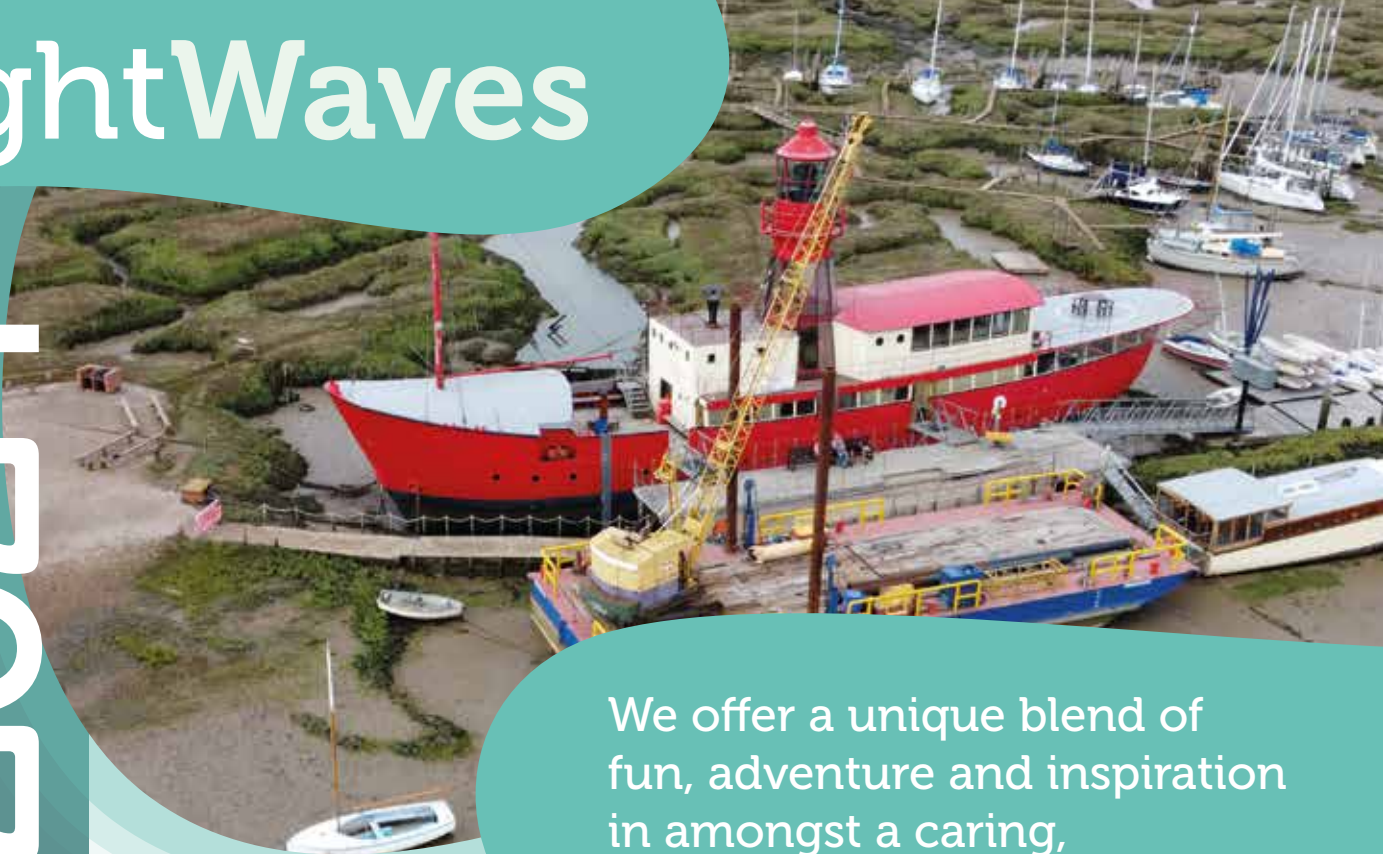


# LightWaves

# 2024

News from  
Fellowship  
Afloat  
Charitable  
Trust



We offer a unique blend of fun, adventure and inspiration in amongst a caring, waterside community.

Dear Friends,

**Welcome to the 2024 edition of Lightwaves. Join us in these pages as we look forward with excitement to what God will be doing here at FACT this coming season, and as we celebrate with thanks the completion of the redevelopment of our floating centre *Trinity*!**

*Trinity* has been transformed, improving access and flow, increasing accommodation, and adding new facilities. Have a look at the timeline overleaf as a reminder of the main stages of this unique project, celebrating at the same time the many people (and companies) that have worked so effectively with us to make it all happen.

