



PETERSFIELD AREA CHURCHES TOGETHER

Minutes of the Co-ordinating Committee held at Methodist Church, on Wednesday 8th February 2017

Present: Helen Mason, Simon Mason (*Co-Convenors*), Paula Hudson (*Secretary*), Christine Tully (*Treasurer*). David Barton, Hilary Bonney, Rosemary Davies, Vanessa Dowse, Father Peter Hollins, Capt Linda Read (*from 8.20pm*), John Studd and Rev Stephen Wright.

- 1. Introduction:** Simon Mason opened reading from Rev Judith Bee's recent *Faith Comment* in the Petersfield Post, & with prayer. He expressed thanks for support at the AGM and the Unity Service.
- 2. Apologies for absence:** Received from Carolyn Barton, Rev Judith Bee, John Callaghan, Tim Concannon, Emma Dean, Anna Olliffe, Rev John Owen, Rev Richard Saunders.
- 3. Items for discussion under Item 8 (Any other business):** Chris Tully – Insurance; Hilary Bonney – PACT rep.
- 4. Minutes for meeting of 16.11.16:** Minutes were agreed and signed by Simon Mason. He invited comments on the minutes of the AGM on 11.1.17, which will be formally confirmed at 2018 AGM. No comments received. Constitution for PACT has been amended to incorporate corrections *Treasurer* (not *Treasure*), & revisions of *Chair & Vice Chair* to *Co-Convenors* as agreed at AGM.

5. Matters arising:

Women's World Day of Prayer: Friday 3rd March 2017: 1.30pm- St Laurence Church. Peter Hollins said 2 ladies from his church organizing prayer day about the Philippines & every-one invited -not just women. Posters for event available Thursday 9th & 16th from St Laurence Parish Office.

Salvation Army Prayer: 5 days of prayer before Easter: Saturday 8th – Thursday 13th April 2017.

Life Party: Alternative to Halloween 31st December 2017. Members asked to bring ideas for this event to April meeting. Chris Tully recommended Scripture Union suggestions.

6. Report on events since last meeting:

Ladies Brunch: The first brunch on 21.1.17 was attended by 79 ladies from 9 churches. There was a lecture on encouragement. Next events planned for summer & autumn. John Studd requested report & pictures for PACT website – Hilary Bonney undertook to arrange.

Christmas Day PACT Lunch: New venue at Community Centre successful. The Mayor & several Ministers visited, and the Queen's Christmas broadcast was watched. Over 70 people attended. The Age Concern minibus transported guests from Selbourne, South Harting, Rogate & Buriton. 5 meals were delivered by lady from Rogate to those unable to attend. The only problems were: disposal of rubbish (no facilities on site); token £10 fine incurred for call out of caretaker due to failure to close a window; and need for some volunteers able to carry heavy crockery & lift into & out of transport. Thanks were expressed to: Marika Kyovska (for cooking for 3rd year running) and all helpers; to Kate Wigley (for organization) and Hattie Hughes (for administration), from St Peter's.

Carols Around the Town: 30 people led by Rev Canon Will Hughes sang starting at the Methodist Church & ending in Ram's Walk. They were given mince pies by locals and some joined carolling.

Carols in the Square: 150 attended & Salvation Army Band was complimented for their playing.

Unity Service: About 60 people attended. Mixed reaction to lack of singing but format generally well received.



7. Reports/Updates/Actions

Prayer Days: Dates arranged as follows:

23rd February 2017 - St Laurence 8am-8pm - concentrating on Christian experience in 7 countries.
13th March URC; 8th -13th April Salvation Army.

Dates to be arranged: May – St Mary Magdalen. June/July/August – St Peter's/St Mary's, Buriton/
All Saints', Steep. John Studd hoped rota will carry on from September.

Lent Groups: Not many this year because Alpha Courses being run by several churches. John Studd requested details of Lent studies at St Laurence and St Mary's (from Vanessa Dowse) for website.

Petersfield Post – Faith Comment Rota Secretary circulated copies of 2017-2018 Rota. Comments received already queried balance of contributors. She asked: (1) Was original invitation to write *Christian Comment* articles made to PACT or to all churches in Petersfield? (2) Do the PACT contributors want to do more articles than they are rota'd for? (3) Suggestions for additional contributors. Answers: (1) Not known - check with Linda Cawsey (previous PACT Secretary), Steve Field (Salvation Army); (2) No immediate objection – reps to check with their churches; (3) Bodies doing activities linked to PACT could be invited to contribute – eg Petersfield Counselling Service, Cuppa & Co, Messy Church, Womens' Brunch, Holiday Club etc. Hilary Bonney said she had contact with the Quakers and David Barton has contact with Trinity Church. Secretary requested contact details. Helen said she had good communication with Sue & Graeme at the Post.

