

PETERSFIELD AREA CHURCHES TOGETHER
Co-ordinating Committee Meeting
MINUTES



Meeting on 4th December 2024, 7:30 pm at 12 Station Road

1. Welcome, Bible reading and prayer

A bible reading from St Luke 21: 25-28

2. Attendance

Present: Fr Peter Hollins, Christine Tully, Bruce Deans, Christine Traynier,
Carolyn Barton, Jenny Ballinger, Ivan Huntington-Thresher

Apologies: Henrietta Meters, David Musket, Belinda Shaw. John Callaghan, Amanda Greenlee,
Suzanne Tong

3. Items for AOB

The Kings Arms (John Callaghan)

Materials for World Day of Prayer

The Makin Report and Safeguarding (Bruce Deans)

4. Minutes of the last meeting & matters arising

Naomi was concerned she had 3 Faith Comments printed in a row. Mike Gibson reported that a change of staff at the newspaper may have meant things were not running smoothly at present.

5. Treasurer's report

Treasurer reported that the printing of cards cost the same as last year.

The next big expenditure was the Christmas Lunch but this did not look like costing PACT very much as donations were very good.

Two of the churches had not yet paid their contribution to PACT for the year.

6. PACT Website

Progress continues on restoration work. Christine has managed to retrieve minutes and faith comment articles from the old website. The minutes from all years back to 2012 together with AGM reports are now on the website.

Christine has retrieved all the Faith Comment articles from the old website 2009-2019 and is in the process of adding these to the website.

Christine heard from John Studd that he had more faith comment articles. They are due to meet up but this was postponed as John was installing a new computer system.

7. PACT Christmas Cards

Due to unfortunate circumstances and print deadline an old design was used. These have been produced and are now ready for delivery, which should be imminent. Christine Traynier reported she had already received hers over a week ago.

8. Report on visit to Restoration House Meeting to consider membership of PACT

Fr Peter and Bruce attended a meeting. Bruce reported that he enjoyed meeting them. He was concerned about the lack of paperwork showing their constitution, financial systems etc. There was nothing to show them as a bespoke body or entity. They worked with the Links charity. They work as an informal group of Christians following an Evangelical framework. Fr Peter reported that they seem to be a stable group. He wondered why they wanted to join PACT. It was generally felt that they wanted greater recognition in the town that this would bring. It was generally felt that the greatest obstacle was the lack of paperwork meant there was no safeguarding in place which could cause problems in the future. It was agreed that evidence of safeguarding would be requested.

9. Carols in The Square

This is scheduled for the 19th December.

Mike Harris (Salvation Army) will speak at the event.

Carolyn Barton will lead the intercessions. Fr Peter will provide them.

Mince Pie donations are requested on the day.

Volunteers required to help in the kitchen.

10. Any other business

The Kings Arms is going to have a deficit of £30K this year following reduced funding from local government. John was hoping to put an article in St Laurence Parish Magazine but was too late for the Christmas edition. They are grateful for the donations received from churches but realise that most of them have demands on their resources so wondered if individual parishioners may be able to donate a little. If not money, volunteers are always needed too.

The materials for the World Day of Prayer have arrived and are with Helen Mason, the organiser.

Bruce circulated a review of the Makin Report into the case of John Smyth QC. He said it was not nice reading. He is always very strong on safeguarding and had felt the Church of England were, but this had not been dealt with as it should be. Fr Peter reported that when setting up safeguarding procedures in the past he found the Church of England very helpful. Any doubt of safeguarding issues should be referred to the safeguarding office at the diocese.

Bruce says he has drawn these key learning points for The Makin Report.

- Safeguarding comes first.
- Everyone needs to be on it, it is everyone's responsibility.
- Good policies and processes should be in place.
- Embedding a culture of safeguarding in everyone's DNA.
- Victims matter more than institutions.
- Be curious – don't be affected/distracted by status/power/deference
- Never be alone with children and young people

11. Future meetings / Events

19th December - Carols in the Square

15th January - 7:30pm PACT AGM in St Laurence Hall

19th January - Christian Unity Service 3:30 pm URC church

12. Closing prayer

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.