

**CHURCHES TOGETHER IN FARNHAM  
RESPONSES TO PROPOSED PLAN OF ACTION FROM:**

**ST ANDREW'S, ST FRANCIS'  
& ST MARY'S CHURCHES, FARNHAM:**

*Which other churches in Farnham do you relate to, and what activities have you done together?*

Through Christian Aid, FCCT, the Walk of Witness, Christmas lunch, Week of Prayer for Christian unity etc, we relate to most of the churches in Farnham. We try to participate in most ecumenical ventures. We relate particularly closely to the town centre churches - the Methodist, URC, St Thomas - and to all other Anglican churches in the wider Farnham area. Clergy of the above churches meet together on Monday for Eucharist and for morning prayer on Thursday. We have discussed joint youth work and set up Lent study groups.

*What joint activities are planned for the future?*

We are open to the possibilities of joint activities in the future.

*How do you come into contact with / serve the community around you?*

As a town centre church, we provide a venue for a wide range of town, civic and cultural activities. The church is open every day and receives a large number of visitors. We provide pastoral care to a wide cross section of the population including individuals, organisations, schools, institutions etc. We provide chaplaincy to Farnham hospital and regular services at a number of nursing/residential homes. We are heavily involved as governors in two church schools.

*With what community organisations in your area are you liaising?*

We are in regular contact with a number of community organisations, e.g. the Maltings, Farnham theatre group, Farnham Society, UCA, Farnham Castle, British Legion, Farnham Visitors' Council, FCCT, Mylne Trust, Waverley Singers, Farnham & Bourne Choral Society.

*Would you like stronger links with 2 or 3 other churches?*

We are exploring ways of progressing the ecumenical process. We are hoping that this will become clearer as the year progresses.

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**FARNHAM METHODIST CHURCH:**

*Which other churches do you relate to, and what activities have you done together?*

URC: We have joint services quarterly and we invite their congregation to join in with our Breakfast Sunday worship quarterly as well as other seasonal events. There is an open invitation for us to join URC in the evening worship every week.

*What joint activities are planned for the future?*

As above.

*How do you come into contact with / serve the community around you?*

Through Assist we offer computer training and a Silver Service once a month for older members of the community. Also we have a Girls' Brigade.

*With what community organisations in your area are you liaising?*

ASSIST.

*Would you like stronger links with 2 or 3 other churches?*

Possibly.

*What new things might you do / what might be ended?*

As the Silver Service is new we are waiting to see if the demand is sustained. Also we would like to attract more younger people so are in the process of thinking how this might be achieved.

*From Valerie Jarvis*

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## ST JOAN of ARC CHURCH, FARNHAM:

*Which other churches in Farnham do you relate to, and what activities have you done together?*

We relate to all the churches in Farnham and participate in all of the “main activities”.

*What joint activities are planned for the future?*

None formally planned.

*How do you come into contact with/serve the community around you?*

By our parishioners striving to live the Gospel message in their daily lives.

*With what community organisations in your area are you liaising?*

We liaise with community organisations when we see it important to do so. e.g. For the Christmas Day Lunch we liaise with Social Services and other local caring bodies and for the Nativity Display we liaise with Farnham Library and a school (a different one each year). We liaise with Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice and other Nursing Homes and Care Homes.

*Would you like stronger links with 2 or 3 other churches?*

We don't regard formal links as important - we aim to offer love and service to all, whether church goes or not.

*What new things might you do*

Parishioners respond when they see a need: e.g.1. A Parent and Toddler Group – open to and used by all comers; e.g.2 The parish built a new parish Centre for “Church and Community”. This now provides interface with a variety of non-church groups. The contact is meagre but our Church is showing its willingness to welcome everyone and parishioners who come into contact with the groups give example of the Christian way by their behaviour and attitude. We welcome The Parkinson's Society, Alcoholics Anonymous, McMillan Coffee Mornings, Farnham Youth Choir, Surrey PCT (as a training venue), National Child Birth Trust, The Farnham Society, Farnham Art Society, Surrey Borders Film and Video group as well as Ballet, Yoga and Pilate's classes. We are not looking for new things to do per se. Parishioners get involved in initiatives as the Spirit calls them and they see a need– individually or with others, from St Joan's or elsewhere.

*What might be ended?* If any activity becomes superfluous we end it.

*Any further comments?*

We believe new things must come from individuals supported by their Church or by individuals from different Churches joining together supported by their Churches or FCCT – not from the CTF steering committee. If individuals or groups wish to invite all of the churches to be involved they should advise this to churches in advance of a council meeting (or correspond direct). Those attending a Council meeting (often at which only a minority of churches are represented) should not, any more, be presented with a proposal, asked to vote and then be told the Council has decided to go ahead (or otherwise). We are not looking for a stream of initiatives from CTF such as On the move, Passing on the Baton, Year of Prayer, 24/7 Prayer, Hope 08, etc, etc. We are not looking for more reviews – individuals spent a great deal of time responding to the Nunn review and there have been other reviews since then. The steering committee should be responding to the churches, not expecting the churches to respond to it.

