



## Petersfield Area Churches Together

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

*September 2011 Newsletter*

*Hello* , hope you and your family had an encouraging summer break. God bless, Susanne Irving

### **Cafe Church: How can we help people with debt?**

**Sunday, 11th September from 5:15 pm -7:00 pm (Costa Coffee, Ramswalk):** Cafechurch is a place to talk, in a relaxed atmosphere, about big issues that affect us all, and discuss them after hearing an expert view and a Christian viewpoint/real life story. Programme: From 5:15pm coffee; 5:20 pm chat; 6:30 pm: chill. Topic on 9<sup>th</sup> October: Do humans have rights?

### **Ceilidh in aid of Winton House**

**Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> September at 7:30 pm (Community Centre):** Entry £10 (includes Ploughmans supper). Bar available. Beginners and non-dancers welcome. Tickets available from the office 18 High Street, Telephone: 01730 266 046, E-mail: [info@wintonhousecentre.org.uk](mailto:info@wintonhousecentre.org.uk)

### **Tearfund meeting**

**Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> September at 7:30 pm (Petersfield Church Hall):** There is a clash of dates between our next Tearfund meeting normally on the first Tuesday of September and the installation of the new Methodist Minister in Petersfield. I know that a significant number of us would like to support the Methodists on that occasion, and so I have postponed our next Tearfund meeting to Tuesday Sept 20th. I hope this will not inconvenience anyone.

Further to the circular sent about Tearfund's exciting new initiative, some of us were able to attend an introductory meeting on this at Cosham Baptist Church last Saturday. It was inspirational as we heard from two African leaders about an approach based on envisioning and empowering local churches to bring about transformation. By working through the local church, individuals gain hope and see their lives transformed, the congregation comes together in tackling their immediate needs, then they reach out into the surrounding community and see that transformed, too. It sounds too good to be true, but we have the opportunity to subscribe to a project in Africa, Asia or Latin America, and then we get monthly news plus quarterly videos showing us how the situation unfolds. It will not all be ideal - it will include each obstacle and problem as it occurs, but it will be real. The intention is for this approach to spread everywhere, including our own country. The approach is already being adopted by other organisations, so why not sign up and be in the vanguard? Your subscription will not only be helping some of the poorest people but will also be helping us all to understand God's Church in action. More details can be found in Teartimes, Summer 2011, at: <http://see.tearfund.org/en/>, or contact me on 01730-233769 and I can show you DVDs and other material on this subject.

### **Advance notice: Engage**

**Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> October from 8.00 pm - 9.30 pm (Petersfield Festival Hall):** A town worship event hosted by Life Church Petersfield and supported by all the Petersfield Area Churches. Worship old and new. Worship lead by Beacon. With guests from Colombia.

## Town Centre Chaplains wanted

As part of the church we want to express Christ's love by encouraging the people who work, shop or are entertained in Petersfield. Chaplains complement, supplement and work closely with occupational health and human resources within the company environment. The basic role of the chaplain is to care for the individuals within the company and to care for the organisation itself. A chaplain is in a unique position because he or she is totally independent and is not required to report in detail what they do and who they see:

- They make themselves available to people who need someone to talk to in confidence.
- Through regular visits, they become aware of stresses and strains in the life in the organisation and try to help staff at all levels by being a critical friend.
- Chaplains pray regularly for the workforce and for the situations and members of staff they are involved with.
- They get alongside staff in the working environment in a way that does not interfere with a person's normal work pattern.
- They visit on a regular basis, at times when staff are available. In this way, they become a familiar friend.
- Chaplains do not evangelise but witness to God's love for all people regardless of colour or creed.
- Their work is totally confidential.

If you are interested to be part of this exciting new initiative, please sign up to find out more and to attend two training sessions: [chair@pact.org.uk](mailto:chair@pact.org.uk)

## Spiritual food for thought:

*"The Bible is not an owner's manual with rules to be followed nor a file of proof texts to wage doctrinal wars. It is the story of God making his reality known in the brokenness of our world. It doesn't end with a book called Revelation, but with a person – Jesus himself!" (Wayne Jacobsen)*

Any items for inclusion in the **OCTOBER PACT** Newsletter to reach me by  
**Monday, 26th September**

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