



Progressive Christianity Network Britain

Registered Charity No: 1102164

ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCIAL REPORT 1ST JANUARY - 31ST DECEMBER 2012



PCN Britain Chair, John Churcher and trustee, Adrian Alker, launched the new PCN leaflet for churches in September 2012

Registered Address

26 High Street, Newnham, Gloucestershire, GL14 1BB

The Progressive Christianity Network Britain

Registered Charity No: 1102164

Governing Document Constitution adopted 22nd September 2003, and amended 19th January 2004, 12th November 2005 and 24th October 2009.

Object of the Charity The advancement of the Christian Religion in such exclusively charitable ways as the trustees in their absolute discretion see fit.

Main activities of the Network

- i) To support, promote and network open Christian understanding, both for individuals and for congregations.
- ii) To be inclusive in its concern for that open understanding, wanting to hold together both social and theological concerns, and modern and post modern perspectives.
- iii) To promote a way of living within the wide and rich diversity of church.
- iv) To engage in discussion and negotiation with denominational leadership from within the membership of Christian churches, promoting agendas and understanding which are both liberating and radical.
- v) To develop a visible presence of open Christian congregations and communities.

Address: 26 High Street, Newnham, Gloucestershire, GL14 1BB

Bankers: The Co-operative Bank

Independent Examiner Peter Stribblehill

Trustees for the period of this report:

Chair	John Churcher
Vice chair:	Angela Smith
Secretary:	Paul Onslow
Treasurer:	Andrew Burrell
	Adrian Alker
	Sonya Brown
	Helen Fisher until November 2012 and then Robin Story (representing St Marks CRC)
	Philip Goodwin
	Sandra Griffiths
	Alison Morley
	Alan Race
	Richard Tetlow



Admin officers of the 4 Greenbelt partners with new banner Adrian Alker addressing the Sept Conference in London

Chair's Report on the Network in 2012

As in previous years, I am pleased to report another important year in the development of PCN Britain. Membership has continued to grow although there is no room for complacency. It really is a matter of the more members there are living as best we can the Eight Points then the more we can achieve and the more can be changed.

Although a quote attributed to Heraclitus [c. 500BCE] concerning change, Isaac Asimov developed this into, "The only constant is change, continuing change, inevitable change, that is the dominant factor in society today. No sensible decision can be made any longer without taking into account not only the world as it is, but the world as it will be." This is the kind of change that marks the life of PCN Britain - not for the sake of change itself but because life changes and without our response to such changes there is the inevitable sound of the death knell. Change will happen but it is important that the speed or direction of change does not alienate one from another. In this context, the Eight Points are concerned with changing life today as we move towards life as it will be.

In 2012 two significant changes took place in the area of communication. One was the launch of the greatly improved PCN Britain web site and the other was the production of "Progressive Voices" that developed from the earlier black type on blue paper into a glossy colour newsletter/magazine. Appreciative comments have been received from the membership about both. It has been encouraging to see the way in which many groups have made creative use of their webpages. We continue to be grateful to Andy Vivian, Dave Coaker and Steve Ireland for the web site improvement and to Hugh Dawes for his editing of "Progressive Voices".

Much as I enjoy reading articles and book reviews in "Progressive Voices" I find the greatest encouragement in reading the Group pages - such interesting events and varied activities abound! These pages reflect a major strength of PCN Britain - its ability to offer support and encouragement to local autonomous groups doing their 'own thing'. At least one group [Mid Wiltshire] has held its own weekend residential. The Driffield group has initiated a mobile library. I find it very interesting that this past year has seen a number of groups discussing issues such as justice and peace; science and Christianity; engagement with local social and economic needs.

While many groups make use of their own members to lead, speak or introduce topics, some groups have gone a stage further and invited outside speakers – including authors such as Dave Tomlinson, Mark Townsend and myself. A number of Management Committee members have had the privilege of speaking at local group meetings and the offer is still open to those groups that would like a visit. Details of locally organised meetings are available on the web site and also within the Group pages of "Progressive Voices".

