CONSTITUTION FOR WANTAGE BAPTIST CHURCH

[as adopted on 19th September 2013 and amended on 5th November 2014]

1 THE CHURCH AND ITS NAME

The Church means the members of the charitable unincorporated association governed by this constitution and known as Wantage Baptist Church (or such other name as shall subsequently be adopted by decision of the Church Members' Meeting and with the consent of the Charity Commission).

2 PURPOSE

The principal purpose of the Church is the advancement of the Christian faith in accordance with the beliefs set out in clause 3. The Church may also advance education and carry out other charitable purposes in the United Kingdom and/or other parts of the world.

3 BELIEFS

The Church accepts:

- the Divine Inspiration of the Old and New Testaments, and their sole sufficiency as the guide to faith and practice;
- the Trinity of the Godhead;
- the Divinity of the Lord Jesus Christ;
- His Resurrection and Intercession;
- the need for personal faith in the Lord Jesus as Saviour;
- the necessity of the work of the Holy Spirit in Redemption and Sanctification; and
- the personal return of the Lord Jesus Christ in Glory.

4 ACTIVITIES

4.1 In fulfilling the Purpose the Church will engage in a range of Activities, either on its own or with others, that will vary from time to time with Activities being initiated, expanded, or closed, as appropriate.

4.2 The Activities may include but are not restricted to:

- regular public worship, prayer, Bible study, preaching and teaching;
- baptism, in accordance with clause 4.3;
- the Communion of the Lord's Supper, in accordance with clause 4.4;
- evangelism and mission, locally, regionally, nationally and internationally;
- the teaching, encouragement, welcome and inclusion of young people;
- nurture and growth of Christian disciples;
- education and training for Christian and community service;
- giving and encouraging pastoral care;
- supporting and encouraging charitable social action in the United Kingdom and abroad;
- encouraging relationships with and supporting other Christians.

4.3 Baptism shall be by immersion upon personal profession of repentance towards God and faith in and obedience to our Lord Jesus Christ. It shall be administered to persons requesting it and showing evidence of this profession, whether or not they desire Church Membership. Where full immersion is impracticable by reason of impaired health or disability, on the recommendation of the Minister(s) and Elders and with the approval of the Members at a Church Members' Meeting, an alternative mode of baptism may be applied.

4.4 Communion shall normally be observed at least twice a month. The Church shall admit to the Lord's Table all who love the Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity and truth, whether or not they are church members.

4.5 Notwithstanding the appointment of persons to accept responsibility for any of the Activities all individuals, organisations, groups, and committees operating within the life of the Church, and their leaders, shall be accountable to the Charity Trustees and also through any specific direction of the Church Members' Meeting.

5 AFFILIATION AND RELATIONSHIPS

The Church may enter into formal relationships with other churches, including by becoming a member of an association of churches. Any such relationship must be approved by the Church Members' Meeting.

6 BELONGING TO THE CHURCH

6.1 The responsibilities of membership normally include:

- attending worship and participating in Church Activities;
- personal prayer and Bible study;
- participation at the Communion of the Lord's Supper as a privilege and a priority;
- helping the Church whenever possible by using gifts and abilities to advance the Purpose of the church through its Activities;
- attending and participating in Church Members' Meetings;
- giving regular financial support to the Church in proportion to personal resources and circumstances;
- upholding Christian values.

6.2 If there are differences that lead to difficulties between members of the Church (and it is recognised that these will sometimes arise) each member should try to resolve the situation with gentleness and humility following Christian and Biblical principles. It may be necessary for another wise and experienced member of the Church (or, if invited, a member of a neighbouring Church or a representative of a body to which the Church is affiliated) to act as mediator or friend to those seeking to achieve reconciliation.