Our vision at the beginning was that the work should equip *Trinity* for the next 30 years of welcoming young people to our community of faith and adventure. And now, as we venture into these coming years, we delight day-by-day, week-by-week, and month-by-month in sharing this amazing gift with our guests.

It won't be without new challenges of course as, like everyone else, we grapple with rising costs and so many uncertainties in national life. We also share the current issue of staff shortages, which puts extra pressure on our loyal team.

But we trust, as ever, that God's grace will be present so we can live out a genuinely Jesus-centred life together, nurturing a community that opens up hope, purpose and peace to young people. The time, love and energy we share with all those who come aboard can be transformative.

Accordingly, in this newsletter, we're also celebrating how young people who have worked with us in the past have found FACT to be a significant investment in their lives. They are just a few of the many we have had the privilege of journeying alongside and helping to grow towards spiritual and personal wholeness.

*"Trinity has been transformed, improving access and flow, increasing accommodation, and adding new facilities."*

We hope you enjoy our news and that you will join us in thanks for all that God has been doing so graciously with this wonderful community – of which you are part! – and that you will be excited by the good things that are to come.

Andrew

**Andrew Eastham**  
Chief Executive  
FACT



# Investing in future generations

In an ever-changing world that often demands instant results and short-term solutions, FACT is sticking to its long-term calling to be a place where young people can discover personal transformation and growth that endures. FACT seeks to provide an environment that encourages people to discover more of who they are and to grow into more of who God created them to be.

We believe this is best revealed as young people work together in Jesus-inspired community, through serving others and, of course, having great adventures.

Here are just four personal stories from those who have previously worked on board, sharing how FACT helped them to grow both during their time as staff and in the longer term.

To read more stories from our former staff, scan the QR code to go to our website.



Read more



Becky Clarke  
Trainee Instructor  
2006-07

This week I have wished a friend 'happy birthday', cleaned a toilet, led a bible study, baked a cake, chatted to mums at a tots' group, and prayed with my kids. What do all these things have in common? Fellowship Afloat. That friend, made during my gap year, was one I went on to sail around the UK with, she was my bridesmaid and 18 years later we're still friends!

Some of the skills I learned on my gap year I use regularly, whether baking mocha cake or coaxing my children to help wash up. I also learned how to lead a Bible study, share testimony of God's goodness, pray aloud to encourage others and how to bring the big and little things in life to God. I also learned how to talk to people of all ages, backgrounds and walks of life.

Just three words:  
Best choice ever

Since my gap year I have completed my degree, returned to FACT as staff for a stint, got married, worked as an outdoor instructor at other centres, become a Coastguard, and had a family of my own. Only God knows what the future holds, but I'm certain He used my year at FACT to teach me about myself and about Him.

## Trinity3: A Journey and Transformation Complete

Our project to develop our floating centre concluded this winter, which is truly amazing. It was a huge undertaking which started as a concept nearly 15 years ago. It's been a big adventure where we have seen wonderful provision, prayers answered and worked with so many great companies and contractors in delivering the project. We are blessed to have such a well-equipped layout of the centre, ready to serve thousands of people in the years to come.

And here is a reminder of the journey:

### 1 2010

After 20 years of serving guests, a working group is formed to explore how the lightship might be **renewed** for the next generation.



### 3 2017

Phase 1 concludes in June - foredeck cleared, bench seating installed, floor painted, whaleback constructed and **kitted out**.



### 5 2018

January - Phase 2 continues with the construction of the **upper saloon**. In March, 16 tonnes of chain are installed as ballast.



### 2 2016

Physical works begin! Phase 1 starts in August. The **engine room** is cleared and the whaleback is templated.



### 4 2017

November - Phase 2 starts with the **lookout, extending** it aft onto the boatdeck and sprayfoam insulating.







**Katie Lewis**  
Trainee Instructor  
2011-12

I learnt so much and was shaped in so many ways! It was really foundational in teaching me to work hard in serving others, working full days and learning to take initiative. I learned through experience, and in community with others, that even difficult tasks can be done cheerfully to serve Jesus and other people.