We see CTF as a **conversation** among the People of God (Christians) at grass roots level. Most Christians wanting to be active become active in the community with whom they worship. They can choose to be active in 101 activities – from preparing young people for confirmation to cutting the grass. “Their” church and tradition is the underlying inspiration and background for their Christian life. At the same time Christians are frequently involved **outside** their Church in activities such as: volunteer driving, fund raising, youth work, assisting in hospices and care homes – the list is endless. These activities reflect an individual's love and service towards his/her neighbour and at the same time demonstrate a unity with other Christians similarly working outside their Church. This activity within their own tradition and outside in the wider community, is one of the reasons more volunteers do not come forward to

support CTF initiatives. We believe CTF should concern itself therefore with continuing to support its main activities as listed below and anything new will evolve naturally – brought forward by individuals.

Communication. The CTF secretarial staff are vital and always most helpful in disseminating information and supplying publicity material. This is a most important work and we hope it can continue.

**Main activities:**

Christmas Day Lunch for Farnham people who would otherwise spend the day on their own. Nativity Display in Farnham Library. Week of Prayer for Christian Unity including the United Service (held in a different church each year). "What to do in Lent" booklet. Good Friday Silent Walk of Witness. One World Week Annual Event. "Friday Focus" weekly Christian article in the Farnham Herald. Chaplaincy at University of the Creative Arts. In an election year – arranging a public meeting with the main candidates

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**JUBILEE CHURCH, FARNHAM:**

*Which other churches do you relate to?*

We relate closely with Farnham Baptist, Vineyard, Weybourne Baptist, Frensham Baptist

*What joint activities are planned for the future?*

Farnham Baptist    Students + Elderly  
Vineyard        Foodbank + Youth  
Weybourne Baptist and Frensham Baptist    Youth Drop In.

*How do you come into contact with / serve the community around you?*

Kidz Club, Chattabox Mother + Toddler Group, Farnham Carnival, Chantry Youth Group.  
Day of Practical Action + Fun Day on the Chantry's Estate.  
Church Members involved with Parenting Classes, ASSIST, Cohesion Youth.

*With what community organisations in your area are you liaising?*

Partnership with Town Council - Community Worker on the Chantrys.

*Any further comments?*

CTF is an authenticating umbrella body for the Christian Community in Farnham.  
Like the old Milk Marketing Board promoted 'Milk is Good for You' rather than selling milk, so CTF has a role in Communication, with individual churches, or groups of churches engaged in outreach and service.  
We value good relations with other Christians and Churches.  
For joint church projects it is difficult to organise working with more than one or two other churches.

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**FARNHAM PENTECOSTAL CHURCH:**

*Which other churches in Farnham do you relate to, and what activities have you done together?*

St Joan's Catholic - Joint Prayer and Praise  
Weybourne Baptist - Exchange speakers and Sunrise Service.

*What joint activities are planned for the future?*

More of the same.

*How do you come into contact with / serve the community around you?*

Host Neighbourhood Watch - Produce Community Newsletter.

*With what community organisations in your area are you liaising?*

Hampshire Youth Bureau.

*Would you like stronger links with 2 or 3 churches?*

Yes

*What new things might you do / what might be ended?*

Joint Outreach - More events in places like Gostrey Meadow at Easter, Christmas etc.

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### **FARNHAM QUAKERS:**

*Which other churches in Farnham do you relate to, and what activities have you done together?*

None at present.

*What joint activities are planned for the future?*

Nothing.

*How do you come into contact with / serve the community around you?*

Nothing on a group basis but individuals serve in various ways.

*With what community organisations in your area are you liaising?*

None.

*Would you like stronger links with two or three other churches?*

Not at present. We are very stretched as a small meeting to deal with our own needs.

*What new things might you do / what might be ended?*

Nothing immediate in mind.

*Any further comments:*

We are not averse to co-operation but are, as mentioned, stretched by the demands of our local and area activities.

Signed: Michael R H Gittins (Co-Clerk)

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### **FARNHAM UNITED REFORMED CHURCH:**

*Which other churches in Farnham do you relate to, and what activities have you done together?*

Methodist, St Andrew's, join services, Ministers' gatherings, (also St Joan's and Farnham Baptist when FAST organise a church trail).

*What joint activities are planned for the future?*

Join all church for Walk of Witness Friday, join services and social gathering for lunch, Women's World Day of Prayer, Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, concerts.

*How do you come into contact with / serve the community around you?*

Our Spire Coffee Shop is open 10- 2 weekdays and 10 to 12 Saturdays - used extensively by the community; some use the premises for other activities, i.e. Prayer Group.

*With what community organisation in your area are you liaising?*

ASSIST, FAST, Phyllis Tuckwell, Disability Changers, Bells Piece (some members are volunteers in the Spire).

