



**ANNUAL REPORT AND
ACCOUNTS2018**

'The Kingdom of Heaven is like...'

Churches Together in Somerset is a Registered Charity No. 1133175

www.sctog.org.uk

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN SOMERSET **ANNUAL REPORT 2018**

Aims and Purposes

Churches Together in Somerset seeks to be a visible sign of the Churches commitment to one another, to support local ecumenism, to serve as Sponsoring Body for Local Ecumenical Partnerships and to encourage shared worship, service and evangelism.

Other aims include the facilitation of early ecumenical consultation, the development of good relationships with other faith communities and the support of the churches in their response to the needs of society.

Objectives and Activities

In order to advance the Christian religion for the benefit of the public, Churches Together in Somerset seeks to support the common Christian witness of its member churches, to provide ways in which they may consult with one another and work and pray for Christian unity.

In accordance with the requirements of charitable status and with its Constitution, Churches Together in Somerset Standing Committee has considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when planning activities for the year. In particular, it has considered the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion.

County Ecumenical Officer's Report

In Support of Local Ecumenism

At the Churches Together in England 2018 Forum, held in Swanwick, Derbyshire, in reporting on the previous three years since the Forum last met, the out-going (due to retirement) General Secretary, David Cornick stated. "It's been some three years. A funny old ecumenical winter. In their diverse lives yet common witness, England's Christians want to be seen together... That's a funny old ecumenical winter... We've felt the movement of the Spirit in so many ways over the past three years... We've seen the Spirit blowing where he wills across the country as Christians in towns and cities have come together across previously insuperable boundaries. Some call it a 'new ecumenism' – city and town wide grouping, many of which have grown around local Churches Together groups whose aim is the transformation of their communities".

I would agree with David Cornick. The demise of Christians witnessing and living alongside each other has been exaggerated. Yes, it is expressed and understood in different ways but as I travel throughout Somerset I am thrilled by what I see and what I discover. Things never stay the same – and we would not want them to do so – and the challenge is to try to see where the Trinity is active and become part of that constantly changing life, work and ministry.

This is the context in which I make my 2018 report.

Last year I reported, *“The spiritual life of local Churches Together group’s mirrors that of the national level - is complex and continues to shift because of a number of factors. Some groups are in good heart, outward looking and seeking to have a positive influence on their communities. Others struggle to engage and have concerns about a viable future”*. Not unexpectedly, that is the ongoing picture. When visiting groups I have reminded them that *The Kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed* (Luke 13:19). The insignificant seed that has potential for growth and roots in unexpected places. Ours is always a work and witness undergirded by faith.

“That we should act together in all matters except those in which deep differences of conviction compel us to act Separately”

- The Lund Principle

Throughout the year, I have continued to attend meetings and events organised by Churches/Christians Together groups or Leaders’ groups in numerous places, as well as meeting with various individuals and attending events organised by denominational groups. I continue to publish a monthly newsletter, which maintains a healthy readership.

I have visited Churches/Christians Together groups (some more than once) in: Backwell, Bath, Burnham and Highbridge, Castle Cary, Chard, Frome, Keynsham and Saltford, Langport, Martock, Midsomer Norton, Minehead, Nailsea and District, Paulton, Pill, Pilton, Radstock and Westfield, Shepton Mallet, Taunton, Somerton, Wellington, Wells, Williton and Watchet, and Wincanton. The visits have included both special events and regular meetings. I have also met with various individuals and attended events organised by Churches Together, denominational groups

and other organisations.

In addition, during the year I visited a number of Local Ecumenical Partnerships – Batheaston, Brean, Christchurch Clevedon, Horton Covenant Partnership, Locking Castle and Pill Covenant Group. Some I found were actively engaged in their communities whilst others seem to be facing an uncertain future.

I have also attended events or held meetings with individuals of a number of organisations – BathCAN, Big Church Day Out, Christian Aid, CTBI Editorial Writers Group for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Roman Catholic Commission for Dialogue and Unity, South West Area Ecumenical Officers, Together4Bristol, and Taunton Street Pastors.

