



Petersfield Area Churches Together Annual Reports 2022-23



Thursday 19th January 2023
7.30pm – Peterfield Methodist Church

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Chair's Report

2022 was certainly a turbulent year.

In many ways it was a triumphant return to near normality, as lockdown restrictions eased and in-person PACT Easter and Christmas services were held with great success and attendance, but the Ukrainian invasion and the need to support refugees coming to Petersfield heralded an extremely busy year.

I was particularly impressed with the Christian spirit alive in Petersfield as so many residents opened their hearts and homes to help give succour and security to people who had faced so much trauma in their homeland.

It all made for an amazingly busy year as year, particularly as I had to simultaneously continue in my role as Secretary, organise the Christmas Tea, return to pre-COVID levels of busyness and travel in my job and care for my young family. But they say that God does not give you burdens that you cannot bear; and although it was exhausting, I found my year as Chair rewarding and fulfilling.

John Callaghan has valiantly agreed to take over as Chair for 2023 and I am certain you'll join me in wishing him well and a less turbulent year than the last.

Thank you all,

Ivan Huntington-Thresher – Chair.

Annual Accounts

PETERSFIELD AREA CHURCHES TOGETHER					
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPT 2022					
2021			2022		
Receipts	Payments			Receipts	Payments
0		members subscriptions		2638	
37	-342	harvest picnic service			
		PACT service offering		30	
		gift from Lions		500	
	-250	donation Kings arms	Life church		-530
	-250	donation counselling service			
	-250	donation Home Start Butser			
	-960	P Post Christmas articles	print Christmas cards		-860
	-45	gift Christmas Card designer			-60
	-400	P Post Easter articles	Print Easter cards		-860
	-55	gift Easter card designer			-55
	-243	insurance			-243
	-297	website			-232
	-120	gift meal website designers			
0		bank interest		1	
37	-3212	totals		3169	-2840
575	-470	Christmas lunch		140	-314
4287		Reserves brought forward, 1 October			1216
	320	Unrestricted reserves carried forward 30 Sept		649	
	896	Christmas Lunch reserves carried forward		722	
1216		total reserves carried forward 30 Sept			1371
		reserves comprise			
311		Natwest Bank Current Account			466
905		Natwest Bank Reserve Account			905
1216					1371

Group Reports:

Christian Aid

Following all the previous Covid restrictions, it was good to meet up for the Christian Aid Simple Lunch, which was held on Saturday 12th March at Petersfield United Reformed Church. About 45 people ate a lunch of home-made soup, bread and cheese. Everyone enjoyed the food and great fellowship together. Along with the takings from a sales table, a generous amount of £668.36 was raised.

Thanks go to all those who volunteered and to such generous donors.

Various activities took place at the URC during Christian Aid Week in May, which led to £1,060.00 being raised to help families around the world to transform their own lives.

Carolyn Barton

Christian Arts Group

The Christian Arts group continues to thrive with new work being produced each month. Although we did lose some people during Covid most have gradually returned though some not as regularly as before.

Having purchased a glass kiln earlier in the year we are now able to offer fused glass working techniques fired on the premises which has opened up new opportunities to be explored. Anderson Marsh, who attends regularly has produced several attractive pieces of glasswork and is continuing to explore possibilities that the technique offers.

During the summer, several people attended the newly refurbished second pottery workshop to use the new pottery wheel and try out their skills with much enthusiasm. As the weather warms up more workshops will be offered in the use of this skill.

I started to expand the workshops last year to offer painting sessions in the Herne Leisure Centre to Life church members, two evenings a month and these were attended by enthusiastic would be artists. I am hoping to start off these sessions later this year and extend these to PACT members.

For further information contact belindashaw44@gmail.com

Knit & Knatter

The Knit and Knatter group have continued to meet the first Wednesday of each month at the Herne Leisure Centre from 7.30pm – 9.00pm. Although we did lose some of our older ladies who decided to attend a daytime knitting group, we have had other new people join us.

During Covid it was hard to find organisations willing to accept the knitted goods produced by the group eg. QA Anti Natal unit were unable to accept the prem. baby hats and gloves due to Covid regulations. And this has been the case throughout the year.

This being the case we had to abandon most of the knitting for charities focus of previous years. Knit and Knatter has continued to be a welcoming support group for older ladies to meet and have fellowship with one another. They continue to knit, crochet and create cards for different occasions. The card making activity is run by Sally Smith from Life church and is very popular. Refreshments are served each session by Pippa Collingwood also from Life church.

