

Intergenerational Worship

The theme for June looked at the question, ‘Does doing good count?’ We used part of the letter to Titus to answer that question and then moved onto ask a similar question, ‘Does doing good matter?’ We considered some verses from the book of James that gave us a very blunt answer!

A humorous short video called, ‘Snack Attack’ revealed motivations for sharing. This added to each congregation’s experience and we concluded our time together with a time of stillness and a reflective prayer by Giles of Assisi from the 13th century.

- Blessed is he who loves and does not therefore desire to be loved.*
- Blessed is he who fears and does not therefore desire to be feared.*
- Blessed is he who serves and does not therefore desire to be served.*
- Blessed is he who behaves well toward others and does not desire that others behave well toward him. And because these are great things, the foolish do not rise to them.*

July was our final service of the academic year.



Our theme was, ‘We not Me’. 1 Corinthians 12 gave us a base to work from.



How strange a body would be if it had only one part.

Yes, there are many parts, but only one body!

1 Corinthians 12:19-20

Once again we used the magic of Pixar with the short video of, ‘For the Birds’ to help us think about belonging to the body of Christ in our locality.



There was sufficient honesty to acknowledge that it’s not easy to like or get on with everyone, and that sometimes it is hard to fit in if we seem different to the majority. Our prayer time offered an opportunity to be real with God about these difficulties and to pray prayers that were desires to belong in a situation where it wasn’t yet a reality.



August

A time for holidays and enormous amounts of preparation that will take place in readiness for the new academic year starting in September.

Sept

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 14 th Sept | North Hillingdon Methodist 9.30am |
| 21 st Sept | Staines Methodist 10.30am |
| 28 th Sept | Ashford Common Methodist 10.30am |
| 29 th Sept | Laleham Playgroup (am) |
| 30 th Sept | Hope Church Hounslow Toddlers |

Oct

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 st Oct | Little Fishes Toddlers |
| 2 nd Oct | Towntree Pre-school (am) |
| 3 rd Oct | Minnows Toddlers |

Diary Dates



Faith Awareness in Children Trust

“Be still and know that I am God”

Psalms 46:10

A classic quotation from the Psalms which many of us will instantly recognise. It’s not a suggestion but a command. However sensible and healthy it might be and even though we might agree with it’s sentiments and have experienced the benefits of doing it, it’s one of those things that rarely reaches the top of the ‘to do’ pile when life is full and busy.

As this newsletter drops onto your door mat or into your inbox, the academic year will have come to an end and the holidays will be upon us. Supposedly a time to stop, pause, and recoup but holidays can be exhausting with the amount of preparation and organisation that’s needed. The list of people we want to visit seems to expand, the jobs waiting to be done, ‘when we get a moment’, seem to have increased from a note to a small booklet!

Two things have caught my attention recently and they have both taken only a moment to engage with, but have allowed me to pause and think. The first, is this quote. I suggest you read it, then reread it.

“On the one side the drive to accelerate is constant due to the absence of constraints as any larger patterns and given rituals are shattered. There are no givens, everything is in flux. It seems that the remedy is so simple: if one is exhausted, one should rest. Yet rest presupposes ontological trust that the world will not crumble and that the gods do not need to be fed. In short, resting implies a myth where each person is invited to rest by an all—powerful God.”

Oleg Dik

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The second, is to take a moment to watch the latest video from the theosthinktank.co.uk called, **In sync with the sun**. It is loosely based on the Prodigal Son parable. The creator of the video, Emily Downe, writes about her drive to create it on www.seenandunseen.com



She notes that life is busy and we are all driven to do more, to be more productive. Yet, the natural, God given order, is one of activity and rest. Rest isn’t something to be squeezed into our busy time schedules but something that is necessary for good living. When we ignore that pattern we do so at our peril and cost. I suspect, even as you are reading this you will be looking to complete it and move onto the next thing that needs your attention.

To be still and know God won’t just happen. It takes a conscious effort, and sometimes planning, to create good space, not just scraps of time. To develop good rhythms of life in which to work and rest and to find balance is something that has to be fought for. Rituals play a part in this, whatever your rituals are, be they spiritual, mental or physical. Please be still.

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FACT enabling children and households to reflect on the Christian Gospel

Registered Charity Number 1055843

Time 2 Share at Home

The designs are now complete!



6 Households took part in a trial and questionnaires have been completed and sent back for analysis. Thank you so much for all those who took part and fed back. There was so much positive feedback that was very encouraging. We are confident that this resource will be extremely valuable to households who want to take a few minutes to be together and chat about some of the questions raised in the sets of cards. There are no right or wrong answers and it is in the journeying together that possibilities are explored. Over the summer break we hope to refine our marketing plan and start to roll things out in the early autumn.

This image is one of my favourites. It's a finger labyrinth used as a simple prayer guide.



Toddlers and Pre-schools

Another academic year completed with visits to toddler groups and Pre-schools. The final session looked at the story of Zacchaeus, with a particular emphasis on being friends. Zacchaeus had none while Jesus had many! The change in Zacchaeus meant he gained friends. When you are 3 or 4 years old this is very important information! I had created a new Big Book with free online images. They are so bright and colourful that they naturally draw the children (and adults!) into the story telling.



It's in this story we find a very simple case of actions speak louder than words, as Zacchaeus returned the stolen money plus more and people could see and feel the difference that his encounter with Jesus had made.

I never go alone to these presentations and this time it was the turn of Chatty Charlie. This photo was taken at St. John's Egham after the session. They had been clever enough to check out my theme in advance of my visit and had a craft to support all that I was doing. You can't beat a little working together!

Thanks Rachel.



