

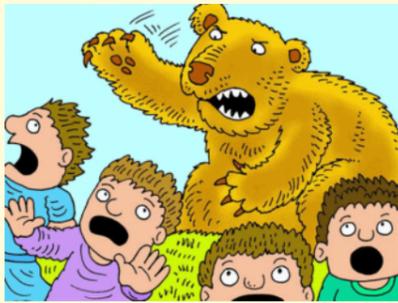
## Thought from scripture

I've recently been reading chunks of 2 Kings of some of the stories of Elisha. His mentor Elijah often gets a lot of coverage with the beating of the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel and the still small voice of God story but Elisha seems to be out of fashion in recent years and so I decided to refresh my memory. Probably his most famous story is the high ranking official Naaman whom he cures of leprosy.



However, there are some pretty odd stories including things like the floating axe in 2 Kings 6

or the story in 2 Kings 2 where Elisha calls bears to chase the children who called him baldy!



However what struck me was the title given to Elisha in so many of the stories by those in power (various kings), those of religious status (the prophets) and those in everyday life (the Shunammite woman). They all called him, 'Man of God'. He was the same to all of them regardless of societal status, wealth or understanding. He just dealt with them all the same and it was his consistency in doing so, not to favour one above the other, that meant that when people wanted to know the will of God they sort out the 'Man of God'. That's a challenge but also a huge encouragement to simply be a 'Man of God' wherever we find ourselves, at home, at work, in church, with our friends etc.

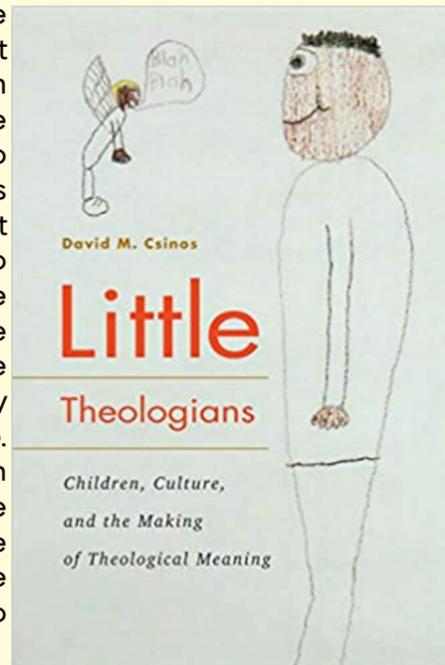
*Man of God* is a title and position that's not limited by gender. So arguably, we can all be men of God but in our world of gender balance feel free to claim that you are a 'Woman of God' if that's helpful to you.

## Latest reading

I continue to try and keep up with my theological reading and I am currently working my way through the latest book by David M. Csinos. Those of you who are involved with Children's Ministry may well be aware of David as he has been a growing influence in this ministry over recent years. His book; *Little Theologians: Children, Culture, and the Making of Theological Meaning* is an attempt to unpack some research he did amongst 3 different churches in Canada. He considers the idea that children make their theology within their local micro-cultures and situations. He suggests that children make sense of God in *their* world, using their language, imagery and world view thinking. The challenge to those of us who have the nurture and spiritual care of these young lives is, should we embrace it or correct it to our world thinking and ways of expressing faith? To answer that we need to ask ourselves, what makes us right?

I'm only about a third of the way through so I've yet to read enough of the research, information and ideas to offer any definitive thoughts of my own. The great thing about reading these ideas is it allows me to chew theological questions that present themselves in my everyday life and ministry. Let's face it if we think we have all the answers then we haven't asked enough of the right questions!

However, one thing that shines through for me that I've always held to be important is the notion that you have to start where people are and not where we think they should be. Then we can start to move them in the direction we want them to travel.



Simon



Faith Awareness  
in Children Trust

FACT, Peterhouse, St Peter's Close, Staines, TW18 2ED

Simon Shutt - Director of Children's Ministry

01784-457601



office@thefact.co.uk



www.facebook.com/FACT.FaithAwarenessinChildrenTrust



www.thefact.co.uk

# "Technology is a useful servant but a dangerous master."

Christian Lous Lange, Historian



The world of technology can sometimes feel a bit like walking up a down escalator. If you stand still you find yourself going backwards!

We use a lot of 'tech' in our every day lives at FACT. Emails, messaging platforms, social media and the like. The creation of this newsletter means I have engaged with the Internet to search and find images, information and ideas. So it will come as no surprise that we have taken another technological step forward in recent weeks with the creation and use of QR codes. Thanks to the skills of one of our Trustees we have produced the QR codes you see above. Those of you who are familiar with QR codes will, no doubt, already have scanned them to see where they take you. The one on the left takes you directly to the home page of the FACT website (more on that inside this newsletter). The one on the right takes you directly to our online donation platform. We all use our mobile phones for interaction with the Internet, listening to music, watching films and TV, endless apps with specific uses, from games to finding out the weather and messaging people with text, pictures and videos. Rarely do we use phones and speak to people.

