



## **PETERSFIELD AREA CHURCHES TOGETHER**

Annual General Meeting held at  
St Laurence Church Hall, Petersfield,  
on Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> January 2019 at 7.30pm

Present: Helen Mason, Simon Mason, Tim Concannon, (Joint Chairs) Christine Tully (Treasurer) Anna Olliffe (Secretary) Belinda Shaw, Josh Thomas, Patsy Robinson, Jill Watt, Brian Edwards, Vanessa Dowse, John Callaghan, Marion Voller, Linda Read, Lynn Carter, Richard Saunders, Madeleine King, Janet Owen, Carolyn Barton, David Barton, Jenny Parkes, Amanda Greenlee, Robert Gussman, Sharon Skrzypcak, Lindsay Clegg, Jenny Ballinger, Liz Studd, John Studd, Ken Tottle, Olivia Tottle, Judith Bee

1. **Introduction** – Helen reflected on Psalm 136 and on the God whose love never fails us and who created the universe. She reflected that as the churches in Petersfield we are representatives of God's never-quitting love in our town.
2. **Apologies for absence:** Hillary Bonney, Peter Hollins, John Owen, John Ide, Caroline Freeland, Joan and Terry Thraves
3. **Minutes for last AGM** (17.1.18) No comments were made
4. **Matters Arising from previous AGM minutes** None
5. **Convenor's Report** (by Tim Concannon –full version available on the PACT website)

Tim has been deeply impressed with the quiet work carried out by everybody for the good of our community. He mentioned the Food Bank, Home Start, the Kings Arms, Holiday at Home, the Holiday Club (which, sadly, did not happen this year) and the Christmas Lunch.

In addition to that, our public worship together in the Good Friday Walk of Witness, the Carols in the Square and our Faith Comments serve to remind people of the mission and sacrifice of Jesus our redeemer. Our Christmas cards and Easter cards do the same thing.

As always there are thanks due: to Anna Olliffe and Christine Tully for their work, John Studd for his care of the website and everyone for their time and work on behalf of the Town.

Whilst it is tempting to say "it is accomplished" it is not. We know that we leave the Convenorship of PACT in good hands with Richard [and Carolyn] and we continue to pray for all the good work that is being done.

6. **Accounts:** (Christine Tully) Christine presented the PACT accounts for YE 30.09.18, circulated signed copies, explained items in the report and invited questions. Accounts are available on the PACT website.
  - The money raised from the PACT Carol Service and Christmas Day lunch was donated to Petersfield Counselling Service and Home Start Butser in 2018.



- A special donation to Petersfield Counselling service was paid in 2018, instead of 2017, because of the illness of the Petersfield Counselling Service Treasurer, meaning that the original cheque was not paid in.
- Christmas Day lunch funds go through the PACT accounts
- Waitrose was thanked as a major sponsor of the PACT Christmas lunch, as were all from the churches who donate mince pies, table decorations, drinks etc.
- Holiday Club did not run in 2018, but the account remains open. This account is separate from the PACT account.
- Christine was thanked for all of her hard work on the PACT accounts.

## **7. PACT Partnered & Linked Groups Reports.**

### **Petersfield Counselling Service (Robert Gussman)**

- Provides 12,000 hours of affordable counselling every year
- Have a team of 14 counsellors giving their time for free
- They have some administrative costs – must pay counselling supervisors in order to ensure best practice of all the counsellors
- Robert thanked PACT for the donation from the Christmas Day lunch and for providing free accommodation for meetings
- Robert recognised that the work of PCS is part of the great Christian tradition of healing

### **Christian Arts (Belinda Shaw)**

- Christian Arts has been running now for three years. The organisation has held 2 exhibitions and countless workshops in a range of artistic mediums
- Workshops have become a place of refreshment and peace for people from all walks of life to come and work in a particular art form.
- The workshops are a peaceful place for people who are experiencing mental health problems and also an accessible way for people outside of a church background to engage,
- For more information please see the website: [www.christian-art.net](http://www.christian-art.net)

### **King's Arms (John Callaghan)**

- Was set up by PACT 20 years ago
- Kings Arms work with 200 young people each week
- Kings Arms have recently provided sex and relationship education for The Petersfield School
- King's Arms have just come to end of £130,000 Lottery Fund for Young Carers and are looking for more funding
- Kings Arms are hoping to raise funding for a permanent building
- Kings Arms AGM is on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> February. More details can be found on their website: [www.thekingsarms.org.uk](http://www.thekingsarms.org.uk)

### **Chaplaincy (John Callaghan)**

- Provide high quality pastoral care for people working in shops around the town
- Also provide additional support for the general public during large-scale events in the town centre
- Have recently been providing pastoral support for shopkeepers who have had to close shops in the town centre.