2012 saw the beginning of a new three year strategy for PCN. Among the new targets is the encouragement of local groups to hold public events and conferences, offering PCN's help with publicity and financial underwriting. Last autumn we supported locally organised conferences in Lee and Leicester addressed by Jim Kenney, the Executive Director of the Inter-religious Engagement Project. In 2013 we have already agreed to support ten public meetings and conferences organised by eleven local groups.

Another aim of our three year strategy is to develop PCN's offer to churches. This sparked the themes of our two national conferences in 2012 – at York where Chris Howson spoke about "How progressive Christian communities can be people of The Way" and in London where Adrian Alker spoke on "A Jesus Shaped Church, Christian Shaped Lives". Adrian also produced a new PCN leaflet designed to advertise what we offer churches, called "Helping Churches to Celebrate a 21st Century Faith". You will also be aware that he has taken this theme forward into our first major conference of 2013, "Celebrating a 21st Century Faith". We are indebted to him for his leadership of the project.

The 2012 annual residential weekend for members took place at The Hayes, Swanwick last May when Mark Townsend led us in an exploration of a contemporary spirituality.

It is good to see how the PCN Britain DVD library, managed by Jess Lee, is being used around the country. We are pleased to announce that the hire fees have been recently reduced and new titles are being added as they become available.

In April and May 2012, members were consulted about whether or not they wished PCN Britain to make representations to the government on its proposals for same-sex marriage. The questionnaire asked members to indicate their view not only on civil same-sex marriages but also on the possibility of church ceremonies. Members overwhelmingly

wished PCN to make representations and overwhelmingly supported the notion of same-sex marriage and the option for church ceremonies. The findings were conveyed to the Home Office in June 2012 - the report is available on the PCN Britain website. Communicating the content of the report to the media was one of the first tasks of our new Media Officer, Michael Wright. Since his appointment, Michael has been active in raising our profile through press releases and making new contacts with religious correspondents.

I am pleased to report that PCN Britain continues to work with partner organisations including our participation in the "Together in Hope" publications and the 2012 Greenbelt Festival. Such co-operative work will continue.

Without group convenors, volunteers and subcommittees PCN Britain would not have managed to develop as much nor as quickly as it has done. On behalf of the Management Committee I express sincere thanks to all who have contributed in any way to the work, not least the authors of many stimulating articles in "Progressive Voices" and on the website.

I express my thanks to all Management Committee members for their continued hard work on behalf of the membership. I especially thank Philip Goodwin who completes his term of office as a member of the Management Committee and Alison Morley who steps down as her ministerial role is changing. Helen Fisher was a great asset to the Management Committee and her place has been taken by Robin Story as the link with Sheffield's Centre for Radical Christianity. I continue to be extremely grateful to Andy Vivian who, in many ways, is the 'front office face' of PCN Britain. Finally, I thank all PCN Britain members for your continued commitment to the

cause of progressive Christianity.

In conclusion, if ever PCN Britain wanted a 'theme song' I would suggest the hymn by Joy Dine that has the following verses:

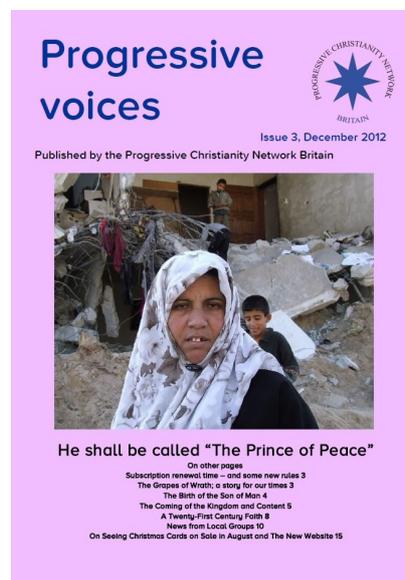
"End our longing for the old days, grant the vision that we lack.
Once we've started on this journey, there can be no turning back;
let us travel light, discarding excess baggage from our past,
cherish only what's essential, choosing treasure that will last.

