



Progressive Christianity Network Britain

Registered Charity No: 1102164

ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1ST JANUARY - 31ST DECEMBER 2009



Wordle by Linda Harrison

26 High Street, Newnham, Gloucestershire, GL14 1BB

The Progressive Christianity Network Britain

Registered Charity No: 1102164

Governing Document:	Constitution adopted 22 nd September 2003, and amended 19 th January 2004, 12 th November 2005 and 24 th 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">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:	C/O 26 High Street, Newnham, Gloucestershire, GL14 1BB
Bankers:	The Co-operative Bank, PO Box 250, Skelmersdale, WN8 6WT
Independent examiner	Peter Stribblehill
Trustees for the period of this report:	
Chair	John Churcher
Vice chair:	Charles Hedley (until September 2009)
Secretary:	Jill Sandham
Treasurer:	Duncan Craig Adrian Alker Hugh Dawes Sandra Griffiths Philip Goodwin John Hetherington (from 24 th October 2009) Mary McMahan Sue O'Hare (from 22 nd November 2009) Anne Padget Brian Wilson

Chair's report on the Network

1st January to 31st December 2009

This report commences with the recognition of the huge debt that we owe to both Hugh Dawes and Jill Sandham for their vision, commitment and sheer hard work in establishing and then leading the growth of PCN Britain from its small beginnings to where we are today. Hugh and Jill were there from the outset but announced at the January 2009 residential meeting of the Executive Committee that they would both be stepping down from their roles during the year. Hugh and Jill 'retired' from the Executive Committee at the end of 2009.



Jill Sandham and Hugh Dawes

The roots of PCN Britain go back to November 2001 when a small meeting was held at All Hallows, Leeds. The original vision was for a TCPC Europe, developing from the farsightedness and work of Jim Adams and the TCPC in the USA. Two follow up meetings were held at St Faith's in North Dulwich in April and November 2002. Jack Spong was a distinguished supporter and encourager of those early developments and still remains a great friend of PCN Britain. Jack allowed his tour of UK in 2002 to be the springboard for the establishment of PCN Britain. The first AGM was held on 27th November 2004. We have come a long way under the guidance of Hugh and Jill!

Change and growth seem to have been the key words for PCN Britain ever since its early days. Olivia McLennan was the Administrator at the beginning of the year covered by this report but left in spring 2009 to pursue a career elsewhere. After a detailed and exhaustive quest we were able to appoint an excellent replacement. Andy Vivian became our new Administrator and commenced work on 1st May. His contribution to the life and development of PCN Britain has been all that the appointing committee could have wished – and more!

Charles Hedley, Vice Chair and another of the original leaders, resigned from the Executive Committee in September when he moved to a new appointment in China. Brian Wilson, who made major contributions to the Executive Committee with his quiet wisdom, research into local PCN Britain groups and as Chair of the Appraisal Committee that undertook Andy's probation appraisal completed his term of office. Duncan Craig, the Treasurer, also stepped down at the end of the year but very helpfully assisted with the induction of the new co-opted Treasurer, Terence Cooper.

On behalf of the entire membership I express deep felt gratitude to all members of the Executive Committee who left their roles during 2009. I also wish to thank all continuing Executive Committee members for their commitment to the work of PCN Britain in addition to their already extremely busy lives.



St Deiniol's, venue for 2009 residential

If success is measured in terms of increased membership and the number of new groups established around the country, then 2009 was a very successful year. But success also needs to be measured in other ways, for example, in the increasing support offered to members and Group Convenors through the on-going use of the Newsletter, supplemented by a developing website, email updates and a 'trial run' on *facebook*. 'Together in Hope' continued to sell well and is the forerunner of further developments with partner organisations in the planning of a new series of joint publications [*the first of which will be available in autumn 2010*]. With increased membership came both a stronger financial situation for PCN Britain and an increased workload for the Administrator. Through the autumn of 2009 discussions took place concerning extra hours to be added to the Administrator's contract [*NB: an extra 4 hours were subsequently added during 2010*].

During 2009 the Executive Committee met on the following occasions:

- 18th / 19th January residential planning weekend at the Emmaus Centre in Hayes, south London.
- 7th March at St James's, Piccadilly, London.
- 20th June at St James's, Piccadilly, London.

- 5th September at St James's, Piccadilly, London.

The Executive Committee exists to listen, respond, resource and support the membership and local groups. It does not exist to tell members and local groups what to do. Strategy, guidance on starting and continuing local groups, planning national events and encouraging the development of regional 'hubs' are some of the outcomes of the work of the Executive.

