

The Northern Echo

Phoenix church in Willington holds first civic centre

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Left to right: Brandon and Byshottle Parish Council chairman John Grantham, Shildon mayor Peter Quinn, Spennymoor mayor Jeff Daley, Reverend David Parry, Deputy Lord Lieutenant Andrew Martell, Willington mayor Fraser Tinsley and DCC's John Robson

SOME of the area's dignitaries helped a recently renovated church hold its first council service.

Greater Willington Town Council organised the civic service at the Phoenix Christian Centre in Willington with mayors from [Shildon](#) and [Spennymoor](#) joining them and the chairman of Brandon and Byshottle Parish Council.

The deputy Lord Lieutenant of County Durham Andrew Martell also attended as did John Robson, vice chairman of Durham County Council.

The service planned by Reverend Dave Parry, Yvonne Etherington, Hill Benson and town council staff included live music, a puppet show and a life story by Ben Johnson who moved from Burnley to Willington to follow his Christian calling.

Willington mayor Fraser Tinsley said: "I want to thank everyone who has been involved in this service."

Town Clerk, Helen Cogdon said the Civic Service was the first of a series of Civic activities the Town Council has planned leading up to Christmas.