Intergenerational Worship

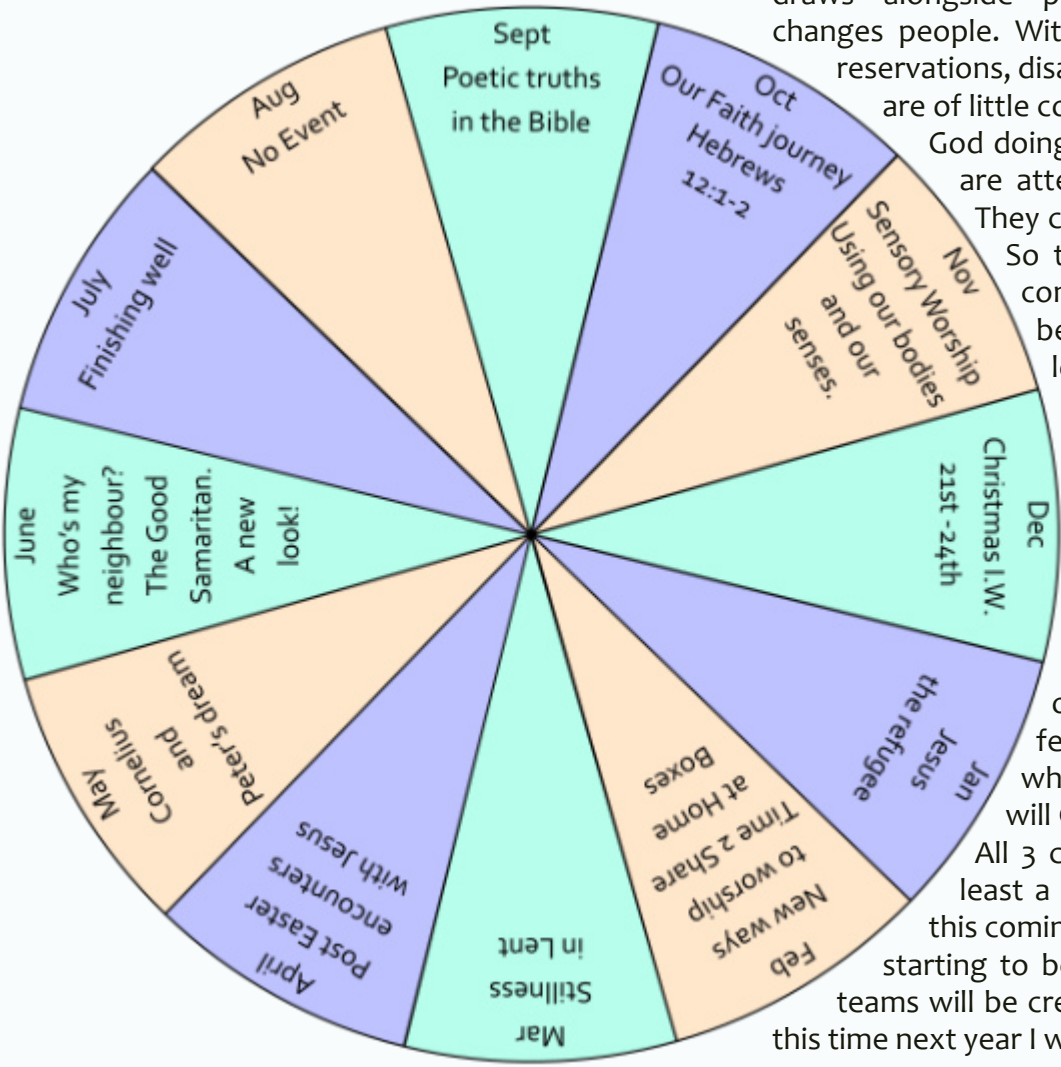
John 5:19
Jesus explained, "I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself. He does only what he sees the Father doing. Whatever the Father does, the Son also does."

Hudson Taylor, the 19th Century missionary to China once said,
"I used to ask God to help me. Then I asked if I might help Him. I ended up by asking Him to do His work through me".

Theologically, my position in all that I have tried to do while fronting the work at FACT has been to attempt to see what God is doing, and then to join in with it! I have no ministry of my own, there is only God's ministry that I try to join in with. The beauty of this approach is that I'm only responsible for seeking God, which is no small matter! It's God who draws alongside people, brings people, and changes people. With that in mind, some of my reservations, disappointments and frustrations are of little consequence as I think I can see God doing things with households who are attending, often in spite of me. They can only be works of His Spirit. So the decision from my end to continue with all 3 churches became a simple one to make. I look forward to watching what God does in year 2.

I have now completed the first year with 3 churches supporting them in understanding and delivering Intergenerational Worship (I.W.) Before rushing to get them signed up for year 2, I took some time to pose questions to them about whether they wished to continue with the process and also allow myself some space to consider whether I should continue with them. There are always good bits and not so good bits, there's always need, but is any of that important when making these decisions? What measurement could I use to help me make my decision?

Pete Greig suggests that there were 2 reasons that Jesus prayed. Firstly, to simply be with His Father, to commune with Him. Secondly, was to know what God's plans were so He could obediently fulfil them.



This diagram shows the themes for I.W. each month starting in September. I've tried to see and hear what I think God wants me to cover and when. Some of it seems obvious to me but some of it feels okay, but I'm wondering why and who is it for, and what will God reveal at those times? All 3 churches are committed to at least a couple of training sessions in this coming year and dates for those are starting to be confirmed. It is hoped that teams will be created and nurtured so that by this time next year I will have stepped back and out.

**God put the parts in the body as he wanted them.
He made a place for each one. So, there are many parts, but only one body.**