The Monthly Newsletter, circulated to over 240 people - most of whom forward it to many others, continues to be widely appreciated. The Update is available on the CTS website thanks to our excellent website manager, Ian Freemantle.

Our AGM and Forum this year was held in the Nailsea Baptist Church, where our guest speaker was Roy Crowne, National Director of *HOPE Together*. This was an inspiring and challenging event seeking to enthuse individuals and churches to move forward in their work.

CTS continued to 'champion' the prayer initiative *Thy Kingdom Come*, assisting churches and Churches Together groups to engage in concerted prayer over the period from Ascension Day to Pentecost. A number of events – large and small, as well as individuals committed to prayer, marked the occasion. Plans were agreed with the Standing Committee for more direct involvement of CTS with this initiative in 2019.

In 2018 we re-vamped our Winter Forum, making this an invitational event where we invited a 'national figure' (in this case, Steve Clifford National Director of the Evangelical Alliance) to unpack '*Thy Kingdom Come – Engaging in Mission*'. It is anticipated this will become an annual event and plans are in hand for a similar event in 2019.

Local Ecumenical Partnerships

During 2018, the churches in Pawlett enter into a covenant, marking a closer working relationship, but Milborne Port Covenant was dissolved.

Churches and Society

During the year a small working group looking at possible chaplaincy provision for the workforce was formed and they met on a number of occasions with the management of the Hinkley Point building project, Discussions are still ongoing.

The CTS enabling working group on New Housing Areas was re-formed.

Church Leaders

Churches Together in Somerset has continued to provide a meeting place for the regional Church Leaders in Somerset and enabled its Presidents to meet together three times in the year. Their 24-hour retreat in February, under the leadership of Revd Elizabeth Smith, proved to be a time of spiritual enrichment and challenge. I register my appreciation for the help, support and guidance this group offer to myself and the work of Churches Together in Somerset.

Following the 2016 agreement to change the leadership rotation of Somerset Churches from a three-year to a two-year over-lapping leadership (first year as Vice Chair, second as Chair), Major Ian Harris, Divisional Commander of the Severn and Somerset Division of the Salvation Army, completed his term as Chairman of the Standing Committee and Forum at the AGM in February 2018. Bishop Declan Lang, Clifton Diocese of the Catholic Church succeeded him, with Revd Ruth Whitehead, Moderator of the South West Synod of the United Reformed Church, appointed as Vice-Chair.

Hopes for the Future

The Archbishop of Canterbury has coined the phrase "Ecumenism of Action" as his way of understanding and describing the present situation of ecumenical life and witness here in the U.K. I would agree with him. As I travel around Somerset I am constantly amazed at the desire of God's people to be 'light and salt' in the world; having an openness to engage with community; seeking to make the world a better place; to be mission focused and find ways of sharing the Good

News of Jesus with a world in need of peace and joy. CTS continues to support these opportunities. I am thrilled that mission is at the centre of CTS”.

Meeting with individuals and groups around the county, I have continued to emphasise mission (in its broadest sense) whilst

- ◆ Affirming our unity – our oneness in Christ
- ◆ Embracing our diversity – different but having things in common
- ◆ Engaging the emerging reality – the changing ecumenical scene

It would be my intention to continue with this emphasis, whilst also highlighting that 2019 gives opportunity for more of us to engage with the prayer initiative *Thy Kingdom Come*. Ensuring that all we do maintains a mission focus.

I started my report with reference to the report of David Cornick at the CTE Forum, I would conclude with the Swanwick Declaration.



Reports of Affiliated Organisations

CAFOD Clifton Report – Elizabeth Baldwin writes:

CAFOD Clifton

- We are growing our volunteer network, as this is a critical factor to us being able to work alongside parishes and schools, and to grow and help more people living in poverty in the future.

