



# How to ...

## Find out more about working ecumenically

### **Creating Connections with other Churches**

The Church of England is only one part of the body of Christ in Bristol and the UK and we have a commitment to finding ways of learning from each other, working together where we can be more effective and supporting one another in difficult times. In Cumbria churches from different traditions discovered that in the face of massive flooding that they could be vastly more effective by combining their relief efforts. The lessons learned through that experience are a reminder of how we are all interdependent and that God's kingdom flourishes when his people learn to live and work together in harmony. Although it isn't always easy and straightforward, nevertheless ecumenical working can be a source of blessing and growth.

For any queries contact our ecumenical adviser, Chris Dobson: [cd@bristoldiocese.org](mailto:cd@bristoldiocese.org)

### **Local Churches Together Groups**

To find out about Churches Together groups near you

#### **Bristol area:**

Churches Together in Greater Bristol (also known as Together for Bristol):

<http://www.ctgb.org.uk/>

Bristol Networks website which offers an extensive guide to Christian initiatives across the wider city: [www.bristolnetworks.org.uk/](http://www.bristolnetworks.org.uk/)

#### **Swindon area:**

Churches Together in Swindon: <http://www.swindonchurches.org/>

'Weekly what's on' Bulletin – contact Barbara Aftelak to subscribe: [barbara@flamefm.co.uk](mailto:barbara@flamefm.co.uk)

#### **Wiltshire area:**

Wiltshire Churches Together: <http://www.wiltshirechurches.net>

### **Churches Together in England**

The Churches Together in England website provides an interesting overview of Ecumenical work in the UK. Offering up to date news and extensive resources to support ecumenical work in the local church.

<http://www.cte.org.uk/Groups/42314/Home.aspx>

To make things easier for you to find what you need if you have a specific query about Local Ecumenism we have separated out some of the key links for you; see overleaf:

## **Essential Guidelines for LEPs, everything you need to know about Local Ecumenical Partnerships.**

Churches Together in England provide an extensive set of resources for those engaged in Local Ecumenical Partnerships. Definitions of Local Ecumenical Partnerships, guidelines on starting new LEPs, how to write vision statements and constitutions, charity registration, reviews, financial issues are among the areas covered.

<http://bit.ly/1Y3QcRH>

## **Almost all you need to know about Local Ecumenism**

Everything from providing a framework for local ecumenism to model covenant documents; from ideas for action to insurance for local Churches Together groups; from models of working to resources available:

<http://bit.ly/1Tnl7rO>

## **For those who are interested in the theology around Ecumenism**

Documents and principles relating to ongoing dialogues between churches and denominations can be found here:

<http://bit.ly/1SrHPv7>

Theological resources produced by CTE:

<http://bit.ly/1Vflepk>

## **Offering Hospitality in our buildings**

Resources and guidelines for inviting other churches or denominations to share our buildings. Who are we allowed to invite, how do we avoid misunderstanding, what legal things need to be done, safeguarding issues. All in all, a comprehensive collection of information that will help us to welcome others into our church buildings.

<http://bit.ly/1ZQsObO>

Written by Chris Dobson, Ecumenical and Global Partnerships Adviser