



Petersfield Area Churches Together

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

April 2013 Newsletter

Hello, may God continue to bless you and your family, Susanne

Climbing Kilimanjaro for IMC and Project Shalom - Update

Thank you so much for your prayers, encouragement and donations. So far, over £ 1,800 have been raised for charity! I had to leave Kilimanjaro at 4,198 metres due to altitude sickness, but John made it all the way to the top! I have not yet visited Uganda or Colombia, but a visit to a Kenyan girl we sponsor put my disappointment into perspective. How privileged I was to be able to choose my mountain - the kids that charities like IMC and Project Shalom support cannot choose their mountains. Your generous contribution helps to begin levelling those mountains.

Go to www.virginmoneygiving.com/team/John_and_Susanne to donate on line. For further off-line donations please e-mail or phone me.

How can the local Christians pray together more effectively for our town?

As you may know, on the first Thursday of each month we meet together at 28 Moggs Mead at 2:00 pm. At other times, there is Prayer Impact. Have you seen this symbol on people's front doors and windows?

What is Prayer Impact? It is Christians who live near each other, especially from different churches, meeting together on a regular basis to pray for their neighbours.

The basis of the scheme is that neighbours are praying with their neighbours for their neighbours.

- Do you know of a Christian who lives near you who goes to a different church?
- You share two things – your faith and your neighbours.
- Could you be brave enough to ask that other Christian to join you in praying for those neighbours? (There is no need to pray aloud. If you prefer silence, then pray in silence. Maybe one of you could read a set prayer from your church's liturgy. Or you could write out your neighbours' names and place them on a table in front of you and ask God's blessing on them.)
- The important thing is that we get together in Jesus' name. For more information email John Studd on info@prayer-impact.org.uk. And if you're not on-line, or just don't like computers, please phone him on 01730 264857.

We hope that you will be inspired to join others to pray. If you would like to know if there is already a group near you, ask John. Or if you are already a member of a long-standing group, please let him know that you're still in action!

Cafe Church

Sunday, 14th April from 5:15-7:00pm (Costa Coffee, Ramswalk): Further details from Nigel Halliday (Tel: 07952 120937, Email: nigelhal@waitrose.com).

Hampshire and the Islands Historic Churches Trust

This year the main fund raising for this "Churches Charity" is again the Annual Ride & Stride on the second Saturday in September. It may seem early to be mentioning this in April, but it is important that every church and chapel who might now, or in the future, need financial support for building works, appoint a Representative and make that person known to me before the end of the month, if they have not already done so.

The church representative has two main responsibilities. Firstly to register the degree of participation provided by that church or chapel, in particular whether there will be someone present to welcome those taking part as sponsored fund raisers, and if refreshments and toilet facilities will be available for the whole [10 am. to 6 pm.], or part of the day. Secondly, and most important to the success of the event, that cyclists, walkers, (or horse riders) from that church, are provided with a pack of information and a sponsor sheet. Last year, the nine churches that provided "riders and striders", raised in excess of £5000, half of which went to the church of the participant's choice.

This year is the 25th anniversary of the Trust and on this occasion I have offered to assist in organising a Family style Treasure Hunt which would enable parents to take their children by car to a number of local participating churches where they would seek to find answers to some Quiz questions set by that church. A simple fee or sponsorship would be invited, and a simple reward given to the participant. I would welcome feedback from parents who would be likely to take part if this extra event goes ahead on that same date [14 September]. This is my first year as Petersfield Area Co-ordinator, and I welcome support. My phone number is 01730 267899 and my e-mail eric.a.skipper@gmail.com. Trust website: www.hihct.org.uk

Spiritual food for thought:

PACT я US

If we belong to a Christian church in this area, then we are Petersfield Area Churches Together: PACT.

Many people don't realise that it isn't a separate organisation, it's just us, all working together. And there are some amazing 'partner' and 'linked' groups, such as Unity Bookshop, The Social Concerns Group, Prayer Impact, The Counselling Service, The King's Arms, Food Bank and The Voluntary Care Group. So much good is being done, and it's vitally important that we continue to pull together.

I am no musician, but occasionally I've sung in little choirs, either at school or in church. We were divided up into four parts, soprano, alto, tenor and bass, and we each had a copy of the music and words. All the copies were the same, but when we were singing we each looked at, and read from, a different line of the music. We were all singing from the same songsheet. However, at the same time, we were all singing different parts, different tunes, and the resulting harmony was, hopefully, quite beautiful.

That, I believe, is how we should be as Christians Together in the Petersfield Area. We are all singing from the same song sheet, our Bible. Most topics we totally agree on, and in a few areas we have different perspectives on the same truth. But because you are right, it doesn't mean that I am wrong. We can both be right. We can all still be true to our own tune, our own part, and as we sing it faithfully, attentive to the conductor, the music will be beautiful and glorifying to our Father. How good and pleasant it is when brothers and sisters live together in harmony – for there the Lord bestows his blessing. (Patsy Robinson)

Any items for inclusion in the **May** PACT Newsletter to reach me by **Thursday, 25th April**
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The newsletter can be viewed/downloaded online

www.pact.org.uk/pact_newsletter_intro.asp