

Practical issues as we finish

As a supporter you may be financially giving via SO / DD from your bank account. That will need to be brought to an end before the end of August. As I write we expect FACT to end with a small amount in our bank account. We are still trying to finalise payments and costs. Therefore, if you are able and willing it would be helpful to us if you could continue to support us and stop your giving during July.

We will be clearing our office of all the furniture and equipment. We have a printer, which is old but functioning well (this newsletter was printed on it). We would love to find a new home for it free of charge. If you are interested or know of someone who could benefit from it please get in touch. However you would need to arrange collection and handling of the beast.



Finally, if you could help clear the office of furniture etc. Then please let me know, as many hands make space for me to do a lot less lifting!
Thanks

Diary Dates

June

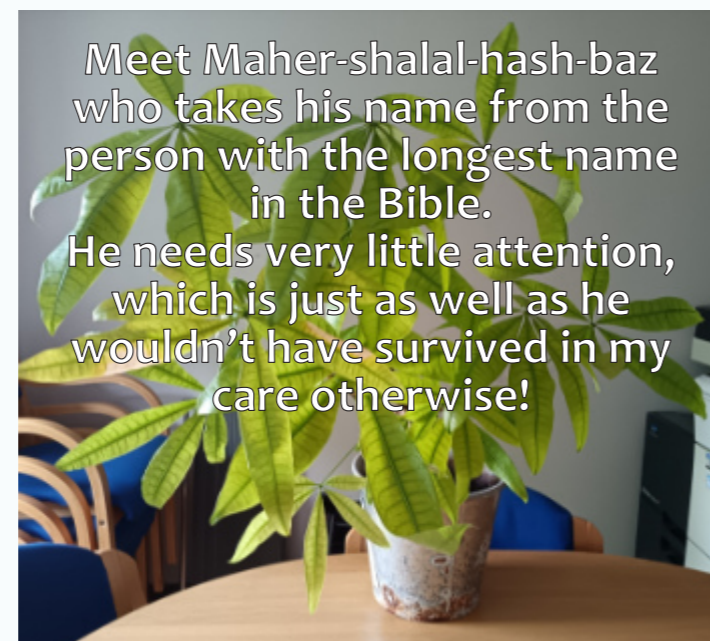
3rd June Retreat morning RHS Wisley
3rd June North Hillingdon Methodist 6.00pm
11th June Spiritual Mentor meeting
14th June North Hillingdon Methodist 9.30am
17th June Hope Church Hounslow Toddlers
18th June Towntree Pre-school (pm)
19th June Minnows Toddlers
21st June Ashford Common Methodist 10.30am
22nd June Playbox Pre-school (am)
23rd June Tiddlers Toddlers
24th June Footprints Toddlers
25th June Seedlings Toddlers
26th June Playtime Toddlers
27th June Intergenerational Worship Training
26th Apr Staines Methodist 10.30am

July

1st July Laleham Playgroup (am)
1st July North Hillingdon Methodist 6.00pm
2nd July Little tots Toddlers
11th July St Hilda's Breakfast meeting
12th July North Hillingdon Methodist 9.30am
19th July Ashford Common Methodist 10.30am
23rd July Trustees meeting
26th July Staines Methodist 10.30am

31st August Closure of FACT.

GOOD HOME WANTED!



Meet Maher-shalal-hash-baz who takes his name from the person with the longest name in the Bible.

He needs very little attention, which is just as well as he wouldn't have survived in my care otherwise!



Faith Awareness in Children Trust

So be wise and learn what to do and when to do it. *Ecclesiastes 8:5 CEV*

I do love a bit of Ecclesiastes from time to time. At first reading it can appear to suggest that life is a little hopeless and pointless. However, the word that appears on a number of occasions which is often translated as '*meaningless*', has a different meaning for the original writer. If they were writing today, they might describe life as being fleeting, momentary or as a vapour of camp fire smoke! Its continuous idea is for us not to be so caught up with trying to understand the incomprehensible and the unknown, that we fail to be in the moment and live life to its full. God stands above and beyond us, so chill out, and go with the flow and try and engage with God in all you do, think and say.

For over 30 years FACT has inadvertently found itself operating out of that idea. There has been many a time when we have sensed God in the process, idea and conversations with people, but have not really been able to understand the depth of the whys and the wherefores. There have been moments, passing thoughts and small unseen actions that have all played their part in the ministry that God was undertaking. Looking back it is easier to see them with hindsight than to have been aware of them at the time.

At the latest Trustees Meeting we experienced another moment that saw a simple decision taken after exhaustive thought, exploration and prayer.

FACT will close on the 31st August 2026.

As the title text at the top of the page notes, this is a wise decision taken at the right time.

Ecclesiastes 3:4 says that there's '*a time to mourn and a time to dance.*' This is most definitely a time to dance and celebrate.

(Please don't send me your videos of you dancing, no-one wants to see that!)

There is much to remember and celebrate over the last 30 years. I want to invite you to send me your memories of FACT. Maybe one simple incident that you hold dear. Maybe one conversation you have overheard that made you smile and be thankful for the work and ministry of FACT. Perhaps you have seen evidence of the impact of what FACT has done in primary schools, pre-school settings, churches, home environments, parenting programmes and other incidental moments that were not incidental on the eternal scale!

I want to celebrate your engagement with FACT, whether from the start or in more recent times. Your support financially, prayerfully, practically, with encouraging words and actions over all these years has allowed FACT to be at the forefront of children's ministry.

The next newsletter will be compiled early July and I want to share your stories with others so we can all celebrate the conclusion of the ministry of God through FACT. For my part, I hope to dig into the archives and find embarrassing photos and stories to share and celebrate once again.

