



PETERSFIELD AREA CHURCHES TOGETHER

Minutes of the Co-ordinating Committee held at The United Reform Church, Petersfield, on Tuesday 9th February 2016

Present: Tim Concannon, Helen & Simon Mason (*Co-Convenors*), Paula Hudson (*Secretary*), David Barton, Rev Judith Bee, Hilary Bonney, John Callaghan, Emma Dean, Vanessa Dowse, Brian Edwards, John Studd, Christine Tully. Guest: Ann Oliffe (Salvation Army.)

- 1. Introduction:** Tim Concannon opened the meeting with a reading from John 17:20-21, the aim of PACT, *That they all may be one, that world may believe*, and with a prayer.
- 2. Apologies for absence:** Received from Caroline Barton, Rosemary Davies, Linda Read, David Storey.
- 3. Items for discussion under Item 9** (*Any other business*):
The Rural Refugee Network; The Christian Art Group Treasurer's report be moved up the Agenda.
- 4. Minutes for last meeting & Matters arising:** Secretary advised 2 corrections to previous minutes: Meeting 18.11.15 Para 7 - last line – for *Jenny* substitute **Chris**. Meeting 13.1.16 (AGM) **Present:** for *Vanessa Rowse* substitute **Vanessa Dowse**. Minutes were agreed.

5. Treasurer's Report

Chris Tully requested additional **signatory for cheques**. She explained Chair remained signatory for 2 years & Rosemary Davies' term coming to an end. John Callaghan still a signatory but there had to be 2 signatories apart from herself. It was agreed Helen Mason would become signatory, & these changes would be effected at the Bank. Chris needs approved minutes to effect changes.

Insurance was reviewed as it was coming up for renewal. Tim asked how cover broke down & Chris said it had been calculated before she took over. Annual insurance now cost £284 including £50 to cover Food Bank/Soup Run. Brian said Soup Run had £168 in its accounts and offered to pay the £50, but the Committee agreed to cover this cost from PACT funds. Tim requested that a **caveat** be minuted that PACT will cover general insurance of PACT activities but additional activities will only be covered once a Risk Assessment has been done & the committee has approved & agreed to cover that activity. **Risk Assessments** reviewed: those for events in the Square (eg at Easter & Christmas), Chaplaincy & Soup Run are current ; Holiday Club R.A. is done annually.

Easter Card – design selected from 4 shortlisted. It was agreed that voucher for £25 be awarded to winning artist & £10 each to other 3 runners up.

Butser Home Start & Petersfield Counselling Service – it was agreed to donate £180 to each organization. (The money for these used to come from collections from outside services but these had not been taken recently.)

Christmas Lunch finance. £220 donated by Waitrose. Much food etc. provided free by Marika, who cooked, volunteers & others. £30 spent on invitations. Reserves of £1186 c/f & has been increasing since new system introduced 3 years ago. The gifts given to guests were well received. Committee discussed if appropriate to give away more as gifts or money (to be considered in planning for Christmas 2016.)



6. Report on events since last meeting: Christmas Lunch, Messy Church

Brian drew attention to item minuted previously deciding that there should be no alcohol at the **Christmas lunch** because of problems with medication or alcohol for some guests. It had been decided that for 2016 lunch separate organizers needed for transport & guests. They had too many volunteers in 2015, but not enough drivers on the day. 54 people came to the lunch, plus hosts & helpers. The Methodist Church Hall has a limit of 80. Hilary said that many other people were alone at Christmas, but might not want to come because eg they were very elderly, or infirm, or younger people with mental health issues who found it hard to mix. Consideration was given to doing more outreach, & using a larger venue. Currently invitations are given to Residential Homes & previous guests, & an advert is put in Petersfield Post. (Need to stress that meal is free was highlighted.) Largest venues locally are Festival Hall, or TPS, but both need caretaker on site who would be unavailable on Christmas Day. If we go further afield – Havant or Rowlands Castle – we will need transport. It is intended to use the Salvation Army kitchen to cook food again in 2016. Hilary said the Christmas meal was Social Concerns Group remaining task.

Messy Church Helen said there were 80 on average attending. There was a steady influx of new families with young children. Fliers sent to schools. Dads attended supper with kids. For some this was church for them & John Callaghan asked if there was more we could do for them. Discussed ways of bringing church to the unchurched. Rev Judith Bee mentioned dedication requested by parents for their children & Emma Dean had researched suitable forms of service. Chris cautioned about how committed people are & how much instruction have they received (they may need teaching.) A helper from South Harting was available doing work towards Duke of Edinburgh award.

7. Co-Convenors items:

Tim said co-convenors were enjoying working together; they intended to attend every PACT church.

PACT 20's-30's group: Anna Olliffe of Salvation Army proposed to set up social group for 20-30 age range as this the age young people often leave churches.. Anna wished to visit each PACT church to set out her proposals – this was agreed. John Studd offered to set up page on PACT website, and provide email distribution to PACT leaders. Risk Assessment requested. Health & safety considerations, plus insurance cover for drivers, discussed. Helen asked that young people over 18 be included. Anna intends to contact group through Facebook. Review Authentic *Faith* of what keeps young people in church found it was: a) Community/Hospitality; b) Authenticity; c) Openness to question; d) God real, not just studied; e) Continuous transitioning.

