PACE NEWS

November/December 2026

PROGRAMME FOR APPLIED CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



Partnering with **Churches, Serving** the **Schools**

Good News Stories

Hello!

As we enter the second half of the autumn term here at **PACE** I have been reflecting on the theme of 'Good News stories' and I'm pleased to say that we have much to celebrate at **PACE**!

As well as the update on our finances you can read later in this issue (spoiler alert – it's good news!), we have also been hearing stories about the impact of our work from local churches and schools.
Stories like

- The Bournemouth teenager who turned up at his local church because **PACE** had been to his school and talked about God and Christianity;
- the GCSE students who visited a local church with **PACE**, then joined an Alpha course starting later that week;
- the secondary teacher who has returned to faith after **PACE**'s visits;
- the active members of a local church who became Christians at school through **PACE**'s ministry;
- the local primary schools feeding back that **PACE** has a positive impact on their pupils.

We'll be sharing more about what God has been doing in our local schools at our annual **Carol Service on Thursday 3rd December**, as well as celebrating the best good news story of all:

"I bring you good news that will bring you great joy to all people. The Saviour … has been born today"

Luke 2:10-11 NLT

So why not come and join us in celebrating that Good News this Christmas, and bring a friend or two? You can sign up using the link below. We'd love to see you there and get to know you better over a mince pie and festive drink!

Sign Up Here



Michelle Mitchell | Director of **PACE**

Giving Update



At the end of the last school year (July 2026) we were in a challenging situation financially. With a few weeks to go our General Fund only had a few hundred pounds left in it. Our financial needs are constantly on our prayer list, but then it was flashing red at the top! How would God supply our needs this time? He'd never let us down before.

As trustees we were led through prayer to send a letter out to our supporters to join with us in our prayers, as well as to consider contributing to the work. And WOW, the response took our breath away! In the first two months of this year (and the last week of August) we received just over £50,000 from our wonderful supporters; individuals and churches. With around £8,000 to come from Gift Aid this has made a massive difference to our General Fund. Through you, our supporters, God has shown his faithfulness yet again, and we can breathe once more! As a charity we continually live from hand to mouth in this area, trusting Him to provide.

We are hoping that churches and individuals will consider giving a regular monthly amount so that we don't have this continual challenge every year. It would be wonderful if we could build up our regular income to match our ongoing expenses. We don't aim to keep a large surplus of money in our account, but having a little more consistency in our income would help tremendously. So, thank you so much if you were one of those who has made the sacrifice to get us where we are, and to everyone, we ask if you could prayerfully consider giving a monthly amount to enable us to continue to bring the light and love of Jesus into our schools.



Phil Cole | Chair of Trustees

My name is Andrew



My name is Andrew and I love being a trustee of **PACE**.

I was born into a very secular household which meant me becoming a Christian while I was at university was a bit of a shock for my parents! After uni I went on to qualify as a solicitor and spent 30 years as a full time lawyer, dealing with all types of cases - criminal, civil, matrimonial, personal injury. But the common thread was that they all involved going to court. Understandably most people find litigation a bit terrifying but I really enjoyed my time as a full time solicitor.

But half way through that time I also felt called to ordination in the Church of England and I served as a part time unpaid minister in Canford Magna Parish, Wimborne. Then in my mid-fifties I became a full time vicar at All Saints in Swanage. During my ten years in Swanage I helped found a youth charity for the churches in Swanage when my legal training came in really useful.

When I retired in 2020 I came back to live in my old parish in Wimborne. I was asked to become a trustee of **PACE** to make good use of my legal skills once again. I have enjoyed pretty much every aspect of my life - solicitor, volunteer minister, vicar, and now retired minister (I still get to hep at my local church). But being a trustee of **PACE** is one of the most rewarding things I've ever done. The opportunity that **PACE** has to be a resource to the schools in BCP and to bring the message of Jesus to young people who would otherwise never hear it is brilliant. I would love to see the work of the **PACE** Schools and Pastoral Teams growing more and more so that even more young people can hear the message and have the opportunity to respond.

I have been married to Ann for over 45 years and have two children and six grandchildren. They keep me pretty busy, but as well as involvement in **PACE** and in church, I love travel, scuba diving, skiing, theatre and opera and classical music and above all being involved in **PACE**. Life is great!



