

Faith Comment published in the Petersfield Post

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Prayers and Ballots

Tomorrow, a few hours after voting begins, Christians from churches in and round Petersfield will begin a prayer vigil. From 10:00 am to 10:00 pm a succession of members of PACT - Petersfield Area Churches Together - will be going into St Peter's in the centre of Petersfield to pray for the candidates, the electoral officials, the voters and all aspects of the General Election.

Christians in Petersfield have already taken an active part in the electoral process: in addition to tomorrow's prayer vigil, on the 22 April a hustings was organised by PACT in St Peter's. This meeting was chaired by Rev'd Rob Dewing, Vicar of St Mary Magdalen, Sheet and the candidates were asked questions posed by local Christians.

Paul, writing to the Romans in the first century, encouraged them to be responsible members of society: "Be a good citizen. All governments are under God. Insofar as there is peace and order it's God's order. So live responsibly as a citizen". (Romans chapter 13, from The Message).

More recently, the Archbishop of York, Dr John Sentamu said "Christians have a duty to God, a duty to their nation, a duty to their neighbours and voting is one of these duties.

Let us all do our duty tomorrow, and after due consideration, cast our votes. Then, if you have the time, join the Christians praying in St Peter's!