7 JOINING AND BECOMING A CHURCH MEMBER

7.1 Church Membership is open to those who:

- accept the Beliefs of the Church;
- show evidence of their commitment to the Church by a desire to be active within it;
- agree to abide by the provisions of this Constitution and the decisions of the Church Members' Meeting;
- acknowledge their responsibilities as Church Members; and
- have their membership application accepted by the Church Members' Meeting.

7.2 Applications for membership shall be made to a Minister or Elder. The Minister(s) and Elders shall appoint two visitors, one of whom shall be a Minister or Elder, who shall give a report of the interview at a Church Members' Meeting. The visitors shall satisfy themselves that the applicants are Born Again Believers and therefore satisfy the requirements of clause 7.1.

7.3 Persons seeking membership who have not been baptised may at the discretion of the Church Members' Meeting be accepted for membership based on their own personal profession of repentance towards God and faith in and obedience to our Lord Jesus Christ. If an applicant has not been baptised, the visitors shall advise them on the importance of complete obedience to the Scriptures in respect of this ordinance.

7.4 The Church Members' Meeting shall consider and vote on the application for membership and, if accepted, the new member will normally be welcomed publicly.

8 THE MEMBERSHIP LIST

8.1 A list of the current Church Members shall be maintained by the Charity Trustees incorporating routine changes because of additions or deletions arising through death, resignation or a resolution by the Church Members' Meeting.

8.2 Routine changes to the membership list shall be reported at the next convenient Church Members' Meeting.

8.3 In order to keep the membership list up to date the membership list shall be reviewed at least once every three years when the Church Members' Meeting may resolve to make any appropriate deletions.

8.4 At any time, in exceptional circumstances where the conduct of a Member is considered to be contrary to the Purpose and Beliefs of the Church and/or disruptive to the relationships between Members then the Charity Trustees may recommend to a Church Members' Meeting that the membership of that person be reviewed. The Church Members may, after considering the facts, terminate the membership of that person. The Church Member shall be allowed to hear what is said at the Church Members' Meeting, to correct any errors of fact and offer any explanation of the circumstances or reasons for their actions before withdrawing from the meeting so that the Church Members' Meeting may prayerfully and carefully consider whether they should resolve to remove that person's name from the list of Members.

9 CHURCH MEMBERS' MEETINGS

9.1 Church Members shall meet together in a Church Members' Meeting under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and under the Lordship of Christ to discern the mind of God in the affairs of the Church.

9.2 The Church Members' Meeting shall have reserved authority in the appointment and removal of a Minister; the appointment and removal of Charity Trustees; decisions related to church property including (without limitation) any purchase, sale, lease, mortgage, or redevelopment of property, and the appointment and removal of Holding Trustees; the administration of the membership list; relationships with other churches; and the closure of the Church.

9.3 Any decisions taken under clause 9.2 in relation to property must comply with the requirements of statute law and any specific property trusts under which the land and buildings are used and occupied by the church.

10 ORDINARY AND SPECIAL CHURCH MEMBERS' MEETINGS

10.1 There are two types of formal Church Members' Meetings: Ordinary Church Members' Meetings and Special Church Members' Meetings.

10.2 Ordinary Church Members' Meetings shall be held at regular intervals on not less than four occasions in any calendar year and shall be an opportunity to consider and review routine matters associated with the life of the Church (including issues related to church membership, the appointment and dismissal of the Charity Trustees, and the approval of the budget), with opportunities for considering proposals from the Charity Trustees or other Church Members for the development of the Church and the advancement of its Purpose through its Activities.

10.3 One Ordinary Church Members' Meeting each year shall be the Annual General Meeting for the Church Members to receive annual accounts and reports, and to consider proposals for the strategy and vision of the church in the coming year, with other appropriate matters.

10.4 One Ordinary Church Members' Meeting each year (normally in November) shall include the regular election of Elders, Deacons, other officers and leaders of societies, as well as Auditors or Independent Examiners.

