



FACT AGM Monday 11 May 2015
St John's Church Frome

15 Members representing 10 congregations were present.
There were 15 apologies.

1 The meeting began with a reading from 1 Pet 1:18-21 and a time of prayer.

1 **Minutes of FACT AGM 2014**, having been previously circulated, were accepted.

2 **Matters arising**

- Prayer meeting on first Saturday of the month at St John's had been instituted.
- 2014 Christian Aid collection at Sainsbury's had been carried out by different congregations working together.
- Pentecost gathering had happened outside the Cheese and Grain; the encouraging support of the Mayor was noted.
- Frome Festival FACT sponsored event: disappointing numbers at the Merlin for Simeon Wood's concert but a good event.
The ticketing anomaly (the Merlin allowed no concessions) was noted with regret.
Rook Lane event: fantastic evening – 'a real sense of God's presence' and well attended by the wider community.
There had been valuable contact with St John's and Trinity First Schools through Simeon's workshops in the schools.
- October United Service at Rook Lane (preacher David Winter) had not been very well-attended, but Rook Lane superb venue for such events.
- Michael Mitton had conducted a teaching day at Hardington Vale.

3 **Overview of Past Year**

(nb many reports had been circulated earlier)

Finance [*Balance sheet from Ian Crook Hon Treasurer sent separately*]

- Total assets are £7145.97 (incl. youth fund assets £3316.08)
- Income from donations in 2013 had represented two years.
- A significant grant had been made to *Get Sported*
- Grateful thanks were extended to Ian Crook, Hon Treasurer proposed by Jim Parsons, seconded by Maggie Lawton. Unanimous.

Website www.fromeareachristianstogether.org

- Grateful thanks to Peter Craig for keeping website up to date so efficiently.
- Agreed to give £100 to Peter to cover web hosting costs and a small token of appreciation from FACT.

Newspaper Adverts/Pulpit Swap

- Deep appreciation of all that Jim Parsons does to produce Christian and Easter Adverts, not only the obvious logistics, but endless chasing of member churches.
- **A successor to Jim is needed.**
- It was noted that there were fewer offers to take part in Pulpit Swap

Lent 2015

- Lunches were excellently supported (and organized by Maurice) – over £1000 raised. Grateful thanks to the churches involved.
- Lent Groups had been well served by the Called to Freedom notes written and produced by Colin Alsbury. These were much appreciated.

Youth Work

- Bryce Tangvald reported on encouraging developments with Frome College Christian Union links and potential Mentoring in the school.
- In these early days, encouraging links with Selwood Academy
- Anthea Kemp reported on ‘Open Book’ at Mells School
- It was pointed out that Bryce is supported by FACT for only 3 hours a week. It was agreed that more funding could be available for more hours if required.
- News came from the Mells Group of the encouraging initiative to launch the ‘Open the Book’ project at Mells School.

HOPEFrome

- HOPEFrome, in existence for eight years, has established a good name in the town. Given the disappointing response to invitations to pray for HOPE’s future structure, it was recognized we are in a ‘waiting period’ to discern the most fruitful way forward under God’s hand. In the meantime activities continue:
- Sat 4 July Frome Festival International Food Evening. Set-up/ Litter pick will take place. Annabel Macey will co-ordinate this.
- The coffee van will continue fortnightly on Friday evenings **but is in desperate need of more volunteers.** Contact Gary Lee (gmllee@mac.com) or Chris Stafford (chrisstafford1953@gmail.com).
- HOPEFrome has a balance of £1363.87

Holiday Bible Club

- Wendy Hunt reiterated **the urgent need for more volunteers** to continue this valuable outreach at the level of previous years.

Hospital and other Ventures in Frome (Food Bank, YMCA, Filling Station)

- The new lead Chaplain is now based at Shepton Mallet so Michael White is able to concentrate on Frome Community Hospital. Grateful thanks were expressed for Michael’s continuing work and for the teams which weekly visit on Sundays.
- The excellent work of the Food Bank, YMCA and Filling Station noted with grateful thanks. FACT members play a key role in this work.

4 Election of Officers

- Chair : in the absence of another nomination, John Samways was prepared to stand for another year. One FACT member, not present, had been suggested as a possible ‘shadow’ for a year. To be investigated.
- Vice-Chair: Marie Attwood, proposed by Diane Ellis, seconded by Meriel Osler
- Minute Secretary: no nominations
- Website Manager: Peter Craig
- Treasurer: Ian Crook
- Independent Examiner: to be advised by Ian Crook
- All nominations unanimously accepted.

5 Looking Forward

- **23 May Well Dressing:** all FACT members invited to join in Procession through town from St John's Church.
- **5 July 6.00pm Songs of Praise at the Cheese and Grain: *The Good Life*.** This is the first time this has been done on the opening weekend of the Festival. A Christian international opera singer and speaker (Jonathan Veira) will be performing and a number of local people interviewed. It offers an ideal opportunity to invite friends and neighbours. Posters, publicity and magazine articles to be circulated in June. Tickets: £2.50.
- **9/10 July Open-Air Theatre at Dissenters' Cemetery**
- **FACT Alpha** – venue TBA
- **Tuesday 13 October Cheese and Grain 7.30pm. Riding Lights performing 'Baked Alaska'. This performance highlights the important issue of climate change.**
- On either 10 or 17 October a series of workshops/talks, addressing the subject of climate change, are planned. Contact is also going to be made with schools. Caroline Pomeroy, who works for Climate Stewards, is helping to organize the programme.
- A FACT service of Advent Praise proposed on Advent Sunday, 29 November at Rook Lane Arts 6.00pm. To be confirmed.
- A FACT Prayer Diary Booklet, encouraging a growing sense of community and unity in Christ, is proposed. To be considered at future meetings.

6 AOB

- Christian Aid collections were taking place at Sainsbury's. Grateful thanks expressed to Jean Fraser for organizing this.
- Anthea Kemp's Quiet Garden may be available on personal request.
- John Samways was thanked for his Chairmanship. He stated in conclusion that he greatly valued the honesty of all present:
 - many groups who had reported were facing difficult situations.
 - There was a recurrent theme of groups needing more support and of personnel needed to take up responsible roles within FACT.
 - the future of churches and the work of FACT presents deep and searching questions.
 - Our faith is in a God who invites us, in Christ, into a living hope.

7 Dates of Future Meetings @7.30pm

- Thursday 17 September 2015
- Thursday 16 January 2016
- AGM Thursday 5 May 2016

Venues to be confirmed.

The meeting ended in prayer at 9.40 pm