When we set up camp and settle to avoid love's risk and pain,
life disturbs complacent comfort, pulls the tent pegs up again;
may we travel in the knowledge hope is always on our side,
give us courage for the journey, Christ our goal and Christ our guide."

John Churcher April 2013

PS: My apologies for missing the AGM - my great niece would not change her wedding day to accommodate this AGM!

PPS: We all thought that Jack Spong's final farewell happened at Hawarden a couple of years ago, but as always, the best made plans... in last year's annual report I wrote, "Sadly for progressive Christians, Jack has finally retired from his international speaking tours – his presence will be greatly missed." Well, the good news is that Jack is back on the road and will be speaking in Glasgow on Wednesday and Thursday 23/24 October. These events are organised by our friends at Cairns and Orchardhill and PCN Britain members are invited to attend!



PCN Britain's Website (www.pcnbritain.org.uk) and Newsletter both got a new look in 2012

Financial Report

- Year ended 31st December 2012

- 1 In accordance with the approach permitted by the Charity Commission for a body of PCN Britain's gross income the accounts are kept and reported on a receipts and payments basis, that is, there are no accruals.
- 2 The format submitted to the Charity Commission is in one recommended by them where all receipts and all expenditures are aggregated together. The Charity Commission provides a form for this (CC16a). This version may be seen on application to the Treasurer.
- 3 The accounts for 2012 have been subject to Independent Examination by Andrew Wright, who was appointed to this role by the Management Committee on March 16th 2013. Both formats mentioned above have been examined by the Independent Examiner. His certificate is attached.
- 4 The accounts show a surplus at the end of the year of £874.44. It is important to note that expenditure on Events is greater than income. This is largely due to advance payments for conferences to be held in 2013, and is totally in line with PCN Britain's strategy.
- 5 PCN Britain operates the following three accounts:
 - a) A current account, with cheque and online banking facilities, with the Co-operative Bank;
 - b) A savings account with CCLA who are specialists in investment management for charities, faith organisations, and local authorities;
 - c) A PayPal account for the receipt of payments in online transactions.
- 6 Because PCN Britain does not have, nor want, a business credit card, charges which must be received by credit card (e.g. materials for events, internet ISP Charges) are made against the Administrator's and/or the Treasurer's personal accounts. They then seek reimbursement from PCN Britain through the normal expense process. The same applies to cash payments such as postage.
- 7 During 2012 the PCN Britain Committee continued to undertake accounting for the Joint Publications Project. For this purpose a restricted fund was established as shown in the accounts. This was necessary in order to avoid cross-subsidy between the Project and the PCN Britain General Fund. The value of publication stock as at December 2012 was approx. £2,500.
- 8 Membership & Gift Aid was claimed for 2009 and 2010 to the value of £6,030. Gift Aid for 2011 and 2012 is to be claimed in the current financial year 2013.
- 9 The members of the Management Committee did not receive any remuneration, but reasonable expenses were paid amounting to £3,704.27. These expenses include accommodation for the annual strategic review weekend. Travel has increased by £1,059; it has been recommended that a review is carried out to see if there are ways to cut back on management meetings by using phone conferencing for some decisions. It is hoped this will reduce the number of face to face committees and therefore cut travel costs.

Andrew Burrell
Treasurer April 2013



Independent examiner's report follows on the next page

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Progressive Christian Network - Britain

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31st Dec. 2012

**Charity no
(if any)**

1102164

Set out on pages

Seven and Eight of this report

**Respective responsibilities of
trustees and examiner**

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.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- 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
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of independent
examiner's statement**

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.