I grew in confidence in relating to different people and how to lead different activities with them, whether formally, like sailing, or informally, like cleaning up together. I think it has also shaped me in how I lead, teach and communicate.

Just three words:  
**Active. Growing. Serving.**

After my year at FACT, I went to university where I felt so lonely and unknown, but coming back to FACT and feeling immediately known and loved by the FACT community was very wonderful indeed, and it has helped me better understand church and God's people more broadly.



**Chris Cotterill**  
Trainee Instructor  
2008-10

I first did a gap year because I didn't know what else to do and then because I enjoyed it—it was fun. It gave me experience, qualifications and a purpose. Long term it's helped me grow as a person, given me skills which I have used in my career and in serving other Christian camps. It's also given me a lifelong community to be part of.

Just three words:  
**Intensive. Worthwhile. Fun.**

I appreciated being given responsibility—it's empowering to be trusted to deliver an activity session or take the boats out to the moorings. It tested my faith which helped to strengthen and confirm my belief in God and the importance of Jesus in my everyday life. I would wholeheartedly recommend a year at FACT—it will stretch and grow you and also be a lot of fun!



## 6 2018

In April, works begin to refurbish the light tower, including glazing to fully enclose it. By June, the **extended lookout** is completed and in use.



## 7 2018

October - the **light tower** refurbishment is complete. Phase 3 begins! The new floor level is set in the engine room, the old toilets & showers are demolished, install of new heating & hot water system begins.



## 8 2019

January - the **helical staircase** arrives in three pieces and is welded into place. The ground source heat pump is commissioned. The relocated toilets and showers are installed.

## 9 2019

February - the **ship reopens** to groups after the most complex phase. The upper saloon is complete and immediately in use.



## 10 2019

November - Phase 4 gets underway! Construction on the **accessible cabins** and relocated shop begins with structural works.



# Bursary Fund

Our Bursary Fund continues to make a real difference to so many groups and individuals each year – this fund exists to make sure that **“no one is left behind”** and to support those who want to visit but have limited means to do so.

In 2023, we experienced high demand amid the cost of living crisis, dispersing almost £19,000 of support so nearly 200 young people could have life-changing moments onboard, experiencing adventure and challenge in a caring waterside community.

Here are some comments from some of those who benefited last year:

**“We have received many acts of kindness since arriving in the UK, but none as kind as the bursary that meant that our son could attend. It has helped us both. His teachers say he is more confident and his English has improved. He was so happy when I picked him up, and continues to ask to return. Thank you very much for organising the bursary, it is for me, unbelievably kind.”**

**“Our son liked the boat trip and the night walk, he also liked the food and he is a fussy eater. He came back and said it was the best time ever and he was so happy that he went and tried new things.”**

**“Our daughter enjoyed the high ropes, kayaking, speedboats and sailing. She would never have had the choice to do these without the bursary.”**

We are grateful to all the individuals and grant making trusts who support the fund, if you'd like to know more about supporting or applying for the fund do get in touch!



Bursary Fund

*Thank you*



**Molly Lawrence**  
Assistant Chef  
2013-14

There was a lot of pressure at school to go to university and I was unsure of what to do. A year at Fellowship Afloat allowed me to explore options, and build a relationship with God. With a large support network, weekly Bible studies over the winter, morning thoughts and regular church services I was able to connect with God on a deeper level and grow into the Christian I am today.

Just three words:  
**Faith. Family. Relationships.**

I definitely grew in confidence throughout my year. I went into my culinary course with an abundance of knowledge and experience. I now have 10 years of catering experience under my belt and that foundation was built at FACT.

**To hear what our groups & guests have said about how we invest in them, scan the QR code.**



Find out more

## 11 2020

January - **reception expanded**, shop relocated, accessible shower room ready for group leaders' use.



## 13 2021

Phase 4 concludes with the completion of all **six ensuite cabins** & volunteer changing space. Sprinkler system extended into original cabins in staff area.



## 15 2022

August - Phase 5 is a go! **Piling installed** and windows replaced with double glazing.



## 12 2020

June - works restart with steel works for the ensuite cabins. Ventilation routes, **underfloor heating**, spray foam insulation all installed. Sprinkler system first fix.



## 14 2021

Project pauses to allow focus on groups following Covid. **Design** and funding for Phase 5 continues in the background.







