

## HOPEFrome Report for FACT AGM 2017

Through HOPE Frome, God offers us amazing opportunities to put our faith into action.

By God's grace, HOPE Frome has remained active with the following events which have been ongoing since our inception in 2008:

- \* The HOPE Coffee Van
- \* Community Litter Picks
- \* Participation in the Frome Festival Food Feast

And recently, the following new opportunities have opened up:

- \* HOPE Van "Rest Station" at the Frome Independent Market
- \* Frome Live Lounge Music events at Costa Coffee

We are also often asked to help participate in other community events, such as bucket waving for the Frome Carnival or marshal/stewarding the Frome Active Fun Run and Children's Festival.

Rev 3:20 - Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.

## Holiday Bible Club Report for FACT AGM 2017

Activities organised by HBC run at two venues each year. The main event runs the first full week of the summer holiday at Wesley, the other two are afternoon sessions and are held at Holy Trinity during the February and (usually) autumn half terms.

**In 2016, the summer event was themed on "Seaside Rock"** a Bible-based activity book. The stories were taken from Peter's experiences. Peter was ably portrayed by Nick Cooper (Baptist minister). Who knew the disciple had a Yorkshire accent?!

Activities, games, crafts and dramas were all nautically slanted. The theme song was: "The wise man built his house upon the rock" which has an easy tune (and which most of the staff knew).

**Over the week, around sixty children joined** us and had a wonderful time. Even before Friday's (in)famous water game there was plenty of water-pistol activity! Pleas for additional help had been answered this year with a most welcome extra half-dozen willing pairs of hands to help. nquiries. A good indication of how successful the week was, was the low attendance at the First Aid post. The workshops run to prepare all the crafts; the drama rehearsals and the afternoon spent setting the room up in readiness are always worth the enjoyment experienced by the children who attend.

Due to a reduction in staffing the **"Alternative Hallowe'en" event was staged as a party**, with the usual games and crafts and a traditional party tea. The children (30)undertook a shell hunt in the church. The session closed with each child being presented with a party-bag to take home.

**The February event included frenetic games, activities and craft**, with a challenge involving children (and adults) queuing up to eat ice-cream without the use of hands or spoons. The drama ended with Nick being drenched with water and quite a few damp youngsters – they loved it! **We had thirty seven 5 – 10 year olds of whom eleven were new contacts, so the leaflet drops in schools and halls bore fruit. Increasingly, the ratio of churched and non-churched children is moving towards non-churched, so we feel it's important to continue to spread the Good News in our slightly wacky, all-action way.**

Wondering how we can possibly top last year's success, we've started work on **this summer's event (24<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> of July)**. The selected theme is space exploration.

Diane Ellis

## **MENUNITED FROME CURRY NIGHTS**

The second MenUnited Frome curry night was held at Frome Town FC when Prof John Bryant, a bio-ethicist and former Chair of Christians in Science delivered an engaging talk. The evening generated good discussions and over 50 names are now on the list of those interested in attending.

In January Revd Andy Bowerman was the speaker, reflecting on his work as Executive Director of Anglican Alliance (working around the world and engaging with Pope Francis and Justin Welby), Chaplain of Southampton FC and his role in the local community based in Rode. Over 40 in attendance.

Frome Town FC will be our 'home' for future events, the food is excellent and the club is doing all it can to engage with the wider community. Three further curry nights have been planned for 2017 with an array of engaging speakers.

*John Samways*