

Elections

Antony MacRow-Wood

Antony MacRow-Wood studied Politics and Economic and Social History at York University before moving to Bristol to train as a Chartered Accountant. Once there he worked first for Deloitte and then Rolls Royce (aero-engines). He trained for the ministry at Cambridge and served in Urban Priority Area parishes in Swindon and Weymouth, before moving to Poole in 2004 to become a Team Rector and then Archdeacon of Dorset in 2015. He has recently retired and moved to Durham.

He has a long-standing involvement with the Credit Union movement after helping set up a Credit Union in his first parish and been President of First Dorset Credit Union. He served on the Board of the Association of British Credit Unions Ltd. (ABCUL) from 2002 to 2012 and was National President for the final three years. He stepped down from the ABCUL Board to help bring to fruition the plans for Churches Mutual Credit Union.

He was President of Churches Mutual for its first seven years and then a member of the Supervisory Committee. He has just rejoined the Board as Treasurer.

Jeremy Palmer

Jeremy Palmer has been part of the Churches Mutual project almost from its beginning in 2010. He belongs to a parish in the Anglican diocese of Southwark where he is now the parish treasurer.

His work experience covers regulatory policy, including for Credit Unions, at the former Financial Services Authority. He is familiar with the challenges and opportunities faced by the wider Credit Union sector.

He recently retired as Head of Financial Policy for the Building Societies Association. At Churches Mutual he chairs the Credit and Risk Committee.

Trudie Wigley

Trudie is a Church of England vicar in Swindon and has held a number of positions within the Diocese, including Chair of the House of Clergy, Area Dean and a member of the Finance Committee.

Prior to ordination, Trudie enjoyed a career in finance for over 20 years, holding various roles including Investment Fund Manager in fixed income bonds at Threadneedle Investments, Head of Credit at M&G Prudential and a Bank Manager at HSBC. Trudie has a particular interest in economic justice and is delighted to be a part of Churches Mutual as we offer a supportive place for our members to save and borrow.

Trudie has a Physics Degree from Oxford University, holds an ACIB banking qualification from the Chartered Institute of Bankers and a foundational degree in Christian ministry

and mission. Trudie is married to a Methodist Minister and has two teenagers. In her spare time she enjoys walking, scuba diving and curling up with a good book.

Alan Yates

Alan is an engineer by training and a management consultant by profession. He has a first-class honours degree in Electronics Engineering from University College, London and a Fellowship in Manufacturing Management from Cranfield.

He was born in South Shields but has lived in or around London ever since leaving college. Until recently he was an Associate Partner with IBM specialising in Supply Chain and Logistics, with more than 45 years industrial and consulting experience across most sectors, including the finance and charity sectors. His basic discipline is Supply Chain, with specific expertise in strategy development, process transformation and operating model design. He is a skilled project director, having gained experience in the full project lifecycle from strategy to implementation. Alan is an Elder and lay preacher in the United Reformed Church and was Moderator of the General Assembly from 2016 to 2018.

At present, he is the Treasurer of the United Reformed Church and through that role an Officer of the URC, a director of the URC Trust and a Director of the Retired Ministers Housing Society (which provides housing for retired ministers from the URC and its predecessor churches).

In his spare time, he enjoys travelling to new places, cycling, badminton and dinghy sailing.

Dave Thomson

Dave Thomson Chairs Churches Mutual's Supervisory Committee, the Credit Union equivalent of an audit committee.

Following university (Salford) where he read Politics and History, Dave qualified as an accountant with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy.

He is an experienced Internal Audit manager, initially within local government but mostly in financial services with the Co-operative Insurance Society and, later, the Co-operative Bank (following the merger of the two businesses). Dave also served as a member of the Audit Committee (2001 – 2016) for the Co-operative College, an educational charity.

Dave was ordained in 2007. Prior to retirement in 2023, he was Vicar of Ainsworth (a parish on the edge of the West Pennine Moors within the Diocese of Manchester) and Borough Dean for Bury. Dave lives in Bolton and active in his local parish church.