



Faith Awareness  
in Children Trust

## Administration

Those who know me well will know my dislike for administration. I have to steel myself to do many tasks that others would take in their stride. However this is a significant part of my role now I am working on my own. FACT is blessed with a number of significant volunteers who alleviate this burden for me and I am very, very grateful.

The handling of all our day to day finances, including the recording of transactions and the creation of reports for the trustees is done by Elaine. I genuinely do not know where we would be without her!

Another area of administration that makes me want to climb back into bed and pull the duvet over my head is policy review and writing. To be honest, there has been no-one in the organisation who has wanted to undertake this role, so I am beyond excited to have found a volunteer who is willing and very able to undertake this area of work. Policies are important and need to be done well, so welcome onboard Nikki and thank you.

At the start of this term, a concerted effort was made to create a number of applications to grant making trusts for funds towards the work of FACT. I was grateful to one of our trustees, Simon (yep another Simon in the organisation - actually there is also another one as well - 3 of us!) who used his skills and experience in this area. We await to hear from most of the letters that have been sent but we were excited and pleased to receive a cheque from one trust by return of post. There is still a lot more money needed in this financial year to help balance the budget but we are doing all we can to source these funds.

Do you have some time or a particular skill that you think would be of value to FACT. Come and have a chat to see what you might do behind the scenes that will release more front line ministry.

I attended the CRE (Christian Resources Exhibition) at Sandown Park and talked with stall holders and viewed materials. Strangely enough, it was the one day that I 'bumped' into many local Christian leaders who I have been trying to catch up with, so now dates are in the diary for meetings in the future.

## New Website

*Time to Share at Home (T2S)* is very exciting but very different from the way we have engaged in ministry up until now. Previously we have been doing face-to-face work in schools, churches, and other settings. This new venture is about enabling materials to be available for use in homes, where we can't be! I have wrestled with ways to get it to its final destination - the home environment. Then it can be used for it was created to do. I have already mentioned in this newsletter the need for networking on a one to one basis but we also recognise that new forms of communication can be our allies. During the pilot scheme, we used Whatsapp to communicate amongst our group as well as meeting up in person. Emails were exchanged as well as (what is now considered to be old fashion) texts. So, now being ready to sell this fabulous resource, we recognised that we needed to add to the ability to allow electronic payments and ordering on our website.

So far so good, until we discovered the current platform for your website would not serve us well going forward. This has led to a major overhaul of what we want our website to do and who we think might use it. It wasn't as simple as 'bolting on' a Paypal ability!

As I write we are in the early stages of construction but once done it will allow better communication with many more of our supporters as well as improving the ability to sell our *(T2S)* materials direct into people homes.

The irony isn't lost on me that the materials are designed to allow those whom we live with to meet up and chat together about issues that are real and influential in our lives but the way we are getting them to people are dependent more and more on modern forms of communication that don't involve personal contact and interface!

There is no timescale or deadline when the new website will be up and running but, when it is, do drop by and see what it looks like and see what you can do through it.

In the meantime, if you want any materials then give me a call, write me a letter, release a pigeon with a message attached to its ankle or roll up a message in a bottle!

Simon

# You can't beat a good acronym or mnemonic!

Having been around education and Christian establishments for so long I've become used to acronyms and mnemonics. Setting out this latest newsletter it struck me I could use one, to sum up, its content.

So I give you *ACT* - Administration, Communication and the 2 'T's' of T2W and T2S.

As we head towards the end of 2018 we are gathering momentum with all three of these areas in the life of FACT.

*Administration* is a key, if at times tedious, area of work. You can read about the latest on Fund Raising, Exhibitions, Policy development, and a new website that is in the early stages of planning.

*Communication* is the second key area of work. This comes in many and varied forms. You are currently engaging in one way right now, this newsletter, but also look out for the articles on networking, sharing updates and engagement with Christian leaders. The new website will be an improved method of communication with you and others about the ministry of FACT.

*The 2 T's*. This is the final key area of work, the current foci of mission for FACT. It is the reason we have the other two areas. Without the 2 'T's' there is no point to all that we do. To learn more about the 2 'T's' read on, get excited, pray for them, give for them, consider your further involvement and listen out for their future development.

Probably the best-known acronym in Christian circles is WWJD - 'What would Jesus do?'



Wristband manufacturers have made a fortune out of this but because of my warped sense of humour, I like this alternative wristband.



'Jesus would probably not have gotten himself into this situation in the first place.'

Simon

## Light Party for Halloween

It was a pleasure to get a call from a friend and supporter of FACT who was running a party on Halloween at her church. They called it a 'Hallelujah' party but most people know them as Light Parties.



It was wonderful to play games that the church team had organised based on the theme of light. One used mirrors to change the path of light from torches and while another had balloons with LED lights inside them. My role was to use one of my puppet friends at two different points to help us think about what we are afraid of and how we can be certain of Jesus being with us at those times. They are a small rural church and the whole of their Sunday school turned out, 9 children in total. It was a great evening of fun and food and I was able to offer a reassuring message that they could take away and reflect on.



## Networking

One of the areas of work that has increased since the new emphasis on the three approaches to the mission of FACT is the need to network with key people. These have often been related to churches, but not exclusively. Recently, I have attended 2 mission groups in churches. The first was with All Saints, Laleham for their mission prayer meeting. It was encouraging to see so many people wanting to gather to pray for Mission, and on this occasion, for the ministry of FACT. I created an octahedron with keywords for areas of prayer. Once again it was encouraging to see these shapes being taken away to be used in small groups in the parish for further prayer.

The second group was the mission support group at St. John's, Egham who listened and questioned me about the current focus for FACT. They were very interested and thoughtful about how the church could continue to support the work as they have done in the past.

## More Tea Vicar?

I think I have now lost count of the number of engagements with clergy and church leaders I have had in the last month or so. There are more coming up in the near future. They all seem to revolve around drinking tea, coffee or eating breakfast or lunch. Don't get me wrong, I'm not complaining, but it can be an odd feeling when I get home to try and convince my wife that I have had a busy day once I have reeled off all the eating establishments that I have frequented that day!

The reason for so many meetings has been primarily so I can share and demonstrate the 'Time to Share at Home' material and sometimes leave a box for them to try before they (hopefully) buy. It has been very important to spend time explaining the backstory to why I feel that this new venture is of this moment. Do get in touch if you want to meet up for refreshments and a chat!

Simon



## Time to Wonder (T2W)



Early November saw the first T2W of this academic year hosted by St Paul's, Egham Hythe. Two Year 4 classes from their local school, Hythe Community Primary School, attended. A fabulous bunch of children engaged in all the tented activities during the morning and afternoon sessions. The opportunities afforded them to pause and reflect on whether they were special and important were well used. When we did the 'Circle Time' the feedback supported all we had seen and heard in their times in the tents. I never cease to be encouraged at how, when offered the opportunity, children value these times to be still and think, times to consider their value and importance and the significant impact it has on them.



## Time to Share at Home (T2S)



Having created the initial 10 sets of materials we soon realised that we would need more! So production continued with the next 5 to supply demand and the growing interest. They are nearly gone and the next 10 are now in production. Mike and Dave (volunteers extraordinaire!) are refining their processes and the pace is picking up.

We hope that interest will only increase and not decrease and that will give us a happy headache of *needing to find more volunteers to help with laminating, cutting and the like. Is this something that you might like to be involved with.* Could you give some time on a regular basis to support this new project?

Simon



The twelve apostles called the whole group of followers together and said, "It is not right for us to stop our work of teaching God's word in order to serve tables. Acts 6:2