

New developments

In the last newsletter I mentioned that there was a new development in the offing which I would share at the Open Day. This is some of what was shared. I have continued to wonder how to support and encourage households to pause together from time to time to focus on God and encounter Him. We have been using our Time2share@home boxes and they have had a measured success.

In recent years the development of Apps on mobile devices, phones and tablets, has increased, and there is now a possibility to use this technology for good, with individuals using it while being together to work through a session from Time2share@home. We are in the very early stages of development and thinking, and it won't be a quick fix. However, we think it is worth investing time, energy and finance into an App as a way to become more 21st century in the way we engage with the truth of the gospel message.

We have identified 2 current needs.

Firstly, might there be a supporter (or someone you know personally) who is interested in the development of this type of digital technology and would like to create the structure of the App? Lots of work has already been done to map out the flow of each screen and it's hoped for functionality, now we need the computer wizardry to make it work!

Secondly, in conjunction with the development, we are considering creating unique illustrations for the stories and other prompts for discussion. Once again, might there be a supporter (or someone you know personally) who is an illustrator or graphics person and would be interested in being involved in this?







Imagine this scene for a moment. A household of people who live together. They are mixed ages, relationships, abilities, experiences yet, live under the same roof. They have a desire to encounter God and can spontaneously gather with their everyday technology in hand, to grab a few minutes together in the busyness of life by using this FACT App as a catalyst. What might come from that short time together? How might it be a comfort, a challenge, a moment to refocus, an encouragement or a reminder that God is with them even if they have lost sight of Him because of the vying needs of the world around them.

Can you help?

Toddler Groups

With the Summer Term now over, I look back on a year that has seen an increase in numbers of Toddler Groups receiving a half termly visit from me. All 6 of the groups have booked up for next year and I have been able to give them a run down of the topics that will be covered via a simple leaflet personalised for each group.

FACT is pleased to offer its series of 6 presentations for pre-school children.

-  **Thank you - Harvest**
-  **Love - Jesus & children**
-  **Helping - Bartimaeus**
-  **Easter Story**
-  **WOW! - Creation Story**
-  **Sharing - Feed the 5000**

The themes use Christian stories, songs, puppets and multi-sensory approaches to stimulate thinking in a gentle and safe environment.

Sessions led by Simon Shutt
Director of Children's Ministry

I am always open to other groups being visited, so do get in touch if you want to explore that possibility further.

Finally, August lends itself to some downtime and holidays, but it will also be a time to prepare for the autumn. As I write, plans and dates are being considered for September onward, and more details on those will be shared in the future as they are finalised. It is often said, the church goes on holiday in August, but it's also a time to take stock and dream of the future. Why not let us dream with you?

Fact

Faith Awareness in Children Trust

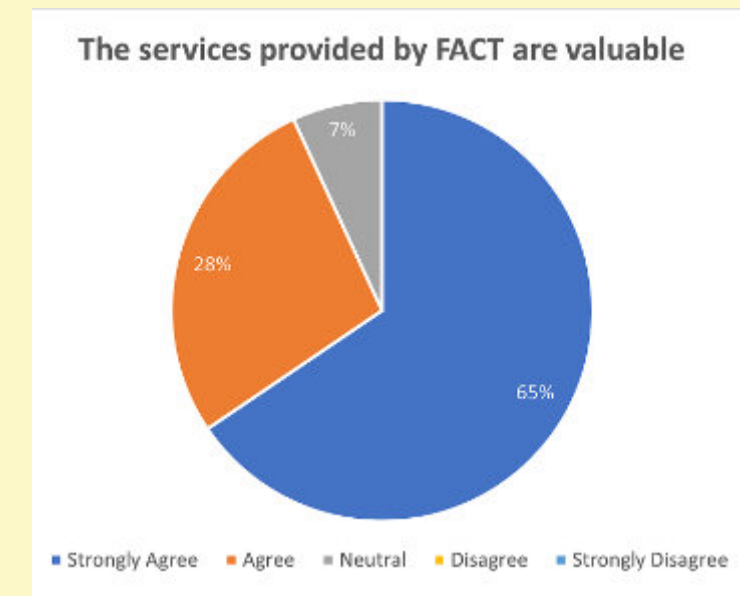
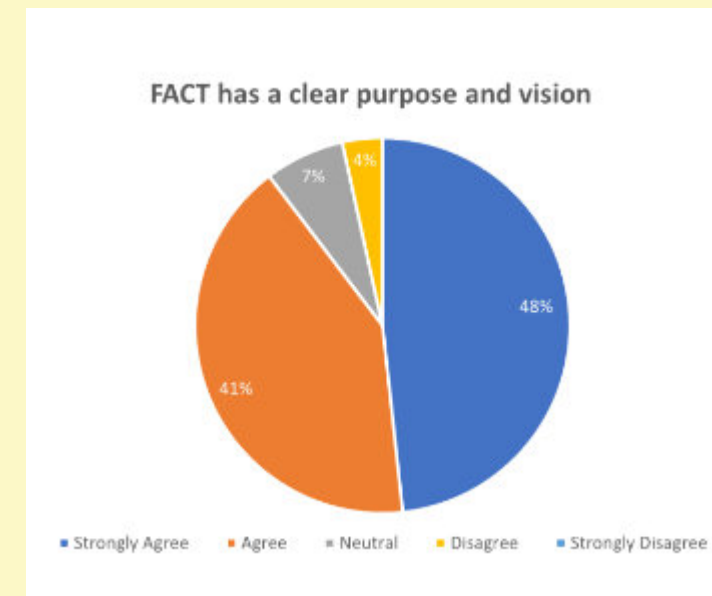
The people have spoken!

