

**Tudeley cum Capel with Five Oak Green
DECLARATION OF INTENT**

(Based on the model provided by Churches Together in Kent expanded through congregational discussion)

Through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ the world has been reconciled to God and in Jesus Christ this reconciliation has been offered to all. Through him we are called into a new relationship with God and with one another as the children of God by adoption and grace. It is a relationship inaugurated by God in Christ through the Holy Spirit, professed in baptism, nurtured through the ministry of word and sacrament, and expressed in a confession of one faith and a common life of loving service.

In response to God's call, and accepting the challenge to be pilgrims together, committed to God and to each other, we, the Parish of Tudeley cum Capel with Five Oak Green (C of E) and the United Reformed Church as participant in the Local Ecumenical Partnership (LEP) presently based at Five Oak Green, hereby publish our intent to extend our LEP, to include Tudeley. Such an extension will continue to reflect what our respective denominations understand an LEP to be. We take the mission of the Church to be:

- i) to proclaim the good news of the Kingdom of God;
- ii) to seek and encourage inquirers into the Christian faith;
- iii) to teach and baptize new believers in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit;
- iv) to nurture all believers as disciples of Christ;
- v) to encourage the gifts and Christian service of all believers;
- vi) to respond to human need as the Body of Christ;
- vii) to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

We, therefore, now declare together our readiness to commit ourselves to each other under God. Our earnest desire is to become more fully, in God's own time, the one Church of Christ, united in faith, communion, pastoral care and mission. Such unity is the gift of God. We aim to work with the Civil Parish of Capel and continue to welcome all from outside.

We commit ourselves to sharing together in the ministry of Christ to the world, and within our local context to explore together the meaning and possibilities of unity for worship, evangelism, mission and service.

We commit ourselves to assessing the resources of Church and Community in terms of people, money and buildings, and to deploying them in the best way in relation to the aspirations and needs of local people and in working closely with the local community.

We commit ourselves to maintaining and developing relationships with our parent bodies and with Churches Together in Kent. We pledge ourselves to this agreement for an initial period of seven years from the date of designation.

April 2003 as amended April 2004