

Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI)

Candidate Information

General Secretary

May 2021





Welcome

Dear Applicant,

Back in the 1980s the Anglican and Catholic Bishops of Liverpool wrote a book entitled 'Better Together', expressing their own deep commitment to ecumenical partnership for the sake of the gospel.

Their message is one that continues to demand a response, not least for the living of these days. We who belong to these islands and nations are all too aware of the divisions that are pulling us apart, often resulting in high levels of mistrust and misunderstanding, that in turn lead to injustice and violence. As churches our calling is to witness to what it means to be 'better together'; to live out our unity in Christ, and so offer an alternative vision rooted in love and hope.

CTBI seeks to be part of this movement of hope and reconciliation, creating cultural, political and religious space for the voices of faith to be heard. Amidst a broken world, we want to learn what it means to do justice and love mercy and walk humbly with God. And we are looking for a General Secretary who will serve and equip us for this task.

It is a daunting task!
It is an exciting task!
It is a shared task!

We invite you to consider whether this is your calling, as together we discern the leading of God's Spirit.

Graham Sparkes (Revd)
Moderator
CTBI Trustees

About CTBI

Many Churches, One Purpose: Serving the churches of Britain and Ireland on the shared journey towards full visible unity in Christ.

There are many different Christian churches and denominations, but all have the same basic calling – to worship God, to share the good news about Jesus Christ and to work for the good of all people. Churches Together in Britain and Ireland is the umbrella organisation helping to bring these Christian churches together under Christian unity.

Following the outcome of the [Swanwick Declaration in 1987](#), the British Council of Churches emerged as the Council of Churches in Britain and Ireland, developing alongside ecumenical instruments – Action for Churches Together in Scotland, CYTUN (Churches Together in Wales), Churches Together in England and the Irish Council of Churches – to help embrace other Christian churches in smaller communities. The Council of Churches in Britain and Ireland subsequently became Churches Together in Britain and Ireland.

CTBI is committed to developing ties and communications with other Christian churches throughout the country, strengthening fellowships with each other as well as deepening understanding of different denominations and their diversity or identity.

Acting as an ‘instrument’ by which the churches can journey together towards full visible unity, CTBI provides information and guidance to bridge understanding of issues in today’s society and develops publications and free resources with other organisations and members to offer reflection, prayer and study materials to celebrate key Christian events.

As an agency of the churches through the four nations, CTBI strives to ensure churches work more together, less apart.



Our Vision

To serve the churches of Britain and Ireland on our shared journey towards full visible unity in Christ

As an agency of the churches through the four nations we aim to:

- Work in partnership with the four National Ecumenical Instruments
- Facilitate effective collaborative working
- Create appropriate ecumenical space
- Be an expression of the churches' shared commitment to four nations ecumenism
- Work with the widest range of partners
- Listen closely, and respond to the shared needs and aspirations of the churches
- Resource the work of the churches, agencies, networks and bodies in association with CTBI
- Recognise and work with complexity
- Offer theological reflection across the shared areas of work

We value:

- Every church's contribution
- Respectful relationships at all levels across our member organisations
- Recognition of diversity and difference within the churches and nations



Strategic Plan (2014-2021)

There are five key objectives:

Strengthening the Fellowship

CTBI is a strong fellowship of churches, Bodies in Association and Agencies, listening, learning, celebrating and witnessing together (in a pilgrimage of justice and peace) and works through the systematic involvement and accountability to member churches and ecumenical partners in the planning and implementation of joint work on unity, mission and public witness.

Witnessing together

CTBI has a strong and effective (public) voice (in promoting justice and peace) through accompaniment of member churches and ecumenical partners through advocacy on behalf of and with them at national and international level.

Spirituality, Reflection and Formation

CTBI member churches and ecumenical partners have a strong breadth of spirituality (of pilgrimage of justice and peace) through prayer, biblical and theological reflection.

