



PETERSFIELD AREA CHURCHES TOGETHER

Minutes of the Co-ordinating Committee held at The Salvation Army, Petersfield, on Wednesday, 29th May 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), Carolyn and David Barton, Hilary Bonney, John Callaghan, Tim Concannon, Rosemary Davies, Vanessa Dowse, Simon Mason, Linda Read, Richard Saunders, John Studd, Christine Tully,

In attendance: Caroline Creese, Area Manager for Christians Against Poverty, and Mr. Creese

1. Presentation on Christians Against Poverty: Caroline presented a brief video on the work of CAP. Established in 1996, CAP is a Christian organisation with 247 centres working with those struggling with debt. Its aim is to have 500 CAP Debt Centres throughout the UK. In the first instance local CAP representatives visit clients in their own homes. Each Debt Centre has a team of volunteer befrienders who support clients practically and emotionally. In addition, they have the support of a designated team of Debt Advisers based in the CAP offices in Bradford. A budget is drawn up for each client with the help of the Debt Advisers and CAP negotiates with all creditors to form repayment plans for priority as well as non-priority debts. Each client is given a CAP account which acts like a simple bank account. The client makes regular payments into their CAP account to cover their repayments.

In question time, Caroline said that there was about a 66% success rate in getting people back on an even keel. Her own Centre in Bognor Regis cost about £21,000 per annum to cover the costs of a part-time Manager and staff and support from CAP's Debt Advisers. This was funded by the churches. They worked closely with the local CAB and other social services.

The Committee subsequently agreed to delay any further consideration until they had had time to assimilate the information that had been left with them and also to speak to the nearest Centre which appeared to be in Southsea. It would be considered again at the next meeting in September.

2. Introduction: Peter opened with a reading from 2 Chronicles Ch. 1 followed by prayer.

3. Apologies for absence: Received from Judith Bee, Emma Dean, Brian Edwards, Andy Hall, Will Hughes, Helen Mason and Lindy Young.

4. Minutes for 13th March 2013: Agreed.

5. Matters arising:

- The new email system for emailing PACT committee members had worked well although there was some confusion as to whether PACT leaders had received their agendas. The Secretary and Webmaster would liaise to iron out any issues.

- The Secretary would contact Dr. Pieren at the Petersfield Museum to ascertain whether she needed any further assistance from the PACT churches in respect of contributions to the Beliefs Project. (Note: The Secretary subsequently spoke to Dr. Pieren and contact has been made with people from St. Laurence, St. Mary Magdalen, Life Church and the Salvation Army. She will speak to John Studd about making contact with his mother-in-law. Dr. Pierin seems to be happy with what she has received.)

- The Chair reported that he had sought further advice in respect of CRB checks for those working within the auspices of PACT. Volunteers should be covered under the arrangements of the communities from which they came. Although the government issued guidelines, it was for each organisation to decide how they would fulfil their requirements. In respect of annual events, the Catholic Diocese did not require CRB checks to be made and it was agreed that this procedure should be adopted in respect of car drivers transporting people to the PACT Christmas lunch. Hilary Bonney would report this back to the Social Concerns Committee.

6. Report on events since last meeting: It was agreed that the Good Friday Walk of Witness and Service in the Square had gone well. It was a pity that there were some stalls already in the Square but they had not encroached upon the Service. Tim Concannon reported that a similar event had gone well in Buriton (the first occasion).

The Service in the Square on 26th May had taken place as part of the Petersfield Festivities for the Bank Holiday. The Secretary would report back to the organisers that a slightly later time than 12 noon would be preferred in future to allow for some congregations to get to the Square after their Morning Services. It was also agreed that a change to the live music licence for music to be amplified from, say, 12.30 would have allowed some of the church bands to have participated.

7. Treasurer's Report: Christine reported that users of the Craft Bank had now been clarified. A cheque for £687 had been received from Waitrose plus a late donation which meant that £700 was now already available for the Christmas lunch 2013. Every PACT church had now paid their annual subscription.

Christine referred to a Food Bank report received by the Social Concerns Committee on 20th May. There was approx. £1,000 in hand in the PACT account and some £900 had been spent on the purchase of tokens for perishables and items supplementing food donations. Specific needs identified were for tinned meat products, puddings, beverages, household goods and toiletries.

8. External Events & Campaigns on the PACT Website: John reported on the number of requests received by the Webmaster for advertising external events on the PACT website. It was agreed that these could be advertised in a separate section of the website which gave a disclaimer in respect of content of these other websites. In addition, the Webmaster would seek confirmation from the Chair of PACT (and Secretary if required) that any such item could be posted on the PACT website. It would be for the Chair and Secretary to determine whether they constituted a direct conflict with services and activities within the PACT area.

9. Chairman's items: - Peter reported that his parish had great difficulty in recruiting collectors for the Christian Aid door to door envelope collection this time and other churches concurred with this. The street collection had been more favourably received and supported. The Committee were sympathetic to the difficulties the Christian Aid Co-ordinating Group experienced in getting volunteers and indicated that they would support any decision the Group made in respect of the way forward for the future.

- The Committee agreed that the preparation of the PACT Christmas card for 2013 should be offered to one of the schools in the area. It was agreed that the letter of guidance to the school should emphasise that this was a Christian Christmas card and should dwell on the birth of Jesus. Equally the Easter card should be around the death and resurrection of Jesus. John Callaghan suggested that it might be appropriate for the PACT Chair to visit the school and speak to the pupils concerned to give them guidance on what was expected.

10. Proposed Future Dates and Events –

Thursday, 6 th June at 7.30 to 8 p.m.	Engage at the Festival Hall with Juliet Nasuuna from Project Shalom In Uganda plus IMC
Saturday, 29 th June from 10 a.m.	IMC Funday in Ram's Walk
29 th July to 2 nd August	PACT Holiday Club
Wednesday, 4 th September 7.30 p.m.	PACT Co-ordinating Committee (CAP, Mediation, Chair of PACT for 2014, 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

Simon Mason asked that churches encouraged their over 8's to enrol for Holiday Club. Under 8's reservations were going well. Volunteers were still needed especially for art and Messy Church activities.

Hilary reported that Katie Wigley had offered to co-ordinate the Christmas lunch as per last year with Marika and her family doing the catering. The first co-ordinating meeting will be held in September. It will be held at the Methodist Church again.

11. Any other business:

11.1 Enoughfoodif Campaign: The Secretary reported on the IF Campaign which had been emphasised by Will Hughes at the Service in the Square on the previous Sunday. A march is being held in Hyde Park on 8th June which churches are encouraged to support. Transport is being arranged in Portsmouth which will pick up in Petersfield. To book a place, bookings can be made via www.enoughfoodif.com.

11.2 Mediation Service: Tim Concannon asked the Committee to consider whether PACT would be prepared to sponsor Christian mediators in the area. Tim is already a mediator and it was agreed that he should prepare a paper for consideration at the September meeting.

11.3 Morrisons Store: A liquor licence had been granted to the new store which was due to open in July.

11.4 Town Chaplaincy: John Callaghan reported that the town chaplaincy had now been operating for two and a half years. He had been invited to attend a meeting of the umbrella organisation, which includes paid chaplains as well as voluntary groups, with a view to providing greater support with a

common kite mark, policies and procedures. This would be especially welcome by smaller groups and those setting up new chaplaincies.

12. Closing Prayer – The Grace.