The results of our email survey carried out earlier in the year were shared at the latest Trustees meeting without revealing any individual's data. They were very encouraging and we had a high level of responses. If you took part, thank you.

If for any reason you missed out, do get in touch to check that we have your correct email as we did have some emails bounce with error messages concerning the addresses. That way we can include you the next time we do something similar. We are always open to feedback, whether to tell us about what you think is good and helpful or what you think could be improved or developed further.

For each question there were 5 possible answers: Two positive, two negative and one neutral. There were a number of questions but these two pie charts are pretty representative of all the feedback. I think they speak for themselves, but to have 89% of people saying we have a clear vision and 93% of people saying the services we provide are valuable is an incredible encouragement to everyone involved, and I hope to you as a supporter as well!

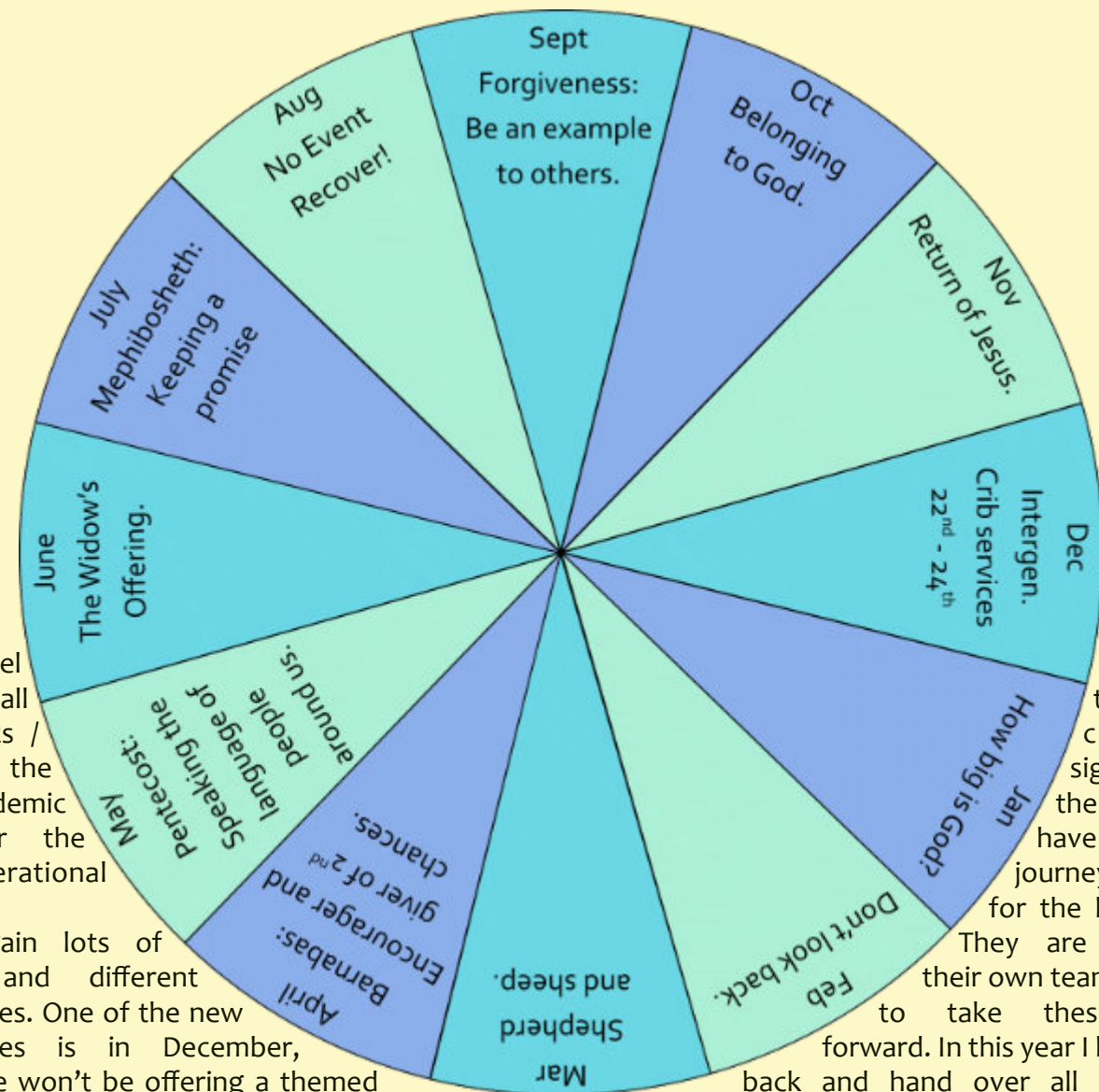
Perhaps it will increase your ability to confidently talk about the ministry and work of FACT with people and churches that might benefit from our involvement.



