

PCC POLICY

Christian Unity

Reviewed - July 2017

Next Review Due – July 2019

St Nicolas' church is a community with its roots in the catholic movement, and consistently so since the earliest days of the Oxford Movement. Actively nourished by these deep wellsprings of faith we now seek renewal in the richness of the whole Christian tradition and full unity with all our fellow Christians.

We value and are committed to working in a growing partnership with Guildford United Reformed Church. Our churches being neighbours, warm friendships have developed, and we are now firmly committed to our on-going partnership which the two Ministers have expressed as:

- o both churches rooted in the local community and wanting to serve the life of our town;
- o encouraging and supporting each other as similar-sized churches aware of the challenge we both face to sustain our future viability and existence – in order to continue to show within that community and beyond God's love and acceptance;
- o recognising that we need to be open to change in order to be responsive to how people are in our evolving society;
- o in this helped – as a key member of our teams – by our joint Children & Families Worker whose role is both to help us develop the resources so that we can offer activities for children and families to grow our churches, and to promote and support possible new and relatively independent Fresh Expressions i.e. Messy Church;
- o appreciating how we each understand our core-spiritualities and worship life: St Nicolas' as 'developing more progressive ways from an Anglo-Catholic basis' the URC as 'an open liberal congregation with a non-fundamentalist approach to biblical interpretation' – which helps us to live positively with differences and to discover that they can be complementary strengths;
- o both churches having valued their own structured approaches to worship;
- o and wanting to continue to look for opportunities to share worship together (without getting into a rut);
- o also to make occasional times to discuss topics concerning our common life together and to learn from each other;
- o so, as in all this our agreed intention is that our two churches continue to become more closely integrated we shall actively look for practical ways to achieve that, for example when new clergy are appointed asking for some joint consultation.

We seek to develop our warm relationship with Guildford Baptist Church, looking for any opportunities to share worship, with the good friendship between the Ministers.

We regard as a high priority the cluster group with St Saviour's and Holy Trinity & St Mary's to enable our fuller collaboration. (We note that our Incumbent has often expressed his vision for a united Anglican presence in the town centre with the three parishes formally together in some appropriate way in the future).

We value and will continue to support the role of the Town Centre Chaplain and to play our full part in collaborating with the other Churches of the town, (our Incumbent currently serving as a member of the board of the Town Centre Chaplaincy, GTCC).

We are committed to support in all ways possible for us the development of *Common Ground* at St Mary's.