- The role of the CPC (Community Participation Co-ordinator – Liz Baldwin) is therefore to recruit and sustain a growing volunteer base, often coordinating behind the scenes.
- Volunteers are increasingly managing and coordinating networks of volunteers.
- Volunteers represent CAFOD with as much validity as staff and we are building on what volunteers have been doing very effectively on CAFOD's behalf for many years. In this way, CAFOD is 'owned' more deeply and authentically by our communities.
- Parish Volunteers are a conduit or catalyst for bringing the work of CAFOD to their fellow parishioners, as an invitation to respond to the needs of those living in poverty and express their faith through compassion and action.
- Our school volunteering programme is going well in the diocese, with numbers of volunteers and numbers of visits/schools visited over the past year having increased. We see support of our Schools Volunteers as critical and we bring them together for regular training and mutual support of each other.
- The proportion of parishes who are active with CAFOD across the diocese has also increased.
- Our latest campaign in CAFOD is 'Our Common Home' based on the encyclical by Pope Francis, 'Laudato Si'. CAFOD is encouraging volunteers to attend the Mass Lobby of Parliament on Wednesday 26 June 2019. Volunteers are also being asked to organise Creation Mass and Celebration events in their parish with petition signing from Easter in relation to this campaign. CAFOD volunteers do weekend volunteering, evening volunteering, or one-off volunteering; they continue to make a tremendous difference in the fight against global poverty and injustice.

Christian Aid Report – Callum Humphries writes:

Emergency Appeals

Last year our partners delivered humanitarian support in 26 countries, reaching more than one million people in need.

Christian Aid supporters have raised over £1.9 million in aid of communities affected by earthquakes and tsunamis in Indonesia. You have raised over £1.2 million towards our appeal in support of those affected by floods in Kerala. £13,000 was raised in response to Typhoon Mangkhut in the Philippines. Finally, a total of £9 million has been raised to support Rohingya refugees fleeing Myanmar.

Christian Aid Week 2018 – Stronger than the Storms

Together we raised £8 million this Christian Aid Week, with £154,000 raised in Somerset, standing together and helping through our partner KORAL to build hurricane-proof homes for Jocelyne and other vulnerable people in Haiti.

Christmas 2018 – Be A Peacemaker

£800,000 has been donated so far towards our Christmas Appeal focussing communities affected by violence in Colombia, Lebanon and South Sudan, with money still coming in from events across the country. Many of you also lobbied our Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt to stop private arms trade deals with Saudi Arabia, helping to build peace in Yemen. In Somerset a total of £13,000 please do remember to get any outstanding donations to our Bristol office.

Harvest – Breaking the Barriers

This year we focussed on a project empowering women in rural communities in Ethiopia, Malawi, Honduras and Burkina Faso. In Somerset £18,000 was raised, which thanks to the EU means £90,000 towards this project.

Lent – Internally Displaced People

We raised awareness and over £400,000 in funds to support internally displaced communities in Nigeria and Kenya, with a total of £9,000 from Somerset.

Campaigns

Together this year we have called on the Prime Minister to better support all displaced people, resulting in the imminent creation of a Global High Level Panel at the UN, and a parliamentary inquiry into forced displacement in Africa.

Thanks to your action calling on banks to stop funding climate change, Barclays, Lloyds, RBS and Standard Chartered have begun restricting investment in fossil fuels.

Major breakthroughs have been achieved in tax justice within the UK Parliament and Vodafone, years after you began campaigning on the issue.

Staff changes

This year we welcomed Amanda KhoziMukwashi as our new CEO, Jill Stone as our Regional Deputy Head, and Rhean Fox as Bristol Office Coordinator. Callum Humphries took over as Regional Coordinator for Bristol & Somerset.

Looking to 2019

In 2019, we want to rise to the challenges that face us and not be overwhelmed by them.

During Lent & Easter we will focus on climate change, and HSBC investment practices, while during Christian Aid Week, we will look at maternal health in Sierra Leone, and getting creative with how we develop our activities in a fast-changing climate. There will be added focus on legacies, which raised over £100,000 in Somerset alone this year. We will also welcome Joanna Tom-Kargbo, Senior Programme Officer in Sierra Leone at events in March. If you are

interested in getting involved with Christian Aid in whatever capacity, Callum would be delighted to hear from you on either chumphries@christian-aid.org or 01454 415 923.

