



Petersfield Area Churches Together

11 Churches - many shades of worship - but only 1 God!

September 2009 Newsletter

Thoughts on the Lord's prayer

“...Can we say ‘hallowed be Your name’

if the One who is called by that name is not holy to us?

Can we say ‘Your kingdom come’

if we are unwilling to give up our own sovereignty

and accept the righteous reign of God?

Can we say ‘Your will be done’

if we are unwilling or resentful of having it in our lives?”

(M.W. Gass; to be continued)

Hello  , I hope you had a great summer. God bless, **Susanne Irving**

New Alpha Course

Saturday, 5th September at 7.30pm (introductory supper); **then Thursdays, from 24th September at 7.30pm (Petersfield Methodist Church)**: For details contact Peter Barnett on member@barnett123.wanadoo.co.uk. Topics: 24th Sep: Who is Jesus? ; 1st Oct: Why did Jesus die? ; 8th Oct: How can we have faith? ; 15th Oct: Why and how do I pray? ; 22nd Oct: Why and how do I read the Bible? ; 5th Nov.: How does God guide us? ; 12th Nov: Who is the Holy Spirit? ; 14th Nov: Alpha Away Day - What does the Holy Spirit do / How can I be filled with the Holy Spirit? (Venue TBC); 19th Nov.: How can I resist evil?

Tearfund supporters meeting

Tuesday, 8th September from 7.30pm (St Peter's Hall): The focus will be on Uganda. Ruth Markby will be talking about experiences from her visit there in June this year with Mission Direct, and we will also see a short Tearfund video "Make Life Flow" which features the same area in Uganda. We look forward to seeing as many of you as can come.

24/7 Prayer

Sunday, 20th September at 11am – Sunday, 27th September at 9.30am (St. Peter's Church) [followed by a United Service at St. Peter's]: It is hoped that individual churches will undertake to provide people for one day, split into hour long sessions of prayer. Everyone is to be encouraged to go into the church whenever they wish during the week to pray. It is proposed that the church will be locked between the hours of 10.00 pm to 5.00 am with a mobile telephone in the church at all times so that those taking part during the night can arrange access. It is proposed that Friday night should be a youth night but it will be necessary for anyone supervising to have a CRB check. All churches will need to provide a volunteer leader to organise their time and Stewart is to prepare a leaflet explaining the proposals and parameters.

Participate in the "Greening Petersfield" Campaign

"We resolve to renounce waste and oppose extravagance in personal living, clothing and housing, travel and church buildings. We also accept the distinction between necessities and luxuries, creative hobbies and empty status symbols, modesty and vanity, occasional celebrations and normal routine, and between the service of God and slavery to fashion. Where to draw the line requires conscientious thought and decision by us, together with members of our family." (Lausanne committee for World Evangelisation 1980 The Evangelical Commitment to Simple Lifestyle) But that is just the beginning – in these days of galloping climate change it's important that as Christians we are seen to be pulling our weight. Because we know how much God loves the world, as his stewards we need to get serious about how we can help. If we become active and reduce our emissions, and also adapt, we will be able to manage this situation. If we take no action we will have grave problems. We have serious choices to make for our own future (yes the changes are happening NOW) and the future for our young people who will experience living and working in the next 50 years. Greening Petersfield is trying to come up with some answers, such as: growing more local food, reducing plastic bag use, encouraging more recycling, giving advice on insulation. There are plans to use part of the watermeadows near Tescos as 'community supported agriculture', something to bring people of all ages and abilities together. The God we believe in is one who protects children, empowers the elderly and walks with working men and women (see "The Isaiah Vision" by Raymond Fung). Let us join hands with the Greening campaign and show them that we care too. Please pray, and if possible give practical support by joining in. Further info from: Patsy Robinson 266421 or www.greeningpetersfield.org.uk or Petersfield@greening-campaign.co.uk

Advance notice: Christian Ecology Group meeting

Saturday, 10th October from 9.30am-noon (St. Peter's Hall): Look out for further details.

Support the Unity Bookshop

Continue to get your books, bibles, cards and worship CDs at 15 Folly Lane GU31 4AU. If an item is not in stock, they are more than happy to order it for you. Tel 01730 262572.

Spiritual food for thought

"When we are not under pressure and stress we should be praying so that we might be shored up and defended against the pressures that will come. Until we come to the place of prayer, we will never find release from stress. If we treat prayer as just a religious ritual or option, then we are not truly living in dependence upon God. Prayer is the soul of man crying out in inadequacy to a God who is adequate, a God who is able to do what man cannot." (David Jeremiah)

Any items for inclusion in the **OCTOBER** PACT Newsletter to reach me by Monday, **28th September**
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The newsletter can be viewed/downloaded onlinewww.pact.org.uk/pact_newsletter_intro.asp