**Notes from CTAT AGM & Forum Meeting**
**held on Thursday 22 January 2026 at the Salvation Army Hall, Tadley**

Stewart Madden opened the meeting with a reflection on Psalm 133,, giving thanks that the churches can meet together in unity  Stewart concluded his reflection with a prayer.

1. **Apologies:** Janet & Paul Gross, Sam Dunn, Gill Lawson, Rev John Banks, Fr Stephen Vooght, Fr Patrick Tansey, Christine Watson, Dina Haywood, Rev Cathy Pynn and Eve Baker.
   There was then a roll call of member churches to check each had a representative present to vote on the AGM items.  All churches had a lay representative present, except for the Salvation Army, St Mary's Silchester and Silchester Methodists; the ministers of St Mary's Silchester and the Salvation Army were present and therefore able under the Constitution to stand in for their Church Representative as their designated deputy to vote on their behalf.  Sadly, Rev John Banks was still unwell and unable to attend the AGM.  In registering her apologies for the meeting, Gill Lawson had proposed that the vote of Silchester Methodists should be treated as having been cast in favour of any AGM motions, which had been voted unanimously by the other churches present.  Rev Steve McKay doubted such an approach would be within the Constitution.  It was agreed to proceed with the meeting with the churches present and consider how to address the voting situation in respect of Silchester Methodists afterwards and report to the next meeting.

2. **Election/Reappointment of Officers**
   a) **Moderator/s**
      Stewart Madden advised that Rev Steve McKay was willing to become the Lead Moderator, which would enable him to step back after four years to act in a supporting Moderator role.  There were no other nominations and the churches present voted unanimously in favour of the proposal to appoint Rev Steve McKay as Lead Moderator and Stewart Madden as Joint Moderator in a supporting capacity.
   b) **Joint Secretaries**
      Janet Gross and Mary Lee were both willing to continue to serve as Joint Secretaries.  There were no other nominations and the churches present voted unanimously in favour of the proposal to appoint Janet Gross and Mary Lee as Joint Secretaries for a further year.
   c) **Treasurer**
      Mark Ward was willing to continue to serve as Treasurer.  There were no other nominations and the churches present voted unanimously in favour of the proposal to appoint Mark Ward as Treasurer for a further year.
   d) **Communications Officer**
      Ed Vassie was willing to continue to serve as Communications Officer.  There were no other nominations and the churches present voted unanimously in

favour of the proposal to appoint Ed Vassie as Communications Officer for a further year.

Rev Steve McKay chaired the remainder of the meeting.

**3. Annual Accounts & Treasurer's Report**

Mark Ward presented the Annual Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2025, copies of which were made available to those attending the meeting and will be circulated with the notes of the meeting. As at 31 December 2025, the funds stood at:

| | |
|---|---|
| Arts Festival: | £630.26 |
| Holiday Club: | £1,990.76 |
| General CTAT: | £3,331.43 |
| Total: | £5,952.45 |

He reported there was a reduction in the opening balance of c £1,200, £850 of which related to the general funds and £355 to the Holiday Club; however, both accounts remained healthy. Peter Hughes observed that the opening balance in 2025 had been artificially high though, because the accounts were prepared on a cash basis, so sums owed at the end of 2024 had been paid and accounted for in early 2025. There was no significant underlying reduction in funds. Mark Ward concurred.

Mark observed that there were some costs incurred now in relation to the operating of the finances: £5 per month bank charges; stripe charges for the cashless card system of £350 pa; £180 for the website. However, these could be managed within the current subscription level for member churches of £50 pa, so he was not proposing any increase in annual subscriptions. He thanked Peter Hughes for his time spent in a thorough review of the Accounts and the financial records.

Peter Hughes confirmed that he had reviewed the records and checked them against the accounts, finding everything to be in order. His report was presented to the meeting and a copy will be circulated with the notes of the meeting.

