



Briefing Paper for the post of County Ecumenical Officer

Churches Together in Somerset draws together seven denominations (Church of England, Roman Catholic, Methodist, Baptist, United Reformed, The Salvation Army and the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)) throughout the geographical area of the Anglican Diocese of Bath and Wells.

In 2009 Churches Together in Somerset was granted charitable status and the members of the Standing Committee act as trustees. Our stated objectives are to facilitate a common witness to the gospel, to provide means for consultation, and to work and pray together for Christian unity.

Over the years Churches Together in Somerset has given a clear lead in enabling churches to work together ecumenically, both at institutional and “grass roots” levels. There are 11 Local Ecumenical Partnerships in the area, of which 4 are single congregation partnerships and the rest covenanted partnerships. In addition there are a number of shared building agreements and informal ecumenical covenants. Each year there has been a highly successful open Forum.

Now across the denominations and member churches there is a growing commitment to mission and an increasing openness for this to be ecumenical wherever possible. Therefore we are seeking a new County Ecumenical Officer who has the enthusiasm and skills to facilitate Christians to work together in their witness and service to their communities. Whilst most of the towns in the region have active formal or informal Churches/Christians Together Groups, there is a need to research their effectiveness and potential to encourage these groups in their working together for the gospel.

There is significant good-will and positive engagement between all the senior church leaders in the region, who meet regularly and act as Presidents of Churches Together in Somerset. One President is appointed to serve Churches Together in Somerset as Chair for a three year period; in 2020 Chair is the Revd Gary Woodall, Regional Minister for the West of England Baptist Network (WEBN)

Churches Together in Somerset is an intermediary Body of Churches Together in England.

Churches Together in Somerset’s website can be found at www.sctog.org.uk.