By scanning a QR code you are instantly shown a web location, without having to type in long web addresses manually. Of course you will need to have downloaded a QR scanner app to do this!

This is about making technology serve our needs not for it to master our time. We will be using these codes at events that we will be running this year to help attendees to simply, with no fuss, access our website or jump straight to our donation page to support the work and ministry of FACT. If you are new to these things why not try these two QR codes out now and see how simple and safe they are.

These codes will be extremely important to FACT in the near future as they will be a key element in our funding strategy over the next 12 months. Possibly the only good thing to come out of the lockdowns of the last 18 months has been the Furlough Scheme which has been of significant financial benefit to FACT. As the churches and groups we seek to serve find their feet again and start to work out which directions they hope to move in, we recognise that many of them are uncertain of their financial stability. So, rather than place a strain on them we aim to offer our ministries free of charge in this period but we will seek donations from them if they are able and willing and also from attendees to events we will be creating and running. The backbone of our support comes from people like you who are reading this newsletter and who regularly give. Thank you and do consider if you could do more, either regularly or as a one off.

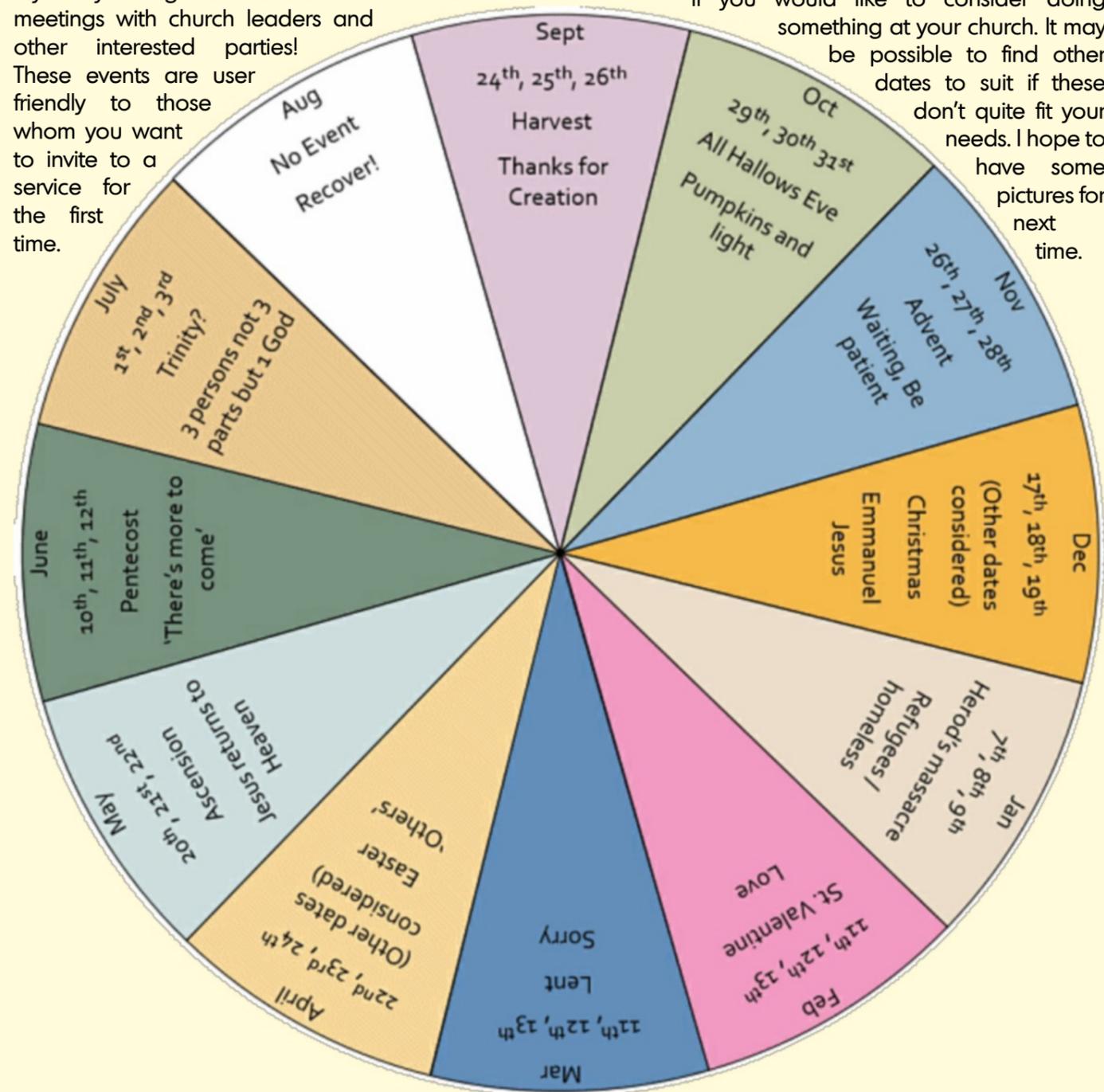
Simon

A newsletter to keep supporters informed, inspired & involved.  
Issue number 149      October 2021