The churches present voted unanimously to adopt the Annual Accounts.

The Treasurer proposed that annual subscriptions for churches should remain at £50 for 2026. The churches present voted unanimously in favour of the proposal. The Treasurer asked Church Treasurers to arrange bank transfers of £50, advising that if any churches had cashflow issues and wished to delay payment until later in the year, then they should let him know, so they could agree an arrangement and he need not chase payment. The bank details for payment of subscriptions are:

Name: Churches Together Around Tadley

Sort Code: 30-18-45
Account No: 00564412

4. **Minutes of the Last Forum Meeting on 6 November 2025:** These were deemed accurate and approved.

5. **Matters Arising:** There were no matters arising that were not included elsewhere on the Agenda.

6. **Review of Recent Events:**

**Remembrance Service – 9 November 2025**

Stewart Madden observed that the Service had gone well, but there had been a few grumbles about beginning the Service outside this year and then moving into the church, as some people had been standing outside in the cold for some time. It was also noted that some people did not then come into the church to join in the Service, but went off, having completed their Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial.

**The Missing Peace – 29 November 2025**

Rev Karen West reported that this Advent event had gone well, although it had not been particularly well-supported in terms of attendees on the day. However, it had been very good to work with other Christians in Silchester and had been beneficial for those who had participated.

**Festival & Display of Stars – 12 December 2025 onwards**

Tracy Bennett advised over 2,000 stars had been made and displayed! All the arrangements had worked well for the Festival and the Appearance of the Stars around Tadley and Silchester. Many thanks were expressed to Tracy and all who had participated in any way.

**Living Nativity – 22 December 2025**

This had been a great success with over 400 attending. It had been much better reverting to the school holidays, so it would be at a similar time in 2026. There were a few issues, which would need to be addressed next time: traffic chaos because of the volume of people crossing the road or walking along the pavement, blocking exits from properties along the route; the route to TCM should not have gone past the animals at St Mary's as some people stayed there; the crowd could not fit into TCM; the sound was not good and needs improvement. Mark Ward reported that Hugh Lobo from St Michael's had been advising him on the sound equipment needed and he would be looking to have that in place in plenty of time for future CTAT events.

**CTAT Christmas Day Lunch**

Kath Eaves reported that she had enjoyed organising the event, despite the long day of standing! She had most enjoyed the community spirit of the event – the team coming together and supporting her throughout; the generous donations,

particularly from Sainsbury's and Lidl. Eighty people had been fed on the day, including the volunteers, and everyone seemed to enjoy it. Thanks and congratulations on a job well done were expressed to Kath and all her team.

**CTAT Christian Unity Service – 18 January 2026**

The service at St Paul's at 10.30am had worked well and was very well attended.

7. **CTAT Link Charity for 2026**

   Paddy Jose proposed and it was unanimously approved that the Adonai Centre in Uganda be adopted as the link charity in 2026, given that it was a charity that was supported locally by many people from across the denominations.

8. **CTAT Challenge for 2026**

   At the November Forum, each CTAT community was challenged to come up with an idea for hosting one event in 2026 that would have a social element to bring CTAT members together, possibly just for fun or possibly to raise funds, and to bring suggestions to the January meeting.

   Mary Lee reported that the St Michael's Archangels Social Group had made two suggestions, both of which had found favour at the recent meeting of CTAT Ministers and Leaders:

