



# Progressive Christianity Network Britain

Registered Charity No: 1102164

## ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCIAL REPORT 1<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY - 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2016



Brian McLaren addressing conference attendees in Harrogate, October 2016

### **Registered address**

26 High Street, Newnham, Gloucestershire, GL14 1BB

# The Progressive Christianity Network Britain

<b>Registered Charity No:</b>	1102164
<b>Governing Document</b>	Constitution adopted 22 <sup>nd</sup> September 2003, and amended 19 <sup>th</sup> January 2004, 12 <sup>th</sup> November 2005, 24 <sup>th</sup> October 2009 and 20 <sup>th</sup> April 2013
<b>Object of the Charity</b>	The advancement of the Christian Religion in such exclusively charitable ways as the trustees in their absolute discretion see fit.
<b>Main activities</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>i. Promoting a way of living consistent with the 8 points and with a progressive, inclusive, open approach to religion.</li><li>ii. Supporting groups of PCN members and non-members to explore a progressive understanding of Christianity.</li><li>iii. Supporting and encouraging members of the Progressive Christianity Network, both those whose faith is lived out within the community of church as expressed in mainstream denominational Christianity and those outside of any such organised institutional Christian framework.</li><li>iv. Networking, conferencing and providing forums for open debate about all aspects of Christianity, including interaction with people of other faiths.</li><li>v. Engaging in discussion and negotiation with members of different Christian denominations, promoting agendas and understandings that are both liberating and radical.</li><li>vi. Developing and encouraging progressive Christian congregations and communities.</li><li>vii. Promoting membership of PCN Britain</li></ol>
<b>Address:</b>	26 High Street, Newnham, Gloucestershire, GL14 1BB
<b>Bankers:</b>	The Co-operative Bank
<b>Independent Examiner</b>	David Ferguson
<b>Trustees for the period of this report:</b>	
Chair	Adrian Alker
Vice chair:	Paul Onslow
Secretary:	Sandra Griffiths
Treasurer:	Gareth Hexter
	John Churcher until March
	Maureen Foxall
	Richard Gray
	Geraint Rees
	Robin Story until March (St Marks CRC)
	Richard Tetlow
	Dave Coaker from March
	Pat Fuller
	Sue Hobley from March (St Marks CRC)
	Angela Smith until March
	Tony Rutherford



L to R: Tetlow, Gray, Fuller, Hexter, Griffiths, Rees, Onslow, Coaker, Smith, Churcher, Foxall, Alker

# Chair's Report on the Network in 2016

by Adrian Alker

It is a continuing privilege to chair the trustees of PCN Britain and to present this overview of our work as an organisation during 2016.

I am both encouraged and inspired that together we are making PCN Britain a vibrant and growing movement of people who desire to promote an understanding and experience of Christian faith which empowers us to live a life modelled on the person of Jesus of Nazareth. In our PCN groups, in the churches, at our conferences and other events, through the helpful framework of our Eight Points, we aim to promote a progressive understanding of Christianity. We long to be infused by the same spirit of compassion and radical inclusiveness that was in Jesus. There are many people to thank who contribute to our hopes and vision.

First to thank all our many members, who through their subscriptions and involvement at a local level provide the backbone of support for all we do.

Secondly I would like to place on record again, an appreciation for the time and energies given by the trustees, meeting four times in 2016, two of those committee meetings being residential, 24 hour occasions. The trustees elected or re-elected in 2016 were Dave Coaker, Gareth Hexter and Richard Tetlow and we welcomed Sue Hobley as the representative of St Marks CRC on the trustee body. In 2017 there will be three resignations from the trustees – Tony Rutherford, Geraint Rees and Gareth Hexter, our present treasurer. Our thanks to them for their work and commitment. Thanks also to Robin Storey for his past representation from St Marks CRC.



*PCN group Newbury enjoy a conversation with John Churcher*

Thirdly thanks must also go to the many people who lead or facilitate our groups across the UK, also to Dave Coaker our Progressive Voices editor, Steve Ireland for his IT support, and Jess Lee, our librarian.

During the year Andy Vivian retired as our employed administrator but since then we have continued to

benefit from his services in a voluntary role as the PCN web editor, such an important role in our communications strategy. Stepping up into the role of administrator, we are so very thankful for the superb administrative skills and enthusiasm of Sarah Guilfoyle. The trustees are indebted to Sarah and Andy for all that they do for PCN Britain.