10.5 A Special Church Members' Meeting shall be convened when necessary to consider the appointment or dismissal of a minister, matters relating to the purchase, sale, lease, mortgage or redevelopment of church property, the closure of the church, or matters considered by the Charity Trustees to be of sufficient importance to require the calling of a Special Church Members' Meeting.

10.6 Any member of the congregation, whether or not a Church Member, may attend an Annual General Meeting. Subject to that, a person who is not a Church Member may not attend a Church Members' Meeting unless specifically invited to do so by the Charity Trustees. At any Church Members' Meeting (including the Annual General Meeting), only Church Members may vote.

11 CALLING CHURCH MEMBERS' MEETINGS

11.1 Church Members' Meetings shall be convened by the Charity Trustees so as to be convenient for as many Church Members as is reasonable.

11.2 An Ordinary Church Members' Meeting shall be properly convened if as a minimum requirement the date, time and place for the meeting are publicised at the worship service or services on the two previous Sundays with an indication (if possible) of the matters to be considered.

11.3 A Special Church Members' Meeting shall be properly convened if as a minimum requirement the date, time and place for the meeting are publicised, with as full an indication of the matters to be considered as possible, at the public worship service or services on the two previous Sundays.

11.4 Additional meetings whether Special or Ordinary shall be convened by the Charity Trustees as necessary. They shall have specific responsibility to convene a Special Church Members' Meeting as soon as possible upon the receipt of a written request for a meeting signed by at least ten Church Members.

12 THE CONDUCT OF CHURCH MEMBERS' MEETINGS

12.1 Worship including prayer and the reading of Scripture shall be a key feature of the Church Members' Meeting. The discussion of any matters affecting the life and activities of the Church shall be set in this context with the intention that, so far as possible, practical issues are not perceived as being separate from the spiritual aspects of the Church.

12.2 A quorum of fifteen members entitled to vote (or, if less, one half of the members entitled to vote) shall apply to Church Members' Meetings.

12.3 The Minister shall ordinarily preside at all business meetings of the Church.

12.4 Members shall respect the confidentiality of the Church Members' Meetings.

12.5 Only matters that have first been referred to the Charity Trustees shall be included on the Agenda of a Church Members' Meeting.

13 VOTING

13.1 Members shall, so far as possible, seek consensus on all matters considered at a Church Members' Meeting.

13.2 For matters requiring a decision, a vote shall be taken and the outcome of the vote recorded as the resolution of the Members.

13.3 Each Member shall have one vote which they may use at the Church Members' Meeting after hearing about the issues and any comments or questions raised by other Members in advance of the vote. No proxy votes shall be allowed and no postal votes shall be valid.

13.4 If any matter requires a decision affecting or involving individuals and any embarrassment might arise by a public vote then a secret ballot shall be held if requested and agreed by the Church Members' Meeting.

13.5 If a secret ballot is to be held two persons shall be appointed as scrutineers to the ballot to count the votes. The person chairing the Church Members' Meeting shall announce the outcome without necessarily revealing the numbers of votes.

13.6 Except for the appointment of Elders and Deacons (where clause 25.4 applies), a resolution at an Ordinary Church Members' Meeting shall be carried if supported by a majority of the Members present, entitled to vote and voting. If there is an equality of votes the resolution shall be considered rejected.

13.7 A resolution at a Special Church Members' Meeting shall be carried if supported by at least two thirds of the Members present, entitled to vote and voting.

13.8 Although Members of any age may attend and participate in a Church Members' Meeting the minimum age for voting is 18.

14 MINUTES

14.1 The business conducted at Church Members' Meetings and, in particular, any decisions of the Members shall be recorded in the Minutes for future reference.

14.2 The Minutes shall be written or printed and filed in a book or binder set aside for this purpose using materials of sufficient quality to ensure that they survive for many years and shall be kept in a safe place.