The major national tour was undertaken once again by Jack Spong. The Executive Committee is grateful to the PCN Britain groups that organised Jack's tour in their own local venues:

- 20th October in Colchester [a new venue for PCN Britain]
- 21st October in Sheffield
- 22nd October in Edinburgh [a new venue for PCN Britain]
- 24th October in London
- 26th October in Exeter



Bishop Jack Spong at Colchester

A national conference was organised in Birmingham with Ian Lawton, Nicola Slee and Jim Mein [in March] as the speakers. The annual PCN Britain residential conference at St Deiniols [in May] had Jim Cotter as its speaker. Regional conferences organised by local groups included John

Bell in Scotland, Adrian Smith in Skipton and David Catchpole in Hastings.

Throughout 2009 the work of PCN Britain continued to develop as a small organisation 'punching above its weight', making new demands upon local and national organisers and committee members. One of the on-going challenges that concerned the Executive Committee was how to involve more young people in the work. One agreed strategy was the development of sub-committees to advise on aspects of the work of PCN Britain, and in this context three younger members came forward to look at ways in which their contemporaries can be encouraged to be involved. *[NB: This sub-committee will be starting in the very near future.]*

PCN Britain continues to flourish as a result of the dedication, encouragement and vision of many people who are supporting progressive Christianity. As an organisation we continue our long-standing commitment to collaborative work, learning from, cherishing and nurturing

those who are travelling a similar pathway. The "networking" part of PCN Britain was and remains of vital importance.

As I commend this report to the membership I am also pleased to inform you that 2010 continues to build successfully upon the work of earlier local, regional and national members. It has been a great privilege for me to serve the membership and the Executive Committee as Chair since January 2009. To paraphrase a commercial advertisement, "the future is bright, the future is *[not orange!]* what we make it." Or in the words of John Richardson, "When it comes to the future, there are three kinds of people: those who let it happen, those who make it happen, those who wonder what happened."

John Churcher

[NB: The Executive Committee is also the Board of Trustees of PCN Britain. The officers, Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer, are elected annually by other Board members].



Bishop Jack Spang meets members of the audience at Exeter

Independent Examiner's report to the Progressive Christianity Network

This report on the accounts of the Progressive Christianity Network (PCN) for the period 1 January to 31 December 2009, which are set out on the financial pages of the annual report is in respect of an examination carried out under s.43 of the Charities Act 1993 ("The Act").

Respective responsibilities of the PCN and the examiner

As members of the PCN you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts: you consider that the audit requirements of section 43(2) of the Act do not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those accounts in accordance with the terms of the Act.

Basis of this report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 43(7)(b) of the Act. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCN and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act have not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed



Dr Peter Striblehill
July 2010

Progressive Christianity Network Britain

Registered Charity No. 1102164

Statement of Receipts and Payments for the Year ended 31 December 2009

	UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	
	31/12/2009	31/12/2008
	£	£
RECEIPTS (excluding Publications and Events)		
Membership Income:		
Membership	12,396	6,749
Donations	749	309
Gift Aid	0	4,547
	<u>13,145</u>	<u>11,605</u>
Other Income:		
Investment Income	100	426
Sundry		60
Donation of Reserves of Other Organisation		1,082
	<u>100</u>	<u>1,568</u>
Total Receipts (excluding Publications and Events)	13,245	13,173
PAYMENTS (excluding Publications and Events)		
Running Costs:		
Board/AGM Costs	2,378	1,574
Administration Costs	7,750	7,310
	<u>10,128</u>	<u>8,884</u>
Cost of Activities:		
Newsletter	1,870	1,797
Coalition & Group Development		142
Website	152	841
Advertising	565	
Stalls at Denomination Conferences	250	1,516
	<u>2,837</u>	<u>4,296</u>
Total Payments (excluding Publications and Events)	12,965	13,180
PUBLICATIONS		
Receipts	704	732
Payments	82	500
Net Receipts on Publications	<u>622</u>	<u>232</u>
EVENTS		
Receipts	23,260	1,033
Payments	16,397	1,000
Net Receipts on Events	<u>6,863</u>	<u>33</u>
Net Incoming Resources	7,765	258
CASH FUNDS 1st JANUARY 2009	14,486	14,228
CASH FUNDS 31st DECEMBER 2009	<u>22,251</u>	<u>14,486</u>

Note 1

PCN-B encourages and facilitates formation of local groups. However, local PCN-B groups are self-supporting informal associations, the activities, income and expenditure of which are not under the control of the board of management of PCN-B and consequently the financial results of local groups are excluded from the PCN-B accounts. The exception to this principle is where local groups ask PCN-B to underwrite public events in their locality. Where PCN-B agrees to do this, it is on the basis that the profit/loss, or a proportion thereof, accrues to PCN-B and is therefore included in the PCN-B accounts.

Note 2

The members of the management committee did not receive any remuneration.

Note 3

£1,599 was paid in expenses to a total of 9 members of the management committee.

Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31 December 2009

	UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	
	31/12/2009	31/12/2008
	£	£
CASH FUNDS		
Bank balances	19,296	14,486
Balance in Paypal account	2,955	
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	22,251	14,486
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Signed on behalf of all trustees



J Churcher
Chair

T Cooper
Treasurer