

<b>Affirmation of Baptismal Faith</b>	An affirmation in a public act of worship by someone, already baptised and/or confirmed, of their commitment to follow Jesus Christ and walk in the life of the Spirit.
<b>Annual Action Plan</b>	A plan agreed by the <b>Partnership Council</b> , setting out key activities and priorities for the coming year
<b>Baptism; baptised</b>	<p>The rite, or part of a rite, of entry into the wider Church of Christ. We recognise several styles of such celebration.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We will offer baptism to those who wish to make their own profession of faith</li> <li>We will offer baptism to the children whose parents have been adequately prepared, and affirm Christian faith and commitment.</li> </ol> <p><b>Confirmation</b> forms the other part of the rite of entry into the wider Church. (See also <b>Confirmation, Dedication, Infant Thanksgiving</b>)</p>
<b>Baptist Union of Great Britain</b>	The Union of independent Baptist Churches
<b>Canons of the Church of England, Canon Law</b>	The body of rules or laws developed by the <b>Church of England</b> as promulgated by the General Synod, and applied to matters of internal organisation, discipline and belief
<b>Church Council</b>	The term used by the <b>Methodist Church</b> for a meeting of all local church members, being the principal representative and decision making body of the church
<b>Church Meeting</b>	The term used by the <b>Baptist and United Reformed Churches</b> for a meeting of all local church members, being the principal representative and decision making body of the church
<b>Church of England Church Partnership</b>	The established church in England
<b>Churches Together in England (CTE)</b>	See <b>Partnership</b>
<b>Churches Together in England (CTE)</b>	Churches Together in England is a national body in England. It is a visible sign of the Churches' commitment as they seek a deepening of their communion with Christ and with one another, and proclaim the Gospel together by common witness and service. Its strength comes from people from different traditions finding new ways to work and worship together
<b>Communion, Holy Communion</b>	The celebratory meal where we re-enact and re-live the last supper of Jesus with his disciples. Also known as The Lord's Supper, Eucharist, and Holy Communion
<b>Confirmation</b>	A rite of entry into the wider Church of Christ where an infant <b>baptism</b> has already taken place

<b>Constitution</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Sections 1 to 14 of this document, where the term is used within this document; and/or</li> <li>b. The complete document (<b>Declaration of Intent</b>, Constitution and Appendices), as used more widely within the <b>Partnership</b></li> </ul>
<b>Council</b>	See <b>Partnership Council</b>
<b>Covenant</b>	As defined in the <b>Declaration of Intent</b> D6 para 1, a document to be signed by our <b>Parent Bodies'</b> church leaders and representatives of our <b>Partnership</b> . It is renewed at the Annual Covenant Service.
<b>Declaration of Intent</b>	Explanation of the background and justification to the <b>Constitution</b> . Our Covenant between our churches and with the people of our area
<b>Dedication</b>	A celebration of the life of a child and a commitment by their parents to raise the child into the Christian faith, with a special prayer of dedication and blessing offered for the child, such that he/she will wish to make his/her own profession of faith at a later date.
<b>Denomination</b>	One of the four <b>Denominational Bodies</b> , namely <b>Church of England, Methodist Church, United Reformed Church and Baptist Union of Great Britain</b> , who are the parties involved in the <b>Partnership</b> .
<b>Denominational Body/Authority</b>	Any one of the <b>Parent Bodies</b> which oversee the Partnership, and which provide <b>Staff</b> and buildings for the <b>Partnership</b>
<b>Elder</b>	Within the <b>Baptist</b> and <b>United Reformed Church</b> traditions, the church officers who have collective authority and oversight of church members
<b>Electoral Roll</b>	The list of baptised <b>Church of England</b> members aged 16 or over, resident in the Parish (or regularly attending worship in the Parish), and who have made an application for enrolment, accepted by the <b>Local Church Committee</b> and the <b>Annual General Meeting</b>
<b>Extended Membership</b>	<p>Individual membership of one of the participating <b>denominations</b>, where recognised as membership of each of the other participating <b>denominations</b>.</p> <p>Extended membership continues for as long as the member remains within the <b>Partnership</b>.</p>
<b>Faculty</b>	Faculty jurisdiction is the planning procedure which protects <b>Church of England</b> churches, their contents and churchyards. Faculty Petitions for alterations, repairs and extensions etc are approved by the Diocesan Chancellor.
<b>Holy Communion</b>	See Communion
<b>Infant Thanksgiving</b>	A celebration of the life of a child, and where the <b>Local Church</b> promises to support the parents in raising the child. Where the parents specifically request, this may be followed by <b>Baptism</b>

