



PETERSFIELD AREA CHURCHES TOGETHER

Minutes of the Co-ordinating Committee held at The Salvation Army, Petersfield, on Wednesday, 21st March 2012

***Purpose of Meeting:** A forum for 'communion' and communication between PACT churches, PACT organisations and local Christians, to facilitate events aimed at increasing opportunities for joint worship, witness and work between PACT churches.*

Present: Rosemary Davies (Chair), Linda Cawsey (Secretary), Sue Bone, Emma Dean, Helen Mason, Linda Read, Chris Tully, Lindy Young and Beth Woodgate in attendance.

- 1. Introduction:** Mark 12 v 41-44 (the widow's offering) – Rosemary Davies
- 2. Presentation by Revd. Beth Woodgate:** Beth explained that she was attached to All Saints Steep, High Cross Froxfield and Privett Church. She had started a gathering for people who have been bereaved which she called 'Cuppa and Company'. It was held once a month at the URC and was an invitation to come for a cup of tea, cake and the company of others who have been recently, or not so recently, bereaved. She had the support of Petersfield Bereavement Counselling Service and a small group of Christian helpers. She asked for PACT's blessing, prayers and backing. The Committee undertook to highlight the event to their church members and to ensure dates were advertised on the PACT website and in the PACT newsletter. Rosemary would also use some of the publicity material in the Unity Bookshop.
- 3. Apologies for absence/Church representation:** Apologies were received from Judith Bee, John Callaghan, Steve Field, Will Hughes, Anderson Marsh and Simon Mason. Rosemary welcomed Lindy Young from All Saints Steep who was attending for the first time. Patsy Robinson had now stepped down as representative for the Methodist Church and Sue Bone would be replaced by David and Carolyn Barton for the URC.
- 4. Minutes for 8th February, 2012:** These were signed as an accurate record of the meeting after amendment of the date to 16th July for the Olympic Torch run in Petersfield. There were no matters arising that did not appear elsewhere on the agenda.
- 5. Report on events since last meeting:** The last 'Engage' event had been well received although representation from other churches was poor. The next event would be held on 7th June and was listed as 'Pentecost Engage'.

Lent Groups were currently meeting. There was positive feedback from the Keshar Course and Christine was intending to run another course in the summer in the evening. It was understood that this year's York Course was 'hard going' and it was agreed that an alternative option should be considered for next year.

The Easter cards were now being delivered and Christine reported that she had received wonderful support in getting the cards packaged for delivery to the churches. The prize for the card had still to be presented.

- 6. Good Friday arrangements:** Rosemary reported that everything was in hand. The Salvation Army band would be playing and Linda Read would be speaking at the Service in the Square. Two Special Constables would be on hand to assist with traffic control.
- 7. Treasurer's Report:** Christine thanked everyone for sending her details of church attendance. There was unlikely to be a significant change in churches' new subscriptions which would start from October 2012. Average congregation size had dropped from 800 adults six years ago to 757 today.
- 8. Diamond Jubilee and Olympic Torch Events:** Linda Read read out the proposed programme for 4th June for the town's Diamond Jubilee celebrations. It was agreed that the churches should join the march from the Square to the Heath under the PACT banner. Everyone should wear 1950's costume and families especially should be encouraged to come. The event should be publicised on the PACT website with links to the town's own Jubilee events websites. It was also agreed to apply for a PACT stall on the Heath which would be manned by volunteers throughout the afternoon. It was felt that it was unnecessary to form a special sub-committee to put these arrangements in place.
- The meeting agreed that there should be no special PACT involvement in the Olympic Torch event although it was understood that the Chaplaincy had offered to help with stewarding.
- 9. Chairman's Items:** Rosemary explained that Patsy had asked whether it would be possible for the churches to walk to each church in the town as a Pentecost act of worship and witness. It was felt that this was rather too soon after the Good Friday Walk of Witness but that the latter could be adjusted in 2013. This would mean that the Good Friday Walk of Witness would start at 9 a.m. at the URC, move to the Life Church office, up to St. Laurence and the Methodist Church and down Charles Street to the Salvation Army and into the Square and St. Peter's. There would be a reading at each stop and possibly a hymn or song.
- 10. Proposed Future Dates and Events:** Engage on 7th June and 25th October. Holiday Club would run from 30th July to 3rd August. A concert in aid of the Fitzroy Organisation was being held on 15th June at the URC when Kathryn Harries, soprano, would be performing.
- 11. Any other business:** Helen reported that an umbrella organisation was being formed under the National Parenting Initiative to ensure that parenting courses were available through churches throughout the country. More information to follow in due course.
- 12. Closing prayer: The Grace.**