   1) Organising a trip on Saturday 20 June to the Wintershall Estate to see "The Life of Christ", an open air performance in their grounds by over 100 actors in three Acts: the Nativity; scenes from the Ministry of Christ; the Passion of Christ. The Passion element has been performed on Good Friday in the centre of Guildford and in recent years in Trafalgar Square. It is an immersive theatre experience where the action unfolds around the audience, particularly in Acts 2 and 3. It runs from 10am to 3.30pm. On previous trips, we have travelled by coach from St Michael's at 8.30am. Ticket prices for the performance are Adult: £40; Child (3-18) £20; Family (2 Adults, 2 Children) £110, but if we have a group of over 30, we should be able to negotiate a discount, if we book early enough. Coach or minibus travel would be an extra cost. People are invited to take folding chairs, rugs and packed lunches. The Estate will provide free transport for people with reduced mobility from the car park to the opening setting and then between the main locations of the action around the estate and back to the coach. Interest was expressed by members of other church communities, so Mary Lee will circulate information to gauge the level of interest to see if it is a viable proposition.
   2) The second proposal was to organise a social gathering in Silchester on a Sunday afternoon to have a BYO picnic and a game of rounders, just for fun, which non-players could watch from a safe distance! The Ministers and Leaders had thought this was an attractive proposition and had suggested the afternoon of Sunday 5 July to fit in with other events in the CTAT calendar.

   Rev Steve McKay had been thinking of organising a CTAT trip to the Big Church Day Out or to a Christian festival in 2027. Mark Ward said that other ideas included communities organising a quiz or another fundraising activity. Communities were

invited to give further consideration as to what their community would be happy to organise for discussion at a future meeting.

9. **Calendar of Upcoming CTAT Events**

**World Day of Prayer – Friday 6 March at St Luke's Church at 2pm**

Eve Baker was holding a planning meeting at St Luke's Church on Wednesday 28 January at 2.30pm. Please arrange for someone from each church community to attend.

**St Paul's 60th Anniversary Event – Saturday 7 March**

Rev Steve McKay advised they would welcome photographs of past events at St Paul's and of people in 1966. There would be a link to register for the event and receive a free ticket to attend.

**Good Friday Service – Friday 3 April**

This will take place again at St Mary's, Tadley.

Peter Hughes advised that there will also be the Three Crosses Service at Silchester Methodists on Good Friday and there would be the traditional Palm Sunday Silchester Walk and Service on Sunday 29 March, led this year by the Bishop of Winchester.

**Dawn Service – Sunday 5 April**

This would be led by Mark Ward and Rev Cathy Pynn.

**Praise Event - Saturday 18 April**

This would take place at St Paul's and the bands of all CTAT communities were invited to participate in a celebration of their favourite hymns and songs.

**Tadley Treacle Fair – Date TBC – possibly Sunday 7 June or 31 May**

**Fete on the Green – Saturday 13 June 11am – 3pm**

All churches were invited to participate and have stalls to raise funds for their churches or chosen charities.

**Tadley Remembers – Sunday 12 July 3pm**

**Tadley Holiday Club - 27-31 July**

**Silchester Fete – Saturday 5 September**

Andrew Thompson observed that more support was needed for Dina and Ed in terms of set-up, manning and breaking-down the CTAT stall, both at Silchester and the Treacle Fair.

**Tadley Arts Festival – 16 - 18 October – St. Paul's**

Rev Steve McKay advised that it had seemed appropriate to move the Arts Festival to the other end of town in St Paul's 60th anniversary year and Tadley Primary School's 150th anniversary year. St Mary's had already hosted the Festival several times.

**Remembrance Service – Sunday 8 November**

**Tadley Craft Market – Saturday 5 December**

**CTAT Christmas Nativity - Monday 21 December**

**CTAT Christmas Day Event – Friday 25 December**

**10. News from Churches**

St Luke's: Baby Massage sessions on a Tuesday continue to be a success. A new initiative, Oaks & Acorns Group, started in the New Year for grandparents and toddlers. The Church was seeking a Council grant to improve their toilet facility in return for keeping the toilet open for the public in Pamber Heath.

TCM: The 3Cs Café is in crisis. Last time, Paddy Jose ran it on her own, which was very challenging, providing refreshments for those regulars who come and play games, whilst also conversing with an elderly lady on her own. More volunteers to help with refreshments for this CTAT Café would be greatly welcomed. It runs on the 2nd and 4th Thursday afternoons of the month and it would be great to have two teams to cover the Café once a month.

