



Minutes of FACT Meeting

Date: 16 January 2015

Present:	Mrs J Caudwell	Mr J Nockels
	Mr G Owen	Mrs D Macdonald
	Rev C Alsbury	Mrs M Ostler
	Mr A Somerville	Mr R Taylor
	Mrs A Steele	Mrs W Hunt
	Mr J Parsons	Rev A Chalkley
	Mr C Stafford	Mrs J Stafford
	Mrs M Lawton	Mrs A Kemp
	Mrs M Open	Mr S Sidefin
	Rev J Samways (Chair)	Mr P Craig (Secretary)

Apologies:	Mr N Cooper	Rev D Brinn
	Rev M Atwood	Ms D Stockford
	Mr N Maxted	Ms Josie Carpenter

Copy to: File

From: Mr P Craig

Subject: FACT Executive Meeting January 2015

Date of Meeting: Thursday 15 January 2015

Time: 7.30pm

Location: (with grateful thanks to Colin, Janet and Maurice) St John's, Frome

1 Welcome

John welcomed us and thanked everyone for attending. We opened in prayer particularly remembering both Josie Carpenter, who is ill, and Chris Hare recovering from surgery. We read Psalm 84 v4 onwards and Acts 19 v1-7 and John commented briefly on Paul's comment about the importance of the Holy Spirit and that, if we are to be 'set on pilgrimage', we need to be mindful of the benefit of using the GPS (God Positioning System) daily, both personally and corporately.

2 Minutes of the last meeting

2.1 Noted as accepted.

2.2 Matters Arising:

- a) The most recent Alpha course, held at Holy Trinity, completed on 14th January. It was a 'successful' Alpha with 20-25 generally in attendance; the talks perhaps rather middle class, given the range of people present. A "non church" venue is being considered for the next FACT Alpha in the autumn. Andrew Chalkey reported encouraging news from the Beckington Alpha with most of the attendees remaining in an ongoing, enquirers group.
- b) Attendance at the United Service in Rook Lane was disappointing but Bryce Tangvald gave us a great testimony.
- c) The Michael Mitton teaching day at Norton was encouraging with around 30 attending.
- d) Advent carol singing worked well but the organisation at the Town christmas tree lighting was rather chaotic due to events beyond our control (reported fire in Boots and poor Council input). In future we will seek to oversee the carol singing. The individual carol singing venues worked well with potential to develop.

FACT

2.3 John thanked Jim for organising the Christmas services notice in the newspaper. Jim used the parish magazines to collate the notice, however this will be more difficult next Easter when dates will span two months and hence editions. **So Jim requested everyone to let him have the necessary details for Holy Week by the end of February. All to note.** Two rotas for newspaper articles in the Somerset Standard and the Frome Times have also been distributed – thanks again to Jim for this.

2.4 Thanks were extended to Michael White who continues to oversee the hospital chaplancy pending a more permanent appointment.

3 Finances

3.1 John circulated a provisional report from Ian Crook; figures are provisional and will be “polished” in time for the AGM: “We haven’t received membership fees from St Mary’s or Portway, but I have reminded them by email several times (the email addresses are to be checked). The FACT general fund has shrunk from £3680 to £1973. In 2014 there was a substantial donation to World Sports Minitries (£650) and the Frome Festival was quite costly at £910. Also, advertisement costs are not now recovered directly but come from the general fund (£396). This has used up some of the surplus and general fund balances are now down to a level that leaves us less scope”.

3.2 There will be a focus on finance at the AGM.

4 Web-site

Peter reported that the web-site is currently short of items and invited more contributions. Comments and suggestions are always welcome. Updates are made weekly, usually early in the week.

5 HOPE Frome

5.1 Chris and Jane Stafford gave an update on HOPE Frome. They explained that they are currently praying about the plans – it was critical that “God was in it”.

5.2 They hope to set up a prayer group with reps from the various churches to pray and feed in answers to prayer in order to guide the team. Their role is primarily coordination. Please let them know of anyone who might be keen to help and they will invite them to get involved. Any ideas people wish to put forward regarding HOPE Frome activities also welcomed.

6 Youth Work

Bryce apologises he is unable to attend this meeting due to illness. He has been made very welcome at Selwood and is growing contacts with Frome College. The Congregational Federation Support Worker Adrian Wyatt is getting touch with Bryce to offer help.