THANK YOU!

Together in Somerset you have raised a whopping £543,000 in 2018, a testament to your deep commitment to the Gospel message of equality and justice. In Him, all things are possible.

Together4Bristol Report– Roger Allen writes:

2018 has been an exciting year for the Christian community in the Bristol region.

Together4Bristol (T4B) is a “unity for mission movement” of churches, prayer groups and networks across the whole, or spheres, of life. These spheres are Sport, Health, Education, Family, Politics and Social Action, Arts, Media and Business and Workplace.

A couple of highlights have been: Hope 2018 in the Easter holidays, with 1400 volunteers from 93 churches working on 173 projects in 25 communities across Bristol over a week... remarkable!

And prayer breakfasts for church leaders, with between 50 and 100 present. The Mayor of Bristol, Marvin Rees, is a Christian, and he has helped open many doors for the Christian community to engage with the council for the good of Bristol, for example: the [Bristol Churches Winter Night Shelter](#), with over 400 volunteers from about 60 churches, which ran from January until the end of March or breakfast clubs in over 20 of the most deprived schools. Over 10,000 meals were provided over the summer holidays to children at risk of hunger.

The City Hall gathering on 5th May, called “Building Bristol as a City of Hope”, which gathered 200 key city leaders from business, public sector, charities and churches to raise awareness about how the Christian community is engaging with the [City Office](#) and to explore how we can work together even more.

The Social Action sphere networks Christians working in about a dozen strands, such as addiction support and debt advice, 25 food banks, homelessness, working in prison and with ex-offenders, with refugees and vulnerable women. For more details, and ideas for getting involved, see: www.christianactionbristol.org.uk

There was also the [Bristol Housing Festival](#)'s launch exhibition in the Autumn, the first event for the five-year festival, which over 6,000 people visited and which started to re-imagine affordable housing solutions for the city.

T4B is a “network of networks”, with Churches Together in Greater Bristol (CTGB) partnering with Bristol and District Evangelical Alliance, Arise!, Bristol Networks website and others. It is accountable to the senior Church Leaders (the Presidents of CTGB) in Bristol. There have been several new partners in the last year, including several black-led churches and the Moravians.

T4B longs to see the WHOLE Christian community working together in unity to help spread the Kingdom of God throughout the WHOLE of life across the Bristol

region.

To find out more about how to get involved, see theT4B website: www.together4bristol.org.uk or contact Roger Allen: enabler.t4b@gmail.com



Financial Review – Imogen Taylor writes:

The Bath & Wells Diocesan Board of Finance (DBF) provides financial and accountancy support services to Somerset Churches Together. Services include the preparation of the annual budget, maintenance of accounting records, preparation of the annual accounts, notification of annual subscriptions to member bodies, payment of salary and expenses to the County Ecumenical Officer (CEO), payment of all supplier invoices and other expenses. The fee for such services from the DBF in 2018 was £618 (2017 - £600).

Mrs Imogen Taylor, Head of Finance & Operations at the DBF, is Honorary Treasurer. The Honorary Treasurer's role includes the monitoring of actual receipts and payments versus budget together with the provision of advice to the Standing Committee on any financial issue.

The accounts for 2018 (and associated comparative figures for 2017) have been prepared on the receipts and payments basis. The costs to prepare accruals accounts in accordance with the SORP2015 regulations which govern charity accounts are considered to outweigh any benefits to readers of the accounts.

2018 receipts totalled was £20,356 (2017 - £19,780) and expenditure was £22,390 (2017 - £20,454) resulting in an excess of payments over receipts for the year of £2,034 (2017-£674). The budget for the year had assumed an excess of payments over receipts of £2,478.

Receipts increased in the year as subscriptions were increased although no subscription has been received from the Mid Somerset Area Quaker Meeting again for 2018; Voluntary donations decreased slightly.