Building relations of trust and understanding

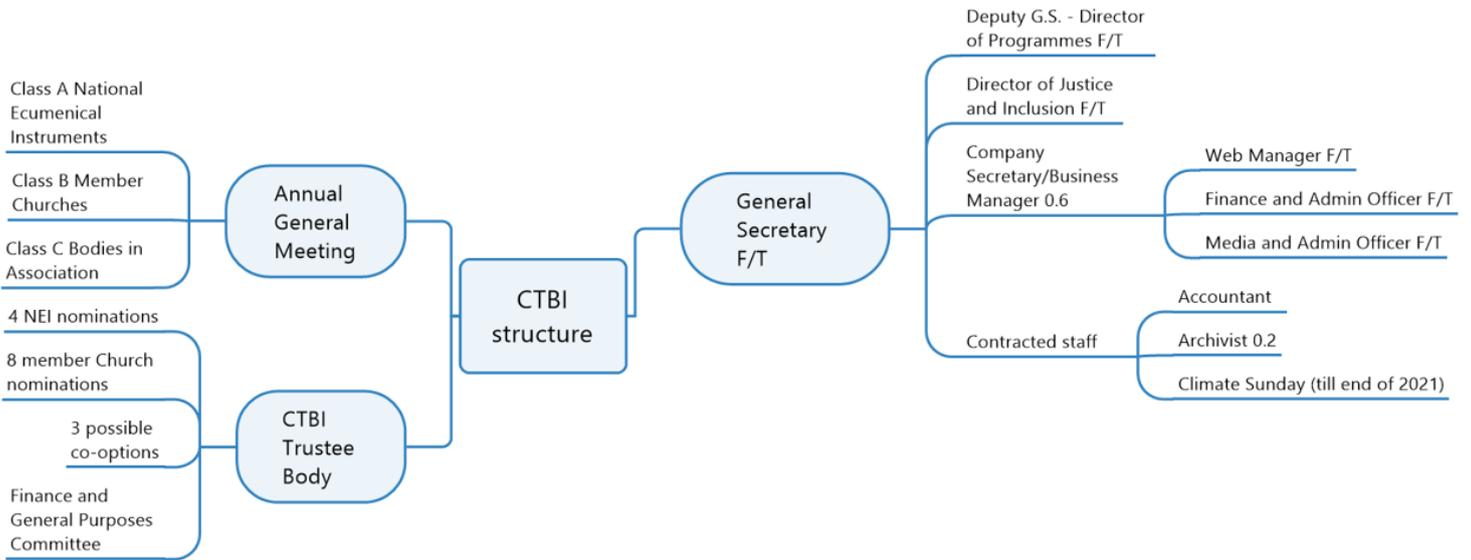
CTBI has strong relationships of trust and understanding with member churches and their related organisations, with representatives of other faith communities and international institutions (as an important aspect of the pilgrimage of justice and peace).

Communicating effectively

CTBI is an effective communications operator for the promotion of the strategic objectives and a platform for sharing stories and raising voices from its member churches and fellow ecumenical partners. Enhancing an understanding (the pilgrimage of justice and peace) it inspires them to join, raising the fellowship's visibility and public role in the ecumenical work.



CTBI Structure



Role Description

Employer:	Churches Together in Britain and Ireland
Title:	CTBI General Secretary
Hours:	Full time (35 hours a week)
Location:	There are flexible patterns of working in place. An administrative hub is located at Interchurch House in London but many staff choose to work from home. There is a requirement to travel.
Reports to:	Moderator of Trustees
Salary:	£60,000 per annum

The focus of the work of CTBI is on serving and resourcing its member Churches and organisations, enabling them to work together to give witness to our Christian unity. The General Secretary has overall responsibility for the fulfillment of this aim, guiding a complex partnership of different faith traditions across different nations, and managing a team that delivers an agreed programme of work. The ability to give imaginative and strategic leadership is a central requirement of the role.

Main Responsibilities:

Church Relations

- To maintain and strengthen links with and between the member churches and organisations of CTBI.
- To encourage new opportunities for ecumenical partnership to emerge across the different jurisdictions and national identities.
- To ensure that CTBI serves the Churches and the ecumenical instruments effectively, providing coherent programmes of work and the development of imaginative resources.
- To have oversight of all aspects of the work of CTBI and to be the lead officer with regard to all member Churches and associated organisations.
- To maintain, encourage and facilitate links between the CTBI member churches and international bodies (including the WCC, CEC and CCME).

Oversight and Leadership

- To provide strategic leadership and management for CTBI, giving appropriate oversight to work programmes and resources, and to the support services and financial planning that they may require.
- To ensure the development and achievement of strategic objectives and goals within the overall priorities agreed for CTBI.
- To ensure appropriate outputs and outcomes from the various networks and forums.

Governance and Management

- To serve the Board of Trustees of CTBI, reporting regularly on all aspects of the work
- To share responsibility with the Trustees for all aspects of good governance, including the fulfilment of regulatory and financial requirements.
- To have oversight for all staff employment issues and human resource concerns, including appraisal and support.
- To have direct line management of senior staff within CTBI.
- To serve as CTBI Chief Executive Officer within the Charity.

Full Terms & Conditions of Employment and the CTBI Home Working Policy are available upon request.

Person Specification

Ecumenical Commitment

- A member of one of the CTBI member churches and in good standing with that Church (D)
- Significant awareness of, and involvement with, ecumenical issues within British and Irish Churches and the wider ecumenical scene (E)
- Evidence of a strong commitment to serving and resourcing the Churches (E)

Education, Skills and Experience

- Educated to at least degree level, and preferably with a Masters (E)
- Evidence of theological knowledge and understanding (E)
- Experience of collaborative and strategic leadership (E)
- Experience of leading, supporting and organizing a staff team (D)
- Strong management and administrative skills (E)
- Ability to manage and negotiate within a structure that involves complex partnerships and relationships (E)
- Experience of governance responsibilities (D)
- Ability to manage and oversee a complex budget, including appropriate financial planning (D)

Personal Qualities

- Strong Christian commitment and church involvement (E)
- Significant pastoral sensitivity (E)
- Wide theological awareness (E)
- A completer/finisher (E)

E = Essential

D = Desirable

Full term

How to Apply

If you are interested in applying for this role, please include the following:

- A comprehensive CV that includes your recent achievements and the details of two referees.
- A supporting statement that addresses the headings in the Person Specification, along with your motivation for applying

All applications should be uploaded via the Russam website - please [click here](#).

For an informal discussion about the role, please contact Ian Joseph on 07825 267500.

Closing date: Monday 5th July 2021

Final interviews with CTBI: Monday 6th September 2021