## Activity Updates

Our new RIB was delayed and so we look forward to a new addition to the fleet arriving in the spring. This larger vessel will support our RYA powerboat training and safety boat fleet, in use throughout the season. Last year we were pleased to be able to replace both RIB engines and our single-hander fleet of Fusions, which ensures reliable and well-equipped boats.

We are also pleased to have been able to replace all our high ropes PPE (e.g. helmets & harnesses) after ten years of service.



## Thank you volunteers!

Our team of staff and volunteers have made such a difference – featuring consistently in guests' praise. In 2023, over 150 people volunteered 5,000 hours of time in all manner of ways. Thank you to each and every one!

Getting involved at FACT is not just about having fun, and making a difference, it also helps with meeting new people, boosting social skills, increasing self-confidence and improving mental and physical wellbeing, as well as helping create an inclusive and welcoming community. We constantly need volunteers to support our sailing, catering, maintenance and other activities – we'd love to hear from you.



Get Involved

## Trinity3 – what a blessing...

As this momentous project comes to a close, we look back with thankfulness and in awe of all that has been achieved – it's simply amazing!

We are so grateful to each and every person who has encouraged, supported and prayed. We have worked with so many wonderful people, grant making trusts and contractors to achieve a truly transformed centre, equipped for serving the next generation.

*Thank you everyone!*



**16 2022**

November - the galley & washup are extended into the stern lobby and the **saloon** is spray foam insulated.

**17 2023**

After only 11 weeks, the saloon is fully refurbished and the **galley** & washup are completely transformed.



**18 2023**

August - works continue with the relaying of the **foredeck** surface. The ship is connected to the piles. The opening is cut for the new main entrance.



**19 2023**

November - the **accessible ramp** is connected up to the new entrance. The bespoke doors follow.



**20 2024**

Trinity3 complete! And **Trinity** is fully equipped to serve the next generation.

# Governance & Finance

Foundations are critical to any structure, and often are unseen. In 2023 we physically connected *Trinity* to new piling, so that she holds steady and vertical in the storms and tides.

These new foundations have enabled our new accessible entrance as part of our final stage of Trinity3. She looks fabulous!

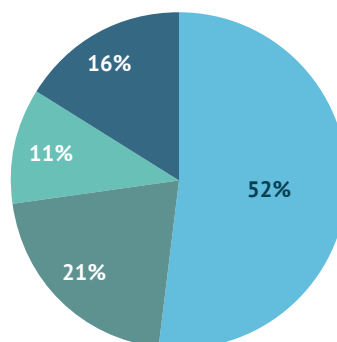
Our true foundations for us as a charity, are our dependency on God's grace and provision, our amazing staff team, TSL, our volunteers giving of their time, skills and financial support. I am so grateful to our staff team, who are so important to all we do, and which evolves each year.

We look forward to 2024, as we see the benefit of our well-maintained and enhanced facilities, under the expert guidance of our Chief Executive, Andrew Eastham. It is so encouraging to hear about all the adventures, and lives impacted through their time on board, as we share a message of hope and love to those we connect with.



**Neil Kennett-Brown**  
Chairman  
FACT

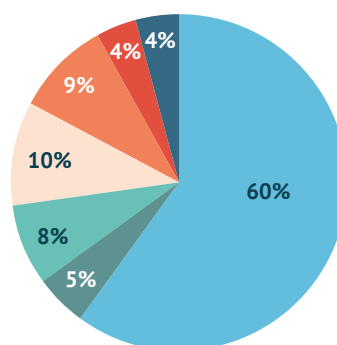
## 2023 General Fund Account Summary



### Income (provisional)

Activities	52%	£289k
Donations	21%	£116k
Rents	11%	£64k
Other	16%	£91k

**Total:** £560k



### Expenditure (provisional)

Staff	60%	£339k
Projects	5%	£30k
Food	8%	£45k
Admin & training	10%	£55k
Energy, water & insurance	9%	£50k
Maintenance	4%	£25k
Other	4%	£20k

**Total:** £564k

## Keep in Touch

Thank you for reading our news. We hope that you, like us, are inspired by all that has been achieved and the potential for the future.

As the environment in which we live and operate changes, FACT needs your interest, support and prayers as we go through the coming season and develop our ministry to meet the needs of those we serve and invest in young people for the next generation.

Visit the Stay in Touch page of our website where you can personalise what you receive from us, opt-out or view our Privacy Policy.



Get Involved



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