For enquires please contact Life Church office on 01730231400

PACT Christmas Tea

The PACT Christmas Tea was a good success, with around 50 guests and volunteers attending. There was a wonderful warm and friendly atmosphere as we watched the King's Speech together and were serenaded by extremely talented musicians, puppeteers and carollers. Support and donations were received, with grateful thanks, from Waitrose and several other local businesses. After the event I received numerous emails and thank-you cards from guests expressing their thanks and appreciation.

Organising the PACT Christmas Event was very challenging this year, as Marika and Katie, who have run the event for many years, were unavailable to organise it this year. Their wealth of experience built up over the years was sorely missed, but both Marika and Katie were very generous with their time in having washup and handover sessions with me; and I couldn't have done it without their help.

It was the decision of the PACT Committee that attempting to have a full Christmas Lunch, without Marika available to organise the food and chefs, would be too challenging. It was therefore decided that the event should be a less ambitious objective of a Christmas Tea instead of a full lunch. Although this decision was disappointing, it did allow us to refocus on the real primary objective of combating isolation and loneliness at Christmas over the more dominating food aspect.

I was determined to start planning for the event early, and so started repeatedly trying from April to find volunteers within the PACT churches to help me organise the event. Disappointingly however, by October I had only managed to gain the support of just one single volunteer. Fortunately, at that point it was revealed to me for the first time that a standing planning committee actually existed. This committee appears to have become estranged from the central PACT committee over the years, such that few seemed to know of its existence or of the requirement for each member church to supply a representative to help staff it. This situation must be a priority to resolve if PACT is to host a Christmas Day event in the future.

With my newfound band of heroes we were able to set about organising the Christmas Tea within the few short weeks left to us. Amazing things were achieved in the short timescale available; but the most crucial were the DBS checks without which we would not have been able to transport all the guests to the event. So many thanks and heartfelt appreciation to my committee: Amanda, Vanessa, Elisabeth, Christine, Stephanie, Bernhard and (my non-Petersfield work colleague) Sue; but extra special thanks to Stephanie and Jo (from our Methodist Circuit) who really pulled out all the stops to get the DBS's pushed through so rapidly.

Petersfield Counselling Service

(Petersfield Counselling Service PO Box 43, Petersfield, Hampshire, GU32 3RB)

This year the Petersfield Counselling Service has been providing counselling services mainly on a face to face basis over the last year. We offer counselling for up to two years with a dedicated counsellor which is often helpful for clients as they do not have the same time pressures as NHS services. We do ask clients for a contribution of £30 per session which helps to cover the costs of inst

In 2022 there were 91 new clients registering with the service.

In 2021 this number was 53. The highest number before the pandemic was 79 in 2017

Approximately 120 counselling sessions were attended each month

There were 17 Counsellors working with up to 3 clients each 49 (over half) of these clients stated that they were following a referral from the GP, Social Prescriber or ITalk

Within 2022 The Chair of the Committee for Petersfield Counselling Service changed. Robert Gussman who had held the post for many years stepped down and Margaret Scott has taken on the role. The Director also changed in 2022 with Sandra Alexander moving on and Ruth Mackintosh taking her place.

This has meant many changes for Petersfield Counselling Service to adjust to.

In addition we obtained a Lottery Grant to work in collaboration with Home Start Butser and offer counselling to parents of young children. Home Start Butser help to look after the children to enable the parent to attend the counselling. This is a 5 year project and is very much needed.

We are exceedingly grateful to the people and organisations who have supported us this year:

PASRIN have given grants so that the costs for people in the PASRIN postcodes can be subsidised and no one needs to be denied counselling due to funds.

All the PCS Counsellors attend professional supervision sessions and these take place in Steep Church and St Peters Church. The provision of the rooms for this supervision is a great support.

Petersfield Methodist Church also offer their room for us to use for training events, again this is a great support.

Thank you to everyone else who has supported Petersfield Counselling Service over the year

PACT Food Bank

During 2022 PACT Food Bank distributed 1277 food packs and market vouchers, supporting 1939 adults and 1016 children. This compares to 848 food packs in 2021, which supported 1340 adults and 750 children. We have been very busy.

