****CTiC: an overview**

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| This paper was initially prepared to provide Trustees with a succinct summary of the range of activity of Churches Together in Cumbria, and thus provide a sound basis for future planning. I record particular thanks to Shelagh Goldie, Social Responsibility Officer for CTiC, for much valued help in the preparation of the paper.The paper was approved at the spring 2019 meeting of the Trustees of CTiC. It is now offered to a wider readership for information and interest. It underscores the vital role of CTiC as the enabler and driver of change and innovation both in ecumenical partnership and in social action. Words may be recalled from the review of the work of CTiC conducted last year by Churches Together in England: “Cumbria has a remarkable ecumenical vision and is truly at the cutting edge. There is nothing quite like Cumbria in the rest of English ecumenism.”This document should be regarded not as a sculpture but as a snapshot. Things will change, and it will need regular updating. Were that ever not to be the case, there would be little point to a charity such as CTiC! David Richardson Vice President & Treasurer, Churches Together in Cumbria July 2019 |

The paper is organised under nine headings:

* Aims and objectives
* Membership of CTiC
* Local CT groups
* Structure of CTiC
* Funding
* Ecumenical engagement
* Staff and volunteers
* Chaplains
* Links with outside bodies

**A Aims and objectives**

The constitution states

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| The objective of Churches Together in Cumbria shall be the advancement of the Christian religion, the relief of poverty and the advancement of education and any other purposes which are charitable according to the law of England and Wales. In particular, Churches Together in Cumbria shall seek to further these objects by (a) encouraging and enabling Churches in the county to grow together in trust and mutual acceptance through shared worship, prayer, learning, service and evangelism with each church sharing with others the treasures of its tradition; (b) encouraging and stimulating throughout the county a deeper commitment to Christian unity; (c) promoting and co-ordinating ecumenical strategies at all levels (d) acting as a sponsoring body for Local Ecumenical Partnerships, ensuring the provision of appropriate ongoing advice and support, equitable financial assessment and proper periodic review;(e) encouraging full and early ecumenical consultation so that the churches may use resources (including buildings and the deployment of personnel) with sensitivity and in the interests of good stewardship; (f) providing a meeting point for Christian leaders and representatives within the county; (g) keeping the churches informed about ecumenical initiatives both inside and outside the county, liaising with the national ecumenical bodies; (h) and in all these ways, providing a focused Christian reference point for local government and other secular bodies with whom Churches Together in Cumbria will seek to work in the interests of the well-being of the people of Cumbria. |

The above may be summarised more crisply as:

**Churches Together in Cumbria promotes unity and facilitates partnership in mission between all churches and brings a Christian influence to bear on social issues affecting the people of Cumbria.**

**B Membership of CTiC**

The current members of CTiC are as set out in Appendix 3 to the constitution, the following ten denominations:

* Baptist Union of Great Britain
* Church of England
* Church of Scotland
* Churches in Communities International
* Methodist Church
* Orthodox Church in Cumbria
* Religious Society of Friends
* Roman Catholic Church
* Salvation Army
* United Reformed Church

Applications for membership are encouraged from other churches also which endorse the aims and objects of CTiC.

**C Local Churches Together groups**

Local groups are autonomous bodies, formally independent of CTiC. CTiC does however prize its links with them and seeks to encourage them in their work. They appoint two members to serve on the Board of Trustees, and groups are invited to give support to CTiC each year. There are currently 25 groups.

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| Alston | Egremont | Kirkby Stephen | Seascale |
| Ambleside | Grange-over- Sands | Levens  | Sedbergh |
| Barrow | Grasmere | Lunesdale | Silloth |
| Brampton | Hawkshead | Maryport | Ulverston |
| Carlisle | Kendal  | Milnthorpe | Wigton  |
| Cockermouth | Keswick | Penrith | Workington |
| Coniston |   |   |   |

**D Structure of CTiC**

The following bodies report to the Board of Trustees:

* Social Responsibility Forum
* Dementia Reference Group
* Cumbria Ecumenical Spirituality Group
* Cumbria Community of Prayer

The scope of the work of the *Social Responsibility Forum* is indicated below by the list of bodies which, in turn, currently report to it. The *Dementia Reference Group* has oversight of the dementia-friendly churches project and of the work of the Dementia Project Officer. The *Cumbria Ecumenical Spirituality Group* “exists to make the journey of ‘knowing God’ richer and deeper, and to offer companionship on the journey”.

