



Churches Together in England: background information

Churches Together in England is the national ecumenical instrument supporting and encouraging churches from a wide range of traditions to work together in unity.

Our vision is to create the space in which fruitful collaboration and mutual understanding can grow, so that we as churches work more closely together in our great task of sharing in God's mission and making the gospel of Christ known in our nation.

Our strapline is: *One in Christ Jesus, engaged in God's mission, empowered by the Spirit.*

One in Christ Jesus

Nationally, Churches Together in England brings together 51 **Member Churches** from many diverse traditions. In fact, we unite the broadest range of churches in the whole of Europe. Together we unite around **CTE's statement of belief**.

Locally, churches from a wide range of traditions are working together in many different ways, and there are more than 2,000 Churches Together groups across our nation. Some local congregations also share church buildings and worship together, leading to some 900 Local Ecumenical Partnerships.

County bodies draw together local Churches Together groups and other local expressions of Christian unity, working ecumenically **at an intermediate level**.

CTE also works alongside three **National Agencies**, as well as 53 **Bodies in Association** – a wide range of voluntary groups and charities whose work has an ecumenical dimension, working with Christians of many different traditions.

Engaging with God's mission

As Churches Together in England, we have a vision to reach our nation with the good news of Jesus Christ as we seek to serve Him together.

Our heart is to see the churches in England collaborating in the *Missio Dei* – working together more closely in the mission of God, which is our calling in every generation.

And we want to celebrate where churches are collaborating together, showing God's love and making the gospel of Christ known in our nation.

Empowered by the Spirit

As a family of churches, we are dependent on the Holy Spirit to empower, guide and direct us as we dream and plan together, and as we continue to discover what it means to love one another deeply as brothers and sisters in Christ.

This Pilgrim Prayer was written as part of **the historic Swanwick Declaration** – part of the process which led to the founding of CTE in 1990.

Its words remain as true today as they did then:

*Lord God, we thank you
for calling us into the company
of those who trust in Christ
and seek to obey his will.
May your Spirit guide and strengthen us
in mission and service to your world;
for we are strangers no longer
but pilgrims together on the way to your Kingdom.
Amen.*