



# Petersfield Area Churches Together

Many Churches – many styles of worship – but only 1 God !

**December 2018 Newsletter**

*After more than a decade, this is my last editorial - and also the last PACT newsletter! It may be time to look for new ways of working together. I believe that we are called to work together as one body, and there are many different ways to go about this. Looking forward to seeing what emerges in the coming months.*

*One initiative I am excited about is looking at reducing plastic usage in Petersfield – an opportunity to work not just with other Christians, but also the wider community. (Please e-mail me at the e-mail below if you would like more information.)*

*Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a hope-filled start into the New Year. May you be blessed and be a blessing. Susanne*

## **New webmaster required for PACT website**

John Studd, who has been faithfully looking after the PACT website for many years is going to retire in 2019. Please contact him at [John@Studd-mail.org](mailto:John@Studd-mail.org) if you are interested in looking after the website. It would be a shame to lose this resource, which was created to keep all the Christians in Petersfield and surroundings informed and inspired. If no one volunteers, this resource will sadly disappear, just like the PACT newsletter...

## **PACT Christmas Lunch & Green Tokens**

**Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> December from 1.30-3.30pm (Petersfield Community Centre, Love Lane):** PACT warmly invite you to their annual lunch on Christmas Day. Please do pick up an invitation in church for either yourself or anyone you know who might appreciate one. To book, please contact Brian Edwards (07547 314557 and also let him know of any dietary requirements or transport issues you might have. The lunch is also featuring in the Waitrose community matters scheme for November, so please support it with your green tokens! If you could help with the lunch in any way, then please contact [pactchristmaslunch@gmail.com](mailto:pactchristmaslunch@gmail.com)

## **Supporting Fairtrade and charities in the run-up to Christmas**

**Buy the Real Advent calendar:** Money raised this year will help The Funzi and Bodo Trust to provide children in Kenya with eggs, school supplies and medicines. Order directly from [www.realadvent.co.uk](http://www.realadvent.co.uk). You can also buy the calendar at Traidcraft, eden.co.uk, TLMtrading.com, Embrace the Middle East, Christian bookshops and cathedrals. Larger Tesco stores also stock limited quantities. **Support Traidcraftshop.co.uk:** It is likely that Traidcraft's trading operation will cease trading at the end of 2018, due to falling sales. Traidcraft are hoping to make the 2018 season the best ever and to find another model that will help them to continue making the case for just trade. NB Traidcraft Exchange will continue to work with farmers, workers and artisans in Africa and South Asia to help them get a better deal from trade, and to lobby in the UK for better trade rules. For Traidcraft Exchange's regular updates, please e-mail [hello@traidcraft.org](mailto:hello@traidcraft.org) **Join Give as you live** Register at [www.giveasyoulive.com](http://www.giveasyoulive.com); choose a charity (for example In Ministry to Children) and press "support us". Create your free account. Many online shops including Amazon, M&S, Eden Bookshops participate in the scheme – find the shop you want to purchase from in the "give as you live" list and click on "shop and raise" so that your checkout will be monitored and your spending registered. Shops like Amazon only give 1.5% but Eden, where you can buy Christian books and CDs etc give 5% - it all adds up and does not cost you a penny.

## **Tearfund Advent Calendar (message from Ben Cohen, Web editor Tearfund)**

Whatever happened to the humble Advent calendar? Suddenly they're full of all sorts of naughtiness: port, chocolate, cosmetics, jellybeans and pork crackling.\* Why not join the Campaign for Real Advent (or CREAD)\*\* and use the precious days before Christmas to prepare your heart and mind? You can do that when you sign up for this year's inspirational Tearfund Advent calendar: [https://www.tearfund.org/en/about\\_you/resources/christmas/](https://www.tearfund.org/en/about_you/resources/christmas/) Sign up right now, and every day during Advent you'll receive a little something in your email inbox. It could be a short video, some music, an inspiring reflection or even a joy-giving recipe. It's the perfect antidote to all that pre-Christmas madness. This year's theme is Expect the extraordinary. It's a chance to dwell on the coming of Emmanuel – God with us – into our world. And you can't get more extraordinary than that.