At the end of 2021 we moved distribution to Petersfield Methodist Church. This has worked out so well, having everything under one roof, saving double-handling of packs and enabling us to offer clients enhanced support with dietary issues and bulky items such as nappies. We are extremely grateful to PMC for their support.

In April we held a successful Easter 'market'. Donations dropped off dramatically over the summer when we needed to buy stock. This situation was reversed by very generous harvest festivals from PACT churches and local schools including the Bedales community, TPS, Churcher's College, Langrish Primary, Petersfield Infants, Herne Junior, Ditcham Park, Froxfield School (this list is not exhaustive, apologies to anyone left out). We have been overwhelmed by people's generosity this Christmas, when we were able to assist the Salvation Army with Christmas hampers as well as supplying them to our own clients.

We continue to be heavily supported by many local businesses and charity groups for which we are extremely grateful. The Lions have been particularly supportive.

Numbers of referrals are increasing, and as the cost of living rises bite harder when government support stops for all but the most vulnerable, we expect donations to fall again in 2023. There is the likelihood that households that would not normally consider needing Food Bank help will come forward.

We have spent 2022 strengthening our relationships with our referring agencies to try to ensure that Food Bank users are receiving all the help to which they are entitled, in the hope that they will become self-sufficient as soon as they are able. Financially we are currently well placed to meet any shortfalls in donations and to continue to support our voucher scheme for clients.

We have a healthy number of volunteers, approximately 50, who we are very grateful to for giving us their time and energies. They usually work in 2-hour sessions. On Monday and Wednesday mornings between 9.30 and 11.30 there is sorting, labelling and storing food donations and making up various size food bags for distribution. On Tuesdays and Fridays between 9.30 and 11.30 there is distributing food bags to those in need. We aren't actively looking for new recruits at present.

In the summer our Chair, Angela Burke, stepped down for personal reasons, and Elaine Knox has picked up the reins again for the time being. We thank Angela for all her hard work and dedication. We would also like to thank Terry Doubleday for his tireless work as Treasurer, and our new Treasurer, Richard Hollingbery, took over last spring. We welcomed Heather Nichols as our new Training Coordinator in September. We probably under-estimated the leap to becoming a CIO as a Committee, and we have had to spend a lot of time bringing policy up to speed, working on compliance etc, but we getting there and thank everyone for their contribution. We have worked hard at our social media and public presence, with

our website and Facebook page, and we are utilising the Bank the Food app, that alerts users to our shortages when they visit one of the shops that host collection points. We are very grateful to all these shops and to everyone who displays a shortage list, and special thanks go to Shine Radio for their support and for broadcasting the weekly shortage list.

Our current Committee members are: Chair & Referral Co-ordinator Elaine Knox; Secretary Sue Jupp; Volunteer Rota David Barton; Compliance Danielle Balmforth; Donation sites Simon Mason; Training Heather Nichols; Treasurer Richard Hollingbery.

We thank the PACT churches and their congregations for their ongoing support of the Food Bank.

Elaine Knox
Chair of Trustees
PACT Food Bank Registered CIO 1193002

Home Start Butser

Last year, as with previous years, the demand for our services remains consistently high. We continue to support parents at an individual level with our trained volunteers across a broad spectrum of behavioural, emotional, health and social challenges and through our Little Steps Family Groups, which were reintroduced during the past year, following the relaxation of government restrictions. During the year we have seen support provided to 100 families.

Home-Start Butser continues to be successful based on our ability to recruit and place experienced, trained volunteers with families who are facing difficulties in their lives. The engagement of Home-Start volunteers with the parents and children makes a real difference in giving families a better start in life. We are therefore pleased to have recruited 14 new volunteers who completed their training course in the last year.

This year, 2021/2022, has been one of our most successful yet with a record number of families supported by utilising accumulated funding reserves which will enable us to continue our expansion, ensuring our service is available throughout our area. We have also been able to participate in three specific initiatives, the Children in Need funded project Ready, Steady, Learn, the Family Links Nurturing Course and After School Clubs. Ready, Steady, Learn aims to promote learning and play in young children, developing their confidence and social skills. The Nurturing course is aimed at supporting parents to understand their parenting approach and nurture confidence in their abilities. In conjunction with the Petersgate Infant School in Clanfield, we have opened the first two groups in our After School Clubs which are proving to be a great success, so much so that we are in discussion with the Petersfield Infant School to set up a group there.

In addition, we were successful in a joint bid to the National Lottery with The Petersfield Counselling Service (PCS) to fund a 'free to user' service that will be of great benefit to some of our families.