14.3 Each set of Minutes shall be approved by the Church Members attending the next Church Members' Meeting which is not an Annual General Meeting. They shall have the opportunity to review the Minutes and to correct any errors of fact before a formal vote on the approval of the Minutes is taken. If the Minutes are approved, the person chairing the Church Members' Meeting shall confirm the Members' acceptance of the Minutes by signing and dating them as a correct record of the preceding meeting.

14.4 The signed Minutes shall be conclusive evidence of the decisions taken at the Church Members' Meeting to which they relate.

15 THE CHARITY TRUSTEES

15.1 The statutory definition of charity trustees in Section 177 of the Charities Act 2011 is "the persons having the general control and management of the administration of a charity."

15.2 Subject to clause 15.3, the Minister(s), Elders and Deacons appointed under this Constitution are the Charity Trustees of the Church.

15.3 No person may serve as a Charity Trustee if they are disqualified by law.

15.4 A technical defect in the appointment of a Charity Trustee of which the Charity Trustees were unaware at the time does not invalidate decisions taken by the Charity Trustees.

16 RESPONSIBILITIES OF CHARITY TRUSTEES

16.1 The Charity Trustees shall be responsible for the governance of the Church and the fulfilment of the Purpose through its Activities acting according to the will of God as discerned by the Church Members' Meeting.

16.2 The Charity Trustees shall always act in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution and the general law.

16.3 The Charity Trustees shall act in accordance with any specific or general directions of the Church Members' Meeting, except that they are not required to do anything contrary to their other duties as charity trustees.

16.4 When exercising any power in administering or managing the Church each of the Charity Trustees must use the level of care and skill that is reasonable in the circumstances, taking into account any special knowledge or experience that he or she has or claims to have. No Charity Trustee and no-one exercising powers or responsibilities that have been delegated by the Trustees shall be liable for any act or failure to act unless, in acting or failing to act, he or she has failed to discharge this duty of care.

16.5 The Charity Trustees should keep in an appropriate state of repair and insure to their full value against fire and other usual risks all the buildings of the Church (except those where the responsibility is of a third party where they shall use reasonable endeavours to ensure that the third party does so). They must ensure that suitable public liability and employer's liability insurance is in place.

17 POWERS OF CHARITY TRUSTEES

17.1 Subject to the other provisions of this Constitution, the Charity Trustees may, in furthering the Purpose of the Church, do anything permitted by law.

17.2 The Charity Trustees shall have specific power subject to any general or specific directions of the Church Members' Meeting to apply for and accept grants and to provide security in respect of obligations under grant agreements.

17.3 For the avoidance of doubt the Charity Trustees shall have power to borrow money, receive grants, give guarantees and or security for loans, and to make grants or loans of money towards the advancement of the Purpose. In the event of a charge over land and/or buildings being required this must be consistent with provisions in the trusts for the land and with statute law.

17.4 For the avoidance of doubt the Charity Trustees shall have power to make grants to other charities working elsewhere in the United Kingdom and/or other parts of the world.

18 APPLICATION OF INCOME AND CAPITAL

18.1 The Charity Trustees must use the income and may use the capital (subject to any special restrictions or trusts affecting the capital) to promote the Purpose, provided that the Charity Trustees may apply an appropriate reserves policy in accordance with the general law.

19 HOLDING TRUSTEE

19.1 If a Holding Trustee is required it is usually to be The Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches Limited to hold real property or investments for the church, subject to the acceptance by The Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches Limited of such appointment. However, if it is the wish of the Church Members or if, for any reason, The Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches Limited is unwilling or unable to act as Holding Trustee then the Charity Trustees may make arrangements for the appointment of such alternative Holding Trustee as they shall think fit. Such alternative arrangements may include title being held by another trust corporation, by all of the Charity Trustees or by at least three individuals nominated by the Charity Trustees, subject to their acceptance of such nominations.

19.2 Subject to the approval of the Church Members (by resolution at a Church Members' Meeting) the Charity Trustees shall have power to appoint or terminate the appointment of any Holding Trustee as they shall think fit.

