



Petersfield Area Churches Together

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

September 2012 Newsletter

Hello, I hope you enjoyed the summer break. God bless, Susanne Irving

Save the Christmas Lunch – very urgent request

On Christmas Day people who are on their own come together to share Christmas lunch. 80 people attended last year, as well as meals being delivered to the housebound. If PACT cannot find a Co-ordinator for this very special event it will NOT go ahead this year. What skills would you need? Enthusiasm, enjoy working with people, good organiser, friendly, creative, able to organise others. Interested? Contact Hillary Bonney on 01730 266 900 or e-mail hilarybonney@btinternet.com. **A full handover from previous organisers will be given, as well as working with a team of existing volunteers. The role could be filled by two people.** Hillary: "It is not rocket science and we can provide the necessary help for someone who is perhaps alone themselves this Christmas and can give flexible time to take on this role between September and December and of course on Christmas Day. The reward would be immense! Time is of the essence I feel as we have had no response from any of the PACT churches thus far. I am spreading the net wider into the Community via Community First, Winton House and Petersfield Post."

Exploring the whole gospel for the whole church for the whole of life (Lecture by Krish Kandiah)

Friday, 7th September from 7pm (drinks) for 7.30pm (Greatham Primary School): All welcome. Free entry. For further info, contact Nigel Halliday on 01730 893073 or Kate Wilson on 01730 231318

Cafe Church : Caring for our elderly – who cares?

Sunday, 9th September from 5:15-7:00pm (Costa Coffe, Ramswalk): Future topics: 14th October: Is faith out of date?; 11th November: "Force for good?" The role of the military today

Charity crafts fair in aid of Home-Start Butser and The Rosemary Foundation

Saturday, 22nd September, 10am – 3pm (Petersfield Methodist Church): There will be lots of different crafts including cards, jewellery, photography and wood-turning. There will also be an art exhibition by the Art Group, a spinning demonstration, other displays and a visit from Furby the owl! Refreshments and Ploughman's lunches will be available. Admission is free but donations for the charities are welcome. I am hoping we can also have a garden produce stall, so if anyone has excess fruit or vegetables growing and would like to donate it to a good cause please contact Penny or David Symonds on 01730 301182. All proceeds from the day will be shared between the charities.

PACT "Engage" – Advance notice

Thursday, 25th October, from 7.30pm (Festival Hall): Come and hear all about the Praise Bus from singer Juliet Nasuuna, who was on board for much of its journey round the country ahead of the Olympic torch. Juliet runs Project Shalom in Uganda for orphans and vulnerable children and will be telling us about her ministry. Let's enjoy worship together and give Juliet strong Petersfield support.

Town Centre Chaplains

You may already have heard how successful this new initiative has been. It is supported by representatives across the PACT churches and it may be that you feel you would like to be part of the Chaplaincy yourself.

To remind you, Chaplaincy is an opportunity to express Christ's love by encouraging the people who work, shop or are entertained in Petersfield, 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 of 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 of all faiths or none and regardless of nationality or background.
- Their work is totally confidential.

If you are interested to find out more about this brilliant initiative and possibly attend the two training sessions (due to start early in October) please contact: chaplaincy@pact.org.uk

Book by local author: The Bridge (by Monica Ditmas of St Mary's Buriton)

Canon Alan Wilkinson writes, "Monica's short and readable book The Bridge skilfully constructs a method by which evangelicals and liberals might understand each other better. Christians are deeply divided about the authority of scripture, how it is to be accepted and interpreted, as is well shown in the current bitter and destructive debates about the role of women and same-sex relationships. But these are far from being the only areas of dispute. There is disagreement about the status of the Bible text itself... Monica's loving concern for understanding between Christians shines forth from every page. The Bridge would make excellent material for study groups. It would fulfil her hopes and prayers if these groups included those who come from various traditions. She has worked hard to uncover the bridge which is already beneath their feet." Copies (£5 each) are available from the Unity Bookshop or from St Mary's website www.stmarysburiton.co.uk.

Compassion's "Change the story" Campaign

Child sponsorship has been shown to be one of the most effective ways of breaking the cycle of poverty. Compassion is an international Christian child development and child advocacy ministry. Partnering with local churches, they are committed to the spiritual, economic, social and physical development of children living in extreme poverty in 26 countries, enabling them to become responsible, fulfilled Christian adults. To this end, sponsors are asked to make a monthly contribution, correspond with the child and pray for the child and his/her family. It is possible to sponsor a child as a group via an "all for one" sponsorship, so that youth groups can afford to get involved. Compassion has a vision to see an extra 2,000 children sponsored in September and has produced a resource pack for local churches. If you are interested, I can provide you with a resource pack. Alternatively, you can order resources and find out more on the Compassion website: www.compassionuk.org (Susanne Irving)

Spiritual food for thought:

"It is no advantage to be near the light if the eyes are closed." (Augustine)

Any items for inclusion in the **OCTOBER** PACT Newsletter to reach me by
Thursday, 20th September

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The newsletter can be viewed/downloaded onlinewww.pact.org.uk/pact_newsletter_intro.asp