



**TIME & DATE:** 7:30pm Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2022

**VENUE:** Zoom Conferencing

**Chair** Ivan Huntington-Thresher

**Attended:** Christine Traynier, Carolyn Barton, Christine Tully, Madeline King, Ivan H-T, Belinda, Jenny Parkes, Josh Thomas, Amanda Greenlee, John Callaghan, Vanessa Dowse, Jenny Balingier, Mike Harris.

**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**

Ivan opened the committee meeting by reading from Psalm 32 and a prayer.

**2 Apologies for absence**

Lindsay Clegg, Judith Bee, Jan Stuart, Peter Hollins, Steve Fields

**3 Allocation of Donations**

**Issue:** We have received £530 to distribute (£500 from the Lions, £30 from the Unity Service).

**Decision:** It was agreed to allocate £500 to the King's Arms Youth Project, which is costing £1,000 per month to run and is benefiting young adults from the majority of PACT Churches, and £30 to the Ukrainian Refugee Coffee Mornings to cover beverages costs.

**4 Ukrainian Refugee Activities**

**Issue:** Reporting on progress with Ukrainian Refugee Activities

- The Refugee Coffee mornings have had plenty of volunteers (over 30), enough to last until at least September. The King's Arms venue has a limit of 30 due to fire safety, maybe increasing to 40 if the courtyard is used.
- The first coffee morning was only attended by two Ukrainians; but was otherwise successful and it is hoped will be better attended as awareness amongst the Ukrainians grows.
- The first host's support event also suffered from light attendance: only one host and one prospective host family. Steve Field is uncertain how much support these meetings are needed to provide.
- Feedback from the hosts suggests that the primary support they need is help with transport, and potentially taking their Ukrainian guests out for outings.

## **5 Christmas Lunch**

**Issue:** Progressing plans for the Christmas Lunch.

- There has only been one response to the call for volunteers to help organise the event: The PMC administrator who has volunteered to help with managing health & safety checks for volunteers.
- There was discussion regarding the viability of the event given the lack of volunteers, particularly without currently having a head chef.
- Given the current situation it was agreed to focus on the key objective, namely providing company and companionship to elderly and vulnerable people on Christmas day. Other organisations provide Christmas Lunches but none of them actually do anything on Christmas Day itself, which is when lonely people can be at their most vulnerable. This is PACTs USP and the thing we should focus on.
- As a result: it was decided to focus the event on getting the clients together to socialise for around two and a half hours on Christmas Day afternoon. It could include watching the Queen's Speech together, having some light entertainment/music, playing boardgames, and a level of refreshments according to availability of volunteers (minimum of cakes/biscuits, maybe more).
- An objective would be to finish before dusk, as some clients would be worried about travelling home in the dark; however, given the time of dusk at this time of year, that may be challenging to achieve (dusk is approx. 16:03 on 25<sup>th</sup> December).

## **6 Lighthouse Event Review**

**Issue:** The Lighthouse organisation recently held an event in Petersfield and it was poorly attended, are there any lessons to be identified?

- The Lighthouse pre-determined the date of their event and what they would do in Petersfield. Any engagement (beyond briefing on what they had already determined they would do in Petersfield and when) was not wanted.
- There were numerous clashes with both church and local community events on the weekend Lighthouse had chosen.
- There were some concerns reported on Lighthouse's doctrine/biblical interpretation.
- It was proposed that PACT members should consider how to better support Christians who want to express their faith in our area.
- Advice to other organisations wishing to put on events in Petersfield would be to engage PACT beforehand w.r.t. dates and how to tailor their event to appeal more to the local community.

## **7 AOB**

There will be an Evangelism Course at the URC on the 9th August, contact URC for more information if interested.

## **8 Close**

The meeting was concluded by sharing of The Grace.