

# CHURCH SOCIETY PARTNER CHURCHES

Information sheet for PCC members



*We are a fellowship contending to reform and renew  
the Church of England in biblical faith.*

## About Church Society

Church Society is an evangelical Anglican charity established to promote and uphold the biblical foundations of the Church of England as expressed in the Church's formularies: The 39 Articles of Religion, the Prayer Book, and the Ordinal. The charity was founded in 1950 through the amalgamation of two previous organisations with origins going back to 1835.

We seek to uphold these evangelical foundations through five key objectives: prayer, partnership, publishing, politics and patronage:

### *Prayer*

We circulate a daily prayer diary, with a more detailed version accessible only to our members, encouraging us to pray for our members and churches, for the Church of England, its officers, synods and bishops, and for our society as a whole. Members are encouraged to submit requests for prayer to be included in the diary. There is also a members-only prayer group which can respond more quickly to urgent requests and a monthly online prayer meeting for members.

### *Partnership*

We hold several conferences each year in order to build relationships within our fellowship. These include day and residential conferences, including the Junior Anglican Evangelical Conference and the Fellowship of Word and Spirit Conference. Church Society is a founding member of the Church of England Evangelical Council, an Associate of Affinity, and supportive of the Evangelical Fellowship in the Anglican Communion, as well as sending delegates to GAFCON conferences.

Our Regional Directors have a particular responsibility for encouraging effective local partnerships between clergy and churches. The Director, Associate Director and Regional Directors are all available to come and speak at events in your church or local partnership.

### *Publishing*

As we seek to equip God's people to live God's word, we publish a number of different resources including a quarterly magazine, *Crossway*, a theological journal, regular articles online, and a podcast, as well as a number of books each year. There is also a fortnightly email newsletter which includes updates on Church of England news, links to items of interest, and news of Church Society events and activities.

### *Politics*

We work together with local clergy and groups, offering support and advice in dealing with difficult situations relating to the national church and the diocese. We comment publicly on matters of significance for the national church, and in consultation with local clergy where appropriate. We provide support and guidance for evangelicals on General Synod and serving in other ways within the Church of England. Where possible we work together with other groups to give the widest platform for our voice to be heard.

### *Patronage*

Through its patronage body, the Church Society Trust, the Society is involved in appointing and supporting evangelical clergy in approximately 125 parishes. We are also able to give advice on the process of appointing a new incumbent to our members in other churches and have a free booklet, 'Looking for a Vicar' available on our website.

## **Partnering with Church Society**

In the current climate in the Church of England, it is increasingly important for churches to be able to clearly identify themselves as faithful to the Bible, faithful to historical Anglicanism, and faithful on the most pressing issues of the day, including matters of gender and sexuality. We hope that identifying as supporters of Church Society will be an easy way for churches to make that public commitment, and to know that they are doing so as part of a wider fellowship of churches across the country.

We ask that partner churches will commit to praying for the Church Society fellowship and to making a financial donation towards the work of Church Society of at least £250 per year.

Partner churches will have a badge that can be used on their website, with a direct link to the Church Society website, as well as a certificate that can be displayed on a noticeboard and updated annually to indicate the ongoing partnership. The additional benefits of being a Partner Church include:

- A welcome gift in the first year of a bookstall starter pack (five books)
- Ten copies of Crossway each quarter.
- 10% discount on all further orders of Church Society publications made by the church.
- 10% discount for group bookings (five or more delegates) at Church Society day conferences.
- Permission to reprint any article from Crossway (where such permission can be granted by Church Society) for use in your church.
- Access to a dedicated Partner Church resources section of the Church Society website.
- Advice and support for clergy and lay leaders from Church Society staff.

Please prayerfully consider whether it is right for your church to partner with Church Society in this vital work.