



## PETERSFIELD AREA CHURCHES TOGETHER

### Minutes of the Co-ordinating Committee held at The Salvation Army, Petersfield, on Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> February 2013

***Purpose of Meeting:** A forum for 'communion' and communication between PACT churches, PACT organisations and local Christians, to facilitate events aimed at increasing opportunities for joint worship, witness and work between PACT churches.*

**Present:** Peter Hollins (Chair), Linda Cawsey (Secretary), David Barton, Judith Bee, Hilary Bonney, Emma Dean, Brian Edwards, Andy Hall, Will Hughes, Simon Mason, Linda Read, John Studd, Christine Tully, Lindy Young.

- 1. Introduction:** Peter opened with a reading from Ezekiel 37 followed by prayer.
- 2. Apologies for absence:** Received from John Callaghan, Tim Concannon, Rosemary Davies, Joanna Farrell and Richard Saunders.
- 3. Minutes for 31<sup>st</sup> October 2012:** Agreed with no matters arising.
- 4. Report on events since last meeting:** Carols in the Square had been moved once again to St. Peter's due to poor weather. However, the church had been full. There was some discussion about having the Carols at a different time when more people would be in town. The change of time was largely constrained by the availability of the Salvation Army band. It was suggested that Churcher's College band might be approached.

The Christmas lunch had gone well. It was agreed that the Service for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity held at St. Peter's had been very well received with the discussion groups a success. The morning prayer sessions held during the Week of Prayer had not been well attended and these would need to be reviewed for next year. Although numbers at the PACT AGM were small, it was good to hear news of the various Partnership and Linked organisations.

Some discussion then took place about the PACT Ministers Together joining to give the final blessing at the end of united services. It was agreed that this would be discussed by the Ministers.

- 5. Lent Groups:** The leaflets had been sent electronically to the churches for distribution and contacts had already been made by people signing up for specific groups. Both St. Laurence and Lindy (for Steep) had some difficulty producing the leaflet and the Secretary agreed to contact Steve Field to see whether an improved copy could be sent.
- 6. Easter Cards:** A proof of this year's PACT Easter card was produced to the meeting. It had been designed by a member of Churcher's College Junior School. Peter would present the book token prize to the winner at class assembly on 1<sup>st</sup> March. Bundling of the cards for delivery would take place at 9.30 a.m. on 4<sup>th</sup>

March at the Salvation Army. The quality of design of some of the previous cards was raised and it was agreed that placement of the design request be raised again in the autumn.

PACT representatives were asked to let the Secretary have details of Easter Services for Easter week as soon as possible so that these could be printed for inclusion with the cards.

**7. Good Friday Arrangements:** The Chair was responsible for the Walk of Witness (9.30 a.m. from the Methodist Church) and the Service in the Square (10 a.m.). Peter would speak to past Chairs for advice as to content. The Secretary and Treasurer would ensure that permission was received from EHDC for the use of the Square, that power was available and the Risk Assessment was done. The police would also be notified.

St. Mary's and the other churches in Buriton would conduct their own Walk of Witness within the village at the same time.

**8. PACT Constitution/Vice Chair:** Christine pointed out that the Constitution does not require the Chair/Vice Chair roles to be alternated between clergy and lay members. The need for a Vice Chair was logical as it provided continuity into the role of Chair the following year. It was suggested that rather than the Chair being the sole provider of services and initiatives during their year, they should act as convenor of the Co-ordinating Committee meetings who drew out the ideas from the members themselves. A chairmanship rota around the churches was thought to be inappropriate.

Whilst people from the churches came together for Christmas and Easter, the actual numbers who were passionate about being ecumenical was lower. However, the success of the PACT activities in the community was largely down to the churches being prepared to work together. Members were asked to give some thought for the next meeting about how PACT is seen and how more could be done to bring the churches together.

#### **9. Proposed Future Dates and Events –**

|   |           |   |
|---|-----------|---|
| Wednesday, 13 <sup>th</sup> March           | 7.30 p.m. | PACT Co-ordinating Committee (Confirm Easter arrangements & Holiday Club)                                 |
| Friday, 29 <sup>th</sup> March              | 9.30 a.m. | Good Friday Walk of Witness and Service in the Square (10 a.m.)   |
| Sunday, 19 <sup>th</sup> May                |           | Pentecost   |
| Wednesday, 29 <sup>th</sup> May             | 7.30 p.m. | PACT Co-ordinating Committee (Confirm Holiday Club)   |
| Wednesday, 4 <sup>th</sup> September        | 7.30 p.m. | PACT Co-ordinating Committee (Christmas Cards, Carols, Lunch & Lent)                                      |
| Wednesday, 30 <sup>th</sup> October         | 7.30 p.m. | PACT Co-ordinating Committee (Annual Accounts, Christmas & new Vice Chair for 2014, Easter Card for 2014) |
| Wednesday,<br>15 <sup>th</sup> January 2014 | 7.30 p.m. | PACT AGM  |
| Sunday, 19 <sup>th</sup> January            |           | Service for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity  |

**9. Chairman's Items:** Peter questioned the need for separate CRB checks for specific PACT events such as Messy Church and transportation of guests by car to the Christmas lunch. He undertook to look into the matter to clarify the situation.

#### **10. Any other business:**

**10.1 Counselling service –** It was agreed that a donation of £180 be made from PACT funds.

**10.2 Christians against Poverty** – David Barton was asked to provide information about courses run by this organisation with a view to possibly running them in this area.

**10.3 Scam** – Will described a current scam which targeted lay people rather than clergy involving a request for £500 for rent arrears otherwise the wife and child would be sent back to the US.

**10.4 Pentecost** – The Anglican churches were celebrating Pentecost over 3 days of events. Three churches in the Deanery, including St. Peter's, would hold at Vigil Service on Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> May. On Saturday the churches were asked to do something to bless the community (St. Peter's were thinking of hiring an ice cream van and providing free ice cream for the day). Sunday would include special services throughout the Deanery.

**10.5 PACT Policy in respect of Counting Cash** – It was agreed that where cash collections were taken at PACT events, the policy of the host church should stand in respect of counting cash and should be recorded through their proper accounts. This should be added to the PACT Constitution.

**10.6 Petersfield Museum 'Beliefs' Project** – The Secretary reported that Dr. Kathrin Pieren, Curator and Manager of Petersfield Museum, had asked whether she may give a brief presentation to the next meeting on the exhibition about religion in Petersfield and the surrounding villages to go on display in autumn 2013. This was agreed.

**10.7 Guide Group Community Service** - Emma asked members to give consideration as to whether they could think of any community work that approx. 20 guides could do on a Tuesday evening. They are aged 10-15 years.

**10.8 Messy Nativity** – Emma showed details of Messy Nativity which involved placing knitted sheep in local shops and providing youngsters with a trail map to 'spot the sheep'. This was thought to be an excellent Christmas project and there were a number of knitting circles who would be prepared to help knit the sheep.

**11: Closing Prayer – The Grace.**