7 Week of Prayer for Christain Unity

7.1 The WPCU is 18th to 25th January. A pulpit exchange programme has been arranged by Jim.

7.2 Prayer meetings are being held at St Johns Church 9.00-9.30 Monday 12th to Saturday 17th.

8 Somerset Churches Together

The Somerset Churches Together AGM and Forum is being held locally on 12th February. Details are on the web-site including application form to attend. Supper is included. **Please come to this if you can (if it is easier, simply let John know and he'll forward names).**

9 Lent/Easter 2015

9.1 Ash Wednesday is 18th February and Easter Day 20th April.

9.2 Lent lunches will be available at St.Mary's from 18th February until 1st April from 12.45pm. It was agreed that a minimum contribution would be £3. A short talk will be given on a Lenten hymn – it was agreed this is welcomed.

9.3 Colin Alsbury has produced Lent Course material entitled Remember Freedom which will be made available on the St John's and FACT websites. John thanked Colin for all his hard work in writing this and, together with Revd John Nockell's, strongly recommended it.

9.4 There will be a brief United Good Friday Prayer gathering outside St John's at 9.00am.

10 Retirements of Revd Martin Weymont and Revd Ward Jones

10.1 Martin's final weekend is 21/22 Feb with a social in Mells Barn on Saturday 21st followed by a farewell service on Sunday 22nd. All members wished to give an appropriate gift to Martin and details of this will be circulated.

10.2 Ward Jones' farewell service is to be held at Wesley Memorial Church on Sunday 26 April at 6pm. Again, FACT wish to make a presentation in the light of the huge contribution Ward Jones made to FACT in its early days.

11 FACT AGM

After some discussion, it was agreed that the FACT AGM will be held now on Monday 11th May at St John's.

12 Pentecost

Pentecost, Sunday 24th May, clashes with the late May Bank holiday this year and hence it was reluctantly agreed that there would be no outdoor service.

13 Frome Festival

13.1 The Festival this year is being held from Friday 3rd to Sunday 12th July 2015.

13.2 The Saturday Food Festival on 4th July will involve HOPE Frome as last year.

13.3 A "Songs of Praise" event is planned for Sunday 5th July at 6.00 in the Cheese and Grain. Themed on the "The Good Life" John envisages guests from different walks of life who would be recognisable names and therefore draw people to the event. Guests will be invited to give their testimony and choose a hymn or song, and it is also hoped that a recognisable musician or leader will lead the worship.

13.4 Colin also suggested that more informal events could follow for example at one or two pubs around the town to give people the opportunity to follow up on issues raised.

FACT

13.5 A number of further creative suggestions were made re. timing and content and information will be circulated inviting further ideas and noting progress.

13.6 This would be a fantastic way to make a mark on the Festival and all hoped that it will come together. Andrew Chalkley proposed that the event is seen at the 'key worship gathewring' for that day for the churches (whilst noting that Christ Church is also holding a Choral Evensong which is traditionally well attended). We are awaiting a response to some initial invitations which will shape the event, so watch this space and pray!

14 Men's Breakfasts/Curry nights

14.1 Mike Adam's talk last Saturday at Trinity was excellent. A recent similar event in Trowbridge attracted some 120.

14.2 John hopes to organise three such events per year; ideas welcome.

15 Next Meetings

15.1 A Leaders' meeting is envisaged for Friday 22nd March. Michael White has offered to host and John will follow up on this with Michael.

15.2 There are three Executive meetings per year – this meeting; the AGM, as already discussed, will be held in May; and finally in September, possibly the 17th. John stated he feels there remains the need for a gathering of interested parties to discuss, wait and pray in order to discern the vision for FACT (embracing HOPE Frome).

16 Any Other Business

16.1 Please notify Fair Trade Frome if your church has signed up to the Fair Trade Code. Please contact Ann Taylor (01373 454210 or robandanntaylor@hotmail.co.uk).

16.2 Jim Parsons stated how thrilled he (and Rook Lane congregation) were with the growing links with East Woodlands Church – both congregations had visited one another through the past year. He encouraged churches to reflect how this pattern might be extended among us.

16.3 The meeting closed with prayer at 9.30pm.