



## Minutes of FACT Meeting

Date: 20 January 2017

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Present: 13 attendees (representing 9 churches)

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Apologies: 13 apologies were recorded

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From: Mr P Craig

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Subject: FACT Executive Meeting January 2017

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Date of Meeting: Thursday 12 January 2017  
Time: 7.30pm  
Location: (with grateful thanks to Colin and Janet) St John's, Frome  
Chair: Rev J Samways

### 1 Welcome

John welcomed us and thanked everyone for attending. The opening reading was from Ps 24: 'Lift up your heads, O you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.' A prayer for renewal ..... flowing out of one of the morning's readings and a prophetic word given to a local Renewal Group some years ago. A deep unity of Spirit and purpose prevailed through the meeting, a common recognition that we *must* face up to the need for change, both in our individual churches and in our work together.

### 2 Minutes of the last meeting (Executive Meeting in September 2016)

2.1 Noted as accepted.

2.2 There were brief Matters Arising at this point in the meeting:

- a) Para 6.2 Justin Welby's visit had been a blessing and it was a great evening.
- b) Para 6.3 Christmas publicity – with thanks once again to Jim Parsons; it was agreed that the decision to include an advert for the Frome Christmas Lunch was good and indeed the event itself highly successful.
- c) Para 6.4 The Advent Service, with Kevin Roberts preaching, was very well received.
- d) Para 6.5 Feedback on the Christmas Light switch-on was mixed – on the one hand the more traditional approach and “less competition” was much better but things didn't all go to plan: the PA was an issue, the carol singing after the walk didn't happen and hence the carol sheets were not fully used. Hopefully it'll be better next time!
- e) Para 7.2 Plans for the proposed Friday night “Live Lounge” at Costa (initiated by Bryce and the Congregational Churches) were progressing and in fact Bryce and Adrian were at a training webinar tonight. Costs were estimated at £400 per evening, a not insignificant figure. However, start-up funds were available. While John felt we should not rush the planning, a launch before Easter was still hoped for.

### **3 Finances**

- 3.1 John had circulated a provisional 2016 report from Ian Crook covering the year ending 31 December. Grateful thanks to Ian for his work on the finances.
- 3.2 Its clear that running costs, including the agreed increased funding of the Youth work, exceed regular income and hence our reserves are gradually being depleted. We urgently need to address the finances by the AGM in May. Church leaders to be informed.

### **4 Events planned/to plan**

#### **4.1 Pulpit Swap**

Planned for 15th January – and again thanks to Jim.

#### **4.2 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**

WPCU starts Monday 16th to Saturday 21st at St John's 9.00 to 9.30am.

#### **4.3 Lent**

Lent is 1st March – 16th April

- Lunches are on Thursdays in Holy Trinity from 2nd March at 12.45pm. They will include a brief talk. The cost will be a minimum £3 donation. Takings will be shared between Embrace and Routes Café.
- Janet will arrange a rota for churches to prepare the lunches
- Study material. There are three suggested so far: the Embrace Lent Course (recommended by Jim); 'The long road to heaven' based on the film Santiago de Compostela suggested by David Brinn; 'A kind of sleepwalking' by Judy Hirst recommended by John Samways. More details to be circulated to leaders.
- Venues/times of lent groups are to be confirmed
- Easter Publicity for the Frome Standard is required by mid-March and should be forwarded to Jim Parsons
- The Good Friday joint gathering – is it called for this year? Leaders to be consulted. To be confirmed!

#### **4.4 Pentecost Praise**

Pentecost Praise is to be held at the Cheese and Grain on Sunday 4 June. Potential musicians have been identified. Details to come.

#### **4.5 Frome Festival 6-16 July including the Food Festival 7 July.**

#### **4.6 HOPEFrome**

There was unanimous agreement to plan to 're-brand' FACT 'HOPEFrome' – a title more readily 'grasped' by the wider community. Hence a new banner needs to be acquired. 2018 is to be a national celebration by HOPE UK.

## 4.7 **Prayer Structures**

There was unanimous agreement on necessity of creating the right prayer structures in the town; consideration is also to be given to the publication of a prayer diary useable for all members of all churches in the town/villages, bringing some coherence to our praying. There will be follow up to the encouraging prayer meeting in October.

## 4.8 **Filling Station**

Discussions are to be held on 9 February in Beckington regarding its future path; we discussed the important role this might play in the renewal of the Church in Frome across the denominations (this being the year of Luther's 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary ....). Planned evenings recommence in Beckington on the 13th April. See the FACT web-site for details as they become available.

## 5 **AOB**

- 5.1 There was a discussion about the still lack of cohesion, collective front and action amongst the churches in Frome. The new Rural Dean Graham Owen, due to be licensed on Tues 31 January at Norton St Philip, faces challenges amongst the various parishes throughout the CoE domain. In general all churches, both rural and town-based, are having to face fundamental questions regarding purpose and vision. However this highlights the need for the Body of Christ, across all denominations – rural and town-based – to seek God's heart and mind for the future. The prayer gathering just before Justin came was such an encouraging start, it is important we build upon it in the coming year.
- 5.2 Bryce reported that his mentoring activities now take place at both Selwood and Frome College and that he continues to receive positive feedback. Those in attendance thanked Bryce for his regular, inspiring and insightful e mailings each week
- 5.3 Marie Attwood highlighted two contrasting events at Wesley Methodist Church, both on 11th February: a day of reflection and debate on "Christian Persepctives on death and dying" and a musical celebration of life, death and the ever after in the evening. Full details are on the FACT web-site.
- 5.4 The meeting finished with prayer for all the plans and ideas discussed focking on our contuing desire to restore the Body of Christ in Frome and through that, to honour Him.

**Date of next meeting:**  
**AGM Thus 27 April 2017**