

## Diary Dates

### February

4 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Hope Church Hounslow Toddlers
9 <sup>th</sup> Feb	North Hillingdon Methodist 9.30am
9 <sup>th</sup> Feb	St Nicholas Shepperton 3.00pm
16 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Staines Methodist 10.30am
17 <sup>th</sup> - 21 <sup>st</sup>	Holiday / break
23 <sup>rd</sup> Feb	Ashford Common Methodist 10.30am

### March

8 <sup>th</sup> Mar	St Nicholas Training (am)
9 <sup>th</sup> Mar	North Hillingdon Methodist 9.30am
9 <sup>th</sup> Mar	St Nicholas Shepperton 3.00pm
11 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Tiddlers Toddlers
12 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Little Fishes Toddlers
13 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Seedlings Toddlers
14 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Minnows Toddlers
16 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Staines Methodist 10.30am
16 <sup>th</sup> Mar	St James Hampton Hill 3.30pm
18 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Hope Church Hounslow Toddlers
19 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Laleham Playgroup (am)
20 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Little Tots Toddlers
21 <sup>st</sup> Mar	Playtime Toddlers
23 <sup>rd</sup> Mar	Ashford Common Methodist 10.30am
26 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Footprints Toddlers
27 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Towntree Pre-school (pm)
TBC	Playbox Pre-school (am)
1 <sup>st</sup> Apr	Ashford Baptist Coffee and Play

Well, this is unusual – I much prefer reading the FACT newsletter to appearing in it! My name is Stuart, and I have recently taken on the role of Chairman of FACT's board of Trustees. Before going any further, I would like to pay tribute to my predecessor Elizabeth, who is one of the most effective leaders that I have met in either my personal or professional life. She leaves big boots to fill and I'm afraid that FACT will have to be patient with me!

Looking back, it's surprising to realise that I have been involved with FACT since November 2020. How different the world was back then! COVID wasn't fully behind us, and we were still managing furlough schemes and working out how to safely resume in-person activities. That FACT has bounced back so strongly is testament to the energy and enthusiasm that Simon deploys when creating opportunities for children, and increasingly the whole household, to encounter Jesus.

## New Chair of Trustees

I can speak first hand to the innovations Simon has developed around Intergenerational Worship through my involvement with St Peter's Church in Staines. Starting in 2022, Simon began to lead a monthly intergenerational service, drawing in support from across the congregation. Whilst he started off running the whole service, as time went on, he handed over more and more of the responsibilities to our congregants.

Simon provided lively and entertaining training sessions to several of us and finally handed over the baton last summer. Although he continues to provide support when needed, the service is (more or less) self-sufficient and often fills the Church. It is exciting to think about how it may evolve in the future!

My four years with FACT seem to have passed in the blink of an eye. My fellow trustees are warm and insightful people, Christ-centred and supportive of the charity's goals. The responsibility isn't onerous – we meet four times a year and each meeting runs to a well-practised rhythm. There is a need to cover mundane but essential tasks (there's always a policy or two to review!) before settling into more strategic discussions about the challenges and opportunities facing FACT. For me, the highlight is always hearing about the latest events Simon has led and particularly the responses of the people attending them.

I am in my first term as a trustee but looking back at how things have changed during my time to date, I am excited to see how we will develop going forwards! We are one or two Trustees short of where we would like to be, so please contact myself or Simon if you would like to talk about being a part of that journey too.

Finally, it would be remiss of me not to take this opportunity to extend the Trustees' thanks to all of FACT's supporters. Without your generosity, we would not be able to continue the charity's mission and we are very grateful for your ongoing support.



## Faith Awareness in Children Trust

FACT, Ashford Baptist Church, Church Road, Ashford, TW15 2TT

Mob 07733360009

office@thefact.co.uk

www.thefact.co.uk

# The wicked are punished in place of the godly, and traitors in place of the honest. *Proverbs 21:18 NLT*

The book of Proverbs is part of the Wisdom literature of the Old Testament in the Bible. It is full of principles and not promises. The quote above needs to be treated carefully, but it caught my eye in light of the latest series of *The Traitors*. There will be no spoilers in this article so you are safe to carry on reading if you are not quite up to date with your watching!



I confess to have been addicted to it even though there were numerous moments when I was appalled by people's behaviour and value systems. Arguably that's the reaction that the programme makers wanted. The lengths some people went to to attempt to deceive others about their true identity were incredible. The notional labels of *'Traitor'* or *'Faithful'* actually made no difference to all the individuals who were only interested in obtaining the cash prize for themselves and would do anything to achieve it. The absolute self-centred, egocentric, selfish, mindset totally surprised me.

To begin with I thought it was players playing to the cameras but I quickly realised that this was their true character shining through. WOW!

I've taken comfort in that these people have been carefully selected for this show and so good, honest, compassionate, selfless individuals would have been weeded out in the vetting process. Who needs a goody-goody spoiling things? The Proverb's quote above doesn't hold true in this TV show. Twisted, conniving, ruthless souls are the winners. Any show of empathy or concern is not embraced but exploited instead.

