

PETERSFIELD AREA CHURCHES TOGETHER

Co-ordinating Committee Meeting



TIME & DATE: 7.30pm Wednesday 21st April 2021

VENUE: via Zoom

Chair Josh Thomas

Attended: Carolyn Barton, Ivan H-T, Josh Thomas, Christine Tully, John Callaghan, Jennifer Parkes, Brian Edwards, Amanda Greenlee, Vanessa Dowse, John Studd, Steve Field, Will Hughes, Richard Saunders, Madeline King, Peter Hollins.

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.

1 Introduction, Bible reading and prayer

Josh opened the committee meeting with a reading (1 Thessalonians 5: v1-11) and a reflection on the benefits of positive thought and encouragement, as epitomized by Barnabas and Paul in their encouragements to the Thessalonians, followed by a prayer.

2 Apologies for absence

Jenny Ballinger. Judith Bee, Lindsay Clegg, Simon & Helen Mason, Mike Harris

3 Richard Saunders Retirement

Richard Saunders will be starting a well-deserved retirement from the 30th May. He was formally thanked for his dedication and support of PACT and all gave good wishes to him for a happy and satisfying retirement.

4 Actions from Previous Meetings

November Meeting:

2. **OPEN/ONGOING** Develop/complete History Section of the website.
 - Joyce Perry had some material but this was unfortunately lost. The hardcopy of PACT historical records appear to have been misplaced at some point over the last few years.
 - Simon Mason and Steve Field hold, between them, quite a long continuity of history of PACT so will meet (post-meeting request that this be after lock-down) to compare notes and then Simon to write up the results.

February Meeting:

1. **CLOSED** Each Church must declare how their vote on substantial PACT matters is to be represented (i.e. who holds and has authority to cast their vote)?
2. **OPEN/ONGOING** Ivan H-T to draft the amendments to the constitution, have them approved by Tim Concannon and present at a future meeting for acceptance.
3. **CLOSED** Reps and Leaders were asked to further consider if any other organisations should be added to the list of Linked Groups.
4. **CLOSED** All to bring ideas to next committee meeting for thanksgiving once the virus disruption is (mostly) over; probably around Harvest Festival time.

Discussions & Decisions:

- Following feedback since the previous meeting, the default handling (i.e. where a Church has not supplied detail for how they wish to handle this issue) of each member church's vote on substantial PACT matters (i.e. who holds and has authority to cast their vote) was proposed and agreed to be updated to the following:
 - In the absence of any declaration from any given Member Church it will be assumed that each church will:
 - require formal notification at least two weeks in advance of any upcoming 'substantial vote'
 - undertake internal discussion to determine their stance
 - then instruct and delegate authority to their official PACT Representative to cast their Church's vote as appropriate.

- 5 **Refreshing the PACT Website (continuing progress) URL= <https://pact2.org.uk/>**
Issue: The PACT website is in need of updating and refreshing.

Discussions & Decisions:

- The launch of the new website has been delayed:
 - There had been technical problems with the transfer of information to the new site, particularly with images, but has now been completed (as of 21/4/21).
 - As an interim measure a redirect is currently being used to take viewers to the development site rather than the real 'live' site; now the transfer has been completed the new site should be able to go live properly soon.
- The new website can already be considered to be a success in that about half the member Churches are adding their own content now. This is significantly more than did before.
- The PACT FaceBook Page is now active, please join/follow it. To find it easily please search for "PACT Petersfield" as "PACT" on its own is a common name.
- The definition and intent of Partner vs. Linked organisations was clarified.

6 Treasurer's Report

Issue: A financial position update was presented.

It was reported by the Treasurer that:

- The King's Arms and the Counselling Service have both given thanks for our donations and supplied details of what the donations have been used towards.
- There have, as yet, been no replies to emails or contact from Homestart Butser.
- Other expenditure since the previous report has been related to the content in the Petersfield Post and the prizes for the Easter Card contest.
- Due to COVID restrictions Josh was unable to present the prizes in person, but it is understood that they were presented during a whole school assembly.

7 Good News Stories From Member Churches:

Issue: This initiative is to give a spirit-raising 'Good News' story from a different member Church each meeting.

Good News from Buriton:

- From December 19th thorough to the week after Christmas there was a Nativity Walk around the village. There was a leaflet with the Christmas trail on it and many households, including the 5 Bells had created different parts of the Christmas Journey and Story. The various installations were to be found in green areas, several gardens and at St Mary's, near the church door .
- This enabled people to walk the Christmas Journey. (being Covid secure)
- Due to the success of the Christmas initiative, the idea was repeated at Easter asking for families to create Easter Gardens. The number of families from the village who took part comprised of members of the congregation as well as individuals and families from the village of various denominations.
- A series of Lent talks with teaching on the Eucharist, were held via Zoom by Judith and Tom (St Mary's reader).
- Services have been held in St Mary's (under Strict Covid rules) and huge thanks go to a brilliant team from the congregation who have mastered the technology that has also Zoomed the services into the homes of persons unable to attend the services through shielding or Covid regulations.

Good News from Life Church:

- The lockdown for Life Church has been different because they never had their own building.
- Some members have been taking the initiative to undertake acts of worship in their gardens and streets, with great success and positive response from neighbours joining. Many new friends have been made.
- Streaming services have attracted many more people than previously attended as a live congregation. The big challenge will be how to keep all these new/extra people engaged as things go back towards normal.
- Have to deal with the dichotomy of it being good to get back together again for lives services but also benefits of not getting back together.

8 Upcoming Events

Thanksgiving Service:

Ideas for thanksgiving once the virus disruption is mostly over were discussed:

- The idea of a picnic Thanksgiving Service on the Heath in September was approved
- No further ideas were suggested.

Christian Aid Week:

- The Street Collection event for 2021 has been cancelled.
- URC will be hosting a Quiz night instead (with Quiz-Master Josh) on the 15th May
 - Please see the URC website for links to the quiz and a 'Just Giving' page for donations
- There will also be a '3000 Steps' Challenge.
- A Cream Tea event is planned for July.

9 AOB & Comments

St Peters 'Refresh Coffee Mornings'

- These have restarted, as of 15th April, with a one-way system in place.
- Every Thursday 10-12 hope to see you all there.

Petersfield Deanery Pentecost Praise

- On the 23rd May (Pentecost Sunday) from 2.30pm to 3.30pm @ St Mary's Liss
- An opportunity to gather together as a Deanery to celebrate the Festival of Pentecost, all will be very welcome
- To register for a seat please book in by either:
 - clicking on this link – <https://st-mary-s-church.reservio.com/events/aede3c6a-95bb-4583-a1cd-4f1d827587af/>
 - phoning St Mary's Church Office 01730 892552
 - emailing lissparish@gmail.com with your name, number in party and email address (or phone number).
- The service will be also be live steamed and available to watch live or at a later time through the St Mary's Facebook page.

Christmas Lunch

- Brian and his wife are stepping down as Reps for the Christmas Lunch

10 Next Meetings

- [*Post-Meeting Additional Detail*] Next meeting proposed for 23rd June, Options for Zoom vs. Covid-Secure in-person to be explored nearer the time when guidance is known.

11 Close

The meeting was concluded by sharing of The Grace.