

RENEWAL of the LOCAL COVENANT

Between

The Parish of Bewsborough in the Diocese of Canterbury

and

The Dover & Deal Circuit, in the South-East District of the Methodist Church

This Covenant replaces the agreement made on 19 May 2002 between

St Andrew's Parish Church (in the Eythorne Benefice)

And

Shepherdswell Methodist Church (part of the Dover & Deal Methodist Circuit)

The Covenant is in two parts. The first sets out the theological basis of the Covenanting congregations, and the second deals with the practical out-working of the Covenant in our unique situation.

PART ONE:

We ministers and congregations of the Parish of Bewsborough and the Dover & Deal Methodist Circuit confess our faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour according to the Scriptures, and acknowledge our calling to serve him in the world.

WE NOW DECLARE TOGETHER our readiness to commit ourselves to each other under God. Our earnest desire is to become more fully united in faith, communion, pastoral care and mission. Such unity is the gift of God. We affirm our openness to this growing unity in obedience to the Word of God, so that we may fully share, hold in common and offer to the world those gifts which we have received and yet hold in separation. In the unity we seek, and in the spirit of the Anglican-Methodist Covenant, we recognise that there will not be uniformity but legitimate diversity.

Since we recognise in one another faith in the one gospel of Jesus Christ proclaimed in Scripture, which the Creeds and other Historic confessions are intended to safeguard, and we are pledged to serve his kingdom, WE COVENANT TOGETHER to make visible the unity of Christ's Church in this locality.

WE THEREFORE PLEDGE OURSELVES:

to joint prayer and worship, not only for the unity of Christ's people, but such as will provide for each of our traditions opportunity to learn and value the spiritual

traditions of both Methodist and Anglican churches for the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ:

to support each other in deepening and renewing the treasures of our traditions so that the life of the whole Church may be enriched together with the life of each individual believer:

to explore our Christian convictions and their practical application;

to co-operate in ministry and pastoral care.

WE RECOGNISE the communicant members in good standing of both our covenanting churches as members of the one Body of Christ, and welcome them at Holy Communion without condition, and recognise the ordained ministries of our two Churches as true ministries of Word and Sacrament in the Holy Catholic Church.

PART TWO:

WE THEREFORE AGREE:

That all Methodists living in the Parish of Bewsborough shall be encouraged to participate fully in the life and worship of the Parish Church as their Church;

That regular opportunities will be provided for a Methodist preacher to lead worship at the principal morning services, in consultation with the Superintendent minister of the Dover & Deal Methodist Circuit:

That opportunity shall be provided for Methodist celebrations of Holy Communion, and the annual Methodist Covenant Service at St Andrew's, Shepherdswell, when appropriate;

That mention be made on all Church Notice Boards in the Parish that Methodist people share in worship under a Covenant agreement.

That information about acts of worship in all the Churches of the Bewsborough Parish be included in the Circuit Preaching Plan.

Where possible, each Church Council in the Parish may include, as elected members, both Anglicans and Methodists.

We look to Churches Together in Kent for support and encouragement in this Local Covenant.

We undertake to review this Covenant with Churches Together in Kent after three years.