

30 December 2019



"I see my role as one of offering support and encouragement. In today's society where churches are struggling to resource themselves financially and lacking people to start or continue new pieces of work it is important to encourage working together across Churches and our community."

"Often work is being duplicated in areas and churches are struggling to resource these activities. Sometimes it makes sense to co-work on projects. Other times it is good to review and evaluate and take stock, making hard decisions to end work in order for new projects to begin. In order to have new growth the vine needs to be pruned and chopped down, encouraging new shoots to grow. The seed is planted and buried deep for the right time for growth to spring forth."

Newly appointed County Ecumenical Development Officer for Peterborough & Rutland.

Churches Together in Shire & Soke (Northamptonshire, Peterborough & Rutland) are pleased to introduce Mrs Caroline Hutchings as their new County Ecumenical Development Officer, working part-time, in Peterborough & Rutland. Caroline takes over from Philip Hutchinson, who has retired from this role having worked for many years for Churches Together.

Caroline has a wealth of ecumenical experience having worked for The Council for World Mission, The Baptist Missionary Society and Spring Harvest. She served alongside her husband, Paul, with The Methodist Church of Great Britain as Mission Partner working with the United Methodist church of Poland in community development work.

She is known to many in the Peterborough area as a Local Preacher in the Peterborough Methodist Circuit. Caroline has worked and volunteered in the community over many years specifically involved with Detached Youth Work, and Hospital and Education Chaplaincy Work. She is currently working at Peterborough Regional College, University College Peterborough and Anglian Ruskin University as part of the Chaplaincy Team, mentoring and supporting Staff and Students. Caroline regularly goes into Secondary schools and Mentors students through the work of CROPS in the City.

Caroline has a passion for community development and has always endeavored to provide a ministry of encouragement. She has a Human Resources Training and Development professional background and is a qualified Youth Worker and Mentor.

Currently Caroline has been supporting the work of the Peterborough Winter Night Shelter over the past five years, coming on board to offer 'one-to-one' Mentoring for guests who had been on the project. She has been involved in the Garden House Homeless and Rough Sleepers Project since the beginning and is an active member of the Welcome Team and also offers 'one-to-one' computer and employability skills support to guests.

Taking on the role of County Ecumenical Development Officer Caroline is keen to get to know the Christian and Faith Communities in the Peterborough and Rutland areas. *"I want to find out what great work is already happening in our City and rural areas. I want to be able to offer help and support to develop areas of work that communities and churches may want to start or pieces of work that your local community is crying out for."*

There are some excellent community and Churches Together initiatives happening across Shire and Soke already with Churches Together Groups in the Ortons, PE1, PE4, PE6 and Ketton actively involved in their communities. HOPE 2020 is an exciting initiative which encourages communities to stop on the 20th day of the month to pray for 20 minutes for their community outreach at 20:00 hours. Churches Together Shire and Soke is holding a prayer and worship event at Peterborough Cathedral on Monday 20th April. Please come along and join with us for praying for our City and encouraging the work that is taking place here.

To stay in contact, add your name to the church / community contact sign-up sheet.

Caroline can be contacted by email: caroline.hutchings@shireandsoke.org.uk