

PACT Partnered and Linked Groups 2015 Annual Reports



Petersfield Town Chaplaincy



In 2011 the PACT committee initiated the setting up of this organisation to train and support local Christians who volunteered to visit and show pastoral support for people who work in and around our town centre. Bishop Christopher and Admiral Paul Hoddinott agreed to be our patrons and the adventure began.

Chaplains have been busy this year and we are particularly pleased to report that we have had a regular Chaplaincy presence on: Chapel Street, Paiges Court, Rams Walk, and the Markets in the Square, where many stall holders have welcomed ongoing support. Town events often request and welcome Chaplains both for their pastoral support role and also as stewards. We always join in with the annual Remembrance Day celebrations and many other festivals festival and market events. Carols through the streets and our Easter walk of witness are also marshalled by chaplains.

John Ide and John Callaghan have been asked to be part of setting up a National organisation of Town and City Chaplaincies and this has been welcomed by over twenty different Chaplaincies who are glad to have the support and encouragement of other Chaplaincies. See the atcc web site: www.atccchaplaincies.org.



We are hoping that many more local Christians would like to join our new training course which will help equip individuals in being 'good news' for those around us, wherever we work or volunteer. As Christians we are always bringing light into situations and our training can help us to feel confident and able to offer help and a warm listening ear.

Please contact John Callaghan at Life Church Office to sign up for the course 01730 231400 or e-mail chaplaincy@pact.org.uk

John Callaghan

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Christian Aid



The Christian Aid committee met 3 times this year, mostly in preparation for Christian Aid Week which took place during May. The committee consists of reps from several of the PACT churches (St Peter's, Life, Steep and the URC) but not all churches are represented. That meant that the collections for Christian Aid week did not cover the whole town this year. Despite this, we were able to raise an impressive £5817 during the week. This was a combination of house-to-house collecting, a flag day in the town centre, a sponsored walk and coffee mornings.

Our first event for this year is the annual Soup Lunch on February 6th at the Methodist Church hall.

Hattie Hughes stood down as co-ordinator in the summer and as yet no one has offered to take up the role. This Christian Aid week each church will organise its own collections.

Hattie Hughes

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The Food Bank

This is a year which has seen considerable changes in the way in which the PACT Food Bank is organised. After nearly five years of shouldering most of the responsibility for the day-to-day running of this project, Brian Edwards decided that it was time for him to retire, which he did at the end of August. This gave PACT the opportunity to express its warm gratitude to Brian for his sterling work and deep personal commitment to the Food Bank during this time. Thanks were also due to the Salvation Army for their willingness to house the Food Bank during that time. Brian's retirement gave the opportunity to reflect on the work of the Food Bank. Sadly, there is no reason to doubt the need for such a project in Petersfield and the generous support that it receives from local people shows that this is widely understood.



In terms of managing the project, however, it was seen that such a busy project is a heavy burden for one person to carry and it was proving impossible to find an individual to take it on. An alternative strategy has now put the whole project in the hands of a group of over 30 volunteers. Seven of these have formed a small managing committee to oversee various aspects of the work – liaison with referral agencies, collection points, and volunteers, training, and the usual chair, secretary and treasurer to the meeting.

We try to ensure that each person covers only one job, and still have room for a couple of extra people on the group.

All volunteers work on a rota system covering both the receiving of donations, the sorting and storing of food and the preparation of food packs and also the distribution of packs to those recommended to the Food Bank by the referral agencies. All the volunteers have received some training in both areas and most people work once or twice a month, both with sorting and storage (Mondays and Wednesdays at the Methodist Church – see below) and with distribution (Tuesdays and Fridays at the Salvation Army). So far this new system has been working well, with a few teething problems, and the general goodwill within the team keeps the show on the road.

There was also an issue about the storage of donated goods. The Salvation Army had found it increasingly difficult to store all that was being donated. Plans are in hand to purchase some additional to the rear of their premises to create a proper store, but this is a long-term project and the need to act was immediate. The Methodist Church has kindly offered some space in the interim and a purpose-built store was created in a corner of the church. This has allowed us to sort donations effectively, to store them so that packs can be made up more easily and "best

before" dates monitored more effectively. Apart from the considerable amount of extra donations which came in from churches' and schools' harvest thanksgivings, the store has by-and-large proved adequate. The logistical problem of passing information and food packs between the two sites is again resolved by goodwill on all sides, though transporting heavy packs remains an issue.

