

## PETERSFIELD AREA CHURCHES TOGETHER

### *Co-ordinating Committee Meeting*



**TIME & DATE:** 7.30pm Wednesday 24th February 2021

**VENUE:** via Zoom

**Chair** Josh Thomas

**Attended:** Carolyn Barton, Ivan H-T, Josh Thomas, Jenny Ballinger, Christine Tully, John Callaghan, Jennifer Parkes, Mike Harris, Brian Edwards, Amanda Greenlee, Vanessa Dowse, Simon & Helen Mason, John Studd.

#### **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 (Mark 1: v9-15) and the "Meditation of John the Baptist" (from 'Worship Through the Seasons' by Nick Fawcett) followed by a prayer.

#### **2 Apologies for absence**

Richard Saunders (is currently in QA Hospital, a prayer was shared for him to recover soon), Lindsay Clegg.

#### **3 Easter Cards & Petersfield Post Proposals**

**Issue:** Easter Cards are not going to be viable under COVID-19 restrictions this year, proposals to share the message through paid-content in the Petersfield Post.

#### **Discussions & Decisions:**

- Petersfield Infants School are on the roster for this year. They have been contacted and are happy to participate.
  - Prizes would be £25 for the winner and £10 for each runner-up (typically 3 but flexible if there are more than 3 that warrant runner-up status)
- The treasurer confirmed there were sufficient funds in the budget to cover a double-page spread.
- It was agreed to take a double-page spread in the Petersfield Post (£400 inc VAT).
- The publication date would be Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> March, all content needs to be prepared and received by the Petersfield Post 9 days prior to this = 22<sup>nd</sup> March.
- For the school input timings would be tight, as schools are only permitted to reopen on the 8<sup>th</sup> March, but it was felt that giving the school a returns date of the 12<sup>th</sup> would be reasonable.
- It was agreed that alongside the artwork the following items should be included:
  - Reminders about essential services (Counselling, Food Bank, etc)
  - Launch of the new PACT website
  - Any special events and/or services planned.

#### 4 Constitution Revision

**Issue:** The PACT constitution lacks a 'Wind-Up Clause'.

##### Discussions & Decisions:

- The key questions under consideration were:
  - In the event of a wind-up who should assets go to?
    - It was agreed that, as the circumstances of the wind-up may affect the desired recipient, this should be determined by majority vote at the time of the wind-up.
  - How will votes be determined? There is one vote per Member Church, but how are these counted and cast?
    - **ACTION:** 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)?
    - In the absence of any declaration from any given Member Church it will be assumed that the official PACT Rep for that church has full delegated authority to cast their Church's vote.
- **ACTION:** Ivan H-T to draft the amendments to the constitution, have them approved by Tim Concannon and present at a future meeting for acceptance.

#### 5 Refreshing the PACT Website (continuing progress) URL= <https://pact2.org.uk/>

**Issue:** The PACT website is in need of updating and refreshing.

##### Review of Open Actions from previous meetings:

- **September-Action-3: CLOSED** – The new draft welcome section on the website was briefly discussed, but enough people had had chance to review it yet. A post-meeting request to close this action was received from the website-team so as not to delay the launch. Comments/suggestions are still welcome.
- **November-Action-1: CLOSED** – The working-party has completed its work on Partner/Linked-Group definitions. These were presented to the committee and unanimously accepted.
- **November-Action-2: OPEN/ONGOING** – 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.
- **November-Action-1: CLOSED** – Material has been received for all churches. Each church's website rep is booked in for a session on 25<sup>th</sup> Feb to receive training on how to maintain their church's website content.

##### Other Discussions & Decisions:

- A budget of £120 was approved to pay for the transfer of new website material from the temporary development server to the permanent "live" server.
- Formal thanks were given to Steve Field, John Studd and Jan Stuart for all their continued hard work on the new website.
- **ACTION:** Reps and Leaders were asked to further consider if any other organisations should be added to the list of Linked Groups.

#### 6 Treasurer's Report

**Issue:** A financial position update was presented.

It was reported by the Treasurer that:

- Expenditure from the previous report was extremely low due to the impact of the virus and lock-down on events.
- The revised Christmas Lunch plans actually attracted donations surplus (just over £100) to expenditure, thanks to the great fundraising activities of Marika.
- There are currently £750 of Lions Club donations to distribute.
  - This could be treated as equivalent to what would normally be collected during PACT carol services and similar events
  - It was agreed to distribute the donations between the King's Arms, Counselling Service and Butser Homestart as before.
  - It was queried whether any of these organisations was particularly struggling more or less than the others so as to warrant a larger share.
  - In the absence of any insight to this topic it was agreed to split the distributions evenly this time, but it might be useful to know in future.

## 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 St Mary's:**

- Streaming services have been a pleasing success, both in terms of the reception of those receiving them and the ingenuity of those making them.
- Two new Zoom Home-Groups have been started up. Feedback has been extremely good, particularly related to making Home-Groups more accessible to households with young children who are constrained by childcare needs.
- The Seniors Chaplain (Julie Slade) and Parish Administrator (Rebecca Whelan) have been really great at organising and giving both contact and care to older people, particularly those who either don't have internet.

## 8 **Upcoming Events**

### **Easter:**

Although the usual Walk of Witness will not be possible this year it was suggested that individuals and small (appropriately distanced) groups should be encouraged to do their own private Prayer Walks during Good Friday and the Easter Weekend.

### **Thanksgiving Service:**

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

- Initial suggestions included a PACT Picnic on the Heath
- It was agreed that, as restrictions will probably be lifted piecemeal, that combining a Thanksgiving Service with this year's Harvest Festivals would probably be realistic in terms of timing.
- **ACTION:** All to bring ideas to next committee meeting.

## 9 **AOB & Comments**

The Music Co-Ordinator at Sheet would like to record a joint Easter Blessing of some sort, if any other Churches are interested in joining in (contact [hilmar@sheet.church](mailto:hilmar@sheet.church)).

**ACTION:** Churches to consider interest in collaborating for a joint Easter Blessing.

## 10 **Next Meetings**

- Next meeting will be by Zoom again, on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2021

**11 Close**

The meeting was concluded by sharing of The Grace.