



**FACT AGM Thursday 28 April 2016
Holy Trinity Church, Frome**

16 Members representing 10 congregations were present.
There were 9 apologies.

1 Welcome

John Samways (Chair) welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for coming. We started the meeting with a hymn, a reading and a time of prayer.

2 Minutes of the FACT AGM 2015,

Having been previously circulated and posted on the web-site, these were accepted.

3 Matters arising

None

4 Overview of Past Year

(nb reports had been circulated and posted on the web-site earlier)

Finance [*Balance sheet from Ian Crook Hon Treasurer available separately – see the web-site's Agenda page*]

- General Income from donations and events in 2015 was £2992.24. Whilst expenditure was higher this year (£3535.05), cash in hand meant that the deficit of £542.81 could be readily covered.
- In addition, both the Youth Fund and HOPE Frome recorded surpluses of £706.47 and £424.60 respectively.
- As a result, net assets ended the year £7834.23, up slightly from 2014.
- It was therefore agreed that our finances were reasonably healthy.
- John extended grateful thanks to Ian Crook, Hon Treasurer for all his careful work, which were proposed, seconded and agreed by all present.
- Henry Pomeroy asked how transferable are the reserves in the various funds. Other than the Youth Fund (restricted by the respective custodians for the purpose of that fund only), no other funds are restricted..

Website (www.fromeachristianstogether.org.uk)

- Grateful thanks to Peter Craig for keeping website up to date.
- Peter apologized for the outage over Christmas 2015 which was due to circumstances outside our control – one of our hosting suppliers experienced a cyberattack. We have since then consolidated provision of the various components of the site, reducing the risk of similar problems in the future.
- Peter would welcome both comments on and more content for the site.

Newspaper Adverts/Pulpit Swap

- Thanks were expressed once again to Jim Parsons for producing both the Christmas and Easter Frome Times Adverts, not only the obvious logistics, but chasing of member churches' contributions, and organizing the Christian Comments rota. Jim pointed out that thanks was also due to the FT editor (Ian Drew) for designing and including the adverts in the paper.

Events and notable activities in 2015 included:

- Frome Festival including the Songs of Praise event in the C&G.
- Alpha Course. Less well attended, largely by Trinity based folk
- United Service with Keith Powell
- Advent including the well-received carol singing event
- Lent including the Lunches which were excellently supported – over £1000 was raised and given to Embrace and the Syrian Refugee Support Group. Grateful thanks to the churches involved. Thanks were also received from both charities which will be posted on the web-site. (A gift of £75 to go to St Mary's with a letter of thanks was agreed).
- Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Daily prayers were held at St John's at 9am with a real sense of the presence of God.
- Saturday Prayer Meeting on the 1st Saturday of each month, 9.00am.

Youth Work

- Bryce Tangvald provided a separate report on his developing work with Frome College Christian Union and Selwood Academy.
- Bryce is now supported by FACT for 6 hours a week, up from only 3 this time last year (and by Holy Trinity for 9 hours a week).
- Bryce provides an email update each week on a Thursday or Friday for requested prayer support. A vote of thanks and prayer were offered.

Holiday Bible Club

- Wendy Hunt provided a separate report on this work.
- She requested more help in advance of the planned summer activities (25-29 July at Wesley). Again, the meeting offered a vote of thanks and prayer.

HOPEFrome

- The van faithfully continues in Frome fortnightly on Friday evenings and amazing opportunities were reported.
- More volunteers were needed and would be made very welcome, especially, as this is a FACT supported activity, from folks from other churches other than Holy Trinity to help share the load.
- Any offers of more secure parking for the van itself (following some vandalism damage recently) would be particularly welcome.

Other Ventures in Frome

- These include the Hospital visiting (led by Michael White), and support for the Food Bank, YMCA and the Beckington based Filling Station Meetings.

4 Election of Officers

- Chair: John expressed a preference not to continue as the chair (as he has been chairman now for 3 years) but, in the absence of another nomination, offered to continue “pro tem” until a suitable candidate was identified. Jim Parsons suggested that not a great deal of thought had been given to possible candidates thus far and so, given John has offered to continue for the time being, that we should now invite the churches to formally propose nominations as soon as practical. Everyone thanked John for the marvellous job he has done.
- Vice-Chair: Revd. Marie Attwood offered to continue for another year.
- Minute Secretary and Website Manager: Peter Craig also indicated he was happy to continue if so requested.
- Treasurer: Ian Crook
- Independent Examiner: Ian Crook proposed that Michael Ruddick (Chartered Accountant) should continue in this role
- Custodians: Ian, John and Janet continue as the main fund custodians, and Colin, Tom and Jim as the Youth Fund Trustees and custodians.
- All nominations were unanimously accepted.