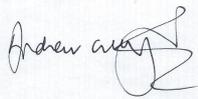
**Independent
examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act

have not been met; or to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:



Date:

April 9th 2013

Name:

Andrew Wright

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body (if
any):**

N/A

Address:

Courtyard Gallery

32, Boroughgate, Appleby-in-Westmorland, Cumbria, CA16 6HT

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material problems.

PCN BRITAIN RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

Headings	2012 Receipts	2012 Payments	2012	2011
Interest	£ 79.01		£ 79.01	£ 67.55
Coop Bank	£ 16.75			
CCLA	£ 62.26			
Events	£ 7,040.20	-£ 10,301.13	-£ 3,260.93	-£ 1,494.49
AGM	£ 235.00	-£ 177.00		
Events 2012	£ 5,771.20	-£ 6,437.87		
Events 2013	£ 1,034.00	-£ 3,686.26		
JPP	£ 2,538.56	-£ 2,123.33	£ 415.23	-£ 472.84
Loan	£ 750.00			
Book Sales	£ 1,788.56			
Other costs		-£ 94.26		
Printing		-£ 2,029.07		
Membership & Donations	£ 24,677.31	-£ 234.09	£ 24,443.22	£ 18,980.65
Membership - Current year				
Refund		-£ 234.09		
Subscription	£ 12,616.99			£ 14,502.23
Donations				
Donations	£ 1,210.44			
Membership & Donations 2013				
Subscription	£ 4,820.23			£ 4,311.69
Gift Aid (2009/10)	£ 6,029.65			
Operations		-£ 16,346.73	-£ 16,346.73	-£ 13,368.77
Committee Expenses		-£ 3,704.27		-£ 2,446.23
Insurance		-£ 378.35		
PCNB Office				-£ 10,303.97
Admin & Office Expenses		-£ 1,169.60		
Admin Salary		-£ 7,165.33		
Tax & NI		-£ 2,513.88		
Office and IT Costs		-£ 465.30		
Grants		-£ 950.00		
Publications	£ 833.91	-£ 5,289.27	-£ 4,455.36	-£ 4,506.76
Newsletter				
Newsletter		-£ 2,485.52		
Publications				
Books and CDs/DVDs	£ 833.91			
Publication Costs		-£ 934.27		
Website		-£ 1,590.00		
ISP Provider costs		-£ 279.48		
Surplus/Deficit for year	£ 35,168.99	-£ 34,294.55	£ 874.44	-£ 1,375.49

STATEMENT OF ASSETS

Funds

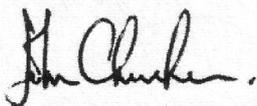
PCNB General Fund*	2012		2011
Balance at 1 January	£21,407.24		£21,106.78
Surplus/Deficit for year	£ 874.44		-£ 1,363.28
Balance at 31 December	£22,281.68		£19,743.50
Total Funds	£22,281.68		£21,106.78

Bank Accounts

	2012		2011
Balance at 1 January			
Co-operative Bank current a/c	£ 5,792.77		£12,044.39
CCLA deposit account	£ 7,068.90		£ 7,018.85
PayPal account	£ 7,450.42		£ 2,043.54
Total	£20,312.09		£22,251.51
Balance at 31 December			
Co-operative Bank current a/c	£14,037.90		£ 5,792.77
CCLA Deposit account	£ 7,131.16		£ 7,068.90
PayPal account	£ 238.18		£ 7,450.42
Total	£21,407.24		£21,106.78

Joint Publications Project (Restricted Fund)*	2012		2011
	Receipts	Payments	
Balance January 1st	£ 1,017.69		
Book Sales	£ 1,788.56		
Printing		-£2,029.07	
Other Costs		-£ 94.26	
Loans	£ 750.00		
Total	£ 3,556.25	-£2,123.33	
Surplus / Deficit 2011	£ 1,432.92		
Balance at 31 December	£ 1,432.92		£ 1,017.69

* PCN Britain General funds incorporate JPP restricted funds



John Churcher, Chair



Andrew Burrell, Treasurer
April 2013