<b>Joint Council</b>	A council established through a <b>Sharing Agreement</b> to consider matters relating to its practical operation
<b>Lay Minister (previously known as Lay Reader)</b>	In <b>The Church of England</b> , a person nominated by a <b>Minister</b> and the <b>PCC</b> , accepted, trained and licensed by the Diocese of Bristol. A Lay Minister undertakes a range of duties in acts of worship and elsewhere in church life
<b>Lay Preacher</b>	In the <b>United Reformed Church</b> a person authorised to conduct worship and preach at services. May be accredited either locally or nationally
<b>Lay Reader</b>	See <b>Lay Minister</b>
<b>Local Preacher</b>	In the <b>Methodist Church</b> a person authorised to conduct worship and preach at services
<b>Local Church</b>	One of the communities within the <b>Partnership</b> - which holds regular worship services; has its own structure of authority and responsibility; and maintains a <b>register of members</b>
<b>Local Church Annual Meeting (LCAM)</b>	The meeting of a <b>Local Church</b> where accounts and reports as required by the <b>Partnership</b> are presented and approved
<b>Local Church Committee (LCC)</b>	The local leadership team, which guides and oversees the activities of a <b>Local Church</b> . The Committee is responsible for the activities delegated to it by the <b>Partnership Council</b> , including financial administration, upkeep of buildings, and other legislative commitments.
<b>Local Ecumenical Partnership (LEP)</b>	A partnership of Churches, where there is a formal written agreement affecting the ministry, congregational life, buildings and/or mission projects; and a recognition of that agreement by the <b>Sponsoring Body</b> and the appropriate <b>denominational authorities</b> (See also <b>Single Congregation LEP</b> )
<b>Member, Membership</b>	All those who meet the requirements for <b>membership</b> and who are listed as <b>members</b> of one of the <b>Local Churches</b> (see also <b>Multiple Member</b> ).
<b>Methodist Church</b>	The central body that represents the majority of Methodist Churches in England
<b>Minister in Pastoral Charge</b>	The person (ordained or lay) who is appointed by the <b>Council</b> in consultation with the <b>Sponsoring Body</b> to exercise leadership of a <b>Local Church</b> , in collaboration with the <b>Local Church Committee</b> .
<b>Multiple Member</b>	A member of the <b>Partnership</b> who has been baptised and/or confirmed in a joint service by representatives of all the <b>Parent Bodies</b> . That person is regarded within the <b>Partnership</b> as a member of all <b>Parent Bodies</b> .
<b>Parent Body</b>	One of the <b>Denominational Bodies</b> under whose auspices the <b>Partnership</b> operates

<b>Parochial Church Council (PCC)</b>	The <b>Parochial Church Council</b> exercises governance where actions are required by Anglican Canon Law
<b>Partnership</b>	The <b>Local Ecumenical Partnership</b> defined in this <b>Constitution</b>
<b>Partnership Annual General Meeting (PAGM)</b>	The open meeting of the <b>Partnership</b> where accounts and reports as required by <b>Parent Bodies</b> and other legislation are approved
<b>Partnership Council (PC)</b>	The body which oversees the activities of the <b>Partnership</b> ; it may delegate some of its responsibilities to committees and <b>Local Churches</b>
<b>Reader</b>	See <b>Lay Minister</b>
<b>Register of Members</b>	The list of current members of the <b>Partnership</b> , a composite list of <b>members</b> of each of the <b>Local Churches</b>
<b>Register of Baptisms</b>	The list of those baptised, both of children and those professing faith for themselves, a composite of those lists from each of the <b>Local Churches</b>
<b>Register of Dedications</b>	The list of dedicated children, a composite of those lists from each of the <b>Local Churches</b>
<b>Register of Thanksgivings</b>	The list of children for whom thanksgiving services have been held, a composite of those lists from each of the <b>Local Churches</b>
<b>Renewal of baptismal faith</b>	See Affirmation of Baptismal Faith
<b>Sharing Agreement</b>	A legal agreement entered into under The Sharing of Church Buildings Act 1969, which defines shared ownership and responsibilities for a building which is used within a <b>Local Ecumenical Partnership</b> for the benefit of more than one <b>Parent Body</b> or <b>Denominational Body</b> . See also <b>Joint Council</b> .
<b>Shared Building</b>	A building which is owned by one or more of the <b>Denominational Bodies</b> or their relevant Trusts, and which is subject to a <b>Sharing Agreement</b>
<b>Single Congregation Partnership</b>	A category of <b>Local Ecumenical Partnership</b> where there is a formal written agreement affecting the ministry, congregational life, buildings and/or mission projects of more than one denomination; and a recognition of that agreement by the <b>Sponsoring Body</b> and the appropriate <b>denominational authorities</b> . This form of Partnership recognises one joint congregation with shared sacramental ministry and a common purse, but may include more than one worship centre and a variety of styles of worship.
<b>Special General Meeting</b>	A special open meeting (or extraordinary meeting) of all members of the Partnership, held between <b>Annual General Meetings</b> to transact specific business. Further details are found in the <b>Standing Orders</b> .
<b>Sponsoring Body</b>	The local Ecumenical Body responsible for oversight of all <b>Local Ecumenical Partnerships</b> within a geographical area. In the case of this <b>Partnership</b> it is the <b>Swindon Churches Together</b> Sponsoring Body

<b>Staff, Staff Team</b>	Those who are duly approved by or recognised by the <b>Parent Bodies</b> for ministry within and beyond the <b>Partnership</b> ; and those who are appointed by the <b>Partnership Council</b> to serve only within the <b>Partnership</b>
<b>Staffing Consultative Group</b>	A group appointed as required, to undertake a local consultative role with the <b>Parent Bodies</b> , concerning the appointment of new ordained <b>Staff</b> , taking account of ecumenical balance; and to oversee reviews of <b>Staff</b>
<b>Standing Orders</b>	The protocols which set out how the <b>Constitution</b> is implemented in practical terms; and which can be amended by the <b>Partnership Council</b> without explicit approval of the <b>Parent Bodies</b>
<b>Swindon Churches Together</b>	The intermediate body of <b>Churches Together in England</b> , which coordinates inter-church and ecumenical activities in the Swindon Area
<b>Thanksgiving</b>	See <b>Infant Thanksgiving</b>
<b>Trinitarian</b>	The basis of Christian understanding of the inner nature of the Godhead – as Father, Son and Holy Spirit
<b>United Reformed Church</b>	The body that oversees all United Reformed Churches in England, Wales and Scotland.