We have continued to receive significant support from our local sponsors and evidence of this is to be found in the number of events undertaken in the last year to support our charity. Music & Comedy Night, Burns Night, St Patrick's Nights and the Summer Music & Arts Festival, this year over three-weeks, held in the gardens at the Half Moon in Sheet, displaying much of our local talent.

These sponsors are crucial to our ongoing success and we would like to publicly thank HSB Events Management, specifically Robert Ingram and his team and The Half Moon and their team, InSynch and SRE. The commitment of our sponsors ensures that every penny of your ticket money goes to support the work of Home-Start Butser.

Our thanks also go to the Parish, District and County Councillors who supported us, the PACT Food Bank with whom we partner and all those who donated to the Big Give Christmas Challenge.

The small group of salaried individuals led by Nicola Winter, Scheme Manager, have continued to provide training and support for volunteers as well as maintaining the contact between the volunteers and the families. This group is to be congratulated for its commitment and continuing support to the Trustees and fundraising events as well as meeting all compliance and safeguarding requirements.

From a developmental perspective, the following initiatives deserve special mention:

Long term strategy: The board of Trustees, in conjunction with the scheme manager have developed a plan for growth over the next few years. The plan proposes an increase to the number of families we can support and enables specific attention to be given to projects such as Family Lives Nurturing, Ready, Steady, Learn and the After School Clubs.

Hampshire Schemes: We have continued to work with all the schemes across Hampshire and Home-Start UK to ensure sharing of good practice, access to national fundraising opportunities and more local funding activities.

In governance terms the organisation of Home-Start Butser is in excellent shape. The Board of Trustees currently numbers 10, two below our ideal number.

Home-Start Butser celebrates its 25th anniversary in 2023, we look forward to a successful year expanding our support to families, recruiting and training more volunteers and raising our profile and funds.

Many thanks as ever to the ongoing support from PACT.

The Kings Arms

The aims of the Kings Arms are to facilitate young people to:

- feel positive about themselves
- feel valued as individuals
- be supported to make wise, informed decisions
- have a safe and fun space to meet
- be part of a community to which they contribute to
- have opportunities to talk and discover meaning in life



The Kings Arms survived covid and lockdown, staying open and responsive to the needs of the young people of Petersfield and Alton. Whilst many services closed or slowed down we have been both busy and proactive, with both centres serving hundreds of young people every week. The new 'Journey Project' has taken us into Alton College, serving 16-18 year olds and in partnership with Alton Churches.

Both the communities of Alton and Petersfield have given wonderful support, volunteering help with building maintenance, helping with the various clubs we run, raising funds and getting the message out there that we care for young people. Our staff are all trained in mental health first aid, so when other services have waiting lists of over a year we can step in and provide a listening ear and a caring heart.

Now clubs have been running face to face for some time we are recruiting volunteers to support those clubs. Two volunteers at an after school drop-in club will enable us to double the number of young people who can attend each session. If you would consider volunteering for such a role please drop us an email and we can chat and offer you training to get started. If you have other skills you would like help us with that would be very much appreciated. If you are a part of a local organisation you feel would be interested to know more about the Kings Arms one of our team or a Trustee would be pleased to make a presentation to any group.

I don't know how teenage life was for you but I didn't enjoy those years until my church vicar invited me and others to form a youth group. He allowed us to use a spare room and we met every Monday. Since those days I have always been involved in youth work and personally know it makes a real difference so please consider whether you can give us some of your time.

Staff this year have been remarkable, (as we have come to expect) going well beyond the call of duty and, as visitors often point out, our centres are just like a home! We take this a great compliment. If you would like to visit either centre we shall be open to view when we hold our AGM next year.

My special thanks and appreciation go to our CEO Caroline Aeschliman whose skill at bring everything together and organising, training and fitting everybody in so we can all play to our strengths is wonderful, thank you Caroline. Our deputy manager Mandy May Martin is another bundle of energy and

creativity and spreads joy wherever she goes. Of course I consider every member of staff is amazing and I thank them all.

I wish to express special thanks for all the support given to me and the KA by our Trustees, who are all volunteers and several who have been in this role for many years.

If I had to sum up what the King's Arms stands for I will choose HOPE. With all the mental health stress and the pressure and pain of being a teenager at this time, HOPE is the very best thing we can serve them with. Join me by celebrating the skill, generosity and energy with which the communities of Petersfield and Alton are determined to serve their young people. Another great year, enjoy the report.