The *Cumbria Community of Prayer “*is a network of individuals and groups who encourage each other in prayer” (the creation of the CCP was endorsed by the Executive Council at its December 2018 meeting).

The bodies which report to the SRF are currently as set out below. It will be understood that the list is subject to change as new issues arise:

* Eco Christians in Cumbria (ECiC), formerly called the CTiC Environment Group
* Emergency Planning Team
* Churches’ Rural Forum
* Cumbria Industrial Mission
* Domestic Violence Project Steering Group
* Housing Project Group
* Modern Slavery Group.
* Sellafield Churches’ Forum

A note of the current membership of the Board of Trustees, SRF, Dementia Reference Group and Ecumenical Spirituality Group is appended on pages 5 and 6 for ease of reference.

**E Funding**

The day-to-day operations of CTiC are funded by seven of the denominations and by local CT groups. The amounts that is being sought from them for 2019 is £37,152 - £34,952 (94%) from denominations and £2,200 (6%) from local groups.

(Funding for the post of Dementia Project Officer – to the end of August 2020 – has been provided by funds specifically raised for that purpose.)

**F Ecumenical engagement**

CTiC plays a leading role in developments in England’s premier ecumenical county:

* Encouraging the “God for All” initiative – in regard both to the four covenant denominations and the four companion denominations
* Supporting Mission Communities and fostering links between them and local CT groups
* Spearheading local ecumenical partnerships

This may be illustrated as follows:

* Within the framework of CTiC the leaders of the churches which have a county-wide presence meet twice a year (and this group appoints the President of CTiC). The Denominational Ecumenical Officers appoint the Vice President.
* Sarah Moore chairs the Strategy Steering Group for “God for All”, and one other Trustee (Kath Dodd) is one of the representatives of the companion denominations on the SSG.
* The dementia-friendly churches project is fostering cooperation between volunteers from local churches (“Dementia Enablers”) across denominational boundaries.
* The development of links between Mission Communities and the Social Responsibility Forum is being actively pursued

It should be added that CTiC takes the lead in ensuring cooperation between churches and the public sector (both at district and at county level) and the emergency services in fields such as emergency planning and the combatting of modern slavery.

**G Staff and volunteers**

(1) CTiC currently employs three members of staff:

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| --- | --- | --- |
| *Name* | *Role* | *Reports to*  |
| Emma Brown | Administrator | David Richardson (as VP & Treasurer) |
| Shelagh Goldie | Social Responsibility Officer | David Pitkeathly (as Chair of the SRF) |
| Yvonne Povey | Dementia Project Officer | David Richardson (as Chair of the DRG) |

The five people named above meet regularly in a “CTiC staff meeting” – for mutual support and to ensure effective communication and give opportunity for consideration of issues that may need to be brought to the Board of Trustees. In addition, there are two people engaged by CTiC on a fee basis: Mel Jolly (accounts manager) and Suzie Pye (web administrator). Their CTiC contacts are Emma for Suzie and DAR for Mel.

(2) The Trustees have identified six key volunteers:

* Alison Butland as contact person for the Cumbria Ecumenical Spirituality Group
* Cameron Butland as contact person for the Cumbria Community of Prayer
* Andrew Dodd as CTiC representative at meetings of county ecumenical officers
* Eleanor Hancock as lead for the Domestic Abuse Steering Group
* Martin Holdgate as Chair for Eco Christians in Cumbria
* Nick Mark as Emergency Services Coordinating Chaplain
* Nicola Reynolds as Lead Emergency Planning Coordinator

Each of these is given opportunity to report to the Board of Trustees at least once a year

**H Chaplains**

CTiC has, in response to invitations from the services concerned, appointed the following as chaplains to the fire and police services. They currently are:

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| **Chaplaincy** | **Holder** |
| Emergency Services Coordinating | Nick Mark (URC) |
| Police & Fire, Barrow | Sophie Carnaby (Methodist) |
| Fire, Carlisle | Melanie Beaven (Methodist) |
| Police & Fire, Kendal  | Simon Rudkin (Anglican) |
| Police, North Cumbria | Stephen Carter (Anglican) |
| Fire, Penrith | *vacant* |
| Fire, Ulverston | Darren Roy (Churches in Communities International)  |
| Police & Fire, Workington | *vacant* |

The coordinating chaplain reports to the Board each year.

Discussions are in hand which may, it is hoped, lead to the establishment of a link between CTiC and the members of the Cumbria Agricultural Chaplaincy, given that they constitute an inter-denominational group with responsibility for a key economic and social sector in the county

**I Links with outside bodies**

CTiC maintains a list of people who serve on other bodies either as officially appointed representatives of CTiC or as a direct consequence of their engagement with CTiC. This currently reads as follows – but is of course and necessarily liable to frequent change

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Alzheimer's Society working party on faith in dementia-friendly communities | David Richardson |
| Cumbria Churches’ Rural Forum | Jim Webster |
| Cumbria SACRE (religious education support) | David Pitkeathly |
| Cumbria Fairtrade Network | Susan Beale |
| Cumbria Third Sector executive | David Pitkeathly |
| Modern Slavery working party | Shelagh Goldie |
| Place for Hope | Brec Seaton |

**APPENDIX**

The current membership of the **Board of Trustees** is as follows:

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| *President*: | The Revd Sarah Moore (URC) |
| *Vice President & Treasurer* | David Richardson (Anglican) |
| *Social Responsibility Forum chair*: | The Revd David Pitkeathly (Church of Scotland) |
| *Church Leaders’ representative* | Bill Bewley (Society of Friends) |
| *Churches Together groups representatives* | Paul Burden (Roman Catholic); Brian Pateman (Anglican) |
| *Co-opted members*: | The Revd Canon Cameron Butland (Anglican); The Revd Kath Dodd (Baptist); The Revd Lucie Lunn (Anglican); *one vacancy* |
| *Denominational Ecumenical Officer representatives* | The Revd Nicola Reynolds (Methodist); *one vacancy* |
| In attendance: Emma Brown (*CTiC Administrator*) |

The current membership of the **SRF** is as follows

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| **Denominational members** |
| Anglican | Vernon Ross; Kath Wise; *one vacancy* |
| Baptist | David Opie |
| Church of Scotland | David Pitkeathly (Forum Chair) |
| Independent | Emma Jones |
| Methodist | Irene McKay; *two vacancies* |
| Quakers | Bill Bewley; Robert Straughton |
| Roman Catholic | Maggie McSherry; Shirelle Cooper; Mary Hallaway |
| Salvation Army | Hilary Borthwick |
| URC | *Two vacancies* |
| **Other members** |
| Churches’ Rural Forum | Jim Webster |
| Chaplaincy | Glynn Jones (Chaplain to Chaplains) |
| Emergency Planning | Nicola Reynolds  |
| Environment Group | Pam Martin |
| Sellafield Churches’ Forum | *Vacancy* |
| ***Ex officio* members** |
| CTiC President  | Sarah Moore |
| CTiC Vice President  | David Richardson |
| In consultation with Shelagh Goldie *(Social Responsibility Officer)* |

The current membership of the **Dementia Reference Group** is

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| David Richardson (*Chair*), Gillian Bounds (*Vice Chair*), Vivien Davidson, Karen Dutton, Rosalind Fearon, Valerie Hallard, Margaret Irving, the Revd David Pitkeathly, Fiona Roebuck, the Revd Tony Taylor, Deacon Debbie Wilde, in consultation with Yvonne Povey (*Dementia Project Officer*) |

The current membership of the **Cumbria Ecumenical Spirituality Group** is

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| Cameron Butland, Ali Betteridge, Terry Winterton, Helen Brocklehurst, Ruth Lee,Kath Dodd |

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| Membership of the **Community of Prayer** is open to all who subscribe to its aims. |