

Summary of FACT Meeting Thurs 12 Jan 2017 (full Minutes to follow)

1. Opening reading 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.
2. A number of apologies but 9 churches represented. 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.
3. Finance. Grateful thanks to Ian Crook for the accounts. In short, with increased giving to Youth Work, as agreed last year, **we urgently need to address the finances by the AGM in May. Church leaders to be informed.**
4. Week of Prayer for Christian Unity/Pulpit swap all sorted, beginning this Sunday.
5. Lent: 1 March – 16 April.
 - Lunches on Thursdays in Trinity from 2 March @ 12.45pm. Incl. brief talk. Cost (min £3 donation). Takings shared between Embrace and Routes
 - Janet will arrange rota for churches to prepare lunch
 - Study material. 3 suggested: 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 to be confirmed
 - Good Friday joint gathering – is it called for this year? TBC.
6. Pentecost Praise to be held at the Cheese and Grain on Sunday 4 June. Details to come.
7. Frome Festival 6-16 July. Food Festival 7 July.
8. Unanimous agreement to 're-brand' FACT to 'HOPEFrome' – a title more readily 'grasped' by the wider community. A new banner to be acquired. 2018 is to be a national celebration by HOPE UK.
9. Unanimous agreement on necessity of creating the right prayer structures in the town; consideration also to be given to the publication of a prayer diary useable for all member 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.
10. Plans to launch 'Friday Night Live' in Costa in the Spring (initiated by Congregational Churches and Bryce). Details to follow.
11. '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 500th anniversary)
12. Overall, a very good honest, challenging meeting on a cold evening – thank you to St John's/Janet for hosting. The real work lies ahead.

John