19.3 The function of the Holding Trustee is to hold the legal title of real property and investments for the Purpose of the Church set out in Clause 2 in accordance with the lawful instructions of the Charity Trustees or to hold the legal title of real property and investments on special trusts.

19.4 The Holding Trustee must act in accordance with all lawful instructions of the Charity Trustees unless to do so would give rise to a breach of trust.

19.5 Unless the Holding Trustee concurs with any act involving a breach of trust it will not be liable for any act or default on the part of the Charity Trustees or any of them.

19.6 The property listed the Schedule to this Constitution is held by the Holding Trustee upon special trusts. Property held on special trusts is property which is subject to a separate charitable trust where (i) the charity trustees of that trust are the same as the Charity Trustees appointed under this Constitution and (ii) the Church benefits in some way from the provisions of that trust.

19.7 Subject to Clause 19.4, the Holding Trustee shall, in relation to any land which it holds, have all of the powers which would be available to it as if it were the absolute owner of such land.

19.8 The Charity Trustees shall pay to the Holding Trustee such sums of money as are required by the Holding Trustee in order to give effect to the lawful instructions of the Charity Trustees.

20 PROCEEDINGS OF CHARITY TRUSTEES

20.1 Worship including prayer and the reading of Scripture shall be key features of any meeting of the Charity Trustees whose leadership and administration of the church shall be characterised as much by mutual accountability, service, and pastoral care, as strategic thinking and effective management.

20.2 The Charity Trustees shall determine when and how frequently they shall meet provided that they shall convene meetings of the whole group on not less than four occasions in any calendar year.

20.3 The Charity Trustees shall determine a quorum for their full meetings that shall not be less than two persons or half of their number (whichever is the greater number).

20.4 Notwithstanding the joint and several responsibilities of all the Charity Trustees and in addition to regular meetings of the whole group they may meet in such sub-groups as are necessary and convenient. Reports of such subgroup meetings must be made to the next full Charity Trustees Meeting.

20.5 For matters requiring a decision the Charity Trustees shall, so far as possible, seek consensus on all matters considered at their meetings but where this is not possible a vote shall be taken and the outcome recorded as the resolution of the Charity Trustees.

20.6 Each Charity Trustee shall have one vote to be exercised at the meeting.

20.7 Every issue may be determined by a simple majority of votes cast at a meeting of the Charity Trustees. If there is an equality of votes on any matter the resolution shall be considered rejected.

20.8 Minutes shall be prepared of the proceedings at the meetings of the Charity Trustees including any appointments, the names of those present, the decisions taken, and where appropriate the reasons for the decisions. The Charity Trustees shall decide from time to time whether all or part of these minutes shall be treated as confidential.

20.9 Charity Trustees shall respect the confidentiality of their meetings.

21 REMUNERATION OF CHARITY TRUSTEES

21.1 With the exception only of a Minister or Ministers as authorised by clause 23, or a remuneration permitted under clause 21.2 no Charity Trustee (or any person, firm or company connected with the Charity Trustee) may be paid or receive any other direct or indirect benefit for being a Charity Trustee except the reimbursement of reasonable and proper expenses and other payments permitted by statute or specifically authorised by the Charity Commission.

21.2 Where it is proposed that a Charity Trustee (or person, firm or company, connected with the Charity Trustee) is to be employed or receive remuneration or sell goods or services or any interest in land to the Church and where this gains the approval of the Church Members' Meeting then this shall be permitted only if:

- the Charity Trustee or any person connected with the trustee who may benefit directly or indirectly from the proposed remuneration declares an interest in the proposal before discussion on the matter begins;
- absents himself or herself (or in the case of any connected persons themselves) from any part of any meeting at which the proposal is discussed and takes no part in any discussion of it and is not counted in determining whether any such meeting is quorate;
- does not vote on the proposal;
- the remaining Charity Trustees who do not stand to receive the proposed benefit are satisfied that it is in the interests of the Church to contract with or employ that Charity Trustee (or connected person) rather than another independent person and must record the reason for their decision in the minutes;
- in reaching that decision the Charity Trustees must balance the advantage of contracting with or employing a Trustee against the disadvantage of doing so (especially the loss of the Trustee's services as a result of dealing with the Trustee's conflict of interest);
- The Charity Trustees authorising the proposed transaction comprise a majority of the Charity Trustees body and have not received any such benefit