Andrew Corke | **PACE** Trustee

All Things Wise and Wonderful…



Harvest Festival assemblies and Messy Harvests continue to be delivered creatively across BCP. Poole schools have pondered the wonderful miracle of a seed. How does each one know what it will become? A flower, grass, food, trees? How does the root know to grow down and the shoot know to grow up? Children have marvelled at time lapse videos of apple seeds and tomato seeds growing and they've learned about the Global seed vault in Svalbard.

A new initiative this year has been to offer assemblies linked to the British values whilst still referencing God's word. All schools have to cover these in their curriculum. So far, children have explored the fact that democracy is nothing new. Moses, following the advice of his father-in-law Jethro, realised he could not handle the people's problems, burdens and disputes all by himself. He invited them to select wise, understanding and respected people to become leaders. We looked at evidence found on Roman coins from Jesus' day showing voting using ballot boxes to ensure freedom of voice and choice. Citizens cast their votes using a balottas (small ball) or by carving initials on to a wax tablet and placing it in a box.

Voting for School Councillors in schools today is a similar process. We should choose those who are good listeners, kind, inclusive and well respected in the class. Staff have reported receiving more suggestions of children for these positions and a higher number of offers to become a school councillor. Such encouraging news!



Liz wesley-Barker | Schools Worker

More than just a Lunchtime



If you've ever heard us talk about 'detached work' and wondered what we mean, you're not alone!

Imagine arriving at school just before lunchtime. The students are pouring out of classrooms, heading to the canteen, the field and the corridors. Somewhere in amongst all the noise and activity, you'll find us!

Detached work is our opportunity to be present in the everyday life of a school, meeting students in their own spaces during break or lunchtime.

Each week we arrive with a question linked to our theme, a Bible verse, a game or a challenge and, of course, some sweets! But these are really just ways of starting conversations. In the space of 20-30 minutes we might chat with 20 or more students, get to know them, hear what's going on in their lives and become familiar faces around the school.

Unlike Big Questions, where a smaller group can explore faith in greater depth, detached work gives us opportunities to meet students who might never come along to a club or lesson.

And those conversations can lead to much more. Students have come to find us after lessons to ask further questions, asked for Bibles after hearing their friends had received one, shared about their churches, and we've had opportunities to offer to pray for students when life has been difficult.

We're so thankful for the volunteers who make this possible. More volunteers mean more opportunities to be present, have conversations and meet more students.

As we continue through this school year, please pray for the relationships we're building, the opportunities ahead and more volunteers to join us.



Lisa Stuart |Schools Worker

Resilient Compassion

The more time I spend with Pastoral Support Workers (PSWs) the more I'm seeing "resilient compassion". I don't know whether it is a "thing" or whether I just made it up but it perfectly describes the key component of a PSW in schools today.

What does "resilient compassion" look like?

Resilient compassion describes a person who is very self-aware;

- they keep an emotionally safe distance from situations without getting sucked into them;
- they keep calm when faced with a dysregulated child or young person;
- they know when to approach a young person to offer support but empathically step back when they sense the young person doesn't want help;
- they develop strong bonds with families that support and empower them to move forward;
- they willingly go the extra mile to sort out Food Bank vouchers and seek funding that enables children to get free fruit;
- they persevere with children and families by standing with them long term; they demonstrate their own resilience, role modelling and fostering resilience in the children and families they are working with;
- they use effective strategies to help and empower young people to regulate their emotions;
- they understand that sometimes children and families need more help so, with the school, refer on to other services while keeping a watchful eye on progress;
- they are resilient in implementing safeguarding procedures;
- they are excellent communicators with children, staff and families;
- they know how to look after themselves emotionally.

PACE supervision is such a vital component in the working lives of PSWs and why it is important to supervise PSWs twice a half term; particularly when they are working with complex family situations. Please pray for them.



Roy Whyte | Pastoral Support Manager



There are many ways that you can support PACE:

- **Pray** for our work - Join us at the next **PACE** prayer meeting (see details above); Use Pray for **PACE** to pray daily for the team as they go into schools.

- **Give** to our ministry - Set up a regular standing order or one off payment to **PACE**;
  Account No: 43329178 Sort Code: 20-11-43
  Name of Account: Programme for Applied Christian Education
  Reference: Your name

Send a cheque made out to **PACE** to the address below;
Gift Aid your donation by contacting the office (details below).

- **Share** with your church/network - Invite others to sign up to our mailing list or attend an event; Become a Church Champion to promote the work of **PACE**; Invite one of the **PACE** team to speak at a church service or group.

- **Volunteer** with us - Ask us about the different opportunities available in schools or at events.

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