



Petersfield Area Churches Together

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

January 2011 Newsletter

Hello , may you and your family be blessed richly this coming year and get to know God better with every passing day. God bless, Susanne Irving

Information evening about new feed-in tariff

Tuesday, 4th January 2011 at 7:30-9:00pm (St Peters Hall): Everyone is entitled to take part in this government initiative but many people are confused by the different 'deals' available. The Greening Campaign want to provide you with unbiased facts, so that you will be able to know which offers to grab and which offers to avoid. This event will focus on the Photovoltaic system and feed-in tariff but will also touch on the other forms of renewable energy affected by the tariff and the Renewable Heat Incentive expected to come in next year. We will have a factsheet you can take away. Donations on the door.

Cafe Church: New year – distress or de-stress?

Sunday, 9th January from 5:00-7:00pm (Costa Coffe, Ramswalk): Cafechurch is a place to talk, in a relaxed atmosphere, about big issues that affect us all, and discuss them from a variety of viewpoints, including the Christian one. Programme: From 5:00pm coffee; 5:20pm chat; 6:30pm: chill. Meetings take place on the 2nd Sunday of every month. Upcoming topics: Making good decisions (13th Feb); 400 years on – does the bible still speak our language (13th Mar); marriage – why do we do it? (10th April) We welcome all from the PACT churches to come along and bring a friend!

Next Tearfund meeting

Tuesday, 11th January at 7:30pm (St Peters Hall): Campaigning seems to be on the increase, but what are the important issues, and how to go about it helpfully and effectively? Our next Tearfund meeting will be on this subject, and Helen Heather from the Tearfund Campaigns Team will be explaining their work. All are welcome. Please bring your friends. We look forward to seeing you. Ken Tottle and Jennie Matthews

New Alpha course

Wednesday, 19th January at 7pm (Bulmer House): The course will be hosted by Life Church Petersfield. The course will be running through to April 6th, with an introductory evening on 19th January. This is a wonderful way of introducing people to Christianity and how Jesus can change our lives. If you, or anyone you know, would be interested in finding out more, please contact Richard Bull on 01730 893394 or email alpha@lifechurchpetersfield.org.uk

Introduction of new PACT chairman

Sunday, 16th January at 5pm (St Peters): John Callaghan will take over from Jean Dowdswell as chairman of PACT.

Advance notice: Helping Petersfield take shape for 2011 census on 27th March

Sunday, 27th March: The census statistics help East Hampshire District Council to correctly target funding and public services (such as education, transport, schools and housing) where needed.

That's why it's crucial that all residents take part (and it's compulsory). In March your 2011 Census questionnaire will arrive by post and can be returned using a pre-paid envelope or can be completed online via a secure internet site. The questionnaire should take around ten minutes. Your personal information is kept confidential for 100 years. We will be recruiting Census Coverage Survey and Non Compliance staff in early 2011. You can register your interest for these jobs on the website. For more info on the roles, dates of employment and pay rates, please visit www.censusjobs.co.uk.

Advance notice: Cornish Coach Holiday at Treloyhan Manor (near St. Ives)

We leave on Saturday, 2nd July 2011. The cost includes half board accommodation for 7 nights, return coach travel from the Methodist Church, Station Road, Petersfield, and 5 full day excursions.

Entrance fees and gratuities extra. For further info, contact Gordon Churchill on 260454 - bookings MUST be made direct to the hotel on 01736 796240.

Climate Change and Christian Faith CD

The PACT Christian Ecology Group has a copy of this CD available for short-term loan. To borrow it, phone Gerald Druce on 01730 266107 giving your name and contact details.

Volunteers wanted for Kingdom Kids Christian Club at Herne Junior School

The club meets on Tuesday lunch times between 12:15 and 13:10. If you are at all interested in joining us, please could you let Alison Udall know on 262886.

Spiritual food for thought:

"It was a high risk strategy choosing shepherds...They had a reputation for taking their master's sheep off into a foreign country, selling a few and coming home and putting it down to "breakages"!... How remarkable and yet how typically counter-cultural are the ways of God. He chooses the lowly and the despised to tell the good news of the coming saviour... It is one of the reasons that makes me convinced of the historicity of the birth narratives in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. Nobody would make this sort of stuff up! ... In choosing shepherds he demonstrates that there is no one beyond the pale of his love and grace... Nobody would place a newborn baby in an animal feeding trough – in a manger. Why? Because that's an exceedingly dangerous place to put a newborn baby for undiscerning cattle to sniff and to bite... But here in this manger we have yet another hint of the new world that is coming. Just as the wolf lying with the lamb and the lion lying with the ox are counter-nature and signs of the new world so too the fact that a baby can lie sleeping in an animal feeding trough is also a sign of a new relationship within nature in the new world that is coming. The image of the baby in a manger tells us that Christ will inaugurate a new kingdom in which the relationships are radically different not just between different members of the human family but between the human family and the animal world and indeed the whole of creation." (Bishop James Jones)

Any items for inclusion in the **FEBRUARY** PACT Newsletter to reach me by **Monday, 24th January.**

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