

**Draft minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 20th May 2026
at 7.30 pm at Verwood United Reformed Church**

Present

Julian Macro	VURC	Steve Finch	VURC
Hank Hancock	St Michael's	Joyce Finch	VURC
Steve Walton	St Michael's	Carolyn Johannesen	VURC
Barbara Walton (Treasurer)	St Michael's	Duncan Moss	St Michael's
Ken Lyndon	VURC	Elizabeth Ingram	St Michael's
Chris Lyndon	VURC	Lynne Ings	VMC
Sue Knowles	VURC	James Whately (Chair)	VURC
Marius Potgieter	NLCC	Sue Hancock (Secretary)	St Michael's
Paul Fox	VEC		
Julia Palmer	St Michael's		

1. Introduction and opening prayer James read Acts 2.5. He reminded us that our calling as disciples, with the help of the Holy Spirit, is to find the language to share the Gospel 'in our own tongue' in a way that people can understand.

2. Apologies Ann Bale, Dale Kratzke, Val Smith, Paul Williams, Nick Wood

3. Election of officers

- Chair – Paul Fox
- Deputy Chair – no nominations
- Treasurer – Barbara Walton
- Secretary – Carolyn Johannesen (Sue Hancock to support Carolyn as Admin Assistant)

4. Minutes of the last meeting on 21st January 2026 were approved by the meeting and signed by James.

5. Matters arising not elsewhere on the agenda

- **Prayer at the start of Council meetings** This is appreciated by the Council members. Up to now prayers have been led by a minister, but participation from lay people is also welcomed. Prayers should be brief and to the point. Over the coming year there are eight Council meetings on a Tuesday evening in Verwood and three in Three Legged Cross on a Wednesday evening, though meetings during the holiday periods of August and December may not take place. Carolyn asked for any volunteers to sign up at the meeting and thanked all those who have delivered prayers up to now.
- **MAF update** Ken reported that the Council has given a tentative agreement for MAF to site a plane in the centre of Verwood for a weekend, but MAF unfortunately has no available dates left this year. It was agreed to invite MAF to the Rustic Fayre next year or to revisit the idea of siting a plane in the centre

of Verwood for a weekend. Thanks were expressed to Ken for nurturing the relationship with MAF.

- **Marius' visit to Maranata in South Africa** Marius found his visit a challenging, fruitful and joyful time. He appreciated the support of people at Churches Together and was able to give £600 to the work of Maranata. He also appreciated God's timing – when he was ill, people at Maranata prayed for him.

6. Safeguarding policy This was readopted with no amendments. However, Sue had received an email from Paul Williams querying whether we need a Safeguarding policy for a Churches Together ecumenical group. James felt it would be best if Paul addressed this issue in person at a future meeting, as he did not want to misrepresent him in any way. The CTiV policy is dependent upon the safeguarding policies of the individual member churches. It was recognised that any CTiV event should identify a Safeguarding lead, whose responsibility is to ensure that people involved are approved by their home churches' system. We discussed the situation which has arisen with Story Café, organised by members of the Methodist Church, where volunteers from other churches have been asked to undertake safeguarding training provided by the Methodist Church, even when they have done training in their own church.

Action: James will check the Churches Together in England website for guidance on this issue.

7. Financial report Barbara reported that all subscriptions have been paid for 2025-6. All outgoings have been reported at previous meetings. The current balance is £853. Barbara presented the annual accounts, audited by Chris, and these were adopted by the meeting. Barbara requested that she be given advance notice of any cash collections, given the problem of Lloyds Bank in Ringwood closing soon. She also requested that we hold the AGM later in May next year to allow time for the annual bank statement for the CTiV account to arrive. Chris recommended asking for monthly bank statements. It was agreed to keep the subscription level to the current £250 per church for 2026-7. James expressed thanks to Barbara.

8. Previous events

- **Lent group at St Michael's** Duncan reported that 8 - 14 people met at St Michael's over 4 weeks, using material produced by the Diocese of Chichester which looked at the gospel of Matthew. On the 5th week those who attended were invited to a Passover meal at St Michael's. James thanked Duncan for organising and leading the course and Duncan expressed thanks to Russell White who assisted him in leading.
- **Good Friday service at Verwood Methodist Church** It was agreed that this was a very good service, though once again the bad weather meant that it had to be held indoors. Thanks were given to all involved in the service.

9. Forthcoming events

- **Rustic Fayre** We would like to have a pitch at the Rustic Fayre again this year. Carolyn, Ken, Julia and Hank volunteered to be part of a small planning group. Carolyn will ask around the churches if anyone else would like to be involved. Hank thinks he can source a small gazebo and a marquee.

- **Christmas card** Following a discussion about the merits of continuing to produce the Christmas card, it was agreed to carry on with it again this Christmas, as it was felt it is a cost effective way of getting the 'reason for the season' into every household in Verwood and might be one of the few cards lonely people receive. Barbara and Steve are happy to continue to organise this.

10. A.O.B.

- **Thanks to James** Julian expressed our thanks to James for his commitment and contribution to CTiV during his time in Verwood. James retires at the end of July.
- **Pentecost service** Paul F asked for volunteers to lead opening and closing prayers and responses at the service to be held on 24th May at Verwood Methodist Church.
- **Christian Aid Week** Sue to pass on thanks to Russell White for co-ordinating the Christian Aid collection again this year.

11. Dates of next meetings

- Wednesday September 23rd at St Michael's
- Tuesday November 17th at Elim.