Petersfield Counselling Service Emailed letter of thanks for donation from PACT, received 6.2.17 from Robert Gussman, Chairman of PCS Trustees, was read out to Committee. He also sent invitation to PCS AGM on Thursday 9th March. Helen & Peter said they intended to attend.

Easter 2017

Good Friday 14.4.17 Salvation Army Band booked. Walk of Witness starts from Methodist Church at 9.30am & service in the Square from 10am. Simon asked for volunteers to do Bible readings, & to do 5 minute talk. Hilary to approach Max Cross to do talk. Simon asked whether it was suitable to do collection for Holiday Club on Good Friday as it had not happened at the Unity Service. Reps to send feedback of suitability or, if sufficient funds in PACT, whether they thought collection needed.

Easter Card Designs being done by Sheet School; they will be available to look at in the Life Church Office and at St Laurence Prayer Day on 23rd Feb. Chris Tully said the designs need to be at Printers by end February and cards ready for bundling on 20th March.

Spring Event John Callaghan of Life Church & Capt Linda Read from the Salvation Army liaising re. outreach event in square on Easter Sunday in late morning. For summer event both churches cancelling their Sunday services to support outreach.

PACT subscriptions Chris Tully has not yet heard from all PACT churches whether they want a subscription holiday or to donate surplus – she will write early March. However, from responses received she said there will be from £120 to £250 to give to each charity & asked for suggestions for recipients. Butser Home Start had raised enough money to receive the matched funding they were seeking as reported in the Petersfield Post. It was proposed & committee agreed to give equal shares of spare funding to Holiday Club, Holiday at Home, Petersfield Counselling Service.

20/30s Group Anna Olliffe is expecting a baby in 6-8 weeks time so assistance requested .

Allocation of funds – see **PACT Subscriptions** above. **Dates** – see **10**. Below.



8. Any Other Business

Insurance – Chris Tully: Reduced premiums available if committee happy to enter into a long term understanding for 3 or 5 yrs. There were no objections. Wording has been updated as requested.

Hilary Bonney – Replacement Rep: Hilary is seeking to step down as representative for St Mary Magdalen, Sheet, after 15 years, after finding her replacement. She will also cease to chair the Social Concerns Group after their next meeting on 13th April. She expects the group to cease then as it has lost its function. The committee thanked Hilary for all the work she & the Group had done. She will continue to work with the Women’s Brunch. Father Peter Hollins commended the work the Social Concerns Group had done – they had been a valuable think tank. They were instrumental in starting the Foodbank, the Soup Run & the Christmas Day Lunch. Their original members had knowledge of Town needs: if Group still has function then it needs some-one to pick up Hilary’s role.

Foodbank – David Barton: Tesco’s has been approached & agreed to support the Petersfield Foodbank with their store collections. At the moment Waitrose’s store collection goes to Bordon for distribution; discussions are ongoing about them supporting the Petersfield Foodbank. The Foodbank also needs cash donations to give fresh food vouchers to those in need – donations can be made at Petersfield NatWest Bank account: Sort Code: 60-16-26 Account No; 80199240.

Linda Read: Prayer for Town: Venue changed to Bobs Moat’s house: 43 Lower Wardown GU31 4PA.

Father Peter Hollins – Justice for Peace: This is the equivalent to Fair Trade, but instead of dealing in food, it covers clothing. Peter to identify link for PACT website.

PACT Secretary : Paula reminded the committee she intended to stand down after meeting of 15th November 2017.

9. **Closing Prayer** Helen closed the meeting with prayer.

10. Future dates and events

PACT Committee meetings 2017

Wednesday 26th April – venue TBA

Wednesday 28th June – Tim Concannon’s?

Wednesday 20th September– venue TBA

Wednesday 15th November – venue TBA

PACT Meetings 2018

Wednesday 17th January: PACT AGM

Sunday 21st January: Unity Service

Other PACT events 2017

Good Friday 14th April 9.30am Methodist Church: Walk of Witness; 10am Service in Square

~~Monday 31st July–Friday 4th August: Holiday Club~~

Tuesday 31st October: Life Party (Halloween Alternative)

~~Thursday 21st December: Carols in the Square~~

PACT Prayer Dates 2017

Thursday 23rd February 2017: St Laurence 8am-8pm

Monday 13th March: URC

Saturday 8th – Thursday 13th April: Salvation Army 24/5 Prayer

May – TBA: St Mary Magdalen

Other Events 2017

Saturday 18th February - 12 Noon: Christian Aid Lunch: URC

Friday 3rd March 2017: 1.30pm- St Laurence Church: Women’s World Day of Prayer

Thursday 9th March : Petersfield Counselling Service AGM

Monday 21st August – Wednesday 23rd August: URC – Holiday at Home
