

Peachcroft Christian Centre facilities now include:-

- **Main Hall** with seating capacity for 150 plus overflow area
- **Fully Equipped Kitchen** with crockery for over 100
- **Small Room (11' x14')** called the **Crèche**
- **Small Room (11'x 10')** called the **Quiet Room**

The whole centre may be hired with exclusive use of the kitchen or individual rooms hired with shared use of the kitchen.

Enquiries in regard to hiring the centre should be addressed preferably by email to the bookings secretary: bookings@peachcroftcc.org or by phone on 01235 537606 (evenings only). Use of microphones, speakers, loop system, projection or video equipment will incur additional hire cost and possibly a contribution for an operator's time or instruction. For terms and conditions, please visit www.peachcroftcc.org.



for the over 55s Mondays 2pm

September 15th
October 13th and 27th
November 10th and 24th
December 8th

The Young at Heart or Over 55's club has been meeting for 8 years on alternate Mondays and has greatly benefited from the new building. We have a varied program including talks, quizzes and games, films (on the big cinema screen) indoor bowls and afternoon outings to places of interest. Please contact Brian and Jean on 206222 for further information.

Sunday Club

is for Friendship, Fun and Bible stories with messages for today's living, learning and morals.

We aim to give children a happy and secure environment in which they can grow up knowing Jesus, worship God, feel part of His church and begin to understand what the Bible says.

We do this in an environment in which they can relax, discuss lighter Bible topics while adults are in Church and ask any questions they want. We want to help them understand the Christian faith and the fun of genuine Christianity. There are activities in groups for different age ranges.

All services begin at 10am.

The amount of time that children spend either in Sunday Club or in the service with the adults varies from week to week.

We also have a crèche every Sunday for children under three.

Thanksgivings, Dedications and Baptisms can be arranged with the minister Revd Peter Bennett.

Ten Years at Peachcroft – farewell to Rev. Steve Godfrey

I remember my first encounter with Peachcroft Christian Centre – a church member warned me on the phone, “it’s very small and doesn't look much like a church – you might miss it.” I did! Today we have a fantastic new building that cannot be missed and that is being used every day of the week. As a church leader working in the community, it has always been my desire to see the local church at the centre of community life. In recent months over 170 teenagers have added their names to the Compass Café register. Sunday worship is creative, different and relevant and nothing like the stereotypical boring image that many people have of what happens in church on a Sunday. Religion is very much on the agenda politically and socially today and the Christian Centre is a shining example of how a faith community genuinely benefits the neighbourhood in clear demonstrative ways. And anyone can join in! One good way is come and take part in Community Action on a Sunday morning at 11.30am (usually on the first Sunday of the month) to pick up litter and tidy up the parks etc. Working in partnership with the police among local young people has paid off. I remember when ASBOs were given out and garden fences were being pulled down all over the estate. I believe things have improved and generally speaking; young people do respect both our building and our volunteers.

One hidden but important aspect of my 10 years working at the Christian Centre has been working closely with other churches in Abingdon. Thankfully there is no rivalry between churches and we do much together, such as supporting local schools by giving away books, taking RE lessons and assemblies.

But for me, the most significant aspect of the last 10 years has been making close friends with the wonderful people who **are** the church that meets in the Christian Centre. These people really care and desire to serve the community of Peachcroft and make a difference. My wife and I and our two children are going to miss them so much when we move on to another church. It is now my ambition to help guide and create another church like Peachcroft Christian Centre somewhere else in the country.

Steve

NEACA News

Phase III Extension

NEACA were unsuccessful in our latest application to the Lottery Big Fund for our intended Phase III extension. The fund was oversubscribed by a factor of 12 and the BFL did not believe that our project outcomes met their criteria (main focus was on underprivileged areas).

Whilst we are dissatisfied with the lottery rejection the NEACA Council re-assessed the position and believe we can still achieve the major targets through:

1. **Provision of a Cabinco cabin (or similar)** that would be used by the Pre-school and young people of North East Abingdon. This will be a separate building sited on the land to the right of the NEACA hall.

Option 1 being considered is for a practical log cabin building which is easily adaptable for use as an office, schoolroom or pre-school nursery. Option 2 is for a brick built building. In either case the facility is likely to include:

- 18m x 7m building including the following;
 - Double doors to Foyer/Reception (giving easy access to buggies and wheelchairs)
 - Staffroom / private office
 - 80sqm of classroom (can be separated with folding doors)
 - Kitchenette with fitted units
 - 2 x w.c (one for wheelchair access)
 - 7mx1m storage
2. **Refurbishment of the current facilities.** This would include installation of a new Heating and Ventilation System and bringing the existing hall up to modern standards in terms in terms of décor, thus making it more attractive for the use of inhabitants of North East Abingdon on a daily basis. The use previously has been restricted due to Pre-school activities.

We are pleased to report that the Abingdon Area Committee of Vale of White Horse District Council agreed that NEACA should receive the original grant awarded, namely £50,000, and that this should be used towards the cost of the revised Phase III of the project, i.e. towards the construction of the Pre-School facility and refurbishment of the current hall facilities. Further funding will be available in proportion to other grants won in support of the project.

A NEACA subcommittee is currently working with a local architect to formulate the plans and apply to other funding agencies. We estimate the total cost of the scheme will be around £230k.

Anyone who is in a position to help in any way or who would like further information on Phase III please contact Chris Wilding or Colin Trinder via the **newly launched NEACA website at www.neaca.org.uk**.

Roger Davidson, Honorary Secretary

Police Surgeries

Police Surgery at Peachcroft Christian Centre.
Wednesdays 17.00-19.00:

24th September

29th October

12th November

3rd December

Police Surgery at Hadland Rd Community Centre.
Saturdays 0900 to 1100:

13th September

18th October

22nd November

Would you like your child to play, learn and make friends at

PEACHCROFT PRE-SCHOOL?

Excellent facilities and range of toys

Secure outside play area

Friendly and dedicated team

Lunch Club facility

Ofsted approved for children 2.5 – 5 years old

For information or to register, please call

Helen on 01235 555808

Please come along if you have any problems you wish to discuss with PC Keith Morton. We will also be offering to security mark your pedal cycles, so bring them along too!

0845 8 505505

keith.morton@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk