



Petersfield Area Churches Together

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

May 2015 Newsletter

Hello, may you be aware of God's presence. Blessings, Susanne

Prayer fast for a meaningful and just global agreement to stabilise Earth's climate

Friday, 1st May (and every other first day of each month): This year is a crucial time for faith communities to act as countries will be meeting at the UN Climate Conference in Paris in December 2015 to sign an agreement to cut greenhouse gas emissions. We can pray and fast at any time of day, on our own or with others, using our mealtime to pray instead. Fasting doesn't mean we have to go without food all day. We could just fast during our lunch break and then pray in the evening. And if for some reason we cannot fast from food, we can fast from something else – TV, using the car or eating junk food – as a sign of our prayerful commitment.

While many of us in the developed world consume ever more energy, food and other goods, the developing world is already suffering from the effects of this unsustainable consumption. When we accompany our prayer for climate justice with fasting, we are intentionally denying that part of ourselves that forgets the meaning of the word 'enough', and seeking to awaken our solidarity with those facing famine, drought and rising water levels caused by climate change. This is becoming urgent. The unrestricted use of fossil fuels needs to be phased out if the world is to avoid dangerous, irreversible climate change.

The website <http://www.prayandfastfortheclimate.org.uk/> contains useful resources. Faith for the Climate Network includes The Methodist Church, Church of England, URC, Baptist Union, Christian Aid, Tearfund, and many others.

Prayer for the election

Wednesday, 6th May, anytime between 7:00-8:00 pm in The Square: Informal prayer for God's way to be known again in our community and throughout the land ahead of the elections taking place on 7th May. Read a report, see photographs and all the questions asked at the husting in St Peter's on Thursday 23 April: <http://www.pact.org.uk/husting2015>

In Ministry to Children news

Saturday, 9th May at 7.30pm (Methodist Church): "Petersfield Brass" concert. There will be a retiring collection for IMC.

Monday, 11th May at 7.00pm (Methodist Church): AGM. We hope to have Carlos Forero, director of IMiC Colombia with us.

Cafe Church: New Beginnings – Coalition, co-operation or compromises: What will the new government bring?

Sunday, 10th May from 5:00-7:00 pm (Costa Cafe): After a very successful and busy cafechurch in April, when we hosted our parliamentary candidates, we will be following through with the political theme by exploring what the new parliament may hold for us. By the time of the next cafechurch we will know what the new government will look like. With all the pundits predicting on another coalition government, we hope to explore what it means to compromise one's beliefs and opinions in a multi-party government, and how might that apply to our own situations.

Spring Bank Holiday Service

Sunday, 24th May from 11-11.50am (The Square)

Sign petition to help secure the rights of vulnerable Egyptian Christians

Egypt adopted a new constitution in 2014, which offers more rights for Christians and other minorities. However, individual Christians are still denied justice. Examples: Bishoy Armia Boulos, also known as Mohammed Hegazy, who is in jail after trying to change the religious status on his ID card to "Christian" and Kerolos Shouky Attalah, sentenced to six years in prison for 'liking' a Christian Facebook page. Release plan to hand a petition to the Egyptian ambassador in London in autumn. The petition can be signed online: <https://www.change.org/p/release-s-petition-to-support-persecuted-christians-in-egypt>

Spiritual food for thought:

"A young girl once came to her father during a time of conflict and asked him, "Why is life so difficult?" Her father did not answer her but beckoned her into the kitchen, pulled out three pots, filled them with water and heated them until they started boiling. He then put in each pot a carrot, an egg and some coffee grinds. After a short while, he took the pots off the stove, waited for them to cool and asked her to pick up the carrot from the first pot and tell him what she felt. She answered that it was soft. He then proceeded to the second pot and asked her to repeat the action. She picked up the egg and told him that it was hard. He then asked her to move to the third and tell him what she saw. She told him that she could smell the delicious coffee and that all the water had changed its color. He then explained that life is like a pot of water that heats up in times of conflict. He explained that we can choose to let our surroundings make us soft, make us hard or that we can use our situation to produce something fruitful." (story told at Musalah camp and recorded by Jack Munayer)

Any items for inclusion in the **JUNE PACT** Newsletter to reach me by
Tuesday, 26th May

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The newsletter can be viewed/downloaded online

www.pact.org.uk/pact_newsletter_intro.asp