Salvation Army Praise Party 24/5 prayer from 19th- 24th March 2016 (Maundy Thursday) – sign up forms in S.A. building & details on PACT website

Salvation Army 130th celebration - JUNE 11th Brian asked for support to help control the site & access on this Saturday at TPS. Tim asked for details of requirements to be posted on PACT website.

Holiday Club Emma & Helen have stepped down from running Holiday Club and Max Cross had been approached but had not confirmed he could help. There is a real need to provide activities for families with pre-school children as all groups cease meeting during the school holidays (from 19th July for 8 weeks.). There are 25 mother & toddler groups & really missed during the break. Instead of a week at TPS, Helen suggested each church provide a morning's activity for families – she & Emma can provide resources. Each representative asked to report back to their church & come with proposals at next PACT committee meeting.



Hope Church The meeting agreed we can't be indifferent if churches don't join PACT. There are good links with members of Hope, and we should continue to invite them to joint activities. Hope requested we sign the Westminster Declaration as a condition of their joining, but this would mean excluding churches who could not agree to the Declaration. Hope cannot join PACT without this as they are committed to FIEC conditions of membership (*Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches.*)

Trinity Local David Barton to talk to Trinity about PACT – they meet in URC twice a month. (Formerly IPC/L'Abri, meeting at Bohunt.)

Easter Card Guidance needed on Christian symbols for cards – John Callaghan has details. Cards will be delivered to St Peter's on Friday 19th February for bundling on Monday 22nd February. Some churches send out cards with their monthly newsletters so need to be available by 1st March.

Good Friday Actions for service: Salvation Army band requested, megaphone booked, permission to use venue sought, licence acquired (Chris to provide Tim with copy of PACT insurance- needed by Council to issue licence), each church that has one to bring a cross for the procession, Chaplaincy to be asked to steward march, Petersfield Post to be given Song Sheet words to print, song sheets TBA, Rev Will Hughes to be asked for use of St Peter's for service if Good Friday too wet to hold it in the Square, and for serving Hot Cross buns after service, Police to be advised, Capt Linda Read to speak. Noted that Square will be open to traffic, so need to be aware of health & safety issues.

8. **PACT Website: John Studd requested** email addresses of admin contacts in PACT churches, and any updates of details of PACT Co-ordinating Committee. Judith Bee said she does admin for her church. John drew attention to other items on the External Events & Campaigns section of the website: Rural Refugees, Clean for the Queen, Paul Skelton (*see 10 below*), Hard of Hearing service, Acorn. John also asked for minutes of AGM of the Counselling Service to be sent to him for the website & requested reports on the Christmas meal. He reminded reps that articles for Petersfield Post to be sent to him, not the Post. John emphasised need to check PACT website; but was reminded admin often done by elderly/retired people & not everybody is computer literate.

9. **Any Other Business**

Rural Refugee Network Helen Mason said Sophy Murrell had contacted regarding relocation needs of Syrian families coming to this area. A wide range of household goods was required in next 3-6 weeks. Email: sophie_murrell@msn.com, tel. 01730 262860. Need for blind email copies stressed as contact addresses cannot be given without permission. Sponsored walk – see 10. below.

Christian Arts Group This group is run by Belinda Shaw. a retired art teacher from Bohunt school.. She had restarted the group after a break (originally began it 20 yrs ago.) It was agreed group to be affiliated to PACT & added to External Events & Campaigns webpages.

Foodbank 30 parcels distributed over Christmas. Since 1st September there had been 81 referrals for 141 adults plus children. There was still a need for more volunteers. Vouchers had been issued to obtain fresh fruit & veg & eggs from Tescos, but negotiations were continuing to provide these via local business Bryants instead. Current needs: toilet rolls, hot chocolate, tinned pasta, sugar, coffee, custard, longlife milk. Emails to be sent to update, re.volunteering, & to express thanks.

Thanks Marika does not want a present to thank her for cooking Christmas lunch so it was agreed PACT would write to her & Kate Wigley to thank them for their hard work & generosity.



10. Future dates and events

PACT Committee meetings 2016

Wednesday 13th April @ Salvation Army
Wednesday 22nd June – Venue TBA
Wednesday 21st September – Venue TBA
Wednesday 9th November – Venue TBA

PACT Committee meetings 2017

Wednesday 11th January – Venue TBA

Other PACT events 2016

Good Friday 25th March – Service in the Square, led by Simon & Helen Mason

Other PACT events 2017

Sunday 15th January – PACT Celebration Service – introduction of Convenors

Other Events:

2016

Sunday 21st February - 10.30am from Buriton Pond: 2 ¼ mile circular sponsored walk to support Syrian refugees- forms from enquiries@ruralrefugeenetwork.org.

Sunday 28th February 4pm St Laurence Church: Taize Service organised by Justice & Peace Group. The reflections will be focussed on the current refugee crisis, with collection for CAFOD's work in this area.

Saturday 19th March – Thursday 24th March 24/5 Prayer – sign up at Salvation Army

Thursday 10th March 7.30pm & Friday 11th March 9.30am-4pm Methodist Church

Paul Skelton - Encounter the Love of God

May 29th – Centenary . Commemoration of award of Victoria Cross to Captain Loftus Jones. He was from Petersfield and died at Jutland when HMS Shark blown up. Schools projects.

11/12th June Salvation Army 130 Year Anniversary Celebration. (11th June TPS – Praise in the Park – charity).

11. **Closing prayer** Simon Mason closed the meeting with prayer.