



## Petersfield Area Churches Together

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

*October 2009 Newsletter*

**Thoughts on the Lord's prayer**

**"Can we say 'on earth as it is in heaven'  
unless we are truly ready to give ourselves to His service  
so life can be on earth as it is in heaven?  
Can we say 'Give us this day our daily bread'  
without expending honest effort for it,  
or by ignoring the genuine needs of our fellow man?"**

(M.W. Gass; to be continued)

*Hello  , I hope you have been blessed and will continue to be blessed by the recent week of prayer for church unity and for Petersfield. God bless, **Susanne Irving***

### **Christian Ecology Group meeting**

**Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> October from 9.30am-noon (St. Peter's Hall):** "The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world and all that lives thereon. For the Lord founded it within His Universe, held securely on its orbit." (based on Psalm 24, verses 1-2) In sympathy with the growing concern for the ecology of God's world, another public meeting has been arranged under the auspices of PACT and in collaboration with Greening Petersfield to explain aspects of the current situation and means of mitigating the projected consequences of climate change while maintaining the economy. I was impressed by the quality of Oona Muirhead's authoritative PowerPoint presentation at the Greening Campaign Conference held in the Petersfield Festival Hall last May and took the opportunity to invite her to address a public meeting. Timed within the celebration of "Creationtide" on Saturday 10 October, 2009 we have the opportunity to hear a senior executive of the South East England Development Agency which has responsibility for leading this region towards a "green" economy. I am pleased to recommend Oona Muirhead CBE and encourage all those concerned for the future of the Planet to attend. Gerald Druce (01730) 266107

### **Christmas Shoe Boxes**

**Sunday, 11th October at 11am (Bulmer House):** Angie Nelson will be speaking about the work of 'Samaritans Purse' at the Petersfield Evangelical Church morning service. Gift filled Children's Shoe Boxes are sent to children abroad each Christmas. She has travelled abroad and seen the many happy children who have received them. All are welcome to join our service and hear about the Samaritans Purse work.

### **In Ministry to Children Documentary**

**Tuesday, 13th October 7pm for 7.30pm start (TPS Studio):** Another chance to see this award-winning documentary. Tickets £3.50. All money will support IMC's work with children in Colombia.

### **Palestinian Solidarity Campaign**

**Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> October from 7.30-9.30pm (United Reformed Church Hall):** Rachel Nassif will share of her personal experiences of living under occupation in the West Bank and Suleiman Sharkh of his family's experience during the Gaza invasion. Rachel was an ecumenical accompanier taking part in a World Council of Churches programme in the West Bank from Jan-April '09. Suleiman was born and brought up in Gaza, and now teaches in Southampton. This is a chance to hear about life in Israel/Palestine first-hand, and to discuss one of the main issues facing us today: the Arab Israeli conflict. Entrance free. All welcome. Coffee/tea provided. For more information, contact Maggie on [maggiebp@freeuk.com](mailto:maggiebp@freeuk.com)

### **Christmas Day Lunch**

Since 2001 some people in our Petersfield churches, who expect to find themselves alone while others are gathering as families, have arranged a lunch on Christmas Day itself. This means we are also able to invite others in a similar situation to join us, as guests, to enjoy a meal and a few sociable hours together. With help from our friends, we share the work of planning the event, including the food, and offering transport to anyone who needs it. We have usually catered for around 50 people - quite a big party! For some of them this is one of the highlights of their year. For the last 8 years a small group has done all the forward planning, meeting several times during October to December, as well as coming on the day itself. While 'new blood' has been recruited over the years, a few stalwarts have been involved from the beginning and (understandably) would welcome a rest. We are, therefore, looking for people (singles or couples) without family commitments who would be prepared to take on some responsibility for ensuring this much appreciated event continues. Please note: we do not want to interfere with any family reunions. If you think you might like to get involved with please contact Joyce Perry Tel: 263502 or e-mail: [joyce@perryweb.plus.com](mailto:joyce@perryweb.plus.com)

### **Advance notice: Concert in Aid of Cecilysfund**

**Saturday, 14th November 7.30pm for 8.00pm (TPS Studio):** Jonathan Thompson is putting on a concert to help educate orphaned children in Zambia ([www.cecilysfund.org](http://www.cecilysfund.org)). Tickets are £8 in advance, £10 on the day and £5 for under 14s. Box Office 01730 234 641

### **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**

During the 24/7 prayer week, I noticed a picture in St. Peter's depicting Jesus stretching one hand out to Peter and pointing with His other hand towards heaven. Jesus is the perfect bridge builder between God and people, but as His followers we too are called to build bridges. As we help out in our community practically, let's not forget to also point people to God. (Susanne Irving) – If you have any thoughts/insights you would like to share with the PACT community, please e-mail them to me. I'm sure there is a wealth of insight here in Petersfield, so that there is no need to quote authors from further afield...

Any items for inclusion in the **NOVEMBER** PACT Newsletter to reach me by Monday, **26<sup>th</sup> October**

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