



## PETERSFIELD AREA CHURCHES TOGETHER

### Minutes of the Co-ordinating Committee held at Methodist Church, on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2016

**Present:** Helen Mason, Simon Mason (*Co-Convenors*), Paula Hudson (*Secretary*), Christine Tully (*Treasurer*), Carolyn Barton, David Barton, Hilary Bonney, Rosemary Davies, Anna Olliffe, Rev Richard Saunders, John Studd and guest Robert Gussman (*Petersfield Counselling Service*.)

- 1. Introduction:** Helen Mason explained Tim Concannon unable to attend so she would Chair. She introduced Robert Gussmann from the Petersfield Counselling Service. Simon Mason opened the meeting with a Bible reading and with prayer.
- 2. Apologies for absence:** Received from Rev Judith Bee, John Callaghan, Tim Concannon, Emma Dean, Vanessa Dowse, Father Peter Hollins, Rev Will Hughes, Capt Linda Read, David Storey.
- 3. Treasurer's Report:** Thanks were expressed to Chris Tully, who presented and explained the Accounts relating to PACT & Holiday Club for YE 30.9.16. As Holiday Club not expected to happen last August, no collection taken for it at January PACT hand-over service, and where PACT Carol Service had been held outdoors similarly there was no collection (traditionally donated to PACT Counselling Service & Butser Home Start.) As there is a balance in the Unrestricted Reserves, Committee discussed whether the contributing PACT Churches should be given a payment holiday, or whether eg half the £3110 surplus be donated to PACT supported charities. Reps asked to consult their churches for suggestion/ comments.

**Petersfield Counselling Service:** Helen brought forward this presentation from later in the Agenda, and introduced Mr Gussman. He outlined the connections between PACT, the town's medical services, and PCS, and their plans for the upcoming 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. See summary from Mr Gussman, attached. It was suggested PCS could make report at PACT AGM in January.

- 4. Items for discussion under Item 9 (*Any other business*):** Salvation Army Prayer Initiative; Women's Brunch – Hilary Bonney; Dates for 2017; Festive Film for older people; Senior Chaplaincy – Rev Richard Saunders; Reveal; Christmas Fair – Paula Hudson.
- 5. Minutes for last meeting:** Minutes were agreed and signed by Helen Mason.
- 6. Matters arising:** None raised.
- 7. Report on events since last meeting:** John Studd & Rosemary Davies reported on **Prayer Days** held at the Life Church office and the Methodist church. John will circulate dates & venues for 2017. The committee supported the Salvation Army's proposed 5 days of Prayer coming up to Easter 2017, and St Mary Magdalen's proposed Pentecost prayer initiative (details to be advised.)

**Messy Church** Numbers low. Helen to contact/visit local schools & leave leaflets.

### 8. Reports/Updates/Act

**Summer Festival** Anna Olliffe said suggestions for PACT ½ hour slot at Summer Festival include: Flash Mob, Passion Play (Josua of Frensham); Messy Church Roadshow. Helen said that she had taken advice and the first 2 would need 1 year's planning. She said ministers' approval & congregational support needed, so committee could make decision on what to choose. She suggested: 2017 – Messy Church Roadshow; 2018 – Bigger event.

**Next Chair** Helen said she & Simon and Tim Concannon willing to serve for another year.



**Reveal** Max Cross is leading Cafe Church (held at Winton House) for people who don't do Sunday church but mostly were former churchgoers. John Studd suggested advertise on PACT website.

**Foodbank** David Barton said Harvest Festival collections traditional given to Foodbank. They have own bank account now with funds of £1800. Foodbank to give special report at AGM. They are now investigating means of funding items like nappies which cannot be bought in because need to get right size for age of infant, and speaking to other market stalls re voucher scheme. The NatWest is supporting with a collection box and poster.

**Soup Run** Temporarily suspended. There is some money left for potential re-start.

**Food Vouchers** Vouchers for fresh fruit & vegetables from Bryants' at market have been given out for a while by Foodbank & now vouchers added for eggs & bread from other market stalls.

**Green Token Schemes** As Tesco is now running a green token scheme in their Bordon store, Rosemary suggested we approach the Petersfield branch to see if we could raise funds from their scheme for PACT supported charities.

**Christmas Card** Design selected & printed. Bundling to be done next Monday. Not many suitable entries from Langrish School. Advice given to schools to be amended. Gift voucher award by minister on Friday am to winner is opportunity for positive contact with schools.

**Carols in the Square** 22<sup>nd</sup> December 7pm. Salvation Army band arranged. Agreed 6pm start with Carols round the town from the Methodist Church. Hatty Hughes doing mince pies & coffee at St Peter's. Churches each to contribute ½ dozen mince pies – take to St Peter's Thursday am or before the service. There will be 9 carols – Simon asked for volunteers for readings. Carolyn Barton & Paula Hudson offered. There are 4 readings in total. Helen & Simon are hosting & Tim Concannon speaking. LCP PA to be used. Date clashed with St Mary Magdalen Carol Service.

