

**FACT Executive Meeting Thursday 18 September 2014 at St John's @ 7.15 for 7.30pm(prompt)**

**Opening Reflection and Prayer.** Based on Hebrews 10:19-25.

**Attendance and Apologies list** Present: 18 (10 churches)

**Minutes of the last meeting (1 May 2014)**

**Matters Arising.** None

**Finance Report .**

- Current subscriptions: £865 paid. **£665 outstanding (please remind your Treasurer!)**
- Balances: HopeFrome £1364; Youth Fund £3809; General Fund £3550
- It was agreed to pay World Sports Ministries £750 as FACT contribution to the Get Sported camps (to cover cost of bibles, brochures and bursaries)

**Looking Back** (brief reflections):

- **Website** – deep appreciation expressed to **Peter Craig** for his monitoring
- **Monthly prayer meeting** (1<sup>st</sup> Saturday on each month, St John's 8.45-9.30am) - established
- **Pentecost Praise** – a good site and good to be outside in centre of town.
- **Frome Festival** – food fest and Music events appreciated. Possibility of Songs of Praise event in 2015.
- **Holiday Bible Club** – see report on separate e mail. 59 children (37 unchurched); 11 churches involved; well advertised in local newspaper (thank you, Jim); followed by Alternative Halloween 4.30-6.30pm at Trinity Church Hall on Friday 31 October
- **Get Sported.** Leadership training being planned in coming months – **Nick Cooper (Baptist)** working with World Sports Ministries. He would welcome support from any interested.
- **Youth Work post.** **Bryce Tangvald** was introduced as the recently appointed Trinity/FACT Youth Worker (part-time), having been interviewed by Graham Owen, Jim Parsons and Brigit Adams. He will be commissioned at the United Fact Service at Rook Lane Arts on Sunday 12 October at 6.00pm.

**Looking Forward:**

1. Reshaping FACT. An interesting discussion ensued reflecting on:
  - The changing 'shape' of the church – viz. Congregational Church vacating its building, history of Rook Lane Chapel; age structure of church; sacred/secular divide ....
  - The changing shape of 'Churches Together' in the UK (see their annual report): organisational to provisional, structures to relationships, constitutions to covenants. i.e. a greater fluidity
  - It was commented that 'Frome Christians Together' is preferable to 'Frome Churches Together' – reflecting the changes noted above.

- The goal of FACT is to 'spur one another on toward love and good deeds ..... and to encourage one another to draw near to God and to hold unwaveringly to the hope we have in Christ' (see Heb 10:22-25 – the passage with which the meeting opened)
  - Facing the challenges of the future, the church needs to change and so does FACT. Our relational integrity and commitment to prayer are fundamental to this change being realised.
  - FACT is indebted to those who work behind the scenes, especially **Janet , Jim, Ian and Peter.**
2. Reshaping HopeFrome.
- The 3 Hope Frome Trustees who have established the 'HOPEFrome brand' so strongly over the past 6 years have to step down – Anna is moving, Mike is returning overseas and Phil has a new job. They formally signed a document handing over the responsibility of the trusteeship of HOPEFrome to FACT.
  - A unanimous vote of thanks was given the Phil, Anna and Mike for all their hard work and visionary commitment to HOPEFrome; retiring Chair Jackie Chilvers, together with all those who support the Van, Litter Picks and Food Fest arrangements were also thanked for all their hard, faithful work. It was affirmed that the 'HOPEFrome brand' must remain as an essential element in the presence and purpose of FACT.
  - **Chris and Jane Stafford (Trinity Church)** were proposed and seconded as custodians of the HOPEFrome portfolio for FACT and this was passed unanimously with gratitude. It was agreed that it was important to find another custodian alongside Chris and Jane and **Colin Alsbury** offered to fulfil this role until the post was filled (ideally at our next meeting)
  - It was recognised that the development of Fair Frome and other community initiatives provide a number of platforms for HOPEFrome to engage with and this will be explored in the coming months.
3. Alpha Course beginning Wednesday 24 September @ Trinity Church (**Phil Gray**). Please pray for this – about 20 are coming, there is room for more so please continue to pray and invite.
4. United Service on Sunday 12 October @ 6pm in Rook Lane Chapel. Speaker: Revd Canon David Winter. Bryce will be commissioned at this service – do please publicise in your church and bring people along.
5. Advent/Christmas Lights Friday 28 November. Service followed by carol singing in the town centre. Colin is pursuing carol sheets designed specifically for this year, linked with WW1 Anniversary and Christians in Sport. **Janet.**
6. Carol Singing venues: Hospital, rugby club, shops, supermarkets ..... **Janet**
7. Publicity for Christmas services – newspapers/website. **Jim** agreed to collate the information for the newspapers. **Please send Jim details of your church services for Christmas by end October.** Payment is included in the subscriptions.
8. Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: 18-25 January (Sun 18<sup>th</sup> = pulpit exchange - **Jim**). Jim needs details of availability for preaching by end October.
9. Lent 2015: Ash Weds 18 Feb, Easter Day 5 April

Lunches: Location – TBC (Christ Church to be explored). Theme/brief talk @ 1pm?

Course material: TBC.

10. Hospital Chaplaincy. Fay Wilson Rudd is retiring from her post and the final re-organisation of the local hospital chaplaincy support remains unclear. In the meantime, **Michael White** and local churches are maintaining a presence in the hospital which is warmly welcomed and much appreciated.
11. The possibility of arranging special FACT events in one of the theatres, similar to inviting Simeon Wood, was supported. One possibility is Jonathan Veira (google him for details), another is Men's/Women's Breakfasts/Evening at a suitable venue. To be explored ....

AOB

- United Service 12 October 6pm Rook Lane Arts
- **FACT teaching day – Canon Michael Mitton. 18.10.14.** Tickets available from Caroline Walker – please contact her (Tel: 834258) and see details on website
- Jim commented on the excellent work that has been done in the Dissenters Cemetery and how that has benefited marginalised people.

**Next Meetings: Leaders:** (7.30pm @ St John's): 6 Nov, 5 March, 2 July

**Executive:** (7.30pm @ St John's): 15 January, 30 April (+AGM)

**The meeting closed with the grace at 9.35pm.**