A Directory of Ecumenical Organisations in Derby Deanery

Churches Together in Derbyshire

‘Churches Together in Derbyshire unites those churches in Derbyshire which, acknowledging God’s revelation in Christ, confess the Lord Jesus Christ as God and Saviour according to the Scriptures; and in obedience to God’s will and in the power of the Holy Spirit commit themselves to seek a deepening of their communion with Christ and with one another in the Church which is His Body, and to fulfil their mission to proclaim the Gospel by common witness and service in the world, to the Glory of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. ‘

‘As Churches Together in Derbyshire we work on behalf of many churches to

- Sponsor Local Ecumenical Partnerships between the Christian Denominations
- Provide information exchange through printed and electronic bulletins, personal advice, support and encouragement.
- Be the formal link between local Churches Together Groups and all other Ecumenical Partnerships and the national resource and organisation, Churches Together in England

It does this through a variety of ways;

- Responding to social issues
- Encouraging local mission
- Encouraging local co-operation
- Encouraging dialogue between communities
- Guiding local partnerships
- Supporting local “Churches Together” groups
- Sponsoring local chaplaincies
- Resourcing united local studies
- Supporting new churches

Below are some examples of Local Churches Together Groups and their activities.

Churches Together In Chellaston (St Ralph Sherwin R. C. Church)

- Joint Services e.g. Carol Service, Women’s Day of Prayer
- Ecumenical Choir
- Lent Study Groups
- Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
- Theme of ‘Mission’ for 2009
- Open the Book Project- ecumenical team for school assemblies
- Quarterly collection of Food and toiletries for Padley Day Centre

Ashbourne Churches Together (All Saints R.C. Church)

http://www.ashbourne-churches-together.supanet.com/

- Joint Services – Advent and Easter
- Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
- Good Friday Walk of Witness
- Project with Patna Diocese of the Church of North India
- One World Group
- Supports Christian Aid
- Supports Ashbourne Fair trade Town Initiative

*Allestree Churches Together (Holy Family Church)*

- Links with Nagpur Diocese of Church of North India

*Churches Together in Gresley, Swadlincote and District (St Peter and Paul, Swadlincote)*

- Schools evangelising project-It’s Your Move’
- Walk of Witness, Good Friday Procession
- Part fund local Youth for Christ Outreach Worker
- Bi-annual outreach event in local park
- Ministers preach at others’ services
- Lenten discussion groups

*Alvaston Churches Together (English Martyrs)*

- School Assemblies
- Prayer Walks
- Christmas Carol Service

*Mackworth (Christ the King)*

- Shared activities with Catholics, Anglicans, Methodists and United Reformed Church
- Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
- Stations of the Cross
- Carols/Stations outside local shops
- Publish each others events and celebrations

*Derby City Council of Churches*

This organisational body no longer exists. Churches in the city centre are hoping to develop a new covenant together. Any current initiatives are on an individual basis and other denominations are invited to attend.

Accompanying this report is a list of contacts for the various Churches Together Groups in Derbyshire.

**Local Ecumenical Partnerships**

Local Ecumenical Partnerships (LEPs) bring together two or more denominations in an even more direct way through sharing resources such as buildings or personnel. There are currently about two dozen ecumenical partnerships throughout Derbyshire. They involve a variety of churches and traditions.
There are newly planted churches like the ones in Oakwood and Littleover (Haven). There are older churches where two or more congregations have come together to work as one, as in Burton upon Trent and Matlock. Some even have one minister acting on behalf of all the participating denominations (e.g. C of E, Methodist, URC) in a single congregation.

The Chaplaincy that serves the University of Derby is another partnership, as is the Derby Asian Christian Ministry Project in the Pear Tree district of Derby.

Derby Christians greatly value their link with Christians in the Church of North India, and regularly arrange exchange visits. Local churches are also much involved with local industry through the ecumenical partnership that is "Industrial Mission in Derbyshire".

Below are some categories of LEPs and some examples.