2016 was filled with many different conferences and events. At our AGM in Leeds we welcomed Professor Richard Harris from Bristol University, who talked about issues of inequality in society, illustrated through a showing of the film, *The Divide*, which looked at inequality in both the UK and the USA – which helped us to understand the rise of popular movements, especially the emergence of Donald Trump as a presidential candidate. Little did we know then in Leeds what the outcome would be in the USA!

2015 had begun on a solemn note with the news of the death of Marcus Borg and this led the trustees to set up a Marcus Borg memorial fund to allow us to mount an annual lecture, seminar or conference in the coming years. In May 2016 we held the first of such memorial events, a wonderful conference at the Church at Carrs Lane in Birmingham, addressed by Diana Butler Bass with a video message from Marianne Borg. The very well attended day was a tribute to the cooperation of four organisations and set a pattern for possible future events.



*Diana Butler Bass at our first Marcus Borg Memorial Lecture*

We continued to hold our members residential weekend, to have a stall at Greenbelt and to have a PCN presence at both the Devon County Show and the Solas Festival in Scotland, thanks to the work of local PCN groups and members.

In the autumn PCN sponsored a highly successful tour by Brian McLaren, attracting well over 1000 people at various venues, most of whom were not PCN members. This was a wonderful promotion by PCN and thanks are due to Richard Gray and Paul

Onslow, two trustees who undertook responsibility for the tour.

The six strands of our current three year strategy remain :

- working with like minded organisations
- the support and expansion of our network of groups
- the production of new and attractive promotional leaflets
- producing and disseminating worship resources
- developing our communications and contacts with the media and with students and higher education in general
- partnering creatively with other faiths

The Borg memorial conference and the production of the Together In Hope series of booklets are good examples of the first strand, that of close work with like-minded organisations. About to go to press is the printing of new, attractive leaflets promoting PCN Britain and our thanks to members and trustees who contributed much thought to the content of these leaflets. Groups such as the Birmingham group and Howard Grace's work with the Peace and Integration Forum demonstrate our commitment to working with those of other faiths.

Tony Rutherford has continued to head up a task group building up a bank of liturgical and worship resources and our thanks to those involved in that project. Meanwhile we continue to reflect upon the profile of our membership and the need to attract more younger people into our network and to this effect we hope to set up a task group in 2017.

In September I had the privilege of attending the Common Dreams conference in Brisbane, Australia, as chair of PCN and my thanks to my fellow trustees and the progressive networks in Australia and New Zealand for the invitation and the sponsoring of this visit. The different lectures can be heard via links on our website but as ever it was the opportunity to meet in person with fellow progressive travellers from different parts of the world which was the real bonus.



*Adrian and Christine Alker with Marianne Borg at Common Dreams*

Finally to say that during the year I have had a few letters published in both The Guardian and the Church Times on matters of Christian faith. I write them as Chair of PCN and I have been encouraged by the emails and letters in return thanking PCN for its place in our national life, especially daring to be the voice of a critical friend, challenging churches to be more radically inclusive, non-discriminatory and shaped more closely on the life and teachings of Jesus.

Adrian Alker, Chair, March 2017

# Financial Report 2016

## 1. Summary

The accounts are produced on a receipts and payments basis as permitted by the Charity Commission. The accounts comprise the Receipts and Payments for the Year and a Statement of Assets at the Year End.

The accounts show a surplus of payments over receipts for the year of £1,997 and balances at the year end on General Funds of £26,007 and Restricted Funds of £4,809. There was a net surplus of receipts over payments in respect of events and a small surplus in respect of sale of publications. Expenditure has been incurred in the year on developing the PCN Britain website. Subscriptions received are less than 2015, although this is due to the timing of membership receipts. A Gift Aid claim totalling £4,848 in respect of 2015 has been paid by HMRC but due to the timing will be included in the 2017 accounts. The increase in other costs compared to 2015 largely reflects targeted expenditure on marketing.

## 2. Donations

Donations received in the year include a legacy from a former member totalling £2,014 and a donation from the Open Theology Trust totalling £500.

## 3. Marcus Borg Memorial Fund

This fund has been established to financially underpin a series of annual lectures to honour the work of Marcus Borg. It is recognised as a restricted fund to avoid cross-subsidy with the General Fund.

## 4. Speaker and Location Costs

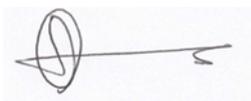
Receipts comprise contributions towards the 2016 McLaren tour.

## 5. Joint Event

PCN Britain organised the 2016 Butler Bass event with three other organisations. PCN Britain provided banking facilities for the event and it is recognised as a restricted fund to avoid cross-subsidy with the General Fund.

