



PETERSFIELD AREA CHURCHES TOGETHER

Minutes of the Co-ordinating Committee held at The Salvation Army, Petersfield, on Wednesday, 13th March 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, Hilary Bonney, Brian Edwards, Andy Hall, Helen Mason, John Studd, Christine Tully, Lindy Young.

In attendance: Dr. K. Pierin, Curator and Manager, Petersfield Museum (for items 1 and 2).

1. **Introduction:** Peter opened with a reading from James 2 followed by prayer.
2. **Presentation by Dr. Kathrin Pierin:** Dr. Pierin outlined the proposed Petersfield Museum 'Beliefs' project to be presented in autumn 2013. The exhibition is intended to raise awareness of the religious diversity in the area and the museum would like to engage with members of various faith groups and non-believers and collect objects and stories that represent religion to them. It will not portray the history of the churches per se but will focus on people's individual spiritual experiences. Dr. Pierin would like the churches to provide the names of individuals for whom a short personal history could be recounted in the exhibition. It may also be that personal religious artefacts, such as a photograph, could be exhibited alongside their account. It was agreed that the Secretary would contact members of the Co-ordinating Committee so that they could initiate nominations within their individual churches (approx. 10 will be selected in total) and provide them to Dr. Pierin.
3. **Apologies for absence:** Received from Judith Bee, John Callaghan, Tim Concannon, Emma Dean, Tom James, Simon Mason, Linda Read and Richard Saunders.
4. **Minutes for 6th February 2013:** Agreed.
5. **Matters arising:**
 - Peter was trying to obtain further clarification in respect of CRB checks for drivers for the Christmas lunch. Helen reported that the Anglican Diocese had agreed that disclosures for any PACT event should come under their aegis (this may be in respect of work with children and young people only). They had used the term 'children and pastoral community care' when applying for CRB checks to provide wider coverage (and avoid the need for extra checks) and it had been agreed that provided the church leader supported their applicant for the work, this would suffice. Some concern was raised about the work with vulnerable adults and, in particular, with the Prospects group where transport was provided by some members of the group who may not have checks. This would also need to be clarified.

- Dave Barton had nothing further to report in respect Christians against Poverty but he hoped to get a representative to come to speak at one of the Co-ordinating Committee meetings.

- Emma and Helen would contact the Petersfield Festivals team who had compiled the town trail for children to follow on previous town festival occasions. They already had a volunteer to knit the sheep.

6. Report on events since last meeting: Helen reported that 145 children and adults had signed in for the last Messy Church event, with 103 staying to eat. It was really encouraging to see the Holy Spirit at work in this way and the first 'Messy Church' baptism had recently taken place at the Methodist Church.

The Easter cards had been prepared and were in process of distribution. It was agreed that this Easter's card was of a high standard and Peter reported that he had presented the winner (aged 9, from Churcher's College Junior School) with her prize at a class assembly which had gone very well.

Christine reported that the Keshar Course, part of the Lent groups, was full with a mix of attendees from the various local churches. The Prayer walks were also being well supported.

Hilary had attended a meeting at the King's Arms for prospective mentors for young people at The Petersfield School. There was a waiting list of young people needing this support and volunteers were still required. The organisation was struggling with funding with many grants coming to completion and not being renewed.

The Chaplaincy had recently completed a training course for new candidates which would add to the team. Two of its leaders were attending a Celebration for Street Pastors organised by the Cinnamon Trust who, amongst other charitable donations, also provide seed money for both chaplaincy and street pastors.

7. Good Friday Arrangements: all in hand and David Barton, Lindy Young and Simon Mason would do the readings during the Walk of Witness. Peter would arrange to highlight the Walk and Service in the Square with the local press.

8. Treasurer's Report: Christine reported that the insurance for PACT had now been paid to March 2014. The PACT joint subscription for use of the Craft Bank in Portsmouth was now due and was limited to 8 names. Christine was trying to clarify with the churches those who needed to be named as users.

The Christmas lunch for 2012 had broken even with a small surplus. This did not take account of the outstanding donation from Waitrose of £600 which would be carried forward to this year's lunch. Staff at Radian had donated £186 to the Food Bank.

9. Holiday Club Arrangements: Helen reported that it would take place from 29th July to 2nd August, 2013. It was intended to use the same 'Messy Church' formula for under 8s with the Juniors helping to build a donkey cart (go-kart). The same leadership team as last year would be involved with the exception of Dance. The week would be based on the Spring Harvest theme of 1 John (The Source) but with a different title. It was anticipated that there would be a wider use of the school premises this year. There would also be a call for large cardboard boxes in order to build a 'train' around the sports hall.

10. Chairman's items: Peter emphasised the need to elaborate on the 'PACT' acronym as much as possible as quite a lot of people did not know that it stood for Petersfield Area Churches Together. During next year's period of Lent, his parish proposed to organise a Week of Guided Prayer. There would be a

service at the beginning and end of the week and prayer guides would be available to provided individuals with guidance in respect of their prayer life. The meeting welcomed the opportunity for this to be widened to include an invitation to the wider community.

Some discussion then took place on how our communities perceive the role of PACT. It was agreed that whilst some groups treasured it, others were not prepared to go beyond certain boundaries. Whilst it could be seen that there was a relatively small group of people committed to PACT, it was agreed the organisation was at its most powerful and effective when working together in community.

11. Proposed Future Dates and Events –

Wednesday, 27 th March	7.30 p.m.	Free Radicals ‘a capella’ group concert in aid of Home-Start Butser at St. Laurence’s preceded by sung evensong at 6 p.m.
Friday, 29 th March	9.30 a.m.	Good Friday Walk of Witness and Service in the Square (10 a.m.)
12-18 th May		Christian Aid Week
Sunday, 19 th May		Pentecost
Wednesday, 29 th May	7.30 p.m.	PACT Co-ordinating Committee (Confirm Holiday Club)
Saturday, 29 th June	from 10 a.m.	IMC Funday in Ram’s Walk
Wednesday, 4 th September	7.30 p.m.	PACT Co-ordinating Committee (Christmas Cards, Carols, Christmas Lunch & Lent)
Wednesday, 30 th October	7.30 p.m.	PACT Co-ordinating Committee (Annual Accounts, Christmas & new Vice Chair for 2014, Easter Card for 2014)
Wednesday, 15 th January, 2014	7.30 p.m.	PACT AGM
Sunday, 19 th January		Service for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

12. Any other business:

12.1 Lent Prayer Walks: The meeting felt that there was unlikely to be sufficient support within the churches to continue to organise the Prayer Walks on a monthly basis after Easter. It was left to those who were attending the Lent walks to decide whether they wished to continue with the organisation themselves.

12.2 Morrisons Store: Hilary Bonney reported that Morrisons had made an application for a liquor licence with a view to occupying the vacant premises next to the Salvation Army hall. She asked that churchmembers be encouraged to write to the District Council opposing this use in respect of its adverse impact on local traders, anti-social behaviour due to the extended hours proposed (6a.m. to midnight) and increased traffic problems. It was felt that it was also likely to impact on the Salvation Army premises although the extent of this was unclear as yet.

12.3 Emails to Co-ordinating Committee Representatives: it was agreed that John Studd, the Webmaster, should establish an email link to all representatives via reps@pact.org.uk which would be an easy way of getting information to the PACT churches via one address. A parallel link would be set up for leaders@pact.org.uk.

13. Closing Prayer – The Grace.