



Since 1990 Christ Church, Oswestry has been an LEP.



What do the letters 'LEP' mean?

LEP stands for Local Ecumenical Partnership.

But what is an LEP as an idea?

The following definition has been agreed unanimously by the Churches represented on the Group for Local Unity of Churches Together in England and has been operative from 1 June 1995:

"A Local Ecumenical Partnership is defined as existing '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 Sponsoring Body, and authorisation by the appropriate denominational authorities.'"

What makes two or more Churches into an LEP?

For an LEP to exist there must be:

[1] a formal written agreement by the local churches/chaplains/participants (depending on the category of the Partnership)

[2] formal written authorisation by the appropriate denominational bodies in line with their provisions and procedures

[3] formal recognition, ongoing liaison, support and review by the appropriate Sponsoring Body.

There are different types of LEP's; Churches Together identify 6 main categories as at 2009.

Christ Church is technically a SHARED BUILDING PARTNERSHIP

On the 15th June 1990 a formal Shared Building Agreement was signed between the URC and the PCW under the 'The Sharing of Church Buildings Act, 1969'. This Act being intended to enable one building to be used by two or more distinct Church traditions, following their own styles and practice.

In practice Christ Church has always considered itself to be a single church in which the URC & PCW churches [and latterly Pant URC] have integrated their life and worship, as per a SINGLE CONGREGATION PARTNERSHIP so there is one joint congregation, shared sacramental ministry in one worship centre., a common purse and a single, in Christ Church, local Church Meeting which oversees the day to day life of the Local Ecumenical Partnership.