22 MINISTERS

22.1 The Church may have one or more Ministers. Where a Minister is appointed it is expected that they will become a Member of the Church.

22.2 A Minister of the Church must accept the Beliefs set out in clause 3.

22.3 The tasks fulfilled by the Minister(s) will vary depending on individual ability and gifting, but a Minister is normally expected to be involved in the Activities of the Church with an emphasis on the leading of worship and prayer, the teaching of the Christian faith and the pastoral care of individuals. The Minister(s) shall work with the Church towards achieving its Purpose through its Activities.

22.4 Notwithstanding any legal status afforded to a Minister by law, the Church recognises that the Minister and the Church are in a Covenant relationship based on Christian love and trust and mutual accountability. A Minister shall be in a relationship of mutual accountability with the other Charity Trustees and also with the Church Members.

22.5 A Minister may only be appointed or removed in accordance with a resolution of a Special Church Members' Meeting. Voting shall be by secret ballot.

22.6 Where a Special Church Members' Meeting is considering the dismissal of a Minister the Minister shall be allowed to hear what is said to the Church Members' Meeting and to correct any errors of fact and offer any explanation of the circumstances or reasons for their actions before withdrawing so that the Church Members' Meeting may prayerfully and carefully consider whether the appointment should be terminated.

23 THE REMUNERATION OF MINISTERS

23.1 Notwithstanding the fact that any Minister or Ministers appointed by the Church are Charity Trustees they will be entitled to be paid an agreed and reasonable remuneration or stipend out of the funds of the Church.

24 PASTORAL VACANCIES AND THE APPOINTMENT OF A MODERATOR

24.1 When there is no appointed Minister, the Church Members' Meeting may appoint a person who accepts the beliefs of the Church to be the Moderator who shall hold this office until a new Minister is appointed or until they resign or are released or dismissed by the Church Members' Meeting.

24.2 A Moderator is a facilitator whilst there is a pastoral vacancy to help provide spiritual and practical advice. He may attend the meetings of the Charity Trustees but, unless the Church Members resolve otherwise at a Church Meeting, he shall not be a Charity Trustee and therefore shall not be entitled to vote at meetings of the Charity Trustees. However, the Moderator may chair Charity Trustees' Meetings and Church Members' Meetings.

25 ELDERS AND DEACONS

25.1 The Church shall have Elders and Deacons. The maximum number of Elders and the maximum number of Deacons shall be determined by the Church Members' meeting from time to time.

25.2 Elders have a particular responsibility, together with the Minister(s), to provide spiritual leadership to the Church and to ensure the pastoral care of individuals.

25.3 Every Elder and Deacon must be a baptised member of the Church.

25.4 Elders and Deacons shall be elected by a Church Members' Meeting as follows:

25.4.1 Nominations for the office of Elder or Deacon shall be made not later than the third Sunday before the Church Members' Meeting at which the election is to be held. Requests for nominations shall be made at all services on that Sunday and on the two previous Sundays.

25.4.2 Nominations must be submitted on the forms provided, indicating whether the nomination is for Elder or Deacon, and must be signed by two members (one proposing and one seconding). The consent of the nominee must have been obtained. Nominees for the office of Elder must have been adult members for at least two years. Nominees for the office of Deacon must have been adult members for at least one year.

