

COVID-19 Farnham Notes



Introduction:

Churches and other local organisations have been publishing their responses. Those brought to the attention of Churches Together in Farnham are listed here for general reference. CTF will update this information periodically. For more detailed advice, please contact the church office or organisation concerned.

FARNHAM AND VILLAGES HELPLINE — If you need help during the COVID-19 emergency and have no access to family, friends and neighbours, call the Farnham Co-ordination Centre on **01252-745446** (9:00 a.m to 8:00 p.m) or e-mail **help@farnhammaltings.com**. There is a recorded message on the phone line outside hours. This is organised by **Farnham Town Council** in conjunction with **Farnham Herald** and **The Maltings**.

ANGLICAN CHURCHES — Whilst all public worship in church buildings remains suspended, following the recent Government announcements, many of Farnham's church buildings are being opened to all on a limited basis for private prayer and reflection. Arrangements vary between churches and may change at short notice, so please enquire of the relevant Church office.

THE BOURNE PARISH has launched a helpline for parishioners, friends and neighbours who may feel lonely or have needs whilst self-isolating. Open 9:00 a.m to 8:00 p.m on **0794-765-2309** or e-mail **helpline@thebourne.org.uk** .

FRENSHAM AND DOCKENFIELD PARISH has put a form through people's letterboxes to allow requests for help to be sent to St.Mary's, where a group of volunteers will assist where required.

CATHOLIC CHURCHES — Catholic Bishops of England & Wales have announced: "In response to the Coronavirus pandemic, so many aspects of our lives must change. This includes the ways in which we publicly express our faith. It is very clear that, following official advice and in order to keep each other safe, save lives and support the NHS, at this time we must not gather for public acts of worship in our churches. Details of church buildings open for private prayer and reflection from the Church Offices.

SPIRE CHURCH FARNHAM — All church events, activities and worship are currently suspended, and the Spire Café is closed. The URC Daily Devotions are offering an extended Sunday Service, which is available either to read or as a podcast to listen to. Alternatively, live services are streamed from Woking United Reformed Church or Wesley's Chapel. Call the church office if you are interested in participating.

"SHARE FARNHAM" — is a community store initiative of free-to-borrow items to help keep you busy and active. The two stores are open to all at **Farnham Maltings** (Bridge Square) and **Hale Community Centre** (The Bungalow, 130 Upper Hale Road). Stores are manned by volunteers: Maltings Mon-Fri 10:00 a.m to 12:00 noon; The Bungalow Tues and Fri 10:00 a.m to 12:00 noon and Wed 2:30 p.m to 4:30 p.m. Items are donated and include puzzles & board games, books, musical instruments, garden games, sheet music, craft items, DVDs, toys, exercise equipment and cookery equipment. Donated items are quarantined for 72 hours. More about donating, borrowing or access from the **Farnham Coronavirus Helpline 01252 745446**.

CTF MONTHLY ECUMENICAL PRAYER GROUP — This is a morning meeting which normally takes place at St.Joan's Church on the 3rd Tuesday of the month. During the current emergency, the meetings are online through "Zoom". All welcome. CTF website provides details.

FARNHAM FILLING STATION MEETINGS — These evening meetings normally take place each month on the third Friday of the month. Meetings planned for March and April were cancelled, but from May onwards, meetings are online through "Zoom". CTF website provides details.

NEW ALPHA COURSE — The Spring Alpha Course planned by St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church for this Spring and Summer was cancelled. It is replaced by an online Sunday evening Alpha Course – starting 5th July – using "Zoom". Call the church.

FARNHAM FOODBANK — During the COVID emergency, Farnham Foodbank is no longer operating collection centres. Instead, they are supporting the local community with free home deliveries of Emergency Food Parcels.

If you call on **0790-158-1539** or e-mail Farnham Foodbank at **info@farnham.foodbank.org.uk**, they will talk through your situation and put you in touch with the relevant local agency.

FARNHAM ASSIST has suspended all normal activities and outings during the current restrictions. They will then notify everyone when able to resume. Throughout the period they will endeavour to keep the office open, increase their telephone contact with all those they support to be a point of social contact and also ensure everyone is being looked after.

They operate a helpline for people who need support on **01252-717710** supported by a network of volunteers to keep in telephone contact with clients and offer help with picking up essentials for those who can't get out.

FARNHAM WALK OF WITNESS — Due to the current Corona virus pandemic, the 2020 Walk of Witness planned for Good Friday 10th April WILL NOT TAKE PLACE this year. Back on Good Friday 2021.

FARNHAM WALKING FESTIVAL — Lions Club of Farnham has confirmed that the event programme planned for 16th May to 7th June is cancelled.

LOCAL CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES — During the emergency, many local charitable activities continue and will prove even more important to the community. They still need your help, through financial donation and in other ways such as volunteering. Notable local organisations which would love to receive offers of help include:

- **Your local church**, (for example collecting items for those who cannot get out, or telephoning those alone) – **call the church office**
- **Farnham Foodbank**
- **Farnham ASSIST**
- **Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice**

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