A newsletter to keep supporters informed, inspired & involved.
Issue number 160 August 2023

FACT enabling children and households to reflect on the Christian Gospel

Intergenerational Worship Calendar 2023 -2024



The wheel shows all the topics / titles for the next academic year for the Intergenerational Services. Once again lots of variety and different approaches. One of the new approaches is in December, where we won't be offering a themed Christmas service on a set Sunday but we are seeking to work within a church's Christmas pattern of services and possibly use their 'Crib Service' slot or offer something new at a different time aimed at households who might only attend at this time of year. As Christmas Day is on a Monday, we are ready to offer services on the Friday, Saturday or Sunday running up to it. Is this something you might like to explore as a church, then get in touch. Sorry, I know it's August but planning needs to be done well in advance!



As I write there are 2 churches signed up for the year who have already journeyed with us for the last 2 years. They are developing their own teams of people to take these services forward. In this year I hope to step back and hand over all that's been established, while continuing to offer resources enabling them to flourish. I'm currently chatting to other churches about starting a journey with Intergenerational Worship or other ways to support and enable them to become more 21st century in the way they engage with the truth of the gospel message. That's not about gimmicks but substance, learning styles and methods of communication that are relevant to people today. Speaking the language of people around us not the language of yesteryear.

Open Day

On a hot sunny Saturday at the end of June we held our Open Day. 40 people attended and were able to engage in activities, take home resources, hear about the latest developments and the challenges before us, and enjoy refreshments while having time to chat together about FACT and their own personal involvement with the charity. We were very grateful to Ashford Baptist Church for letting us use the whole of their premises for this event.



Our Labyrinth resource was laid out on the artificial grass for people of all ages to walk and engage with. It was encouraging to hear of people's encounters with God speaking into their lives.



Making sand crosses while prayerfully considering what different colours could represent was a popular activity, regardless of age!

Intergenerational Service



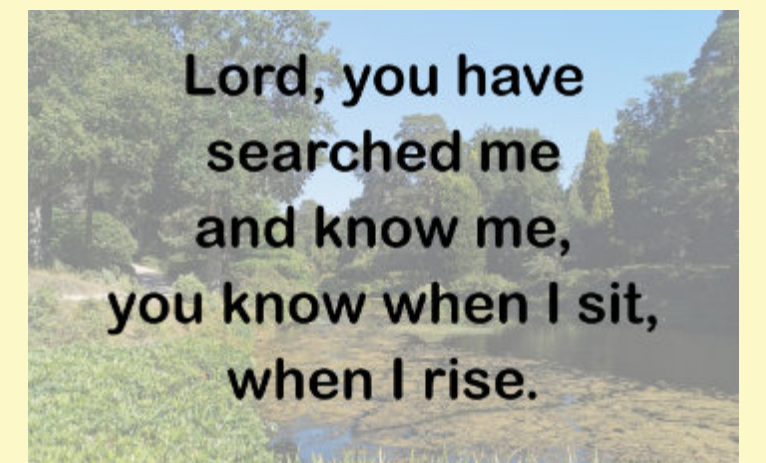
We have troubles all around us, but we are not defeated.

We do not know what to do, but we do not give up the hope of living.

2 Cor. 4:8

July saw the final service of the year using the story of Gideon, which is one of failure and not victory! We tend to read the story as far as the battle against the Midianites but miss the abandonment of God that follows.

Our prayer time was centred around 'Clay Jars' mentioned in the the story but also in a different context in Paul's letter to the church at Corinth, where he describes Christians as having the power and presence of God within us, 'we are like clay jars that hold the treasure'. We offered to God the possible troubles coming our way in the week ahead. We also reminded ourselves of the opening of Psalm 139, that God is with us and sang a new song to remind us of that and to worship God for that reality.



So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up.

Gal. 6:9