

Churches Together in England is the officially recognised body co-ordinating the life of its Member Churches and bodies in England. They are:

- ** Antiochian Orthodox Church
- Baptist Union of Great Britain
- Cherubim & Seraphim Council of Churches
- Church of England
- ** Church of God of Prophecy
- Church of Scotland (in England)
- Congregational Federation
- Coptic Orthodox Church
- Council of African & Afro-Caribbean Churches
- Council of Oriental Orthodox Christian Churches
- Ichthus Christian Fellowship
- Independent Methodist Churches
- International Ministerial Council of Great Britain
- Joint Council for Anglo-Caribbean Churches
- Lutheran Council of Great Britain
- Methodist Church
- Moravian Church
- New Testament Assembly
- Oecumenical Patriarchate
(Archdiocese of Thyateira and Great Britain)
- Religious Society of Friends
- Roman Catholic Church
- Russian Orthodox Church
- Salvation Army
- ** Transatlantic and Pacific Alliance of Churches
- United Reformed Church
- Wesleyan Holiness Church
- Observer
- Seventh Day Adventist Church

** *welcomed into membership during 2005*

England-based Churches belonging to the Free Churches Group but not currently members of CTE:

Assemblies of God
Churches in Community International
Church of the Nazarene
Countess of Huntingdon's Connexion
Fellowship of Churches of Christ
Free Church of England
New Testament Church of God
Old Baptist Union
Wesleyan Reform Union

Links

CTE values its relationship with the Evangelical Alliance and with the African and Caribbean Evangelical Alliance, and strives to forge links with other Churches which are currently not part of the national ecumenical bodies.

Staff

Revd Bill Snelson General Secretary
Revd Mark Fisher Executive Secretary (Free Churches)
Bishop Joe Aldred Minority Ethnic Christian Affairs
John Baxter-Brown Youth
Jenny Bond Field Officer (North/Midlands)
Revd John Bradley Field Officer (South) and also Secretary to the Group for Local Unity. Edits *Pilgrim Post*.
Carole Golden with Bill Snelson, Judith Lampard, John Baxter-Brown and Opportunities for Volunteering
Revd Debbie Hodge Free Churches Secretary for Health Care Chaplaincy
David Jones Finance Officer, CTE and FCFC(Inc)
Judith Lampard Administration / Communications, and also supports Bishop Nathan Hovhannisian in his role as a President.
Sarah Lane Free Church & Churches Together in England Education Officer
Tracy Neil with Jenny Bond in Manchester
Richard Reddie Project Director, set all free
Edith Steele with John Bradley, Joe Aldred and Women's Inclusion concerns.
Sabina Williams with Sarah Lane, Debbie Hodge and Mark Fisher
Kate Yates with Richard Reddie

Captain Jim Currin, Secretary for the Group for Evangelisation, and Jeff Bonser, responsible for the Christian Enquiry Agency and www.rejesus.co.uk, though employed separately, work closely with CTE colleagues.

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set all free: - www.setallfree.net
Visit and recommend: – www.rejesus.co.uk



**CHURCHES
TOGETHER
in ENGLAND**

2006

God ... has reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.

2 Corinthians 5. 18-20

Churches Together in the nations

Churches Together in England (CTE) was set up in 1990 as a fresh network of relationships. Prior to this there had been no ecumenical body specifically for England. CTE's responsibilities include developing ecumenical, inter-church relationships within England, particularly supporting local groups, ecumenical partnerships and County/Intermediate Bodies, women's issues, and youth matters. The early years of CTE were wisely guided by its first General Secretary, Canon Martin Reardon, who died in January 2005.

There are bodies parallel to CTE in Wales (**CYTUN**) and Scotland (**ACTS**). The **Irish Council of Churches** fulfils a similar role.

The Churches in the four nations and the Republic of Ireland do not have identical boundaries: some have a presence in one nation, some in two, some in three or four; several Churches transcend the boundary between Northern Ireland and the Republic.

Much thought in 2005 went into seeking a structure which honours the distinctiveness of each nation (and jurisdiction) whilst recognising that many Churches cross the national boundaries in their governance, loyalty and perception. The search was also for a way of ecumenical relating which was flexible and economical.