St Paul's Church: An Alpha course will run on Wednesdays from 11 February to 1 April, excluding 18 February. There will be a taster session on Mon 2 February at 7.30pm. All welcome.

St Mary's, Tadley: Many thanks to all those who support the monthly Friday breakfast: some £6,000 was raised for charities in 2025. The most recent breakfast raised the most yet: £700 for research at University College London Hospitals Trust into HLH, the rare autoimmune condition that had affected Kate Ensom.
There would be a Valentine's Party on 13 February at St Mary's. BYO drink. £8 tickets are available from Peter Wood or Chris Gillings.

URC: A Lent Bible Study course on The Final Days will run on Monday evenings at Tadley URC Immanuel Centre, 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start, from 23 February to 30 March. All welcome!
There will be a Maundy Thursday Service at URC.

Main Road Methodists: Rev John Banks was very unwell. He had been off sick from before Christmas and investigations were ongoing. Stewart Madden asked for prayers for Rev John – and indeed for all the Ministers and Leaders.

Silchester Methodists: About six times per year, they run retreats on a Saturday, 9.30 am coffee until 3pm. BYO lunch. Cost: £10. Next one is at the end of February.

**11. News from Other Organisations**

Anna Chaplaincy: Rev Karen West reported that the team had had a useful meeting with the Social Prescribing Team.

Crosslink: In accordance with Crosslink's Constitution, Andrew Thompson sought the formal ratification of CTAT's AGM of the names of the members of the Crosslink Committee who are appointed by CTAT, namely:

| | |
|---|---|
| Chairperson | Penny O'Bee |
| Vice-Chairperson | Eirlys Davies |
| Treasurer | Jane Pitfield |

| | |
|---|---|
| Secretary | Andrew Thompson |
| Crosslink's Coordinators, | |
| Appointed by the Committee | Janet Gross |
| | Elaine Cole |

The names of the Committee members were formally ratified by the CTAT AGM. A copy of the examined Crosslink Accounts for the year to 31 July 2025 were presented, showing a closing balance of £1,462.01, down £95 compared to the prior year. Metro Bank had introduced a bank charge of £3 per month from 1 December 2025. The implications of bringing Crosslink under CTAT's insurance in some way were being investigated with Mark Ward. Rev Steve McKay thanked Andrew Thompson and all the Crosslink Committee members and volunteers for their work in support of the local community.

Schools: Mary Lee reported on behalf of Sam Dunn that he was repeating the Table Project over the February half-term, providing free hot meals, fun activities and friendship for families over the half-term. It is offered by invitation only, so if you are aware of a family who would benefit, please email Sam at hello@sams-uk.org Sam also wanted to acknowledge the impact Derek Townshend has made in starting a chess club in Tadley school, supporting children not just with chess, but providing a different option of play and positive relationship building.

Men's Breakfast: Mark Ward flagged that the cooking committee for the Men's Breakfast could do with some younger men offering their services please.

Green Health Tadley: This project brings people together and promotes wellbeing through gardening. More gardeners always welcome. Produce also benefits people in the community.

**12. Any Other Business**

Unity Service Collection: In 2025, the collection went to fund Sam Dunn's work. This year, it would fund Hannah Squires' work.

Green in Basingstoke: Rev Karen West reported on this project, which encouraged ECO activities in churches. In Lent, they would be looking to have a carbon fast. Silchester has received their Bronze Award and is now working towards a Silver Award.

**13. DONM**

The next Forum will take place on Thursday 12 March at Main Road Methodist Church, 7pm for 7.30pm.

**14. CTAT Unity Service Video**

Rev Steve McKay played the video he had shown at the Unity Service, demonstrating the activities of CTAT over the last year. He thanked all those across all the churches who had contributed in any way.

The meeting then closed with prayer.