25.4.3 Voting shall be by secret ballot at an Ordinary Church Members' Meeting. Church Members shall be asked to vote for those nominated candidates who they believe would serve the church well in the office for which they have been nominated. Each Member may vote for as many nominees as they believe meet this criteria. The candidates for each office, being not more than the number of vacancies for that office, receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected provided each candidate shall have received votes from at least two-thirds of those members voting.

25.5 Elders shall hold office for a term of five years. Deacons shall hold office for a term of two years. In either case, they may be renominated for further terms of office.

25.6 A Special Church Members' Meeting may rescind the appointment of an Elder or Deacon at any time.

25.7 Where a Special Church Members' Meeting is considering the dismissal of an Elder or Deacon, the Elder or Deacon shall be allowed to hear what is said to the Church Members' Meeting and to correct any errors of fact and offer any explanation of the circumstances or reasons for their actions before withdrawing so that the Church Members' Meeting may prayerfully and carefully consider whether the appointment should be terminated.

26 OTHER OFFICERS AND LEADERS OF SOCIETIES

26.1 The Church shall have a Secretary and a Treasurer, who must be Deacons.

26.2 Leaders of societies connected with the Church must be baptised Members of the Church. They shall be accountable to the Charity Trustees as provided by clause 4.5.

26.3 The officers and leaders mentioned in clauses 26.1 and 26.2 shall be elected annually by a Church Members' Meeting on a proposal by the Charity Trustees.

27 FINANCE

27.1 The Charity Trustees are jointly and severally responsible for the financial administration of the Church.

27.2 Once in each year the Charity Trustees shall present a budget of subsequent years' projected income and expenditure at a convenient Church Members' Meeting.

27.3 The Church's annual financial year shall run from 1st January to 31st December.

27.4 Financial statements of all Church organisations that form part of the Activities shall be presented to the Charity Trustees and incorporated into the Church's financial statements.

27.5 A statement of the Church Accounts (audited or independently examined as required by law) shall be received by the Annual Church Members' Meeting.

27.6 Financial Records, annual reports and statements of account relating to the Church for the previous six years must be available for inspection by any Charity Trustee.

27.7 The law requires Charity Trustees to make the annual report and accounts available to any person who requests these. The Charity Trustees may make a reasonable charge to cover the administration costs of meeting this request.

28 CONSTITUTION

28.1 A copy of this Constitution must be made available to Church Members and to applicants for membership with the intention that every Member shall be informed about the organisation of the Church and be enabled to participate in the life of the Church and in Church Members' Meetings.

28.2 Subject to clauses 28.3 and 28.4, this Constitution may be amended by a resolution of a Special Church Members' Meeting. At least three months notice must be given of any proposal for such a resolution.

28.3 No amendment may be made to this Constitution that would have the effect of making the Church cease to be a charity at law.

28.4 No amendment may be made to clause 2, 21, 23 or 29.2 without the prior written permission of the Charity Commission.

28.5 The Schedule to the Constitution may be amended by the Charity Trustees as required from time to time to ensure that it sets out any property held on special trusts.

29 CLOSURE

29.1 The Church may, by a resolution of a Special Church Members' meeting, decide to close. At least three months notice must be given of any proposal for such a resolution.

29.2 If the Church decides to close or if it ceases to meet for worship for at least six months, the assets of the Church (other than property assets subject to specific trusts) shall, after the satisfaction of debts and liabilities, be applied for Christian charitable purposes as decided by a Special Church Members' Meeting or, failing decision in that way, as decided by the Charity Trustees.

29.3 Property assets subject to specific trusts shall be dealt with by the holding trustees in accordance with those trusts.

29.4 The law requires Charity Trustees to notify the Charity Commission of any closure or dissolution.

Schedule
PROPERTY HELD ON SPECIAL TRUSTS

1 The church premises at 6 Mill Street, Wantage (Title Number ON52018 and part of Title Number ON304478).

2 The cemetery in Garston Lane, Wantage (Title Number ON305900).

3 The property at 15 Charlton Road, Wantage (Title Number ON30589).