The level of demand for this service has remained fairly constant. It is an emergency service for people in need of food support. At Christmas, however, we invited our referral agencies to offer special vouchers to clients who were not in an emergency situation but nevertheless struggling to feed themselves and their families. This brought in 31 families, who each received a special Christmas pack of enough food for a substantial family meal plus Christmas pudding, mince pies, fancy biscuits and a few toys and gifts as well. Many stayed for coffee too which gave an almost party feel to the morning.

Since the new arrangements came into operation, to the end of 2015, the Food Bank has received 64 referrals consisting of 199 people (104 adults plus 95 children). Since the PACT Food Bank opened, 2513 people (1461 adults and 1052 children) have received food support. The Food Bank continues to operate because of the generous support it receives both in terms of donations and volunteers' time and energy, for both of which we are enormously grateful. It does, of course, draw our attention to the fact that a food bank is sadly necessary in the Britain of 2016, but the demand for the service and the generous response of the local community shows that the need is widely recognised.

David Rice
Chair of the Steering Group

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Home Start Butser

During 2015 we supported 76 families and 171 children, a slight increase from the previous year demonstrating the continued demand for our services. Families are referred for many reasons but a common issue throughout is mental health. One in two of every family supported suffers from mental health issues ranging from depression, anxiety and post-natal depression to post traumatic stress disorder.

In the current climate with so many services being cut and reduced, Home-Start is unique in providing consistent, long term support in the home allowing a relationship of trust to build up and change to be effected. Last year ten children came off the Child Protection Register under Home-Start's watch. More families from diverse cultures are being referred, reflecting the changing local population. Many have no friends or family and are often very isolated. Our volunteers are vital in helping them to integrate into their community.



Despite our work being seen as integral to joined up support for families with young children by professionals across the board, including Health, Children's Services, Children's Centres, Schools and Adult Mental Health, we no longer receive any statutory funding. This means that every penny raised is through fundraising, donations and funding applications. The climate is getting tougher and we were disappointed to be turned down by Children in Need due to oversubscription.

This funding had previously supported our two Family Groups, in Petersfield and Horndean. There is growing demand for a third Family Group in Clanfield where recent housing developments have increased the need for provision for young families. The challenge now is to find other sources of funding in order to carry on providing the Family Groups which offer a valuable, caring and supportive environment.

Although funding is a challenge we continue to strike gold with our volunteers and trustees. This year we ran two Prep Courses and are constantly amazed at the wonderful people who are so willing to offer help to other families going through a critical time. With the launch of a new web site our profile continues to grow and our vision is to develop an Ambassador programme recruiting volunteers to promote our work in all the areas of East Hampshire that we cover. This will enable us to offer more families support, recruit more volunteers and raise more funds to ensure that we can carry on.

All who witness and experience the work of Home-Start become convinced of the necessary and vital role we play. By increasing awareness we trust we will be able to carry on enriching lives in the local community.

Nicola Winter

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In Ministry to Children – IMC



In Ministry to Children (IMC) is a British fund-raising charity that partners IMiC, based in Colombia, South America. IMC began in 1995 in response to the plight of street children in Bogota.

Over the years, IMiC's vision has developed to become very community based and cares for children in two very deprived suburbs of Bogota by providing food and education and coming alongside families in need.

IMiC has recently begun in new initiative in the north of Colombia. La Guajira is a poor, drought stricken area. IMiC has introduced a feeding programme and is looking to provide longer term assistance.

In the UK, IMC has a board of trustees who meet regularly to review and plan. IMC is particularly active in the Petersfield area and has run a number of fund-raising activities: a quiz night, a music night and a Fun Day in Rams Walk in June.

The IMC board sends out a significant sum of money each month to support IMiC's work. The trustees are always looking for way to increase the funding they can transfer. If you would like to contribute or become involved in the work of IMC/IMiC, please contact us.



Charles Farr



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The King's Arms Youth Project



We are delighted to report that the King's Arms has had a brilliant year. We now have hundreds of young people receiving a wide range of services. Autistic children, who all have special needs, have their own clubs, activities and outings. They are

supported by volunteers and highly trained KA leaders. Each individual receiving specific appropriate help. Young carers are in a particularly vulnerable position always being on duty, so we are pleased to offer several clubs where they can let their hair down and just enjoy being young people, whilst being in a safe caring environment.