\*All of these really exist. You couldn't make it up... \*\*Not a real campaign.

## Bible Society Advent Calendar

Could you take on the Bible Society's #adventchallenge this year? They'll give you Bible readings and reflections on the nativity story and challenge you to undertake 24 acts of kindness to share the meaning of Christmas with others. See <https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/getinvolved/adventchallenge/> to find out more

## Men's breakfast

**Saturday, 1<sup>st</sup> December, 8-10am (Hurst Barn):** Coffee/tea followed by a full cooked breakfast, discussion and prayer. RSVP [Hurstbarn@aol.com](mailto:Hurstbarn@aol.com)

## Life Group Petersfield Men's Group: Invitation to all the men of all the Petersfield churches – Skittles evening

**Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> December at 7pm (The Whistle Stop pub in Liss):** There is plenty of parking in the area. Food will be a chilli and rice with tortilla chips buffet. Vegetarians can choose from vegetarian sausages or bean-burger. The cost will be £10.00 - please bring cash on the evening! You will be able to buy drinks at the bar! This is an opportunity to bring men friends along - Christian or non-Christian, so do consider who you might invite. We need to know numbers attending fairly soon, so please let John Studd ( ) know as soon as possible if you are coming and which food option you'd like:

chilli and rice with tortilla chips buffet – order Chilli; vegetarian sausages – order Sausages; bean-burger – order Beans

Please take a look at the men's Group web site ([www.lcpmg.org.uk](http://www.lcpmg.org.uk)) to keep up to date with what's going on (and gone on!) - particularly the News page. The Steering Committee are already planning for 2019 and would be grateful if any of you would like to volunteer to talk to the group one evening. Alternatively, if you can recommend anyone you think might be a blessing to us by sharing something of their lives and faith with us on Monday evening we'd love to invite them. Email John Studd ([John@Studd-mail.org](mailto:John@Studd-mail.org)) if you can help. Best wishes Terry, John, John and Jonathan

## Petersfield Nativity Festival

**Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup> December 10-4pm and Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup> December 2-4pm (Petersfield Methodist Church):** After the success of last year, there will be another free exhibition in celebration of Nativity displays, created by individuals and community groups. If you'd like to lend your nativity set to the exhibition for the weekend, please take it to the Methodist Church on **Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> December between 2:00 pm and 5:00 pm** or between **6:00 pm and 7:00 pm**.

## Cafe Church: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month: Paintings of Christmas

**Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup> December, 5-7pm (Costa Coffee - upstairs):** An illustrated talk by art historian Nigel Halliday about how artists over the ages have told the Christmas story. Come prepared to examine Christian and other viewpoints, in a relaxed atmosphere, with honesty, good humour and respect. Join us for an informal quiz, followed by a couple of short talks or presentations, and then a chance to talk through the topic of choice in small groups. All this while sharing great coffee.

## Carol Service

**Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm (The Square)**

## Advanced notice:

### Coach Holiday in South Devon – Staying at Christian Guild hotel Sidholme Hotel

**15th-22<sup>nd</sup> July 2019** (7 nights dinner, bed, & breakfast): Prices start at £665. All rooms are en suite with tea/coffee. Annexe rooms do not have a TV. NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT. The coach starts from the Methodist Church in Petersfield and picks up at Liss, Alton, Basingstoke, and Dorchester. Inside the resplendent hotel is a stunning music room with magnificent chandeliers and recently restored organ. There is a heated indoor swimming pool and the spacious grounds contain many species of tropical plants and trees. The five full day excursions will include Coleton Fishacre, Knighthayes Court, the Lynton & Barnstable Railway, Brixham, Dawlish, Powderham Castle, and Exeter. Although a coach holiday, there will be opportunities for some optional walking. Bookings must be made direct with the hotel on 01395 515104 stating your preferred pickup point. For more info, please call Gordon Churchill, who has been leading these coach holidays since 2006, on 01730 260454.

## Spiritual food for thought:

*"For Christmas this year, try giving less. Start with less attitude. There's more than enough of that in the world as it is – and people will usually just give it back anyway!"* (Anne Bristow)

**For now, please send your news to the PACT website: [webmaster@pact.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@pact.org.uk)**  
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