PACT Website

<https://pact.org.uk/>

During this year the temporary website pact2.org.uk became the primary website and John Studd handed over to Jan Stuart as webmaster. John remains as the Faith Comment editor. We have now added a FaceBook page for which Steve Field (who is also the Website Monitor) and Jan Stuart are administrators.

There are 11 churches listed on the website, 12 Partnership Groups and 7 other Linked Groups. Each church and group have a page of their own with text, images and links set out by agreement with the webmaster. In addition each page has a link to the church or group's own website (if they have one) and a link to a contact form that goes to someone at that organisation.

A very important aspect of each page design is that each church or group can create a post themselves which will appear on their page. Some of the churches have chosen to use fairly permanent information others use this facility to pass on current information.

Every Church can also post a news item or an event that will appear on the front page of the website.

There have been 3,785 different visitors to the website and between them these visitors have accessed the website 12,430 times this year (to 31st December). There has also been quite a lot of activity on the FaceBook page.

Jan Stuart was joined by Christine Traynier with the two acting as joint webmasters during the year. Christine will be taking over as webmaster at this AGM.

Petersfield Voluntary Care Group



2022 marked coming out of Covid restrictions to the “new normal.” There were enormous pressures on the NHS, which meant that we had to deal with far more last-minute requests, in addition to many more cancellations.

Here are our statistics:

1. We processed 1442 drives.
2. We had 245 drives cancelled, which is 17% of the total.
3. We did 1197 drives.

Reasons for cancellations vary: hospitals changing appointments due to Covid, holidays or sickness of staff; clients finding family to take them; no driver being available.

After the last PACT AGM I was delighted to welcome Ian Traynier as our new Treasurer. He has taken a weight off my shoulders, producing a budget and applying for grants. He also oversaw a new method of calculating drivers' reimbursements starting from 1 May @ 40p per mile. With fuel prices soaring this took the burden off the charity having to bear increases. It is hoped that we may be able to increase this to 45p from 1 January 2023, in line with other groups and the maximum allowed to volunteers by HMRC without tax implications. We welcomed 9 new drivers after our recruitment campaign last January, and 9 retired during the year. We have a total of 36 drivers and 6 shoppers for the housebound.

DBS checking was handed over to Hattie Hughes during the year. Marketing was handled by Sarah Thomas who led us in our participation of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Fete in June, the Churcher's College Community Fayre in July and the Winton House Centre's belated celebration of 40 years at Winton House in September as well as attending Agencies Working Together meetings. We found we needed our own gazebo for outdoor activities, so were successful in receiving a grant from the East Hants Community Chest for a white gazebo with our logo printed on the canopy and our name on three sides of the valance. So we are ready to show our face properly at future events such as the King's Coronation Fete in May 2023.

During the year we documented our relationship with Winton House Centre into a written letter of agreement, signed by both Chairmen. We will in future pay for WHC's services to us, instead of giving them a donation, and for this purpose have applied to the Petersfield Town Council for a perennial grant. We are waiting to hear the outcome which will take a few months.

Other events were a trustees' training day, and regular safeguarding agenda items for training of the committee and members with Christine Poulter. We all received new Hampshire Hospital Parking Permits lasting up to January 2027.

The website was updated with the help of Robbie McCallum, and Malcolm Muggerridge. Our Database Manager, Tim Allen, was ever on hand to help sort out anomalies with our spreadsheet. The WHC Office Volunteer now keeps our Client List page open on the office desk, but in “read-only” format, so that it cannot be changed. Clients have been allocated a number in order to speed up the Office Volunteers' job.

Our group of Coordinators who work from our own homes on a weekly rota basis is now 8, with the addition of Brian Burgess, and retirement of Clive Monk. Others are Mary Evans, Mary Fair, Ric Flatt, Hattie Hughes, Martin Knapp, Roy Knight and me. Jim Cleverly continues as our Financial Administrator for the last 24 years.

We do receive wonderfully grateful comments from our clients, for providing them with transport to their medical appointments and doing their shopping. “You are an angel.” (I don't know about that!) “I don't know what I would have done without you.” We find that driving people is just such a worthwhile voluntary job, and we know that we are appreciated in the town by all the kind support that we have as an organisation.

Alison Gauld
Chairman
2 January 2023