

PINNER ASSOCIATION OF CHURCHES

Christians in Pinner Working Together



Welcome

www.pinnerchurches.org.uk

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1. THE PAC COVENANT

**We, the congregations of
Cannon Lane Methodist Church
Love Lane Methodist Church
Pinner United Free Church
St. Andrew's United Reformed Church
St. John the Baptist Church of England
St. Luke's Roman Catholic Church**

Affirm our common belief in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, proclaimed in Holy Scripture and expressed in the creeds and confessions of the Church.

We thank God for our one baptism into the Body of Christ. We are grateful for the work of the Holy Spirit through the insights and gifts of the traditions represented in our churches and we accept one another in Christ as he in his mercy accepts us.

We celebrate the riches and diversity of our various traditions, though we regret that which still divides us. We believe that, over the years of deepening fellowship within the Pinner Association of Churches, our calling continues towards ever-closer expressions of the unity proclaimed in the Scriptures, in the service of God's kingdom.

Therefore we declare our readiness to commit ourselves more closely to each other under God, through the Holy Spirit. Our desire is to become the one church of Christ, united in faith, communion, care and mission, such unity being the gift of God. We are thankful that this gift continues to grow among us.

Nothing in the Covenant in any way weakens our ties or responsibilities to our individual denominations, but we continue to seek not to do separately those things that can better be done together.

Signed 8th June 2003

2. THE CONSTITUTION OF THE PINNER ASSOCIATION OF CHURCHES

1. **THE COVENANT.** The Covenant signed on Sunday 29th November 1992, and re-signed on Sunday 8th June 2003, celebrates and advances the long-standing relationship between the churches in the Pinner Association of Churches (PAC).
2. **COVENANTING COUNCIL.** As the Covenanting Council, the Executive Committee of the PAC (the PAC Executive, see para 4) monitors the progress of our more formal relationship.
3. **SPONSORING BODY.** The PAC relates to the North Thames Sponsoring Body of Churches Together in England, within the Council of Churches for Britain and Ireland, under their terms of reference.
4. **PAC EXECUTIVE.** The PAC Executive is the instrument of liaison, communication and development between the churches. The PAC Executive shall consist of two lay representatives appointed for a maximum period of three years by each member church, with up to two members of staff per congregation. The Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer of the PAC, together with one appointed representative of each official PAC committee or group shall be ex-officio members of the Executive. In addition the Executive may co-opt up to four further members as required, whilst ensuring a balance of representation between the churches. The Executive may propose amendments to its rules of procedure, at an Annual Meeting (see para 7).
5. **APPOINTMENTS.** Subject to the approval of the Annual Meeting, the PAC Executive shall appoint annually the following officers: Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and Auditor. The Chair and Vice-Chair shall be appointed for a maximum of one year only.
6. **ANNUAL REPORT.** The PAC Executive shall make an Annual Report to each of the participating churches.
7. **FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS.** The PAC Executive shall meet not less than three times a year. Notification of meetings and agendas shall be circulated fourteen days before the date of each meeting.
A Standing Committee comprising the Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer (with the possibility of co-option when required) shall meet prior to each PAC Executive meeting to oversee and draw up the agenda.
In addition there shall be an Annual Meeting to which all members of the participating churches shall be invited.
8. **FINANCE.** The PAC Executive shall have authority to continue to run a Banking Account and to levy an Annual Subscription from each of the participating churches.
9. **COMMUNICATION.** In order to facilitate good communications between the participating churches, the Chair of the PAC Executive, together with one other member, may speak at any meeting of the Church Councils (or other appropriate decision making authority) of the participating churches.

10. **STATUS OF PAC DECISIONS.** Resolutions and recommendations of the PAC Executive do not commit the member churches, but all churches promise to give them serious consideration and the churches agree to have 'PAC Matters' on all Church Council Agendas. The PAC Executive will, at any time be prepared to receive resolutions from any of the Covenanting churches.
11. **NEW MEMBERS.** Any new congregation of Christian Churches in Pinner, which are members of the Council of Britain and Ireland, should normally be invited to join the Covenant. Churches not belonging to that body may, after consultations, be invited to join. Consideration will also be given to the possibility of Associate Membership within the PAC for Churches that do not feel able to participate fully in the Covenant.
12. **WITHDRAWAL FROM THE COVENANT.** This Covenant represents a profound commitment. Withdrawal from such a relationship must be seen as a very serious step to take. However, if after careful consideration any member church decides to withdraw from the Covenant, it may do so after giving three months' notice of intention to the other members.
13. **ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURES.** It is the firm intention of the churches participating in the Covenant to avoid the setting up of unnecessary administrative structures. Churches should look carefully at the possibility of merging some of their existing Committees into more widely-based ecumenical ones.
14. **CLERGY/MINISTERS MEETING.** The Clergy and Ministers and other Church Workers attached to the participating Churches meet together regularly for prayer, study and necessary business. Clergy and Ministers from local churches outside the Covenant may also be invited to join, but consideration should always be given to the maintenance of a

