

**PETERSFIELD AREA CHURCHES TOGETHER**  
**Co-ordinating Committee Meeting**  
**Minutes**



**TIME & DATE:** 7.30pm Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2021

**VENUE:** Via Zoom

**Chair** Josh Thomas

**Attended:** Carolyn Barton, Ivan H-T, Josh Thomas, Christine Tully, Jennifer Parkes, Mike Harris, Amanda Greenlee, Vanessa Dowse, John Studd, Madeline King, Peter Hollins, John Callaghan, Jenny Ballinger, Judith Bee.

**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 and prayer.

**2 Apologies for absence**

Helen Mason, Brian Edwards

**3 Items for discussion under Item 10 (late and short items only please)**

**4 Matters arising from last meeting 22<sup>nd</sup> September (sorry no minutes available)**

Previous minutes are available at <https://pact.org.uk/pact-committee-minutes/>, there are currently no minutes from 22<sup>nd</sup> September.

November 2020 Meeting:

**2. OPEN/ONGOING** Develop/complete History Section of the website.

- Simon Mason and Steve Field held an initial meeting to start collating the history of PACT that was very productive. At least one more meeting will be required. Simon to write up the results.
- Helen Mason has a box of history and some files from about 6 years ago. It is currently sat under the desk in the Life Church office, with the paper-work and files being in a cabinet. Available for whoever wishes to have it!

February 2021 Meeting:

**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.

**5 Treasurer's Report– Christine Tully**

1. Expenditure appears a little skewed in this year's accounts as £750 of Lions money was carried over from the previous year.
2. A Safeguarding issue regarding finance for the Christmas Lunch was discussed. It is important to ensure that volunteers who handle money do not unintentionally make themselves vulnerable to the risk of accusations of impropriety.  
**ACTION:** Josh to meet with the individual at risk and explain why and how to protect themselves better.
3. Formal thanks were offered to Christine Tully for her continued hard work on maintaining the finances.

## 6 Good News Stories From Member Churches: (St Laurence's & Quakers)

- a. **St Laurence** – Great success story from the Knitting Group was reported. Finally able to meet up again in person, but they were extremely productive during the COVID Lockdown knitting squares, hats and scarves. As usual these will be donated to a homeless charity in Portsmouth, including 30 blankets which is a great result!
- b. **Quakers** – Jenny gave an interesting overview of The Society of Friends (Quakers) and how their meetings are conducted, a copy of this is attached (see Annex A).

## 7 Progress Discussion on Christmas Events

- a. Christmas Lunch
  - i. Please collect & return forms at Winton House before Friday's meeting
  - ii. Waitrose has very kindly donated £1,000 in gift cards
- b. Cards
  - i. Colin at Petaprint was fabulous again. Printed and delivered to St Peter's ready for bundling on time!!
  - ii. Thanks to Helen Mason and Colin at Petaprint!
- c. Service in the square
  - i. Will be held on 23<sup>rd</sup> December
  - ii. Meet at PMC @ 6pm and walk down to The Square ready for 7pm start
  - iii. The topic of COVID-safe options for refreshments was discussed. People will be encouraged to 'bring a flask'. Mince pies will be served by people walking about with trays to offer them in order to avoid the risks of queues  
**ACTION:** As usual: each church to donate a few boxes of mince pies please.  
**POST Meeting Update:** A surplus of mince pies have already been donated, so please no more donations for this year.

## 8 Planning for AGM & Unity Service

- a. AGM to be on 19<sup>th</sup> January @ Salvation Army Hall
- b. Unity Service to be on 23<sup>rd</sup> January @ PMC (time TBC, but sometime in afternoon)

## 9 Upcoming events

- a. **World Day of Prayer.** This will be held on March 4th 2022 at St Laurence Church at 10am. There is a committee currently working together, and one major change has been made - after many years of being hosted by individual churches we will from now on always host the service as PACT. More information will be forwarded by Helen Mason in due course.

## 10 Any other business

- a. **PACT Webmaster** –
  - i. John Studd is retiring as webmaster
  - ii. Formal thanks were given for his years of service
  - iii. Jan will take over as Webmaster, but only on a temporary basis for 2022
  - iv. Someone urgently needed to volunteer to shadow Jan and be trained up by him ready to take over the Webmaster role for 2023 onwards.  
**ACTION:** Urgently need a volunteer to be trained up as webmaster

## 11 Closing Prayer & Sharing the Grace

## Annex A – The Society of Friends (Quakers)

Rather than telling you about something that we have to celebrate I thought I would tell you a bit about The Society of Friends (Quakers). I often find that people have not experienced a Quaker Meeting and don't know much about us.

Petersfield Meeting is very small and currently meets once a month (third Thursday of the month 7.15 – 8pm) at the Methodist Church. We come under the umbrella of Alton Meeting which meets every Sunday (10.15 – 11.15 am). Alton Meeting House is a 2\* listed building and is one of the oldest Meeting Houses in Britain. We will be celebrating our 350<sup>th</sup> year in 2022.

Our meetings usually last for an hour. We sit in a circle round a table which will have on it the Bible, Quaker Faith and Practice, Advices and Queries and usually some flowers. I have a copy for each of you of our Advices and Queries. A slim leaflet it contains 42 entries. As an example, number 7 goes thus:

“Be aware of the spirit of God at work in the ordinary activities and experience of your daily life. Spiritual learning continues throughout life and often in unexpected ways. There is inspiration to be found all around us, in the natural world, in the sciences and arts, in our work and friendships, in our sorrows as well as our joys. Are you open to new light, from whatever source it may come? Do you approach new ideas with discernment?”

We have no clergy to lead our meeting but have Elders and Overseers who are volunteers who oversee the Meeting. We start by centring down and may sometimes have a whole hour in silence. There are no set hymns, prayers, or sermons. Anyone can minister. We believe that there is that of God in everyone. At the end of the hour's worship we shake hands.

A fundamental part of being a Quaker is that you should let your life speak. We have testimonies in equality, peace, social responsibility, simplicity, and sustainability. You will find that Quakers are very proactive in these areas. For example, working with the homeless (especially in London and Bristol), campaigning to end funeral poverty, campaigning against the arms trade and nuclear weapons, working towards a more sustainable world.

I hope you will have found this of interest. Do join us at Meeting for Worship sometime, you would be most welcome.

Jenny Ballinger  
Overseer, Petersfield and Alton Quaker Meeting.  
PACT representative.

## Annex B – Action Items

### Open Actions:

November 2020 Meeting:

2. **OPEN/ONGOING** Develop/complete History Section of the website.

February 2021 Meeting:

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.

November 2021 (this) Meeting:

1. **NEW** Josh to meet with the individual at risk and explain why and how to protect themselves better.
2. **NEW/CLOSED** As usual: each church to donate a few boxes of mince pies please.
3. **NEW** Urgently need a volunteer to be trained up as webmaster during 2022 in order to take over for 2023 onwards.