fourth Sunday of the month.
- Hyde Church invited everyone to a talk about The Heart for the Persecuted Church on Sunday 23rd February at 11.30am.
- Mission Aviation Fellowship will be at Frogham Fair on Saturday 27th June 2025 and also at the tent service the following day.

9. Any other business

David Williams thanked everyone for their support for Foodbank and reported that it is now located at the hospital site following the closure of the URC. David was reminded of Ephesians 3:20 that God is able to do abundantly more than all we ask or imagine.

Paul Williams asked who uses the monthly CTIFD Prayer Link and whether it might be better to pray for other CTIFD churches instead, using church prayer points collated by the Secretary. The Prayer Link is used by members of the Avon Valley Churches and by individuals from the former URC and Methodist Churches, as well as some from Western Downlands Churches.

Action: Secretary to continue to facilitate the Prayer Link with contributions from member churches.

Action: Secretary to collate & publish CTIFD prayer points on an approximately quarterly basis.

Action: Jeremy Houghton-Brown to organise for a plaque be reinstated next to the CTIFD tree at the Rec.

Action: Secretary to update & circulate the regular timetable of church events – see appendices 2&3.

10. Date of next meeting

7pm Thursday 30th October 2025 at The Salvation Army, Roundhill, SP6 1AQ.

11. Closing Prayer

Paul Williams closed in prayer.

Appendix 1: The Chosen Season 2 Dates

FREE FILM NIGHTS
FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN HALL
 + free refreshments

The CHOSEN
 Episodes from Series 2
 The life and ministry of Jesus of Nazareth

Saturday 15 February	Episode 1 - 'Thunder'
Saturday 15 March	Episode 2 - 'I Saw You'
Friday 18 April*	Episode 3 - 'Matthew 4 v24'
Saturday 17 May	Episode 4 - 'The Perfect Opportunity'
Saturday 14 June	Episode 5 - 'Spirit'
Saturday 12 July	Episode 6 - 'Unlawful'
(No Film Night in August)	
Saturday 20 September	Episode 7 - 'Reckoning'
Saturday 11 October	Episode 8 - 'Beyond Mountains'
Saturday 15 November	A Pre-Christmas Special

All showings 7.30pm arrival for an 8pm start - finish at 9.30pm
 *EXCEPT for 18th April which will start at 11.30am (after the Walk of Witness)

For more information, contact:
fordingbridgechurches@gmail.com or phone Pat on: 07985 938644

FREE TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM:

- fordingbridgechurches.eventbrite.com
- The Branch, 1 High Street, Fordingbridge
- AVCM Shop, 52 High Street, Fordingbridge

SCAN FOR FREE TICKETS

Catch up online at thechosen.tv

CHURCHES TOGETHER FORDINGBRIDGE DISTRICT

Appendix 2: Lenten Lunch followed by World Day of Prayer meeting at 2pm on Friday 7th March

Our Lady of Sorrows and St Philip Catholic Church
 Salisbury Road, Fordingbridge

Come and share in our Lenten Lunch

A warm welcome and a happy, simple meal with a cup of tea/coffee

Fridays from 7th March till 11th April at 12noon in Church Hall

(Preceded by **Stations of the Cross** in the church at 11.30am to which you're also very welcome)

Donations for CAFOD* who are involved in aid all around the world, including Gaza and Ukraine

*(Catholic Fund for Overseas Development)

APPENDIX 3 – MAIN TIMETABLE (SEE ALSO APPENDIX 4 FOR CHILDREN’S GROUPS TIMETABLE)

	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
Mon	9.30am Forest Edge Café @ Alderholt Reading Rooms		7pm Makaton Awareness @ The Salvation Army
Tue	* The Branch open – 10am – 3pm * 9.30am Forest Edge Café @ Alderholt Reading Rooms 10am Friendship Group @ The Ship Inn (1 st & 3 rd Tues)	1.30pm Game On (Board Games) @ The Branch 2.30pm Mothers’ Union @ Hyde	7pm SEN Parent Support (1 st Tues) @ The Salvation Army
Wed	* The Branch open – 10am – 3pm * 10am Community Coffee @ The Branch 9.30am Forest Edge Café @ Alderholt Reading Rooms	3pm – 5pm Free Bread @ The Salvation Army	7pm Prayer at The Branch (occasional) 5 th March, 2 nd July, 3 rd December 2025
Thurs	* The Branch open – 10am – 1.30pm *	2pm URC Tea Stop @ Avonway	
Fri	9am – 10am Free Bread @ The Salvation Army * The Branch open – 11am – 3pm *	10am Fairtrade Coffee Morning @ St. Boniface Church, Woodgreen (last Fri) 12 noon CAMEO (Come And Meet Each Other) @ Woodgreen Village Hall (last Fri)	7.30pm AVCM Storytelling (3 rd Fri) @ The Salvation Army
Sat			6pm Our Lady of Sorrows Saturday Vigil 7.30pm CTIFD The Chosen Free Films (12+) Dates: 15 Feb,15 Mar, (Fri 18 Apr 11.30am) 17 May, 14 Jun,12 Jul,20 Sept,11 Oct,15 Nov
Sun	8am St James Holy Communion 8.15am AVC Holy Communion (locations vary) 9am onwards – various church services		6pm The Salvation Army Evening Service 6pm St Mary’s FB Six O’Clock Service (wk1) 6pm St Mary’s FB Sung Evensong (wk2&4)

Avon Valley Churches & Avon Valley Community Matters
New Life Community Church, Fordingbridge
Our Lady of Sorrows, Fordingbridge

Services & Prayer Meetings
Churches Together
(Fordingbridge United Reformed Church)

The Salvation Army, Fordingbridge
St James’ Church, Alderholt
Western Downlands Churches

APPENDIX 4 - CHILDREN'S GROUPS TIMETABLE (SEE ALSO APPENDIX 3 FOR MAIN TIMETABLE)

	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
Mon	9.30am Tea & Play Toddler Group @ The Salvation Army	1.30pm Music Hangout @ The Salvation Army 3.30pm Messy Church @ Hyde (2 nd Mon) 5.15pm Brownies @ St James Church	
Tue			6.15pm Beavers @ St James' Church
Wed			
Thurs		4.45pm Rainbows @ St James Church 3.30pm Youth Space (Years 5&6) 5pm Youth Space (Years 7&8) @ The Salvation Army	7pm Cubs @ St James' Church
Fri	9.30am NLCC Little Buds New Parent @ The Branch 9.30am Tea & Play Toddler Group @ The Salvation Army 9.30am Superstars Playgroup @ St Mary's Church Hall		6pm Guides @ St James' Church
Sat		2pm AVCM Building Together @St Mary's Church Hall – LEGO & construction toys 22 Feb, 22 Mar, 26 Apr, 24 May, 21 Jun 2025	
Sun	10am Allsorts St Mary's FB All Age service(wk1) 10am Messy Church in Alderholt Village Hall with St James Church (wk 2)	2pm Tea & Play Toddler Group for Men @ The Salvation Army	6.30pm NLCC Youth @ The Branch (3 rd Sun)
Hols	9am - 10.30am Breakfast Club @ The Branch - Tues 18 th & Wed 19 th Feb (other dates TBD) Thurs 17 Apr – Family fun @ The Sally Army Mon 18 th – Thurs 21 st August Holiday Club @ S.A.	11.30am-2pm Families Together @ St Mary's - Thurs 20 th Feb 2025 (other dates TBD) 1.45pm Disney's The Lion King - Thurs 20 th Feb 2025 @ The Salvation Army	

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