5 Looking Forward

- **‘Whither the Church?’ A question for Frome.**
 - John presented a short paper (attached as an Annex) with thoughts for Frome arising from The Transforming Wigan Challenge, a project to renew the church in the town.
 - Clearly there is a desperate need to re-ignite hunger for God in our country – we are now living with the second generation who are unaware of God and His Word. John referred to Isaiah 62 in which God promises to transform “Zion”, and appoints “watchmen on the walls” – this should give us a hope for Frome and that we can make a difference.
 - The intention would be to build on and move forward what we have, not to start again or do something separate or outside of the churches.
 - John proposed that we invite all those who are passionate about God’s Word and his Church to meet and consider how we take something forward for Frome. Marie Attwood seconded the proposal and the meeting agreed.
- **Pentecost Sunday 15th May 2016 6.00pm**
 - Four major Christian events are being held on Pentecost Sunday this year across the country. But we are not missing out - Graham Kendrick is coming to Frome. This is God’s gift to Frome!
 - 450 seats are planned. The costs are circa £3,400. John invited us to pray for the event and to give towards the costs (details circulated in e mail).
 - It’s also the first day of Christian Aid Week and the “missional slot” at the event will be given over to this appeal.
 - John plans an email the week before inviting specific prayer for this very important event.

- **26th May 7.45pm The God Particle Merlin Theatre**
 - See the web-site for more details of this excellent production.
- **Climbing Centre**
 - Bryce related a vision for a climbing centre facility in Frome to provide a focus for outreach to the younger community. John explained that this vision had been received before, some 6 years ago! Food for thought – and prayer!
- **Active and In-touch Initiative**
 - John mentioned another idea to support and or part-fund this initiative.
- **Alpha Course**
 - Discussion re. pros and cons to holding the course Sept-Dec or Jan-April. The meeting was open to either and certainly supported a further course.
- **United Service**
 - Tentatively proposed for 27th November at Rook Lane (Advent Sunday)
- **Other items**
 - Ideas for teaching days and a prayer diary booklet are on hold for now.
 - Other activities such as newspaper contributions, Advent Week activities, WPCU. Lent Lunches and Executive Meetings will continue as usual.

6 Dates of Future Meetings @7.30pm

- The AGM in 2017 was tentatively proposed for 4th May.
- The next Executive Meeting is planned for Thursday 15 September 2016.

7 AOB

- Bryce mentioned “Redeeming our Community” or ROC groups in Manchester and proposed inviting a representative to come and share their experiences.

The meeting closed in prayer at 9.33pm

Appendix: John's paper "Whither the Church" A question for Frome

'Whither the Church?' A question for Frome

Bishop of London: 'This is the best example I've been in of a **post denominational church**, where we're all heading.

Diocese of Liverpool is one of only 3 Dioceses in country that has grown in mission and financial strength in past 5 years. TW is a 7 year, £1.2m project to turn around the local church.

'Bigger church to make a bigger difference.'

Aims: renew spiritual heart of church; re-orientate church; revive spiritual heart of life in W.

The project is not about something new that sits apart or acts in isolation from our existing structures but works to re-imagine and reinvent what we are doing in order to improve.

The Transforming Wigan Challenge

"It is clear to all involved in the shaping of the Transforming Wigan project that ^{the} church as has been in Wigan will not be sustainable. The congregational demographic is skewed; buildings are a problem; growth is at best patchy. It is also clear that it won't simply be a pattern of gentle decline; in 10 years' time numbers and money will fall off a cliff.

That said there remains a richness and vibrancy about the local and church communities of Wigan. There is a pride and generosity of spirit among the congregations that continues to manifest itself in giving of time, talents and treasure – a testimony to the faithfulness of generations of Christians. The key will be to unlock this latent spirit where it isn't sufficiently strong, give greater licence to those where there is vision and desire and to set a new tone and a new missional ambition."

What the project will involve

Transforming Wigan will be led by a Director, a person with the qualities and equivalent status of an Archdeacon, combining those strengths with an entrepreneurial mindset and the ability to deliver real change. This person will work in a variety of areas. They will need to look at some core aspects from the basic infrastructure of the area and looking at church planting, missional leadership and dealing with change.

Infrastructure

The bid is clear that "if we are to re-imagine church in Wigan we will need to address fundamental infrastructure issues". The project will be looking at how we rationalise church - there is a strong belief that the area is over churchd.

A core aim is to establish new church presences. We cannot rely simply on improving our existing church, new forms are vital.

A bold project to Transform Wigan

This is big project, a complex project, a bold project. Get it right and we will create a new model of church, a new way of being God's presence in the communities. We will learn many lessons which will be valuable for the growth of the church in Wigan Deanery, across our diocese and for the Church of England as a whole.

FIRST STEP: ^{to ...} Gather passionate disciples of Jesus Christ together to pray and seek God's way forward.