**Christmas Lunch** Hilary said age Concern minibus arranged to pick up guests. As insurance does not cover helping the infirm into vehicle they need to be taken by their carers. Food will be taken to the house bound.

## 9. Any Other Business

**Women's Brunch** Hilary Bonney said the first 'women's brunch' would take place on Saturday 21st January 10am - 12pm at Herne Farm Leisure. It will be 'hosted' by St Mary's Sheet, led by Linda Clist, but they would like to open it up to PACT and make it a PACT event. The committee agreed. The format includes 'brunch' (coffee, crossants etc.), followed by a short period of worship, a talk on 'Encouragement' by visiting speaker Rachel Firth (experienced speaker and counsellor) with a group discussion & prayer ministry. If successful 3 a year planned. Details to be added to website. Hilary requested churches advertise event in their church magazines & newsletters.

**Senior Chaplaincy** Richard Saunders said that St Mary Magdalen was interviewing 3 candidates for a this post next week. The chosen chaplain will visit isolated older people – mostly in their 80s, and care homes. The post will be for 20 hours per week. (NB URC also has a Chaplain.)

**Festive Films** See Below. URC initiative hosting day after Christmas with the Bartons. £5 donation. 20 places – 12 filled. Wanted to invite people from other churches.



**Christmas Charity Market** - Festival Hall 3<sup>rd</sup> December. Charities & Churches invited to take stall at the market - £20 for 6 foot space + £2 for table (or bring your own.) !/2 slots available. Contact tel: 01730 262477

**10. Future dates and events**

**PACT Committee meetings 2017**

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January – AGM - URC?

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February – venue TBA

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> April – venue TBA

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September – venue TBA

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> June – venue TBA

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November – venue TBA

**Other PACT events 2016**

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> November 6.30-7.30pm Kings Arms – Introduction to Chaplaincy

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November 11.45am - 1pm Salvation Army – Chaplaincy AGM

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December Kings Arms – Prayer Day 8am-8pm

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> December Carols in the Square

*6pm Methodist Church start carols round the town 7pm Carols in the Square*

**Other PACT events 2017**

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> January – PACT Celebration Service – Convenors reconfirmed – URC?

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> January – Women’s Brunch 10am – 12noon HFLC

**Other Events (2016):**

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December Charity Christmas Market – Festival Hall 9.30am-3pm

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Fair – Prayer Tent in Rams Walk

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> December Festive Films - URC

**11. Closing prayer**

---



## The Petersfield Counselling Service

Many thanks for your warm welcome and for allowing me to come and speak to you about the work of the Petersfield Counselling Service: something that might be called the best kept secret in Petersfield, and which owes so much to you, Churches in the Petersfield area. It is perhaps not very well known because by its nature counselling requires confidentiality at its core.

We are a small registered charity that works to provide affordable counselling for people in need in the area, and we owe our foundation to the initiative of the Churches and the medical establishment in Petersfield back in 1987, so there has been an important link with the Churches from the start.

Our team of 16 fully trained and qualified counsellors provide upwards of 1,200 hours of counselling a year. They each see three clients a week, and on average clients come for between 20 and 30 sessions, till they feel ready to move on. The issues we deal with include anxiety and depression, relationship and family difficulties, loss and bereavement, stress, anger and emotional and physical abuse. Many of our clients come at the suggestion of their GP, but some find out about us on-line or through word of mouth, and we would welcome referrals through churches too.

Our counsellors work voluntarily but receive travelling expenses. We have two experienced supervisors who we pay to give the counsellors the fortnightly supervision of their work that is a requirement of the profession nationally, and we pay a part-time director to manage the whole service on a day to day basis. We are very dependent on the local hospital for rooms that are not being used in the evenings which we are able to use for free, but we have to pay for the rent of premises for day-time work with clients who cannot manage evening sessions. Then there is the cost of insurance and affiliation to the British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy. Our costs last year were just over £30,000 and while most of our income comes from the contributions that we ask from our clients – we currently ask for a minimum of £20 per session – not all of them can pay much, and we depend heavily on donations to remain viable.

We are particularly grateful to local churches for their support, financial and otherwise. We have received significant donations this year from the Methodist Church, St Laurence and PACT. We are allowed to use the Methodist premises for our training days three times a year, and we thank St Peter's for the use of their Church Hall for our AGM, and for fortnightly evening supervision sessions in their parish office. So I would like to emphasise how grateful we are for your donations, and please keep them coming.

But I would also like to invite your suggestions for any way in which together we might share in marking the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our foundation next year. We are passionate about the work of the service, and would value the opportunity not only to celebrate our birthday but also promote awareness in the local community of the work we do. I am ready to come and talk more about our work with your congregations and groups if that would be welcome.

Thank you.

Robert Gussman, Chairman of Trustees.

[rwslgussman@hotmail.com](mailto:rwslgussman@hotmail.com)

For counselling appointments, ring 07833 966 974

Also see our website: [www.petersfieldcounsellingservice.co.uk](http://www.petersfieldcounsellingservice.co.uk)

16<sup>th</sup> November 2016