Our manager Caroline Lacklison has built a strong team of volunteers and nine paid staff. The services offered by KA seem to ever increase as we seek to move with the changing needs of young people in this locality.

Finding funding is almost a full time job and we always have to seek short term grants, this is particularly disruptive if we are unable to provide a service we think is essential. However, the Churches and local Christians continue to be a consistent and generous support. We are also grateful for prayer support and appearance in magazine and newsletters, we should always be happy to give short talks about our work.

If anyone reading this wishes to support us by volunteering in any capacity – helping with supervision in clubs – driving –administration – publicity – fundraising – prayers – finance; please contact us:

caroline@thekingsarmsyouthproject.co.uk
telephone: 01730 231292

Caroline

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Messy Church



Messy Church continued in 2015 though some months there was lower attendance than in previous years. However, the number of young and non-churched families attending has grown. We have contact with 50 families on a regular basis via Messy Church.

A massive "thank you" is given from both Emma and myself to the support we get from all the volunteers. Our "creative" team are amazing and will try their hands at all the wonderful craft that Emma dreams up! The kitchen team, led by John and Liz, who sort out the drinks and the meal and the wonderful wash up team. The tidy up team, the set up team and "those who don't quite fit into a team but are Messy helpers"! A special thank you goes to the young people who have made a commitment to help and come straight from school to help... and then they bring their friends too! Without the support and encouragement of all the volunteer helpers Messy wouldn't happen each month.

We are so thankful to the support from the Church leaders who come along and deliver the talk – not always easy when children have horses to ride or light sabres to fight with!

I am always happy to talk to new volunteers whether to help with the crafts or to come in and help to serve the meal and tidy up.

Helen Mason and Emma Dean

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Prayer Impact

Prayer Impact started in early 2004 and groups continued to meet in order to pray **with** their neighbours, for **their** neighbours throughout 2015.

If you **are** a member of an active group, if you **were** a member of an active group, if you'd like to **join** a group or you'd like to **form** a group please contact John@Studd-mail.org



Many people were encouraged by learning about the Neighbourhood Prayer Network at the Prayer Meeting in Wembley in 2012.

This aims to see every street in the UK covered in Christian prayer. They hope to encourage as many Christians as possible to not only pray, but get to know their neighbours.

Neighbourhood Prayer Network have produced some excellent material to help achieve their aim and you will also find lots of information on the Neighbourhood Prayer Network web site: www.neighbourhoodprayer.net.

If you are interested in becoming involved in of Prayer Impact please sign up to the Prayer Impact email group so that I can keep you informed of our activities.

John Studd

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Petersfield Voluntary Care Group

During the past year the Group has steadily continued its work and several letters have been received from clients expressing their appreciation of the service we offer. Some of our longest serving drivers have "retired" during the year and we hope they are enjoying a well earned rest from trips to doctors' surgeries and various hospitals. We are so grateful for their past commitment to helping our clients. Happily new volunteer drivers have come forward to replace them, so that the number on our list has remained fairly constant. However, we are always pleased to hear of people who are interested in the possibility of driving for us, even if they can only spare one day a month.

Whilst the majority of requests from our clients are for journeys either to local surgeries or to the Q.A. Hospital at Cosham or St. Mary's Hospital in Portsmouth, we sometimes receive requests to go further afield, to places such as Chichester, Guildford, Frimley Park or Basingstoke, and we are happy to do that if one of our drivers is available.

Car parking at hospitals has been in the news recently and some of our drivers have encountered problems. It is good to know that the Good Neighbours Support Service, with which our Group is affiliated, is negotiating with the various hospital authorities in an attempt to try and resolve these problems. We are grateful to that organisation (which operates from Portsmouth) for the help and support they give us in various ways.

We hope that the troubles with the N.H.S. will gradually be resolved and that they will in no way interfere with our service to our clients in the coming year.

Jennifer Robinson

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Social Concerns Group

The social concerns group is a think tank with representatives from each of the PACT churches. Any issues to which the churches may respond can be discussed and passed through PACT to the churches for action. The food bank reported to PACT through this group until Brian retired in August last year, and now operates with a committee independently.

The Christmas Day Lunch also operates with its own committee now, but several members of the Social Concerns group represent their churches on the CDL committee. The group still provides some useful input to the process of Easter and Christmas card distribution. At each meeting time is given for any relevant issues to be discussed.

