




Petersfield Area Churches Together

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

May 2010 Newsletter

Hello  , I have just finished Brother Andrew's book "Light Force". I was inspired and convicted by the example of some Messianic Jews and Palestinian/Arab Christians who are striving to fulfil Jesus' command to be unified and love one another in the midst of suffering, strife and conflict – if they can be a light in their communities, so can we! (Also see John Callaghan's article) God bless, Susanne Irving

Easter Reflections (by John Callaghan)

Our Good Friday walk of witness saw a wonderful turn out of nearly 300 Christians. People shopping stopped and wondered, shop workers smiled, and together we blessed the Lord who sacrificed his life for us and gave us new life. The weather unfortunately prevented us setting up PA in the square and so our service was held inside St. Peter's. What a wonderful venue. There was standing room only! This really is the time for Christians in this area to stand together. As people begin to seek an answer to life we will be ready with the churches response that ' Jesus really is the answer for all mankind'. We pray our witness will bring people to him. We met again on Easter Sunday, Resurrection day. There was a farmer's market in the square which meant there were many people browsing the stalls. We had representatives from several churches, and thanks to Steve Field's excellent guitar playing we sang songs of praise that Jesus rose from the dead and that death was defeated. Then we turned, raised our hands in prayer and blessing over the town and prayed for individuals, for businesses, for families and of course for our young people. Check out the photos on www.pact.org.uk/good-friday.asp

General Election Hustings (by Simon Mason)

St Peter's Church, Petersfield, was packed on the evening of Thursday 22nd April as 230 people attended the General Election Hustings organised by PACT. Four of the candidates for the East Hampshire constituency at the forthcoming General Election took part: Damian Hinds for the Conservatives, Adam Carew for the Liberal Democrats, Jane Edbrooke for the Labour Party and Don Jerrard for the Justice and Anti Corruption Party. The event was chaired by Rev Rob Dewing, the Vicar of St Mary Magdalen, Sheet. The candidates each made introductory statements, and a series of questions from local constituents, which had been submitted in advance, then followed. Topics ranged from the issue of the growing secularisation of society and the role of voluntary organisations, to listening to the views of local people (and whether this would come before the wishes of party whips in the House of Commons) and housing, local planning and immigration. Some questions from the floor completed the evening, and these concerned pensions, voting systems and help being given to small businesses. The evening's wide range of topics provided a variety of answers from the candidates, and all was conducted with seriousness yet good humour too.

General Election 12 Hours of Prayer

Thursday, 6th May 2010 from 10am-10pm (St Peter's): All Christians in Petersfield and around are invited to take part by praying for all the aspects of the election. Please come at any time and pray for our town and our country at this important time.

Christian Aid

Saturday, 8th May 2010 (Old Sarum Airfield): Jill Watts will be doing a sponsored tandem skydive. Jill says: *"I want to support a charity very dear to my heart having been the Christian Aid Week co-ordinator in Petersfield for many years. I hope to inspire you to contribute to the great work that Christian Aid is involved in."* Sponsor form in Unity Bookshop or online at www.justgiving.com/JillWattsparachutejump

Sunday, 9th May 2010 from 2pm (High Meadow, Swan Street): There will be a guided circular walk (approx. 4km), followed by a picnic, (please bring food) and games. Please bring fold up chairs or a blanket to sit on. (You can also stay at High Meadow and wait for the walkers to return...)

Monday, 10th May 2010 – Sunday, 16th May: If you are interested in helping in the house-to-house collecting, please go to the PACT website. Either click on the Church you attend to see the roads where you can help, or if you would rather offer to do the road where you live, then find out which church collects the street you live in, and send an email to us at Christian.Aid@pact.org.uk. If you would like to start collecting one of the roads which is currently not allocated, please also email us. Christian Aid Co-ordinator **Maggie Burton-Page** deals with ordering materials; she is not involved with allocation of roads. Maggie's email address is: maggiebp@freeuk.com

Concert by "Dedicated Divas"

Saturday, 8th May 2010, from 7pm (Methodist Church): Part of Salvation Army celebrations for 124th Anniversary. Varied music styles (musicals, classics and traditional Salvation Army music). Tickets (available from Unity Bookshop) Adults £5, children 14 & under £2.50. Refreshments will be available.

House to let

Lovely 3 bedroom family home close to Taro leisure centre, Petersfield. 22" lounge, separate dining room, office and utility room and a pleasant contained private garden. £895 per month
Call Joy Barden 01730 301591 or 07768 726458 Or Daniel Barratt 07540 743419

Big Church Day Out

Sunday, 30th May and Monday, 31st May 2010, Gates open at 11am, event 2-10pm (Wiston House, West Sussex): It is advisable to book in advance, as last year's event was sold out and there were no tickets available at the gate. The programme is the same on both days. To book <http://www.bigchurchdayout.co.uk/>

Advance Notice: Town Praise "Engage!"

Thursday, 10th June 2010 from 8-9.30pm (Festival Hall): This will be the Pentecost PACT event this year! This is very exciting and the steering group were keen not to just do the same old thing! So get the news out there! Life Church is the host and there will be a band made up from musicians across the churches. You can reach John Callaghan at vice.chair@pact.org.uk if you would like to help at the event

Spiritual food for thought

I had a vision the other day of the church being like a giant swarm of butterflies. There were butterflies in all colours and sizes, but they had one thing in common: They were all up in the air and spreading out over a wider and wider area. I felt God point out that we may have once been caterpillars, but once we got saved, we got a new nature with new capabilities. We can never again be "good" caterpillars because we have been transformed!
(Susanne Irving)

Any items for inclusion in the **JUNE** PACT Newsletter to reach me by **Monday, 24th May**
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The newsletter can be viewed/downloaded online:

www.pact.org.uk/pact_newsletter_intro.asp