

Press Statement – new appointment of the County Ecumenical officer for Somerset.

As the current chair of Somerset Churches Together, I am delighted to announce the appointment of Gabrielle Grace as our new County Ecumenical Officer. She has wide ranging ecumenical experience, working for a good deal of her early life with USPG (The United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel). She was appointed USPG Youth Officer in 1982 and three years later was appointed as one of four personnel officers. During this time she was responsible for USPG's missionary programmes worldwide and during this time she gained an MSc in Development Studies.

Gaby was then appointed as Overseas Service Secretary to the Methodist church, responsible for recruitment, selection, preparation and pastoral care of the individuals and families who were working and volunteering in churches around the world. In 2007 she resigned and moved with her husband to Somerset where she was to work as Director of the Churches Housing Action Trust in mid-Devon. However, she was unable to take up the post due to her husband's illness. Gaby cared for him full time until he died in July 2010. During that time she became involved in Wellington Churches Together and it was here that she saw the advert for this post!

She will bring to the work a wealth of experience in working with people from across the Christian traditions, and just as important, will bring energy and enthusiasm to God's missionary calling that each of our churches is seeking to respond to. There will be a service of welcome and commissioning at Street URC church on September 22nd at 7pm which will be open to everyone.

+Peter Taunton
Chair of Somerset Churches Together