proper balance between staff of the PAC churches and the rest. There should always be a clear majority of PAC Clergy and Ministers. This meeting may bring suggestions and advice to the PAC Executive. It has no executive authority except where such authority is delegated to it by the PAC Executive.
15. **MINISTERIAL VACANCIES.** When a ministerial post falls vacant, the Chair of the PAC Executive will be responsible for contacting the appropriate appointing authority in order to draw attention to the need for a sympathetic appointment. It is clearly understood that the right of appointment remains with each denomination as at present.
16. **REVIEW.** The Covenant shall be reviewed every five years by the Sponsoring Body, in partnership with the Executive and the participating churches.
17. **CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION.** Where major changes are suggested to this Constitution by individual churches, the PAC Executive or the Sponsoring Body, they must be approved by all parties to the Covenant.

(Last amended 20.11.11)

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Christians in Pinner Working Together

3. PAC AIMS AND PURPOSE

1. Maintain and develop the work we are already doing together.
2. Encourage further links of friendship, understanding and Christian love between individuals and congregations.
3. Explore the possibilities of further co-operation and commitment, always seeking to be open to the leading of God's Spirit, particularly in the following areas:
 - **Worship and Prayer** Strengthening and deepening our worship by praying with and for each other regularly, learning from each other's traditions and continuing to share united worship from time to time.
 - **Training and Christian Education** Exploring our understanding of Christ through shared study and discussion, and encouraging an ecumenical dimension within our Christian education and training programmes for all age groups.
 - **Children's and Youth Work** Provide both practical and spiritual support for those specialist organisations and personnel involved in Christian children's and youth work, within our churches and community.
 - **Social Action** Strengthening ongoing work through greater co-operation with community groups, agencies and institutions; developing our response to community needs; working together to uphold the needs of the poor and concern for peace, justice and the environment; and, as far as conscience permits, speaking and acting together in response to social and moral issues.
 - **Resources** Exploring ways of serving the needs of the church and the community by sharing resources of people, skills, equipment and property, whilst respecting the needs of individual churches and their rights to their own resources.
 - **Mission and Evangelism** Looking for ways in which we can come together to present the Gospel to our community, whilst recognising the differing views and methods of evangelism within the member churches of the PAC.
 - **Dialogue** Continuing in dialogue with people of other faiths, for the building of mutual understanding and good community relations.

Revised October 2005

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4. A brief overview of some of the PAC activities

PRAYING AND WORSHIPPING TOGETHER

- **Worshipping Together Services 4 times a year.** All churches share in leading these, which have recently included: Celtic, Contemporary, Iona and Taize worship styles.
- **Good Friday Walk of Witness** processing through the streets of Pinner, with stops for devotions on the way.
- **Monastic Safari in 2007; Franciscan Safari in 2012** working in partnership with members of Benedictine and Franciscan Communities to provide a day of exploration into faith

LEARNING AND STUDYING THE CHRISTIAN FAITH TOGETHER

- **Lent** – house-groups and talks held in alternate years
- **Study Mornings and weekends** have been held

CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH WORK

- **Network** between the leaders enables churches to borrow resources and tap into expertise.
- **Re:generation (Harrow Churches Schools Link)** some church youth leaders involved

BEING INVOLVED IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

- **Christmas Day Lunch** for those who would otherwise be on their own. (Transport provided)
- **Welcome Lunches** 5 times a year, also for those who are on their own and don't get out much. (Transport provided)
- **PAC Coffee Shop** Open every Friday morning in St. Luke's Parish Centre, the nearest church to the shopping centre. Provides a drop-in centre and also raises money for charities local and world-wide
- **Songs of Praise in the Park** Held in August, following the series of Pinner Association Band Concerts
- **Carols by Torchlight** At the top of the High Street, around the Christmas Tree on the Friday evening before Christmas

COMMUNICATIONS

- **PAC Christmas Card** produced for circulation to 10,000 homes in Pinner.
- **Internal Newsletter** produced 3-4 times a year with information for the churches.
- **PAC web site** www.pinnerchurches.org.uk

GLOBAL CONCERNS

- **Three Faith Dialogue** with meetings held 4 times a year. (Was formerly Jewish/Christian Dialogue, but now involves the Muslim faith as well.)
- **Christian Aid and JPIC groups** working together – support for Fairtrade and Make Poverty History. Organised PAC trips to demonstrations and other events.

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5. A BRIEF HISTORY

1967-68 National 'People Next Door' campaign, which gave rise to the initial stirrings of PAC.

May 30 1969 Inaugural meeting held under the chairmanship of Revd David Ritchie (St. John's), with Revd Joe Hislop (St. Andrew's), Revd Bernard Holland (Love Lane Methodist), Revd Roger Newman (Pinner United Free Church), Revd Wilfred Trotman (St. Luke's), plus lay representatives from the 5 churches, the Pinner Christian Youth Council, The Grail and PND (People Next Door)

1982 Cannon Lane Methodist Church became the 6th congregation in the PAC. Possibility of signing a Covenant first mentioned.

