

### Executive Staff

Revd Bill Snelson General Secretary

Revd Geoffrey Roper Associate General Secretary (Free Churches) until April

Revd Mark Fisher Executive Secretary, Free Churches Group from April

Bishop Joe Aldred Sec for Minority Ethnic Christian Affairs

Jenny Bond Field Officer (North/Midlands)

Revd John Bradley Field Officer (South), editor *Pilgrim Post*

David Jones Finance Officer, CTE and FCFC(Inc)

Judith Lampard Administration / Communications

John Baxter-Brown Youth Work

Pauline Main Women's / Social Concerns, Opps for Vols

Revd Debbie Hodge Free Churches Secretary for Health Care Chaplaincy (from February) ([chaplaincy@cte.org.uk](mailto:chaplaincy@cte.org.uk))

Sarah Lane Free Church and CTE Education Officer

Revd Roger Whitehead, Sec for the Group for Evangelisation, and Jeff Bonser, [www.rejesus.co.uk](http://www.rejesus.co.uk) and Christian Enquiry Agency, though employed separately, are close colleagues.

### Administrative Staff

Pauline Brown with Geoffrey Roper and Judith Lampard

Carole Golden with Bill Snelson and John Baxter-Brown

Tracy Neil with Jenny Bond in Manchester

Edith Steele with John Bradley, Pauline Main and Joe Aldred

Sabina Williams with Sarah Lane and Health Care

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CHURCHES  
TOGETHER  
*in* ENGLAND

2005

Christ is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.

Colossians 1.17-18

### **The Presidents of Churches Together in England**

The four Presidents of Churches Together in England are:

Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor  
Revd Esme Beswick, MBE  
Archbishop Rowan Williams  
Revd David Coffey

The Presidents, who have signed a Personal Covenant with one another, meet for prayer, discussion and planning four times a year, together with the General Secretary

### **The Forum of Churches Together in England**

From 1991 to 2003 there has been a residential Forum of 300 representatives of national churches and intermediate and local ecumenical bodies, which has reviewed the life of the Churches and provided guidance for co-operation and impetus for future commitment.

The next Forum is planned for May 12-14, 2006. The Moderator of the Forum is Revd John Rackley, Minister of Manvers Street Baptist Church, Bath, and Val Potter, County Ecumenical Officer for Dorset, is Deputy Moderator.

### **Governance of Churches Together in England**

The Governing/Trustee Body of CTE is the Enabling Group, appointed by Member Churches, by the Forum and by ecumenical groupings in the regions. Its Convenor is Revd Peter Whittaker, Chair of the West Yorkshire District of the Methodist Church, and the Deputy Convenor is Pauline Johnson of the Association of InterChurch Families.

CTE is in process of becoming a Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee: the Member Churches will become members of the newly-formed company, and a group of 9-15 people, constituted similarly to the current Standing Committee, will become the Trustees.

### **Churches Together email addresses:**

firstname.surname@cte.org.uk or  
office@cte.org.uk

### **Member Churches of Churches Together in England**

Baptist Union of Great Britain  
Cherubim & Seraphim Council of Churches  
Church of England  
Church of Scotland (in England)  
Congregational Federation  
Coptic Orthodox Church  
Council of African & Afro-Caribbean Churches  
Council of Oriental Orthodox Christian Churches  
Ichthus Christian Fellowship  
Independent Methodist Churches  
International Ministerial Council of Great Britain  
Joint Council for Anglo-Caribbean Churches  
Lutheran Council of Great Britain  
Methodist Church  
Moravian Church  
New Testament Assembly  
Oecumenical Patriarchate Archdiocese of Thyateira/ Great Britain  
Religious Society of Friends  
Roman Catholic Church  
Russian Orthodox Church  
Salvation Army  
United Reformed Church  
Wesleyan Holiness Church

### **Observer**

Seventh Day Adventist Church

### **Currently seeking membership**

Antiochian Orthodox Church  
Apostolic Congress of Great Britain  
Church of God of Prophecy (members of CTBI since Nov. 2004)  
Trans Atlantic and Pacific Alliance of Churches

### **England-based Churches belonging to the Free Churches Group, and not currently to Churches Together in England**

Assemblies of God  
Churches in Communities International  
Church of the Nazarene  
Countess of Huntingdon's Connexion  
Fellowship of Churches of Christ  
Free Church of England  
New Testament Church of God  
Old Baptist Union

### **Churches Together in Britain and Ireland**

The Council of Churches for Britain and Ireland (now Churches Together in Britain and Ireland - CTBI) was the successor body to BCC. It has oversight of international affairs, social policy, racial justice, church matters affecting all four nations, and of inter faith relations. 2004 saw a review of the relationship between CTBI and the national bodies in Ireland, Wales, Scotland, and England.