Operating expenditure increased 10% year-on-year. Higher costs of conferences and meetings were partially offset by lower travel expenses.

Cash balances held at 31 December 2018 totalled £17,048 (2017-19,082). Funds held at 31 December 2018 represented 9.8 months' budgeted future expenditure cover (2017 10.2 months). The reserves policy is to hold sufficient funds to cover 6 months' future expenditure. The charity aims to reduce

reserves to this level by restricting subscription increases over the next few years.

The 2018 annual accounts have been reviewed by an independent examiner whose signed report is available to members.

Structure, Governance and Management

Membership of the Standing Committee consists of two of the Presidents, Denominational Ecumenical Officers or their equivalents for the area covered by Churches Together in Somerset, one representative from each of the member Churches which does not have a Denominational Ecumenical Officer, one representative of the Social Responsibility Group of the Diocese of Bath and Wells, three members elected by the Forum and the Honorary Treasurer. Members of Standing Committee are the trustees of the charity. The Standing Committee met four times during the year with an average level of attendance of 60%. The County Ecumenical Officer attends and services meetings of the Standing Committee in a non-voting capacity.

The membership of the Forum consists of the Presidents of Churches Together in Somerset, the Standing Committee, representatives from each of the member churches, representatives from local Churches Together groups affiliated to Churches Together in Somerset, representatives from Local Ecumenical Partnerships sponsored by Churches Together in Somerset and representatives from the various Bodies in Association. The Forum met once in February and included the Annual General Meeting. The meetings are open to all churches in the ecumenical area.

Administrative Information

Churches Together in Somerset covers the geographical area of the Anglican Diocese of Bath and Wells. The correspondence address is 8 Applewood Close, Chippenham, Wiltshire SN14 0JG and the website address is www.sctog.org.uk.

Churches Together in Somerset is registered as a charity with the Charity Commission (Registered Number 1133175).

Standing Committee members who have served from 1 January 2018 until the date this report was approved are:

Major Ian Harris (The Salvation Army) - President and Chair until February 2018
Bishop Declan Lang (Clifton Roman Catholic Diocese) - Vice Chair until February 2018 and thereafter President and Chair
The Revd Ruth Whitehead (South West Synod United Reformed Church) – Vice Chair from February 2018
Mr David Maggs (Social Responsibility Group of the Diocese of Bath and Wells)
The Revd Tim Price (Bath and Wells Church of England Diocese)
The Revd Steve Christian (West of England Baptist Association)
The Revd Tim Langdon (South West Baptist Association)
The Revd Tina Swire (Bristol Methodist District) – November 2018
Mr Ron Jordon (Plymouth and Exeter Methodist District) – from May 2018
Deacon Mario Kossmann (Clifton Roman Catholic Diocese)

Lt-Col Wendy Leavey (The Salvation Army) – from May 2018
The Revd Tim Richards (United Reformed Church)
Cheryl Govier – Forum representative until she resigned in February 2018
The Revd Rowena Francis – Forum representative
Mr Andy Pearce – Forum representative – from November 2018
The Revd Adrian Prior-Sankey – Forum representative from September 2018
Mrs Imogen Taylor, Honorary Treasurer

Forum Members who have served from 1 January 2018 until the date this report was approved are:

Presidents of Churches Together in Somerset

The Rt Revd Peter Hancock (Bath & Wells Church of England Diocese)
The Rt Revd Ruth Worsley (Bath & Wells Church of England Diocese)
The Revd Nigel Manges (South West Baptist Association)
The Revd Nigel Coles (West of England Baptist Association)
The Revd Gary Woodall (West of England Baptist Association)
The Rt Revd Declan Lang (Diocese of Clifton)
The Revd Jonathan Pye (Bristol Methodist District)
The Revd Graham Thompson (Plymouth and Exeter Methodist District)
Major Ian Harris (Salvation Army Severn and Somerset Division)
Major Jean Harris (Salvation Army Severn and Somerset Division)
The Revd Ruth Whitehead (United Reformed Church South West Synod)

