




Petersfield Area Churches Together

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

July 2010 Newsletter

Hello  , after getting some feedback on the newsletter, it has been suggested to include more reports (rather than just listing what's going on in the coming months). It has also been suggested that the newsletter is published bi-monthly after the summer break. This very much depends on how many "newsy" items I receive - I am happy to write a monthly letter if there are sufficient items. Enjoy the summer! God bless, Susanne Irving

Town Praise "Engage!" Report

About 130 members of the 'Petersfield Church' came together at the Festival Hall for a lively and joyous 1 ½ hours of praise and worship. The worship group played a selection of both old and new songs, so that there was something for everyone. During the breaks, there was a short drama on the subject of reaching out to non-churchgoers, a message inspired by Pentecost and an interview with a young member of "The Kings Arms" staff who shared about the difference the organisation is trying to make. The next evening is planned for 7th October.

Christian Aid Report

Jill Watt's skydive adventure: "This is something I had long wanted to do, so encouraged by my daughter for a 77th birthday present, I booked it during Christian Aid week. I have been a long-term supporter of Christian Aid and to seek sponsorship for this seemed a way of giving something back as well as enjoying myself. The weather was not co-operative. The break eventually came on Friday, 14th May, though still not really clear, and all my family support had gone home. However, I was firmly strapped to Dane, who knew what he was doing and gave me instructions all along the way. We left the plane at 10,000 feet - it did look a long way down! The descent took about 5 minutes and was certainly exciting - I hope to eventually post some pictures on the Just Giving website when I have worked out how to do that. Thanks to the enormous generosity of family, friends and many of you, Christian Aid has benefitted by about £2,400 which has made the whole experience most worthwhile as well as memorable."

Mr. Hart of the United Reformed Church: "The Christian Aid Walk, symbolising the plight of many in poverty stricken areas, was enjoyed by 13 walkers on the afternoon of Sunday 9th May, starting at High Meadow, continuing to Ridge Common and returning by way of Melstock Farm. Arriving at High Meadow after the walk, a picnic took place and a junior rounders game was a success in achieving a good run-around for some. On the following Sunday the Junior Family Church of the URC comprising of 34 people from the age of two upwards walked circuits of the Heath Pond with some going four times around it, which is three miles. £531 was collected, but this may not be final total. On the Saturday 15th May, during the morning, 19 people stood in Petersfield with collecting boxes. This static activity produced £546-99." The Christian Aid House to House Collection for Petersfield raised £6,392 to date to which any gift aid will be added.

Farewell Service for Territorial Envoy Stewart Madden

Sunday, 4th July at 5pm (Salvation Army Hall): Stewart will be leaving Petersfield to become the Salvation Army Leader of Aldershot and Godalming Corps. If you would like to say a few words on behalf of your church, please let me know, so that I can include you in the meeting (service). It would be good to know whether you are hoping to attend, so that we have some idea of how many will be coming along. We hope you can be with us. Contact Steve Field stevej.field@ntlworld.com

Climate Change and Christian Faith CD

We have an exceptional opportunity to gain an authoritative insight into the complexities of climate change from a Christian perspective. The reality of man-made global warming is accepted by most of the climate scientists in the world. They consider it to be one of the most serious problems we are facing today. York Courses, familiar to many of us who attended their Lent courses, has issued a CD containing an interview with Sir John Houghton, CBE, FRS. He is a convinced Christian, an eminent climate scientist and a Nobel laureate. Using simple language, he explains the science of Climate Change and his Christian hope. The PACT Christian Ecology Group has a copy of this CD available for short-term loan. To borrow it, phone Gerald Druce on 01730 266107 giving your name and contact details.

The Voluntary Care Group

Recently I was invited to attend the AGM of The Voluntary Care Group which is one of the groups linked with PACT. Between April 2009 and March 2010 44 volunteer drivers undertook 567 hospital journeys to Portsmouth, Gosport, Chichester, Guildford and Frimley Park, 311 GP trips, 60 other health related journeys, 436 shopping trips, 95 other journeys and collected and delivered 6 prescriptions. This is an extremely valuable and valued service which is co-ordinated by a team led by Jenny Seaburg. Details of how to become a volunteer driver or how to access their support can be obtained from Jenny at Winton House or by telephoning 01730 266046. Jean Dowdeswell

MP Damien Hind's response to Tearfund circular

We do seem to have some real support from him, and we should be supporting him as well in our prayers. Here is an extract of his letter: "...I too am passionately committed to fighting the global scourge of child poverty. Britain is a world leader in committing funds to overseas aid and this is something of which we should be rightly proud and I am intent on seeing maintained. For the last two years I have participated in the Conservative Party's social action project in Rwanda and it only strengthened my commitment to ensuring we use our prosperity as a nation to help those less fortunate than ourselves. My colleague Andrew Mitchell, the Secretary of State for International Development has been robust in his defence of the ring-fence we have placed around the International Development budget and I am committed to seeing this maintained. I hope you will indeed find me a tireless champion of the poorest in our world, be they abroad or here in Britain. I shall be supporting any further action we as a Government are able to take in pursuit of the Millennium Development Goals..."

Greening Campaign Conference "The Community Adaptation Toolkit"

Tuesday, 20th July 2010 (Queen Elizabeth Conference Centre, Westminster – opposite Methodist Central Hall): Up-to-date details of the programme and booking arrangements are given at www.greening-campaign.co.uk. You can also e-mail Terena Plowright at info@greening-campaign.co.uk

Spiritual food for thought: A path to greater unity?

"Embrace every circumstance, own every fault, share every joy, contemplate every mystery, walk in every man's shoes, forgive every offence (including your own), heal every heart,... protect every person's rights, preserve every person's dignity, promote every person's interests, provide every person's needs, presume every person's holiness, present every person's greatest gifts, produce every person's blessing.... (Meditations from Conversations with God - Neale Donald Walsch)

Any items for inclusion in the **SEPTEMBER** PACT Newsletter to reach me by
Monday, 30th August

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The newsletter can be viewed/downloaded online

www.pact.org.uk/pact_newsletter_intro.asp