



Churches Together in Somerset County Ecumenical Officer

Role description and person specification.

Basis of Churches Together in Somerset

Churches Together in Somerset (CTS) unites in pilgrimage those Churches, in its area of the Bath and Wells Anglican Diocese, which, acknowledging God's revelation in Christ, confess the Lord Jesus Christ as God and Saviour according to the Scriptures, and, in obedience to God's will and in the power of the Holy Spirit, commit themselves

- to seek a deepening of their communion with Christ and with one another in the Church, which is his body
- to fulfil their mission to proclaim the Gospel by common witness and service in the world;
- to the glory of the one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Nature of Post

CTS's County Ecumenical Officer (CEO) in working to help realise the above will be employed for one day per week equivalent (8 hours) plus attend an annual Churches Together in England - CTE conference.

Background to post

As for the wider ecumenical instruments and other County Ecumenical Bodies, CTS is in a period of transition. It is moving from formal ecumenical working predominantly with mainstream churches, including acting as a sponsoring body for LEP's, to a relational forum that enables ecumenical mission opportunities to flourish across a broader base of Christian Churches and groups. Financial resources from the denominations are becoming increasingly limited for general ecumenical working rather than specific mission projects.

The post-holder will work alongside the regional church leaders, the CTS Standing Committee, the CTS Forum and other partners to enable CTS to support this transition and develop CTS's purpose and work.

A team approach is desired; hence the options for ways ahead which are shown in the aspirations set out for the CTS CEO role. It is hoped that the post holder will help CTS develop such a team approach and coordinate the volunteers as its vision and mission opportunities are further identified.

Accountable to:

The post is line managed by the denominational Church Leader currently serving as chair of CTS and is employed by the CTS Standing Committee (Trustees).

Focus of Post following review in Spring 2020:

Communication

- to maintain regular communication with local groups / LEP / Denominations and the wider church

Co-ordination

- to facilitate Churches Together events / gatherings.

Role Description

Communication

The CEO / [County Ecumenical Team – CET] team will

- Ensure the production and wide circulation of a monthly electronically distributed newsletter highlighting events and good news stories as a resource for Christian mission in the county.
- Build relationships with key people in local Churches Together groups and thereby identify a resource person to encourage and support ecumenical work in specific localities.
- Build relationships with the LEP's in the county by networking with their leadership.
- Build relationships with the denominational Ecumenical Officers', supporting them in their responsibility for LEP / covenant reviews and in encouraging new expressions of ecumenical working guided by the working document of CTE '*A Flexible Framework for Local Unity in Mission*'
- Ensure information is available and shared with parachurch and Christian charitable organisations. E.g. Christian Aid, the various chaplaincies in the county, Bodies in Association with CTE and more local groups such as Safe Families for Children.

Coordination

The CEO / County Ecumenical Team will

- Support the Denominational Leaders to ensure that their regular cycle of meetings of two a year plus a retreat take place.
- Ensure the CTS AGM/Forum effectively takes place each year.
- Work with the Standing Committee to develop wider team working and agreeing within the budget appropriate meeting(s).
- Maintain the database of CT groups, LEP's and other contacts of CTS.
- Enable, alongside the treasurer and other groups of CTS, the financial stability of CTS by working to the budget and towards sustainable income streams to meet the agreed budget and any proposed development of the work of CTS
- Work with the Regional Church Leaders, the Standing Committee, CTS AGM / Forum and other key contacts to envision and develop the work of ecumenism in the county.

Team development (desired possible future way of working)

The CEO will

- Work with the Standing Committee as the initial base team to be developed
- Identify key areas of work of CTS that could be undertaken by volunteers.
(Web site is already undertaken in this way)
- Identify and recruit individuals or churches / groups to be part of the team.
- Communicate between and coordinate the work of the team as it develops.
- Report on the work of the team to the stakeholders of CTS.
- Assist CTS in developing its vision and ways of working alongside the team.

Person Specification.

Essential

- Committed to the ecumenical vision.
- Good communication skills, written and spoken.
- Computer and social media competent.
- Be in good standing with a local Christian church.
- Willingness and ability to travel to various meetings as appropriate.

Desirable

- Experience and proven skill in team working.
- Understanding of the different denominations.
- Understanding of the ecumenical bodies and key ecumenical documents.
(Appropriate Denominational Reports, CTBI, CTE, CEC and WCC etc.)
- Live in or near Somerset and understand the context of CTS

August 2020