A re-framed **Churches Together in Britain and Ireland**, to be regarded as an agency of the national bodies such as Churches Together in England, comes into being in 2006. The national bodies themselves aim to work more closely and to share expertise and opportunity. This should mean that CTE is better equipped to support inter-faith work, social responsibility concerns and public affairs, the regional agenda, international concerns and so on.

The Free Churches and Churches Together

Most Member Churches of the Free Churches Group are also members of CTE. Since 2001 there has been a close partnership between CTE and the Free Churches Group, which has led to joint employment, administration and accommodation, and better use of resources.

Churches Together in Counties/Dioceses/Districts

'Intermediate' ecumenical bodies are supported and encouraged by CTE. They, and their ecumenical development officers, are completely autonomous.

The Presidents of Churches Together in England

The four Presidents of Churches Together in England are Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor (2000), Archbishop Rowan Williams (December 2002), Revd David Coffey (March 2003) and Bishop Nathan Hovhannesian (January 2006). They meet regularly with the General Secretary.

The Presidents are committed:

- ✓ to develop their mutual friendship and support
- ✓ to pray, study and work together for the unity and mission of the Church
- ✓ to consult together on issues for the common good
- ✓ to promote justice, integrity and peace
- ✓ to speak with one voice to give common witness to Jesus Christ, as far as they are able.

Governance of Churches Together in England

Churches Together in England is an Incorporated Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee (Company Registered No. 5354231, Charity Registered No. 110782). It is the successor to an unincorporated body of the same name. The Chairman of the Trustees (Directors) is Revd Peter Whittaker; the members of the Company are the Churches (i.e. denominations and alliances of churches) and representatives of the Forum, regional groupings and Bodies in Association.

The Churches Together in England Forum

A residential Forum is held every three years. 300 representatives of national Churches, intermediate and local ecumenical bodies attend, to review the life of the Churches and provide guidance for future co-operation and impetus for future commitment. The Moderator of the Forum is Revd John Rackley; Val Potter is Deputy Moderator. The Forum in May 2006 will have the theme *The glory of God... human beings fully alive.*

Finance

CTE's work is mostly financed by its Member Churches, with a small proportion from Intermediate Bodies. Work on behalf of the Free Churches Group is covered by funds from the Free Church Federal Council (Inc). Money comes from the Department of Health towards the cost of Health Care Chaplaincy work, and from the Department for Education and Skills for youth work. The Jerusalem Trust generously supports the **set all free** Project and the work of the Education Officer.

7 July 2005

CTE's London office is close to the site of the bus-bombing in Tavistock Square: staff in the office on 7 July were deeply involved in the aftermath. CTE sees itself as part of the God-given *ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them.*

Highlights of 2005

- ◆ Make Poverty History Reception at Lambeth Palace
- ◆ set all free: 2007 Project on Slave Trade Abolition
- ◆ Presidents' Consultation with senior Church Leaders
- ◆ Black Church Leaders Forum
- ◆ Equipping your Church in a Spiritual Age Tour
- ◆ Sharing Communion Colloquium
- ◆ Memorial Service for Brother Roger of Taizé
- ◆ Publication of *Quotes Words and Dates*

On-going work and prospects for 2006

- ◆ Encouraging Churches to be together in mission
- ◆ Broadening the fellowship of Churches Together
- ◆ Facilitating relations between Member Churches
- ◆ Supporting County Bodies / Ecumenical Officers
- ◆ Offering advice on Local Ecumenical Partnerships
- ◆ Resourcing local Churches Together groupings
- ◆ Maintaining a network among the Regions
- ◆ Arranging Courses, Conferences and Consultations
- ◆ Sustaining the Churches' Co-ordinating Groups
- ◆ Promoting principles of inclusion in the churches
- ◆ Developing the work of Free Church Education Unit
- ◆ Co-ordinating Free Church response to legislation
- ◆ Advising on Free Church Health Care Chaplaincy
- ◆ Expanding *Ducamus* Youth Leadership programme
- ◆ Providing information to the smaller Churches
- ◆ Publishing *Pilgrim Post* (£13 for 5 copies a year)
- ◆ Being in contact with world/European ecumenism
- ◆ Responding to enquiries from the general public, government, statutory bodies, charities, and media
- ◆ Communicating good practice in inter faith relations
- ◆ Developing web resources