



Annual Report

2017

Communicating - Listening - Encouraging - Advising - Renewing

Introduction

Churches Together in Devon brings together the main Christian churches with a county wide presence in Devon (including Plymouth and Torbay). It aims to facilitate a common witness to the Christian faith, encouraging consultation and co-ordination between member churches and working and praying for Christian unity.

The main point of contact is the County Ecumenical Officer - Revd. Paul Snell (ceo@ctdevon.org.uk) - or see the website: www.ctdevon.org.uk

Governance

The charity is run by an Enabling Group (trustees), who are either appointed by member Churches or co-opted to provide additional skills and knowledge. In 2017 these were:

Church Leaders (Presidents of Churches Together in Devon)

- The Divisional Commanders of the Devon & Cornwall Division of the Salvation Army: Major Stephen White and Major Amanda White
- The Chair of the Plymouth & Exeter District of the Methodist Church: Revd. Canon Graham Thompson (CTD Chair)
- The Anglican Bishop of Exeter: Rt. Revd. Robert Atwell
- The Roman Catholic Bishop of Plymouth: Rt. Revd. Mark O'Toole (represented by Revd. Canon John Deeny)
- The Moderator of the South Western Synod of the United Reformed Church: Revd. Ruth Whitehead
- A Regional Minister of the South West Baptist Association: Revd. Carl Smethurst

Denominational Ecumenical Officers

- Revd. Michelle Parkman - Baptist
- The Ven. Dr. Mark Butchers - Church of England
- Mrs. Christine Harbottle - Methodist (to August 2017)
- Mrs. Mary Ann James - Roman Catholic
- Major Sue Camp-Richards - Salvation Army
- Revd. Dr. Tom Bush - United Reformed Church (to August 2017)

Others

- Mr. Hugh Rodway - Hon Treasurer
- Mr. Bruce Govett - Co-opted

Main Activities in 2017:

Churches Together in Devon enabled leaders from different Churches to share their vision and approach to sustaining faith and mission in both rural and urban parts of the county, and to learn from the experience of diverse traditions. In particular, the missional aspects of each denomination have been explored with the officers appointed for this purpose.

Through shared information and planning, visible Christian presence in areas of new housing in Devon, continued to be encouraged, as was the growth of chaplaincy in a range of public settings.

Local joint working by churches in cities, towns and villages was supported through providing advice and information to local Churches Together groups. In addition, the Church Leaders made a Pastoral Visit to Ilfracombe to explore further opportunities for co-operation and support was given to Churches Together in Bideford.

In its role as sponsoring body for Local Ecumenical Partnerships in the County, Churches Together in Devon undertakes periodic reviews of local churches in which two or more denominations are joined. In 2017 these were reported for Goodleigh United Church and Flavel Church, Dartmouth.

The Country Ecumenical Officer - Revd. Sue Macbeth - retired at the end of February 2017 and a recruitment exercise was undertaken to appoint a successor. Revd. Paul Snell was successfully recruited but he was unable to commence his new role until January 2018. As a result, some of the work of Churches Together in Devon was allowed to lie fallow until Revd. Snell came into post. However, through the website and Facebook group, churches were made aware of resources to enable them to work together effectively on both growth in faith and social action in the community. The website also acts as an information point for the public.

The Chair of CTD, Revd. Canon Graham Thompson, held an oversight role for the provision of advice and support to Churches Together groups and Local Ecumenical Partnerships through visits and ad hoc contacts; linking to wider networks and sharing news through meetings of the Enabling Group.

These activities achieved public benefit through the charitable objective of promoting the Christian religion; through encouraging effective partnerships between different churches for public benefit in particular localities; and through signposting ways in which Christians can to respond to contemporary issues.

Financial summary

Income in 2017 was £13,974, from church subscriptions and bank interest. (2016 £13,257)

Expenditure in 2017 was £4,252 on staff, governance and administrative costs. (2015 £16,565)

Balance held £31,256 (2016 £21,533), of which £3,204 is in restricted or designated funds.

Churches Together in Devon does not undertake any public fundraising. It has one part-time member of staff and does not own or occupy any premises. Other activities were undertaken on a volunteer basis, mainly by members of the Enabling Group.

Approved 10th May 2018