

## Minutes of FACT Exec Meeting Thurs 17 Sept 2015 at St John's

**Opening Reflection and Prayer (based on 1 Peter 2:4-12):** God at work is purposeful and playful, systematic and spontaneous (see Gen 1,2). God's people are called to reflect this – 'declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light'.

**Attendance:** 13 (10 churches)

**Apologies:** 15

**Minutes of the last meeting (11 May 2014):** Previously circulated, accepted as a true record.

**Matters Arising:** Covered in comments below

**Finance Report:** From 01/01/15 to 16/09/15 (further details on FACT website):

Total income: £2111.77

Total expenditure: £3074.94

Total Bank and Cash Accounts: £7690.56

Payments owing: £1407.76

Net assets: £6282.80

It was reported that an anonymous donation of £3000 is to be received to support the increased hours for the youth work and further donations offered to help subsidise costs of events.

Deep gratitude was expressed.

### Looking Back

- **Website** – deep appreciation expressed for Peter's assiduous work on this.
- **Monthly prayer meeting** – now established at 8.45-9.30am on 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of month in St John's. Usually about 6 in attendance with a sense of expectancy and hope. Gratitude to Janet expressed for making this possible.
- **Christian Aid collection** – Jean Fraser did an excellent job in arranging the collection outside Sainsbury's. The store have indicated this will not be possible next year. Alternative locations were discussed. – ASDA?, town centre store?, Westway ..... Some of the surrounding villages have a door to door collection. There was discussion about the best way to conduct this to avoid difficult exchanges with residents.
- **Frome Festival:**
  - **Food Fest:** an excellent work party organised by Annabel Macey provided much appreciated help for the afternoon/evening. A valuable time.
  - **Dissenters Cemetery:** the play performed was very well received and revealed how our spiritual heritage offers a rich resource for engaging with the community.
  - **Songs of Praise:** by the grace of God a wonderful evening. All agreed the location and Jonathan Veira served the evening well. The event generated a sense of hope and expectancy: 'those there were thrilled and excited by the event!'; in the future a retiring 'bucket' collection to be considered; the closing of the cafe during the evening was a disappointment; the event to be repeated (see below).
- **Holiday Bible Club** – despite fewer volunteers, an encouraging event with maximum numbers (see Report on FACT website)

- **Youth Work post** – Bryce reported on his increased hours at Frome College involving student mentoring and serving the CU; contact with Selwood Academy opening the door for assemblies and further student time; continuing fruit from Sunday Cafe.

At the last FACT meeting the possibility of funding further hours was discussed and in principle agreed. A later e mail to FACT Exec members, following Rev Graham Owen's proposal for an increase of 3hrs of FACT support yielded a response of 15 (14 in agreement and 1 counselling caution in the light of past experiences with FACT Youth Worker post). It was unanimously agreed that, given the finances and anonymous donation, it was timely and right to take this step.

It was also agreed to circulate church leaders to encourage churches to resume their support of a dedicated FACT youth fund to ensure youth work remains on a sound financial foundation.

**'Open the book' at Mells** this has had a very encouraging beginning with a small group from 3 denominations going into the school on a monthly basis.

**PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING** were offered in the light of all that has been happening, notwithstanding the challenges faced.

### **Looking Forward:**

It is vitally important we mobilise and encourage the churches to support planned events, **underpinning each event with prayer.**

- **Alpha Course beginning Tuesday 22 September @7.15pm Wesley Church (for 10 wks)**  
The course is being organised by Phil Gray and Lesley Owen. Revd Marie Attwood is speaking at the opening session. Excellent publicity has been produced and is being circulated.  
**Encourage churches to distribute these widely.**
- **'Baked Alaska' with Riding Lights Tuesday 13 October @7.30pm Cheese and Grain.**
  - **Ticket arrangements: tickets bought through the churches are being subsidised (by a generous gift) and are £10/£7.50 concessions.**
  - **EACH CHURCH to make list of those coming and to collect the money.**

The opening performance of Baked Alaska received excellent reviews. 'Riding Lights have once again produced an outstanding performance -
- **United Service on Sunday 29 November @ 6.30pm at Rook Lane Chapel – note time!**  
**'Revd Keith Powell 'What are we doing in God's Waiting Room?'**

1. Publicity for Christmas services – newspapers/website
  - Jim has kindly offered to do this again (**he wants to share this with someone .....**)
  - **Submit details to Jim by 25 November** – adverts to be posted in Frome Times on Thurs 20 December
  - **Jim will post last year's details if a church does not submit updated information.**
2. Advent/Christmas Lights **28 November** (carol singing in the town centre)
  - Janet is organising the service
  - Discussions to take place with the Town Council re. carol singing
- 3.

4. Carol Singing (venues?): Hospital, rugby club, shops on 6 Dec(?), supermarkets .....
  - David Brinn has offered to organise the train station carols
  - Maggie Lawton (466337) has offered to help organise other venues and would appreciate help.
5. Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: 18-25 January
  - Sun 17<sup>th</sup> = pulpit exchange. **More needed to participate this year**
  - Marie Attwood is going to explore the idea of occupying a shop in town for this week
6. Lent 2016: Ash Weds 10 Feb, Easter Day 27 March
  - Lunches: Location – either St John’s/Wesley (tbc)
  - Course material for Lent groups: A suggestion is a course on enriching everyday discipleship: ‘The whole of Life for Christ’ by Billington and Greene
7. Frome Festival: ‘Songs of Praise’
  - Cheese and Grain not available 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Festival
  - Suggestion is we relocate the Sunday to Pentecost (15 May) and book the C&G or Memorial Theatre then.
  - Marie and John to pursue
8. Men’s Breakfasts/Ladies
  - It was agreed such events can be very helpful/encouraging among the churches, especially for men.
  - The Cordero Lounge in Westway has offered a £5 deal for breakfast, can seat <200(!), has parking nearby, is central and accessible.
  - Agreed we pursue this option
9. AOB
  - Filling Station in Beckington on 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month @7.30pm
10. The meeting closed with prayer at 9.25pm

**Next Meetings:**

**Leaders:** To be confirmed

**Executive (Thursdays):** **7** January 2016 (unfortunately we’ve had to change this date because Deanery Synod meets on the 14<sup>th</sup>)

**AGM:** 28 April (+Executive Meeting)