FACT enabling children and households to reflect on the Christian Gospel

## Time to Worship together

Since I last wrote some people have asked for a larger copy of the yearly circle of events. I hope this picture is more easily read. The initial response has been very encouraging with one church booking 9 events for the year and another church booking 10 Sunday services to develop their understanding of intergenerational worship. I continue to sacrifice myself by having coffee and chocolate biscuit meetings with church leaders and other interested parties! These events are user friendly to those whom you want to invite to a service for the first time.



The content and elements for the October event are now being finalised and readied. They will be able to be booked via Event Brite or a link on our website. They should go live from the 4<sup>th</sup> Oct. Running alongside that event are the Advent events which are on the drawing board and some churches have already booked spaces. Get in touch if you would like to consider doing something at your church. It may be possible to find other dates to suit if these don't quite fit your needs. I hope to have some pictures for next time.

## New Website

Once again, the continuous developments in technology have meant that we have looked at our website and given it an overhaul. Chunks have been retained and other new areas have been added whilst at the same time changing the look and ease of the navigability of the whole site.

Please take a look and let me know what you think. As with all these things it will continue to change and evolve so drop by occasionally to see what is new.

**Time**   
2 **Worship Together**

Households are looking to worship together. They desire less segregation and more integration so all can wonder and encounter God. **Time 2 Worship Together** will aid in this.

**Time**   
2 **Share at Home**

An opportunity for households to explore together at home. Those of any faith or none can spend time in reflection and faith awareness with our **Time 2 Share at Home** activity kit.

Simple buttons on the home page will take you to the pages you most want to explore to gain all the information you need on what FACT is able to offer at this time. All from your computer or your phone.

**Time**   
4 **Toddlers**

FACT offers 6 themed presentations for toddler groups to enhance moral development and spiritual awareness with **Time 4 Toddlers**.

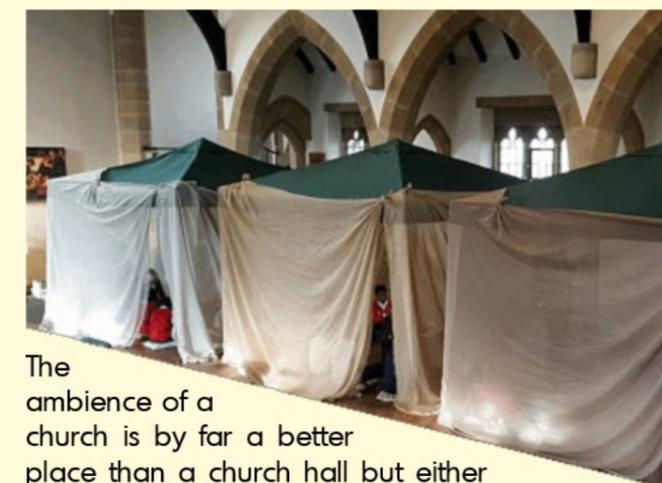
**Time**   
2 **Wonder**

Trained volunteers facilitate opportunities to spiritually reflect on life issues in an engaging, safe environment. **Time 2 Wonder** can be used with church groups or households.

## Time to Wonder

I have had a few conversations in recent months with volunteers who have expressed how much they miss doing **Time to Wonder**. Which made me think again about how this excellent resource that was highly successful in schools could be revived and used again. There was one occasion in the past where we were able to offer a small group of ladies the opportunity to experience **Time to Wonder** for themselves. The experience was overwhelming for them. Some were left in tears as they journeyed through the tented areas and were afforded opportunities to wonder and encounter God.

In a recent conversation with a church leader they described it as a 'Spiritual Spa' and in some ways it is, but with out the massage, plunge pool or Champagne! So we are offering this experience to churches and groups that are associated with churches. It could be for adults or children or mixed ages. Each session would take approx. 2 hours and could be run in the daytime or evenings. It does take a lot of setting up by us so we would want to make the most of our time in any given church and run multiple sessions. It does require enough space to erect three 3m square gazebos and allow projection of images onto a screen.



The ambience of a church is by far a better place than a church hall but either could be considered. In a world where the background noise can often be all we can hear it is good to pause, stop and make space to wonder with God and in those spaces God often chooses to reveal Himself to us at our point of need and understanding. Let's make this happen for you.

The king said, "Take a gift to the man of God. Then tell him to ask the Lord, ...."