

Fakenham and District Churches Together

Fakenham and District Churches Together — What is it? What is its purpose?

The Christian churches in Fakenham all have the same basic calling - to worship God acknowledging God's revelation in Jesus Christ, and to work for the good of all people in our communities.

Our aims are to enable us to explore our Christian faith together, to develop mutual relationships, to share with each other the treasures of our different traditions, and to evangelise together in a visible unity that speaks of acceptance and tolerance and friendship.

By being Churches Together we commit to deepen our communion with one another, and, without losing what makes each interestingly different, to proclaim the Gospel by common witness and service. At times we need to co-ordinate the work we each do separately. When we do, we are acting as Churches Together. The food bank is an example of this.

Christian churches coming together in ecumenical relationship has a long history culminating in the founding of the World Council of Churches in 1937 to further unity between Christians – it currently has 345 member churches worldwide.

Each nation has its own organisation, Churches Together in Britain and Ireland is further divided and we are convened under the aegis of Churches Together in England that has 2,600 local groups. We have neighbouring Churches Together groups in Dereham, in Wells, and in Walsingham, each meeting to share in Christian fellowship, mutual support and service to their communities.

In Fakenham the Church of England, Roman Catholic, Methodist, Baptist, Salvation Army and Orthodox churches are represented, spending time together in worship, sharing in the work with our local schools, in the care-homes, in pastoral work, and in small ecumenical groups (house groups, women's groups etc). We arrange a number of events each year and join together in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

We benefit from a deeper understanding of who we are ourselves and of our fellow Christians, and from a deeper insight into the issues facing the people in our town and district in which we live. We celebrate our lives together, our faith, and our witness.

Frank Schofield, lay-moderator April 2015