Christine Tully
Secretary

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The Soup Run

It's hard to believe but the Soup Run will be two years old in March. I'm sure that everyone who has taken part will agree, it's been a very interest time and we have met a wide range of different people.

We now have 10 active volunteers who do at least one duty per month, and either Brian or Linda (Salvation Army) are willing to stand in if we are ever short of the three people needed to fulfil the Risk Assessment.

Marika still provides us with fresh homemade soup every week, which always goes down well with those who join us.

We do have a regular four or five people who join us most weeks, all have different reasons why they come, but are always made very welcome. In addition to this we get the odd surprise visitor, including visitors from abroad who are always fascinated by what we do.

There are two homeless people in Petersfield at the moment, they did join us on the Soup Run just before Christmas, but they don't attend on regular basis. From reports we have however, they seem to be coping OK as it would seem that quite a few people are providing them with food and money.

As for the future, we have just renewed the Licence with the council for another six month, and have decided to continue doing the Soup Run while we have the volunteers to do it, people are joining us for food, drink or a chat.

Peter Reed
Soup Run Co-ordinator

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The PACT Web Site: www.pact.org.uk

The PACT web site was launched at Pentecost in 2009 and has notified people of future events and provided reports of past events.

The number of visits to the web site continues to increase each year with 2015 seeing in excess of 13,000 visits each month. The total number of visits during the year was 170,059 with the maximum being 16,777 in December and the minimum being 13,065 in February. The average number of visits was 14,172 per month.

In February the site passed the 1,000 page mark.

The Messy Church church page features a list of all the meals that have been prepared at Messy Church sessions since January 2009 and also makes available several recipes for downloading – see: www.pact.org.uk/MessyChurch

Visits to the PACT web site 2015



A key feature of the web site is the Email Group - visitors to the site are invited to join one or more of the 39 email groups featured on the site. Then, whenever an event is planned, or when there is something to report on an event that has taken place, you will receive an email which contains a link to that event or report.

If you are involved in running a group please encourage your members to join their email group then let the Web Master know what is planned, or has happened, then he can email everyone - this is a very easy way to keep your members informed.

It is not uncommon for events to be planned and/or take place without the PACT web master being directly informed; when this happens an opportunity to publicise the event and gain more support is lost.

In a variation of a road safety sign the web master asks you to **"Think Website"** when you are planning an event! If you organise any events please let the webmaster know well before the event takes place and, if there is a follow up report, send details of that, and photographs, too: **webmaster@pact.org.uk**.

It is easy to join one or more email group - just visit the **Subscribe to Emails** page by clicking on the link at the bottom of the main menu at the left of the screen, enter your name and email address and then tick as many email groups as you wish.

The groups are listed below in alphabetic order:

Please note that some groups are no longer active.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. All Saint's Steep | 21. PACT Web Site |
| 2. Alpha | 22. Petersfield Counselling Service |
| 3. Causeway Prospects | 23. Petersfield Housing Association |
| 4. Chaplaincy | 24. Petersfield Methodist Church |
| 5. Christian Aid | 25. Positive Parenting |
| 6. Christian Comment (Faith Comment) | 26. Prayer Impact |
| 7. Christian Ecology | 27. Social Concerns |
| 8. Christian Youth Team | 28. Society of Special Needs |
| 9. Christmas Day Lunch | 29. St Laurence Catholic Church |
| 10. Events and Happenings | 30. St Mary Magdalen Sheet |
| 11. Froxfield Churches | 31. St Mary's Buriton |
| 12. Holiday Club | 32. St Peter's Petersfield |
| 13. Homestart Butser | 33. Tearfund |
| 14. IMC - In Ministry to Children | 34. Theophostic Prayer Ministry |
| 15. Immanuel Approach Prayer Ministry | 35. The King's Arms |
| 16. Life Church Petersfield | 36. The Salvation Army |
| 17. Messy Church | 37. The United Reformed Church |
| 18. PACT Committee Minutes | 38. Unity Book Shop |
| 19. PACT Lent Programme | 39. Voluntary Care Group |
| 20. PACT Newsletter | |

If you haven't yet joined an email group then please do so - and if you organise any events please let the webmaster know well before the event takes place and, if there is a follow up report, send details of that too: **webmaster@pact.org.uk**.