### **Petersfield Fairtrade Group (Sharon Skrzypczak)**

- Sharon read from Isaiah 58



- Petersfield became a Fairtrade town 10 years ago and the Fairtrade group work hard to maintain the town's Fairtrade status through a series of awareness raising events.
- Awareness raising events this year have included lunches, coffee mornings and a Fairtrade bake-off
- This year is the 10-year anniversary of Petersfield being a Fairtrade town. A Fairtrade Art trail is being put together, Churches, shops the library and the Taro leisure centre are hosting art displays on the theme of Fairtrade and 20 groups will be submitting artwork for the trail. The Art Trail will be on display during Fairtrade fortnight, which is 25-Feb- 10 March 2019.

### **Messy Church Petersfield (Helen Mason)**

- Messy Church has been running in Petersfield for over 10 years.
- Reaches families who for whatever reason can't get to church on a Sunday
- Messy Church had been running every third Tuesday of the month; however, circumstances have changed for various leaders and volunteers.
- The decision was made for Messy Church to take a sabbatical while the leaders listen for God's direction.

For the full reports from all PACT linked groups please see the PACT website: [www.pact.org.uk](http://www.pact.org.uk)

### **8. PACT website report (John Studd and Helen Mason)**

John produced a web report detailing website views and the email groups. Helen acknowledged that John has done an excellent job on the website, but now feels that it is time to pass this on. Could all churches please be on the lookout for anyone who would be willing to take this work forward? Anyone who is interested should contact John Studd via the PACT website. John Callaghan thanked John for his work, as did representatives from the Foodbank who recognised that his work was crucial in directing clients to the service.

### **9. Updates from churches**

Churches who wished to, gave a brief update on the highlights of their year.

Amanda Greenlee (All Saints, Steep)

- The church held a successful Valentine's event for young people
- All-age 10am service has worked well despite clergy not always being able to be in attendance
- The church offers a drop-in for parents of young children from 8.45-10.30 each week and is seeing 20-30 people attend
- The lecture in June from a curator of the British Museum about the Lampedusa crosses was deeply thought provoking

Lynn Carter (St Peter's Church)

- Flower festival in May was enjoyed by all involved and appreciated by guests to the church
- In the run up to the Remembrance Service the bell ringers rang a 'round' for each person listed on the war memorial
- The Nativity play was particularly good this year
- St Peter's runs 2 offshoots of Alpha (Beta and Gamma) that are running very successfully

John Callaghan (Life Church)



- Have run a Men's group and expanded this out to men across the town
- Always appreciate being part of other Churches Christmas and Easter services – this is a great way to show solidarity and unity
- Are holding Art Sundays that people who aren't part of church find very accessible
- A young man called Jack Cross is currently in California working with trafficked women – Jack belonged to both St Mary's Sheet and attended Life Church. It is great to see the work he is doing.

(Carolyn Barton, URC)

- URC Petersfield have successfully amalgamated with St Paul's Liss and this is working very well
- The church had an ordination in June and Josh Thomas became the URC minister.
- The church held a successful Holiday at Home in August, more than 20 older people attended from a range of churches. People who do not attend any church also came along and one person is now attending church regularly as a result.
- In August representatives from the church, including a group of young people, took medical and dental supplies to the Ukraine. One of the young people on the mission team has subsequently been baptised.

#### 10. Elections:

- a. Richard Saunders was elected as PACT Chair
- b. Carolyn Barton was elected as Vice Chair
- c. Chris Tully was re-elected as Treasurer
- d. Anna Olliffe was re-elected as Secretary

Tim, Helen and Simon were thanked for their hard work and dedication over the last 3 years.

#### 11. Future dates and events

Day of prayer for the nation with a particular focus on Brexit, Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January at St Mary Magdalene Sheet. The church will be open all day for a day for quiet prayer. There will be Communion at 9am and led prayers at 2pm and 8pm.

Service of Unity, Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> January, 3pm at St Mary Magdalen, Sheet

Women's Brunch, Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 10am at Herne Farm Leisure Centre

Upcoming PACT meetings in 2019 - 27/02/19, 24/04/19, 19/06/19, 25/09/19, 13/11/19.

12. **Closing prayer** Simon thanked God for the events of the evening, for unity and acknowledged that God is at the heart of all that happens in PACT. He prayed a blessing over all the churches and organisations that are part of PACT and asked that each individual would go from the meeting with God's peace.