

## Churches Together in England

### Re Appointment of a new General Secretary, March 2018

#### Revd Dr Paul Goodliff – a brief biography

Paul Goodliff grew up in an evangelical Anglican Parish in Patcham, to the north of Brighton, and it was here that he came to faith. As an undergraduate at King's College, London he began worshipping at Streatham Baptist Church, Lewin Road, and has remained a Baptist from those days.



After his first job as a schoolmaster at Tiffin School, Kingston-upon-Thames, he started as a full-time elder at 'Lewin', trained for Baptist ministry at Spurgeon's College, and served a further four years at Lewin as associate minister before moving to Stevenage as Minister of the Bunyan Baptist Church in its old town.

After seven years as its minister, Paul was called to serve as the General Superintendent of the Baptist Union's Central Area from 1999 to 2004, (where he served as the Baptist President of the Milton Keynes Mission Partnership) and then, for a decade, was the Baptist Union's Head of Ministry.

In all those roles he worked ecumenically with colleagues in different spheres. For the past two and a half years he has served as co-minister at Abingdon Baptist Church, working half time in that pastorate, while continuing to write, lecture and research in the areas of pastoral and systematic theology; and offer pastoral supervision and church consultancy.

While at the Baptist Union, he chaired the working group established in 2000 to consider matters of human sexuality; and was a moderator of the Baptist Union's Church Relations Committee.

Since 2000 he has been a member of the World Council of Churches team in the WCC-Pentecostal Joint Consultative Group, serving as its longest-standing WCC member, and in that capacity, he was a delegate at the Busan Assembly of the WCC in 2013, and the recent WCC *Commission for World Mission and Evangelism* Conference in Arusha, Tanzania.

He was instrumental in forming *The Order for Baptist Ministry* — a dispersed religious order for Baptist ministers, and the *Oxford Research Network for Ministry*.

Paul undertook postgraduate study in twentieth century systematic theology with Colin Gunton at King's College, London in the late 1990s, and completed a doctorate in theology and ministry there in 2009. He has written books on pastoral care; the theology and psychology of shame; and most recently, ministerial formation and virtue ethics, *Shaped for Service* (2017). His doctoral thesis — a monograph on the changing theology of Baptist ministry and ordination — was published in 2010.

Paul lives in Oxfordshire, is married to Gill, and they have three adult sons and five grandchildren. He is passionate about art and books, paints when he has time and enjoys travel throughout Europe.