Representatives from each of the Member Churches

The Revd Tim Price Diocese of Bath and Wells
The Revd Morey Andrews Diocese of Bath and Wells
The Revd Steve Christian West of England Baptist Association
Father Michael Thomas Clifton Roman Catholic Diocese
The Revd Steve Bennett Bristol District Methodist Church
The Revd Phillip Wagstaff Plymouth and Exeter Methodist District
Peter Henderson South West Synod of the United Reformed Church

Representatives of Local Churches Together Groups affiliated to Churches Together in Somerset

David Pendle	Bath Churches Together
Fr Tom Dubois	Christians in and around Backwell
Christopher Elliott	Christians in and around Backwell
Nick Niven-Jenkins	Castle Cary CT
Elizabeth Manley	Castle Cary CT
Fr Jeff Williams	Chard CT
Revd Clive Fairclough	Frome CT
Anne Stallybrass	Glastonbury
Jeff Sawyer	Keynsham
Pauline Sawyer	Keynsham
Chris Spracklen	Martock CT
Revd Nicholas Williams	Pill Churches Together
Susan Green	Pilton
Chris Salter	Wellington

John Salter	Wellington
Isabel Ward	Wellington
Deacon Gary Hoare	Weston-s-Mare and District
Penny Ashton,	Wincanton
Andy Hall	Wincanton

Representatives of Local Ecumenical Partnerships affiliated to Churches Together in Somerset

Jane Di Marco	Batheaston Covenanted Churches
Susan Dare	Christchurch, Clevedon
David Yates	Pill Covenanted Churches
Emily Cumberbach,	Locking Castle LEP
The Revd Tom Yacomeni	Locking Castle LEP

The Standing Committee (see page 10 for list)

Representatives of Affiliated Organisations

Roger Allen	Together4Bristol
Elizabeth Baldwin	CAFOD
Samuel Williams	Christian Aid
Adrian Prior-Sankey	Taunton Team Chaplaincy

Approved by the Churches Together in Somerset Forum on 23rd February 2019 and signed on their behalf by The Rt Revd Declan Lang (President, Churches Together in Somerset)

Signed _____



Somerset Churches Together

Receipts and Payments Account

	2018	2017
	£	£
Receipts		
Denominational receipts		
Anglican	11,858	10,430
Baptist Union of Great Britain	1,428	1,166
Methodist	1,728	2,599
Religious Society of Friends	190	117
Roman Catholic	3,630	3,923
Salvation Army	282	285
United Reformed Church	384	429
	19,500	18,949
Conference & other receipts	88	
Bank Interest	61	97
Voluntary Donations	708	760
Total Receipts	20,356	19,780
Payments		
Charity Activities		
Conferences and Meetings	2,970	829
Office, Secretarial & Administration	782	769
Equipment & Insurance	423	302
Staff Costs		
CEO Salary & NI	13,327	13,229
CEO Expenses	3,863	4,303
CEO Pensions	666	662
Subscriptions	350	350
Bank Charges	9	9
Total payments	22,390	20,454
Excess of payments over receipts	(2,034)	(674)
Cash at bank 1 January	19,082	19,756
Cash at bank 31 December	17,048	19,082

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	2018	2017
	£	£
Cash funds- Bank current account	17,048	19,082
Current liabilities - creditors and accruals		
CEO expenses	203	240
Other	315	57
	518	297

Approved by the Trustees on 23 February 2019.

Although not a legal requirement, these accounts have been independently examined

Independent Examiner's Report to the members/trustees of Somerset Churches Together (registered charity no. 1133175)

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2018 which are set out on page13

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- ◆ examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act;
- ◆ follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act; and
- ◆ state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

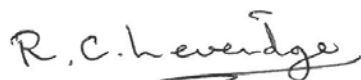
Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect

- ◆ accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act or
- ◆ the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

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Robin Leveridge
18 The Boundaries
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28 January 2019