

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN FARNHAM

March 2015 E-News

Please publicise the items below - and forward to editors for inclusion in church magazines, newsletters and service sheets. Also let us know about YOUR forthcoming events and activities - email to web@ct-farnham.org.uk

Dear Church Leaders, CTF Representatives, Associates and other Friends

The list below, and information on the CTF website, is a testament to the vigorous programmes being pursued in Lent by those traditions that observe it, giving the residents of Farnham a host of options to choose from - meditation, lectures, prayer, music and more. How blessed we are!

As an example of something rather different, I attach a poster (primarily for information, rather than display) describing the Lenten activities of the Church on Elvetham Heath. This follows the theme of faith outworking in environmental action which they have been developing for the past few years. Katie Roberts, who addressed us at the CTF AGM in October, is a key figure in the initiative and would be happy to talk to anyone in the Churches Together in Farnham moved by similar concerns.

Very best wishes to you all

Andrew Partridge - Secretary, Churches Together in Farnham

A CALL TO PRAYER -

Let us unite in prayer for the bereaved families of the Coptic Christians recently murdered, for no other reason than their Faith; and let us pray, too, for all Jewish people suffering persecution. Furthermore, let us pray for those who perpetrate and spread hatred and violence, that they may be touched by the Lord and become people of peace.

NOTICES -

GOOD FRIDAY WALK OF WITNESS – please publicise as widely as possible and encourage your congregation and other Christians to take part in this important act of public witness – full details in [DIARY](#) (below) and please print and display attached poster.

TO DO IN LENT AND HOLY WEEK – shared worship, concerts, lunches, hard-hitting lectures, as well as numerous study groups. Find details of these events and more on the CTF website.

'HE IS RISEN' – celebrate the Resurrection with music in Gostrey Meadow on Easter Sunday afternoon – full details in [DIARY](#) (below) and please print and display attached poster.

HELP FOR CHURCHES IN THE MIDDLE EAST – Farnham-based charity JMECA (Jerusalem and Middle East Church Association) reminds Anglicans of a 90-year-old tradition of sending the Good Friday Offering to support the work of the Church in Jerusalem. 'Last year we were very moved by the outpouring of compassion by many UK and Ireland churches not only for the Good Friday appeal but also in support of the

Bishop of Jerusalem's emergency appeal for Al Ahli Hospital in Gaza, raising almost £100,000 in just three months', writes Shirley Eason (secretary to the charity's trustees). *Read her letter on the CTF website.*

ADVANCE NOTICE – St Andrew's is planning to hold a Christmas Tree Festival during the first week of December 2015. 'We will be inviting schools, local businesses, charities and neighbouring churches to take part. More information will be forthcoming in due course. In the meantime, performing an internet search for 'Christmas Tree Festival' will give lots of images of trees and layouts, to give you an idea of the nature of the event that is planned.'

DAIRY – Some special events in the next few weeks. Go to the CTF website www.churchestogether.org/farnham for more details of these and other church events, including posters to download for your noticeboard.

Thursday 5th March – 8pm - St Andrew's Church - first of Lent Lecture series – 'Most Excellent Tree' – the Cross in art through the centuries - by the Rt Revd Dr Chris Herbert, former Bishop of St Albans – refreshments served from 7.40pm.

Thursday 5th March – 8pm - St Joan of Arc Church – Healing Service.

Friday 6th March – 10.30am – St Joan of Arc Church – Service for Women's World Day of Prayer – Prepared by women of the Bahamas. It is suggested that you come in bright colours. All (including men and children) welcome.

Fridays in Lent 6th, 13th, 20th, and 27th March – 12 noon – St Mark's Church, Upper Hale – Midday Holy Communion with sermons by ministers from different churches and denominations - followed by Lent lunches of hot soup and roll – donations to The Chase Children's Hospice Care.

Monday 9th March – 8pm – St Andrew's Church – Lent Lecture series – 'Is God a Psychopath?'- what do we make of the violence attributed to God in Scripture? - by the Revd Dr Peter Waddell, Dean of Chapel, University of Winchester – refreshments served from 7.40pm.

Tuesdays in Lent 10th, 17th, 24th and 31st - 12 noon - St Thomas-on-The Bourne Church - Midday Music recitals, followed by hot soup, cheese and rolls Lent lunches – donations to Christian Aid. *Week by week programme on CTF website.*

Tuesday 10th March – 1.10 to 1.45pm – St Andrew's Church – Music while you Munch - Organ Recital – enjoy the music while eating your lunch. Free entry with retiring collection.

Thursday 12th March – 3.30pm – St Mark's Church, Upper Hale – 'Happy Birthday' - Messy Church's first birthday party – fun and games for the whole family – plus food. Call 01252 336059 for further details.

Tuesday 17th March - 10.30am - St Joan's Centre - Churches Together Monthly Prayer Meeting - reflective readings, prayers and intercessions followed by refreshments - ALL welcome - just come along!

Thursday 19th March – 3pm – Farnham Methodist Church - Farnham ASSIST Silver Service for older people – followed by tea and cake.

Thursday 19th March – 8pm - St Andrew's Church – Lent Lecture series - 'All things bright and beautiful' – nature's indifference to humanity - by the Revd Dr

Steve Summers, Director of Guildford Local Ministry Programme – refreshments served from 7.40pm.

Friday 20th March – 3.30 to 5pm – St Andrew's Pavilions – Children's tea party and preparation for Good Friday / Easter service at 10.30am on Friday 3rd April. All welcome.

Friday 20th March – 6.45 for 7pm - Weydon Christian Centre , Upper Way GU9 8 RL- Quiz Evening in aid of Farnham ASSIST - tables of 6 or 8 people – jacket potatoes with fillings and salad – tickets £10 per person from the ASSIST Office 01252 717710.

Saturday 21st March – 6.30pm – Alton Abbey – Concert by Winchester University Soloists and King Alfred Consort Chamber Choir. Tickets £15 (including refreshments and wine) from Friends of Alton Abbey.

Saturday 21st March – 7.30pm – All Saints Church, Tilford – Vocal and Guitar Concert – Singer Jayne Sylvester and Roland Chadwick *classical guitar* will present a programme of songs and music – in aid of All Saints Church – tickets £10 at the door.

HOLY WEEK -

PALM SUNDAY 29th March – Processions, some with donkey, to a number of churches for Services including distribution of palm crosses – check with individual churches for details.

MAUNDY THURSDAY 2nd April – Evening Services with Maundy ceremonies at many churches

GOOD FRIDAY 3rd April – 11.45am - CTF Walk of Witness through Farnham – assemble at the top of The Hart (next to Waitrose car park) to follow the Cross in silent procession through the streets of the town, ending in the churchyard of St Andrew's with prayers and a hymn. Open to all – please take part.

EASTER DAY Sunday 5th April – 2.30pm till 4pm - Gostrey Meadow - 'He is Risen' - musical celebration of the Resurrection for all ages - following morning worship in our individual churches, everyone is invited to join musicians from Farnham Pentecostal Church and other churches at the bandstand for an afternoon of praise, thanksgiving and fun. *Please join in this annual Easter celebration and display the attached poster.*

For more about these and other activities, go to the CTF website www.churchestogether.org/farnham where you will also find links to our member churches' and associates' individual websites, with details of services and other activities.