1969 – 1988 PAC organised a hospital car scheme and a Waywarden scheme.

1989 These schemes were replaced by Pinner Helping Hands, still active today. Other activities organised by PAC in this period: Easter-Whitsun house groups; Spring half-day conference; United Services on Good Friday evening and at Whitsun. Strong support was given to the new Pinner Youth Centre, then in School Lane. Theatre Roundabout came to Pinner for 4 years; a Good Friday procession took place twice; One World Week was strongly supported and the East London project, by which children from Tower Hamlets came to stay in Pinner. Three retreats, two visits to Taizé and two weekend conferences at Ashburnham took place.

1987 **Pentecost Celebration** held in a marquee at the Grail, followed by a picnic in the grounds – a highlight for all who took part.

1987 – 1992 Many activities started in this period are still continuing today: Lent Study Groups; fortnightly united prayers (now held monthly); Jewish/Christian Dialogues; Christian Aid and JPIC (Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation) group; Christmas Day lunch for people who might otherwise be alone; Remembrance Day Service; Public Meetings for the General Elections.

1991 Ecumenical Youth Worker employed by the PAC to work with all the churches. A series of At Home evenings held for people to visit each other's churches.

1992 **SIGNING THE COVENANT BETWEEN THE SIX CHURCHES IN THE PINNER ASSOCIATION OF CHURCHES ON ADVENT SUNDAY**

1992 Christmas Cracker Projects started by the Youth Worker, Mark Cregan – first project **PAC Radio Station** broadcast from Pinner United Free Church

1993 Second project organised by the 2nd Youth Worker, Alison Agar, '**Crackerteria**' in shop premises near Sainsburys

- 1997** First Review of the Covenant, with participation from all the churches, culminating in a paper with our future aims.
- 1998** The Clarion, a PAC newsletter, distributed to all the homes in Pinner 3 times a year.
- 1999 and 2000** Involvement in the Jubilee 2000 (Birmingham) and Drop the Debt (London) campaigns.
- 2000** In Millennium Year we were very active: Millennium candles distributed to members of the local community; music, dance and drama production 'Spring 2000' took place, with over 70 performers from all the churches; gifts of £100 given to 7 local schools for Christian resources; a PAC float with walkers took part in the Pinner Carnival.
Highlight of the year was a second **Pentecost Celebration** in a marquee at The Grail.
Working through THATCH (The Homeless and the Churches in Harrow), the PAC funded places for 3 young people in a house in central Harrow for 3 years, and continued to give an annual donation to Thatch for several years following.
- 2000** The first PAC web site was set up and became active at the AGM in November.
- 2001** The first **Summer Fun Day** was held in July and continued on an annual basis for 10 years. A Communications Group was set up.
Memorial Service held for the World Trade Centre disaster in September, with a condolence book sent to the U.S. Embassy.
- 2002** **The PAC Coffee Shop** opened on Friday mornings, with staff from all the churches and has been very successful, continuing to the present day. **PAC Clarion** distribution re-started.
Service held in Pinner High Street to mark the **Queen's Golden Jubilee**.
- 2003** The second review of the Covenant was held.
June 8 2003 RE-SIGNING THE COVENANT BETWEEN THE SIX CHURCHES OF PAC.
PAC Development Group formed, to progress the ideas from the review.
Adoption of a Strapline to our title, '**Christians in Pinner Working Together**.
Good Friday Silent Walk of Witness started up again and still continuing.
- 2004** Jewish/Christian Dialogue becomes 'Three Faith Dialogue'. **Songs of Praise in the Park** held in August in Pinner Memorial Park. Study morning replaces weekend away. Visit to 'Life of Christ' at Wintershall.
- 2005** All churches join with St. Luke's RC Church for the 'At Your Word Lord' groups in the Lent period. Walk of Witness numbers growing each year.
- 2006** **Carols by Torchlight** started in the High Street on a December evening near to Christmas.
- 2007** **A Monastic Safari** held in May, with the Abbott and Monks from Ealing Abbey. Worship, workshops and events held in all 6 churches throughout the day, culminating in Compline at St. Luke's Church, with everyone singing Gregorian chant.
- 2009** Lent Series '**The Challenge of the Changing Church**' held in 5 different venues, looking at the changes we each face in our denominations and churches. Pinner Christian Fellowship (Elim) now sharing premises with Pinner Free Church, welcomed and took part in this series.
- May 31 2009 WORSHIPPING TOGETHER SERVICE HELD ON PENTECOST SUNDAY TO MARK 40 YEARS OF THE PAC WORKING TOGETHER.**
- 2010** Conference on the future of the PAC
- 2012** **Franciscan Safari** held in May with Friars and Sisters from Barnet, Woodford Green, Canterbury and Northumberland. Workshops and events held in 4 churches.



THE COFFEE SHOP

Open every Friday morning

10.15am – 12noon

In St. Luke's Parish Centre, Love Lane

EVERYONE WELCOME!

Coffee, tea, biscuits and cake (usually home-made)

Information table of news from the churches

Profits divided between charities (local and world-wide) and the work of the PAC

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