## 6. Joint Publications Project

PCN Britain is providing banking facilities for this joint project with three other organisations and it is recognised as a restricted fund to avoid cross-subsidy with the General Fund.



Gareth Hexter, Treasurer, February 2017

**Section A****Independent Examiner's Report**

<b>Report to the trustees/ members of</b>	Progressive Christianity Network Britain		
<b>On accounts for the year ended</b>	31st December 2016	<b>Charity no (if any)</b>	1102164
<b>Set out on pages</b>	Seven and Eight		
<b>Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner</b>	<p>The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.</p> <p>It is my responsibility to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,</li> <li>• to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and</li> <li>• to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.</li> </ul>		
<b>Basis of independent examiner's statement</b>	<p>My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.</p> <p>In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention (other than that disclosed below)</p> <p>1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and</li> <li>• to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act</li> </ul> <p>have not been met; or</p> <p>2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.</p>		
<b>Independent examiner's statement</b>			
<b>Signed:</b>		<b>Date:</b>	21st March 2017
<b>Name:</b>	David Ferguson		
<b>Relevant professional qualification(s) or body</b>	N/A		
<b>Address:</b>	1 French Street, Harrogate, North Yorkshire, HG1 4DA		

Progressive Christianity Network Britain  
Receipts and Payments for the Year Ending 31 December 2016

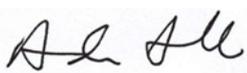
	2016		2015		
Receipts	Payments	Net	Net	Note	
£	£	£	£		
<b>Membership and Donations</b>					
Subscriptions	16,096	-	16,096	2	
Donations - general	2,847	-	2,847		
Gift Aid	-	-	3,691		
	18,943	-	18,943	26,157	
<b>Memorial Fund (Restricted Fund)</b>					
Donations	297	-	297	795	3
<b>Events</b>					
Bookings and donations	21,064	(4,945)	16,120	4,583	4
Underwriting fund	-	(39)	(39)	337	
Speaker and location costs	1,400	(13,441)	(12,041)	(4,098)	
	22,464	(18,425)	4,039	822	
<b>Joint Event (Restricted Fund)</b>					
Bookings and donations	6,321	-	6,321	1,256	5
Speaker and location costs	-	(5,472)	(5,472)	(405)	
	6,321	(5,472)	849	851	
<b>Publications</b>					
Sales	1,040	-	1,040	1,360	
Publication costs	-	(926)	(926)	24	
Newsletter costs	-	(1,762)	(1,762)	(1,698)	
Website	-	(1,512)	(1,512)	(669)	
	1,040	(4,200)	(3,160)	(983)	
<b>Joint Publications (Restricted Fund)</b>					
Sales	1,517	-	1,517	1,388	6
Costs	-	(126)	(126)	(2,592)	
	1,517	(126)	1,391	(1,204)	
<b>Interest Received</b>					
Co-op Bank	-	-	-	10	
CCLA	72	-	72	67	
	72	-	72	77	
<b>Operating Costs</b>					
Admin salaries	-	(11,752)	(11,752)	(12,756)	
Insurance	-	(414)	(414)	(402)	
Management Committee expenses	-	(4,132)	(4,132)	(5,403)	
Other costs	-	(4,132)	(4,132)	(2,664)	
Grants	-	-	-	-	
	-	(20,430)	(20,430)	(21,225)	
<b>Cash Surplus for Year</b>					
	50,655	(48,653)	2,002	5,290	

Progressive Christianity Network Britain  
Statement of Assets at 31 December 2016

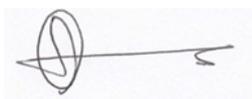
Funds	2016					2015
	General Fund £	Memorial Fund £	Joint Event £	Joint Publications £	Total £	Total £
Balance at 1 January	26,548	795	851	625	28,819	23,529
Net receipts for Year	(536)	297	849	1,391	2,002	5,290
<u>Balance at 31 December</u>	26,012	1,092	1,701	2,016	30,821	28,819

**Bank Accounts**

	2016 £	2015 £
<u>Balance at 1 January:</u>		
Co-operative Bank	12,882	8,746
CCLA	14,830	14,763
PayPal	1,107	20
<u>Total</u>	28,819	23,529
<u>Balance at 31 December:</u>		
Co-operative Bank	10,919	12,882
CCLA	19,902	14,830
PayPal	-	1,107
<u>Total</u>	30,821	28,819



Adrian Alker, Chair



Gareth Hexter, Treasurer