

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE VELLORE LINK GROUP (VLG)

Purpose of the VLG

The purpose of the VLG is to reflect, support and act upon the Covenant between the Cambridgeshire Ecumenical Council (CEC) and the Diocese of Vellore in the Church of South India (DoV).

This may include, but is not limited to:

Arranging and participating in visits (both of groups and of individuals) to and from Vellore

Attending local, regional, national and if appropriate international meetings on behalf of the VLG

Raising awareness of the DoV and the work of the VLG primarily but not exclusively within Cambridgeshire

Frequent liaison and collaboration with the DoV (the Bishop and any individuals and institutions suggested by him/her)

Supporting fundraising for such projects as may from time to time be initiated by the VLG and the DoV

Raising awareness of the link with the DoV primarily but not exclusively in Church Schools and supporting the RE Advisor of the Diocese of Ely and others who may co-ordinate this work

Supporting the work of the VLC (see below) generally.

Composition of the VLG

The 'core group' comprises the VLG Chair, Secretary and Treasurer; the Vellore Link Co-ordinator (VLC); the County Ecumenical Officer (CEO); and the Denominational Ecumenical Officers (DEOs) or equivalent from other denominations;

those whom the CEC or VLG may from time to time invite to attend meetings in their official capacities (for example, representatives of external aid agencies, NGOs and similar bodies);

others whom the CEC or VLG may from time to time co-opt.

Members of the CEC and others who support the work of the VLG are welcome to attend meetings and contribute to discussion and decision making.

The Chair of the VLG shall normally be a Church Leader (or someone in a senior leadership position) from a member church of Churches Together in England (CTE).

Decision making

The VLG shall meet at least four times a year. Minutes of meetings shall be circulated following every meeting.

The VLG aims to reach decisions by consensus. If it is not possible to reach agreement, or if time does not permit, the Chair, the VLC, the CEO, the Secretary and Treasurer, in consultation with the current Chair of the CEC and any other advisors they feel appropriate, are empowered to make decisions on behalf of the VLG.

Accountability

The VLG is accountable to the CEC through the Chair, the VLC and the CEO and to individual churches/denominations through the appropriate DEO or equivalent. The VLG will bear in mind that denominational structures differ and will do its best to ensure that individual churches/denominations are appropriately informed about work in progress. This may be done by circulation of minutes, invitations to meetings or any other way the VLG considers appropriate.

Finance

The VLG is supported financially by member churches of the CEC, by other churches/denominations and by individuals and organisations wishing to contribute to its work.

The VLG has an independent bank account administered by the Treasurer.

Such funds as are not designated for a particular purpose (for example, to support a specific institution in Vellore) shall be deemed to be available to be used in accordance with decisions reached by the VLG at a formal meeting.

Review

The Covenant between the CEC and the DoV is reviewed every seven years: it therefore seems appropriate that the ToR should be reviewed at the same time. Any amendments will be made in consultation with and with the approval of both the CEC and the VLG.