



“Shire and Soke” Churches Together in Northamptonshire, Peterborough and Rutland

Ecumenical Development Officer for Peterborough and Rutland

Job Description

Do you believe in Christian unity? Do you think it's good to meet people with a different perspective? Do you think Churches are better together? Do you enjoy networking? Perhaps you would enjoy working for Churches Together in Northamptonshire and Peterborough.

Churches Together in Northamptonshire and Peterborough are looking for a County Ecumenical Officer, 10 hours/week, to support all things ecumenical in Peterborough and Rutland, and work alongside the Northamptonshire Officer.

The job is open to anyone in membership with a church that belongs to Churches Together in England, lay or ordained.

Pay is £29,400 per year full time equivalent, plus 10% pension. Work from home.

For further details contact Stuart Jenkins:
Email: stuartjenkins@shireandsoke.org.uk
or call on 07985 108092.

This is a part-time post (10 hours a week)

Job title: Ecumenical Development Officer for Peterborough and Rutland

Location: The officer will work from his/her home which will normally be within or close to Peterborough

Employer: Churches Together in Northamptonshire and Peterborough (registered charity no 1145409)

Accountable to: the Trustees of Churches Together in Northamptonshire and Peterborough via its Chair who will meet with the Officer on a regular basis and will put into place effective line management and support for the Officer.

Overview

Churches Together in Northamptonshire, Peterborough and Rutland covers Northamptonshire, Rutland and Peterborough and its neighbourhood.

There are two Ecumenical Development Officers, one for Northamptonshire and one for Peterborough and Rutland. The main purpose of their role is to facilitate and support the churches of Northamptonshire, Peterborough and Rutland in their relationships with one another and in their wider mission in the world, by encouraging and developing the principles and practices of Christian unity throughout the county.

In particular, the Ecumenical Development Officer for Peterborough and Rutland will:

- Work in partnership alongside the Ecumenical Development Officer for Northamptonshire.
- Work closely with church leaders, supporting, challenging and facilitating their strategic collaboration and fellowship to enhance the ecumenical life and mission of the Churches in Peterborough and Rutland.
- Facilitate, encourage and work with the team of Denominational Ecumenical Officers to encourage and support local unity creatively and proactively, especially but not only Churches Together Groups and Local Ecumenical Partnerships, in their mission to the communities they serve.
- Facilitate the development of collaborative relationships for unity and mission within the whole Christian community in Peterborough and Rutland.

Tasks

First and foremost the task of the Ecumenical Development Officers is a ministry of encouragement. The core tasks reflect this emphasis.

1. The two Ecumenical Development Officers will assist the Churches at all levels in Northamptonshire, Peterborough and Rutland to work more closely together. In particular, they will service and manage the work of the core meetings of Churches Together in Northamptonshire, Peterborough and Rutland in consultation with its Chair and in collaboration with the Treasurer and any other officers.
2. The Ecumenical Development Officers will work closely with the Church Leaders of Northamptonshire, Peterborough and Rutland, setting up and servicing their meetings as required and enabling their closer collaboration. The Officers may be asked by the Church Leaders to facilitate their public statements or carry out any other appropriate tasks. The Ecumenical Development Officer for Northampton takes the lead in this area.
3. A key group of colleagues for the Ecumenical Development Officers is the team of Denominational Ecumenical Officers within which they have a co-ordinating role. Their task is to facilitate and support this team, ensuring a collaborative encouragement, stimulus and nurture for local initiatives and expressions of Christian unity, including Churches Together Groups and less formal groupings and mission initiatives such as pioneer ministries and Fresh Expressions. The Ecumenical Development Officer for Northampton takes the lead in this area.
4. This team of Denominational Ecumenical Officers will ensure that Churches Together in Northamptonshire, Peterborough and Rutland carries out its Sponsoring Body responsibilities for Local Ecumenical Partnerships, ensuring reviews and advising on

constitutions etc. While the Ecumenical Development Officer facilitates the team, to free him/her for development work, s/he should not normally participate in reviews nor give advice to LEPs. S/he will, however, maintain the records of Churches Together in Northamptonshire, Peterborough and Rutland including files of LEP constitutions.

5. The Ecumenical Development Officers will relate to denominational structures in Northamptonshire, Peterborough and Rutland mainly via the Denominational Ecumenical Officers, and will ensure a good relationship between Churches Together in Northamptonshire, Peterborough and Rutland and other ecumenical groups, institutions and organisations within the county. The Officers will sometimes be required to liaise personally with these bodies but is encouraged to ensure that others within Churches Together in Northamptonshire, Peterborough and Rutland take on some of these liaison responsibilities to build up a network of representation as part of a collaborative style of working.
6. The Ecumenical Development Officers will connect with networks of those with a mission focus. For example, s/he might arrange a gathering of those working in the fields of social responsibility, youth work, chaplaincy, environmental issues etc. The key here is to put people in touch with one another but not to accept an on-going task or servicing any networks created.
7. Churches Together in Northamptonshire, Peterborough and Rutland, working especially through the Ecumenical Development Officers, will seek to draw into its life and eventual membership those churches with which it does not at present have a relationship.
8. Together with the Inter Faith Standing Committee, the Ecumenical Development Officers will be the focus of inter faith work in Northamptonshire, Peterborough and Rutland. A key development task is to create and maintain good networks and relationships. To this end, the Ecumenical Development Officers should aim to gather together a group of colleagues and contacts, and work collaboratively with them as they do with the Denominational Ecumenical Officers.
9. The Ecumenical Development Officers oversees all Churches Together in Northamptonshire, Peterborough and Rutland publications, including any newsletters, annual reports, social media presence and the website. A key task is to communicate resources and good news stories. The Ecumenical Development Officer for Peterborough takes the main responsibility for the website.
10. The Ecumenical Development Officers will bring to the attention of the team of Denominational Ecumenical Officers any way in which Churches Together in Northamptonshire, Peterborough and Rutland does not comply with Charity Commission requirements or any concerns about the sustainability of the budget.
11. The Ecumenical Development Officers will be aware of local planning strategy in order to alert Member Churches to the needs of new housing areas.

The Ecumenical Development Officers works in the context of a network of similar officers in the counties of England ('Intermediate Level') and are supported by the staff of Churches Together in England. As well as attending CTE's training course for new officers in the first year of appointment, the Ecumenical Development Officers will also attend annual meetings of Intermediate ('County') Ecumenical Officers and will meet with those in their region two or three times a year for mutual support, help and collaboration.

Outcomes

As a result of the Ecumenical Development Officer's work we hope to see, by the grace of God:

- Growing relationships of trust between the Member Churches of Churches Together in Northamptonshire, Peterborough and Rutland and other Christian groups in the county.
- Imaginative new patterns of ecumenical mission at local level which are light-touch and flexible.
- Ground-breaking initiatives in the sharing of buildings and ministry for mission across the county.
- Efficient servicing of necessary meetings.
- Excellent outward-facing communications about Churches Together in Northamptonshire, Peterborough and Rutland and its Member Churches in all media.

Other requirements

This is a part-time post and much of the work involves travelling in the Peterborough area. The work involves flexible hours, which may vary from week to week, including some evenings and weekends – this is not a 'fixed hours' job.

An Occupational Requirement exists for the post-holder to be a Christian in accordance with the Equality Act 2010.

August 2018