



## New vision for Churches Together in England

Paul Goodliff, General Secretary of Churches

Together in England (CTE), has set out a new vision. The strapline underpinning the vision is *One in Christ Jesus, engaged in God's mission, empowered by the Spirit*. Paul Goodliff explained how the most important task ahead is to develop a renewed ecumenical identity, with greater focus upon a common witness and collaboration in mission. CTE is not called to become another mission agency, but rather, "an ecumenical space where greater collaboration in mission becomes possible, and even inevitable — a broad tent under which we can gather and share life." He concluded "the times and the Spirit call for us to be resolute, hopeful, imaginative, faithful and prayerful as we serve Christ together." You can find the full address at [www.cte.org.uk/Publisher/Article.aspx?ID=535385](http://www.cte.org.uk/Publisher/Article.aspx?ID=535385)



## Prayers for a divided nation

The Presidents of Churches Together in England, together with partners Churches Together in Britain and Ireland, are calling churches to pray from Wednesday 27 March to Sunday 31 March as we approach the scheduled deadline for Brexit. They are urging churches to find ways to pray, and to enable church buildings to be open for people seeking a space for prayer.



Greater Manchester Churches Together support the call for prayers at this time—look out for details and please consider what you can do with your local ecumenical neighbours.

## Making it easier to work together

The recent General Synod updated the Church's ecumenical legislation and approved a new Ecumenical Code of Practice that allows for greater flexibility in relationships, fresh possibilities for ecumenical practice and more opportunities for churches to cooperate in mission.



In a major change, bishops can now designate a church to which the legislation applies, making it possible for newer and minority churches without a national presence and associated structures to come into the Church of England's framework for hospitality and partnership. The provisions for Local Ecumenical Partnerships have also been made applicable in a broader range of circumstances, wherever a 'Local Ecumenical Cooperative Scheme' is recognised. The hope is that the new Code of Practice will support the excellent ecumenical work already taking place and be an encouragement for greater cooperation in mission.

## Apostolic Pastoral Congress

At a recent meeting of Ecumenical Officers in Greater Manchester, it was noted that some churches claiming to belong to the APC do not. If you have any approaches from churches who say they are linked to the APC and want to make bookings with you, please check their status by contacting Bishop Edmund Akyea-Mensah at [command531@hotmail.com](mailto:command531@hotmail.com).

**"For we are all one in Christ Jesus" Galatians 3.28**

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