There won't be any formal gathering to conclude FACT's work and ministry. Forgive me, but it's simply not my thing. Without wishing to sound over saintly, I've merely tried to follow that which God called me to do and be, and I don't need to be singled out for special attention.

A newsletter to keep supporters informed, inspired & involved.

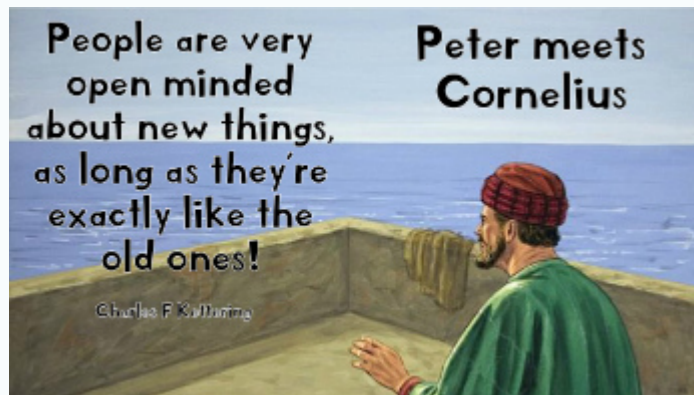
Issue number 177 June 2026

FACT enabling children and households to reflect on the Christian Gospel

Intergenerational Worship

The final 3 services for the 3 Methodist churches I have been working with over the last 2 years or so, are all prepared and ready to go.

In May we used the story of Peter and Cornelius to consider being open to God for new things. Peter had to learn the Easter truth that Jesus came for all, not just the Jews and it took a weird vision to shake his thinking to show him his unrealised bias. I liked the quote from CF Kettering.



In June we will look at the story of the 'Good Samaritan' and think about the question behind the question and perhaps allow a very different reading of the parable and the answer to 'who is my neighbour?'

Familiarity really can breed contempt with a dismissive approach to what we think is obvious. I think this story is like the proverbial onion. You need to peel away the outside layers to get to the juicy parts!



Surely there's nothing new to see in this story? Jesus knows what's behind the 'neighbour' question. His story answers the real question which hasn't been verbalised. Why not attend a service and make your own mind up.



In July we will think a little about, 'Mountains or Valleys? Where should we aim to be?' We will use a number of Old Testament passages including Lamentations 3 to help us consider the answer to the questions we have posed.

I will be using this song that is based on this passage. <https://resoundworship.org/song/the-valley-your-everlasting-love>

Do look it up and play it a couple of times. I think you will find it a powerful thing to hear and maybe sing along to. Beware it will become an ear-worm!

Our act of prayer will use what is sometimes known as St. Patrick's Breastplate in which he invites Christ to be in every part of his life. He effectively 'puts Christ on'. We will enact it with simple hand gestures as the prayer is spoken over everyone.

I hope to be able to offer some of my back catalogue of services to churches who have engaged with Intergenerational Worship with me over recent years and have established teams who are keen to take things forward in their own way and style while retaining the core elements and principles.

The final training session for the 3 churches will be held at the end of June. I will be covering numerous issues including:

- Continuing after I've gone and making the process sustainable.
- Holding onto the principles of I.W.
- Where to find resources and how to use them.
- Looking outward to the unchurched who will come if invited to something of value and quality.
- Good communication within the team and the wider church leadership.



For such a time as this!

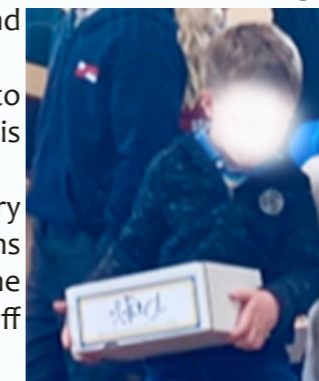
There are a few occasions in ministry where it is very apparent that you are in the right place at the right time with the right thing. We have been offering our Time to Share at Home boxes through churches and other contacts. Generally speaking, two or three boxes have been given away at a time.

Following a conversation with Major Val at Staines Salvation Army, it became very apparent that we were talking the same language and that they could use the boxes in the annual 'Young People's Celebration' where the children and young people would be given a small gift. In the past it has been a book or a token but the opportunity to give them a box that would be taken back into their homes and used with their household was too good to be true! The photo above shows the 40 boxes in the back of my car being delivered to the Citadel in early May. Once again my thanks go to the 3 strong volunteer team who have produced them.

I can only wonder about how they might be used, what conversations might be had or how God might engage with individuals and whole households.

This boy was chuffed to receive his box following his presentation.

I was told that it wasn't very long after the presentations that a party popper in one of the boxes was let off during the service! 🤔



Pre-Schools and Toddlers

This will be the final term of working with so many local pre-school settings. In May I visited 10 groups and told the children and carers the story of creation. On day 4 God created the sun and the moon!



It's such a great story with many wonderful images but in our society today there is a resonance with the command of God to humanity, represented by Adam and Eve, to look after his creation.



In June I will be revisiting these settings and will tell the story of the feeding of the five thousand, focusing on the idea of sharing. It lends itself to a little numeracy that I can cope with. Counting the loaves and fishes!



We will think about what we might share. We could allow others to go first and take turns in games or share our toys and use kind words. I'm not just talking to the children! All the listeners will hear of the miraculous feeding and be left to wonder on who could do that?

Yet God has made everything beautiful for its own time. He has planted eternity in the human heart, but even so, people cannot see the whole scope of God's work from beginning to end.