### **Churches Together in England**

Churches Together in England (CTE) was a fresh network of relationships: prior to 1990 there had been no ecumenical body specifically for England. Its responsibilities include developing ecumenical, inter-church relationships within England, particularly supporting local groups, ecumenical partnerships and County Bodies, women's issues, and youth matters.

It is likely that in 2005 some of the roles previously undertaken by CTBI will pass to the national bodies, including CTE. This should mean that CTE is better equipped to support inter-faith work, social responsibility concerns, and the regional agenda.

### **The Free Churches and Churches Together**

Since 2001 Churches Together in England has been in a close partnership with the Free Churches Group, leading to joint employment, administration, accommodation and better use of resources. Most member Churches of the Free Churches Group are also members of CTE.

### **Churches Together in Counties, Dioceses and Districts**

'Intermediate' ecumenical bodies are supported and encouraged by CTE. They, and their ecumenical development officers, are completely autonomous.

### **Financing Churches Together**

About half the finance for CTE's work comes from its Member Churches. Work on behalf of the Free Churches Group is covered by funds from the Free Church Federal Council (Inc) (FCFC). Health Care Chaplaincy has money from Department of Health (DoH); youth work from Department for Education and Skills, and education work from the Jerusalem Trust. CTE administers grants to local projects under the DoH's Opportunities for Volunteering programme. The Jerusalem Trust is supporting work to mark the bicentenary of the Abolition of the Slave Trade Act in 2007.

### **Publications about Churches working Together**

*What is this place?* six Bible Studies on women and violence. *Hospitality of the heart* is a set of four Bible Studies in response to the inter faith context.

*A Common Life in Ministry* looks at clergy/ministers' groups.. *Evangelism in Multi-faith England* examines resources suited for confessing the Christian faith in today's society.

*Pilgrim Post* is published five times a year @ £13 including postage (£12 on banker's order).

### **Coming soon**

*Equipping the church in a spiritual age* (Churches Group for Evangelisation)

*Quotes Words and Dates* (Theology and Unity Group)

### **On the web**

[www.churches-together.org.uk](http://www.churches-together.org.uk) and [www.cte.org.uk](http://www.cte.org.uk) both lead to the Churches Together in England website. It is an increasingly valuable tool for making available advice, good practice and resources. The policy is to make CTE materials available on the web and to encourage adaptation to local circumstances. A particularly useful file is *Ecumenical Notes*, including constitutions for Local Ecumenical Partnerships and Churches Together groups.

## 2004 - What happened

### Education Officer

At the Churches' request, with added funding from the Baptist Union and Methodist Church, and with help from the Jerusalem Trust, the post of Free Church Education Officer was extended to Churches Together in England Education Officer, with a remit relating to schools, teacher recruitment and curriculum, other than church schools.

### Health Care

A Department of Health review of the national resourcing of Health Care Chaplaincy resulted in a major grant to the work of the Free Churches Secretary. It asked that the remit be extended to the Churches in CTE other than the Church of England and the Roman Catholic Church.

### New Housing Areas Residential Consultation

40 people from the national Churches and Intermediate Bodies met to consider the emerging issues of community building, church presence, church planting and education.

### Christian Resources Exhibition (CRE)

CTE coordinated a major display of the work of the Coordinating Groups, marking CRE's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

### The Gathering

200 people, mostly from local Churches Together groupings, spent a weekend *sharing the vision*, meeting in workshops and hearing major addresses from Cardinal Cormac Murphy O'Connor and Stephen Timms, MP.

### Working Together

Following a Home Office review of relations with faith communities, CTE found itself being consulted far more as an 'umbrella body'.

## 2005 - Looking forward

### Make Poverty History

With the UK Government holding the Presidency of the European Union, the G8 Meeting at Gleneagles, and the likelihood of a General Election in 2005, the year presents a great opportunity for campaigning to *Make Poverty History* and to continue pressure for debt relief, trade justice and for the achievement of the millennium development goals. Churches and church agencies will be in the forefront.

### 2007 Bicentenary of the Abolition of the Slave Trade Act

A Project is developing to highlight the Christian motivation of the abolitionists and to challenge Christians now to be similarly engaged. A Project Director will help the churches address these issues and will liaise with organisations and agencies concerned for racial justice and modern slaveries.

### Black Church Leaders

A major Forum of Black Church Leaders is planned, building on the work of the Group for Minority Ethnic Christian Affairs.

### Equipping the Church in a Spiritual Age

A road-show tour is planned, to help local churches look at the opportunities presented by contemporary spiritualities.

### On-going work

Much of CTE's work is providing encouragement, advice, and support to local groups, Intermediate Bodies and County Ecumenical Officers, and national Coordinating Groups. CTE facilitates relations among the Churches, provides information and representation for the smaller Churches, and extends the fellowship to other Churches and church-related groups.