The Wisdom literature of Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Job and Psalms are full of people crying out to God in despair that as followers of God they thought they had a right to better living conditions, and to have preferential treatment. Somehow they felt they had earned it and were entitled to it. That's not true.

'The Traitors' acts as a mirror to the society we live in. The 'Me First', 'It's my right' thinking is now the norm and the go to place for all of us. As Christians we have to constantly wrestle with ourselves and consider how being followers of Jesus makes a difference to who we are at our core or as Matthew's Gospel puts it;

**Every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus you will know them by their fruits.**

A newsletter to keep supporters informed, inspired & involved.

Issue number 169 February 2025

FACT enabling children and households to reflect on the Christian Gospel

## Toddlers and Pre-schools



A quick look at the diary on the back page will show that the number of pre-school and toddler groups that I visit continues to rise. For the vast majority of the children and staff / carers who hear the short presentations it will be the only Christian thing they will encounter that week! However, I believe that the impact for good and for God is huge. With each visit relationships deepen and grow. Trust and friendship develops and what I offer is more and more valued. There is no quick fix, just a steady engagement, sometimes over a number of years. I recently had a grandmother approach me and say she remembered me coming to a toddler group many years ago when her daughter was a baby! I think I've been doing this longer than I realise! She spoke about how she loved the stories and songs and the engagement with the puppet and how she was excited to see me again. It's just a gentle reminder of Paul's comment to the Corinthians, *Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labour is not in vain.*



## Time2Share@Home

You might remember this image from the last newsletter. Below is the finished image and one of the cards in a set that considers how we might see ourselves, inside and out, and invites us to consider how God sees us inside and out. Self-esteem is a very real issue for many today, regardless of knowledge, skills, wealth, age, or apparent friendships.

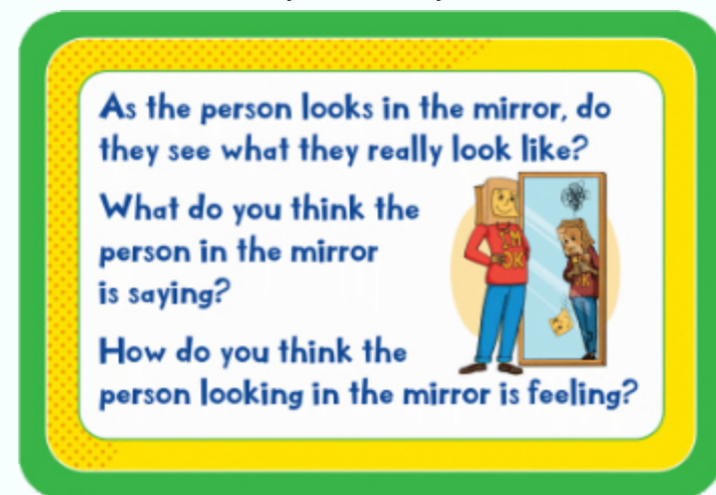


As more illustrations are completed we are getting closer to being able to launch the new boxes.



There's no set date but we are aiming for the Summer. They could be an exceptional tool to aid the exploration of faith with the people in our households.

Can you dream of how your church might use them to support your mission activities in your locality?



## Intergenerational Worship



This Christmas I offered 2 Intergenerational Worship services. The picture shows that moment we laid our newly constructed sheep around the manger, paused to recognise Jesus at the centre of Christmas and then sang a simple chorus from a Carol. The lighting in this church gave everything a pink hue, so be assured the sheep were in fact white!

January has seen another round of services in 4 churches exploring the theme of, 'Seeing God through the eyes of Elisha!' and using the story of Elisha in 2 Kings 6 and the command of Jesus in Luke 6: 35. It proved to be a tough ask of us all! We had a simple prayer activity that challenged us to be honest with ourselves, those around us and with God. The fun part was writing our name on a pebble and then hot gluing it to a prayer card.



This Spring I will be delivering 2 Saturday mornings of training on Intergenerational Worship. The first was completed at Staines Methodist Church in January and it was opened up to their local Circuit. I'm already working with 2 churches in the circuit so it was good to develop their understanding and aid their ability to take these services on bit by bit with the aim of them eventually flying solo.

The training unpacked what Intergenerational worship is and isn't, and why at this point in time it has the potential to be an extremely effective tool to allow access for households to worship together and is probably the best missional tool for working with unchurched people in our localities.

The feedback from attendees was very encouraging and showed the level of engagement and deep desire to be relevant and authentic in their witness today.

It almost goes without saying, but just in case, if you would like to know more or want to explore this further then get in touch.

**FACT**  
 Intergenerational Worship  
 What is it? What isn't it?  
 Why do we desperately need it today?

Staines & Feltham Circuit is excited to offer training led by Simon Shutt of FACT.

It is open to **all** including:  
 Local Preachers, Worship Leaders, and anyone who would just like to know more about it!

Staines Methodist Church, TW18 4SD  
 Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2025  
 9.00 - coffee and pastries  
 Start - 9.15 11.45 - Finish  
 For further details contact:  
 avrilpye@btinternet.com

Faith Awareness in Children Trust office@thefact.co.uk www.thefact.co.uk

**But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return.  
 Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High.**