**Shared Building Partnerships** (With a Sharing Agreement under “The Sharing of Church Buildings” Act, 1969)
This describes a Partnership where there is at least one shared building, covered by a legal Sharing Agreement, enabling one building to be used by two or more distinct Church traditions, following their own styles and practice. The **Church on Oakwood** is an ecumenical church within our parish of St Albans., and was a joint project between the Anglican, Baptist, Methodist, United Reformed and Catholic traditions created in the early 1990’s. It has LEP status (Local Ecumenical Partnership) and a Partnership Group which meets regularly to plan joint ventures and to generally keep in contact with each other. Joint Services include Ash Wednesday., Good Friday., Carol Service, Christian Unity, plus ad hoc prayer meetings.

**Chaplaincy Partnerships** to Higher and Further Education (Universities and Colleges), Prisons, Health Care, etc
[http://www.derby.ac.uk/chaplaincy/derby/staff/chaplains](http://www.derby.ac.uk/chaplaincy/derby/staff/chaplains)

**Education Partnerships**, e.g. Lay Training, Ministerial Training, Joint Schools

**Mission Partnerships**, to Industry, Commerce, Broadcasting, etc.
Local examples are **Industrial Mission (Derby)**,
Chaplaincies to, for example, Derby Playhouse, Courts, Police, , Royal Derby Hospital London Road Community Hospital Railway Station. East Midlands Airport and the Westfield Centre- see link.

**Church of North India – Derby Churches Link.** The Derbyshire Churches Partnership with The Church of North India began in 1977 and involves the Anglican, Baptist, Methodist and United Reformed Churches in Derbyshire. It began because the leaders of the Anglican, Baptist, Methodist and United Reformed Churches expressed concern at the inward-looking nature of so many of the local churches. It was suggested that, in order to widen their outlook, they could "twin" with a United Church somewhere in the World in which four denominations were involved. The only church they could find which met the criterion was The Church of North India. It so happened that the then bishop of Derby, the Rt. Revd. Cyril Bowles, had already had
conversations with a member of the Church of North India, and so an approach to this church was enthusiastically received. It was to be a genuine partnership in which each partner could contribute equally, sharing insights, ideas, experiences, successes and failures, in order to foster mutual understanding and support.

Links with India

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http://www.northindia-derbyshirechurches-partnership.org.uk/index.htm

May 2009 Visits from India by a party from Nagpur to Allestree and a party from Patna to Ashbourne

**Derby Asian Christian Ministry Project**

Open to all denominations, this partnership works as a pastoral agency to Christian Asians arriving in this country, in the pear Tree area. They work together to help find places of worship, and teach Bible classes which also helps to develop English language skills. This partnership has been around for 26 years!

**Catholic Diocese of Nottingham Ecumenical Commission**

Ecumenical Commission Mission Statement

‘That We all May be One so that the world may believe’.

We undertake to……. *Explore, Value, Promote, Celebrate.*

Aims of the Commission:

‘To challenge and facilitate Christians of all denominations, living and working within the diocese of Nottingham to recognise the presence of Christ within them and to live out their lives as fully as possible as Anglicans, Methodist, Catholics and so forth.

The Commission exists specifically to enable and empower Catholics to play their full part in the Ecumenical life of the area in which they live, so that
together the whole church can witness to the world, especially to those who as yet do not know Christ.’

Annual Event – Residential Conference at The Hayes Conference Centre Swanwick

http://www.nottingham-diocese.org.uk

President Bishop Malcolm

Commission Member for Derbyshire – Rev. Alan Burbidge, St Georges Parish, Village St. Derby

Tel 01332 767038 officestgeorge@aol.com

Other contacts

www.derbychurch.net

Derby Church Net exists to bring the churches of Derby and Derbyshire together over the Internet, representing churches from many different denominations and traditions. Derby Church Network Magazine – out 3rd Sun of every month, available from Wesley Owen Christian Bookshop and many churches in the area, including the Lighthouse Charity shops.

www.churchestogetherderbyshire.org.uk

The County Ecumenical Development Officer is Phillip Webb
He works full-time for Churches Together, serving both Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire as County Ecumenical Development Officer since 2001. He is an ordained minister in the Baptist Church, having served in Bristol, Hertfordshire and Kent, as well as in national work.

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