*Would you like stronger links with 2 or 3 churches?*

We are linked with those who have responded to invitations. It would be good to know those that haven't might eventually join up!

*What new things might you do / what might be ended?*

Nothing at present needs closure. New ideas for united events discussed at intervals in our church members and elders meeting.

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**FARNHAM VINEYARD CHURCH:**

*Which other churches in Farnham do you relate to, and what activities have you done together?*

Jubilee, Weybourne Baptist, Farnham Baptist.  
Pastors' Breakfast.

*What joint activities are planned for the future?*

Foodbank (plus other churches we hope).

*How do you come into contact with / serve the community around you?*

Harbour Lunch, Shepherd's Court Sunday team visits, Wired youth club, Alpha Course, Christians Against Poverty Centre, Little Light House Parent and Toddler Group, Vineyard Centre lettings.

*With what community organisations in your area are you liaising?*

Alcoholics Anonymous, CAB (CAP).

*Would you like stronger links with 2 or 3 other churches?*

If they happen naturally through friendship, yes.

*What new things might you do / what might be ended?*

We are always looking for new and practical ways to get out into the community.

*Alistair Forman  
Senior Pastor*

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**ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, CRONDALL,  
& ST MARY'S CHURCH, EWSHOT:**

*Which other churches in Farnham do you relate to, and what activities have you done together?*

New Life Church, Crondall, shared Nativity Service and Morning Coffees.

*How do you come into contact with / serve the community around you?*

The Church is involved with youth work, care of elderly, pastoral visiting, driving, children's work and family choir.

*In addition to the above response, the following comments were received in an email from the Vicar, The Revd Karen Hutchinson:*

I have some difficulty in replying to such a questionnaire, because here in Crondall my congregation (with the exception of one family) do not naturally relate to Farnham churches, partly due to the geography of the place.

We are actively building ecumenical links of our own with the New Life Church in Crondall, and have various links with churches in Church Crookham and Fleet.

Having said that I value the informal partnerships that spring up from time to time on particular issues. Our Youth and Children's worker has been in contact with various churches in the Farnham area and arranged training - attended by several from Farnham Baptists. But this is independent of Churches Together and does not need that organisation for these activities to take place.

I feel that Churches Together needs to be a fairly "light" umbrella organisation that can be used when necessary to bring the work of several churches together. But it needs to operate with as few demands on time as possible in order to allow the more natural groupings of churches to work together according to their geography and interests.

This is my personal view, shared by our churchwardens, but has not been discussed by our full PCC due to lack of space on our most recent agenda. I hope it is helpful and wish you well with the forthcoming meeting.

*Karen Hutchinson*

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## ST MARY'S CHURCH, FRENHAM:

*Which other churches in Farnham do you relate to, and what activities have you done together?*

St James. Rowledge - Last year's Lent course was a joint project. We have had a PCC Away day together. We swap pulpits every couple of months. Frensham Baptist Fellowship - An annual joint service in the Marquee on the Recreation Ground following Frensham Fayre. A quiz night with fish and chip supper. The Baptist Fellowship cancelled their service one Sunday and came to St Mary's 'Taste and See' service which we have on the 5th Sunday of the month. I have preached at FBF several times and am due to again soon.

*What joint activities are planned for the future?*

Same again but nothing new at present.

*How do you come into contact with / serve the community around you?*

Apart from the Marquee service in June, we do not come into contact with the community as CTF, although St Mary's itself does in many ways.

*With what community organisations in your area are you liaising?*

School, British Legion, W.I. Brownies, Cubs.

*Would you like stronger links with 2 or 3 other churches?*

Yes.

*What new things might you do / what might be ended?*

I hope to get some to come to the Walk of Witness this year, but don't have a great deal of expectation that they will!

*Any further comments?*

In a village it is hard to get people to cross boundaries - even to Farnham. I think we can only just keep plugging the idea of doing things together, but everyone is busy doing so much else most of the time, that they can't see their way to doing anything further.

*From the Revd Eunice Hicks*

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## HALE METHODIST CHURCH:

*Which other churches in Farnham do you relate to, and what activities have you done together?*

Holy Family, St Mark's and Weybourne Baptist - joint Carnival Service, occasional suppers, memorial service.

*What joint activities are planned for the future?*

As above

*How do you come into contact with / serve the community around you?*

Various Committees and Senior Citizen Meeting

*With what community organisations are you liaising?*

Women's World Day of Prayer

*Would you like stronger links with 2 or 3 other churches?*

No happy where I am.

*Any further comments:*

Activities of Church: - A ladies' meeting once a fortnight; Talkabout once a month; Harvest Supper; Supper Quiz; Carnival Exhibition; Carols by Candlelight; Epiphany. All churches are invited to join us in these activities.

*From Davinia Walder, CTF Representative*

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## CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY, HEATH END:

*Which other churches do you relate to, and what activities have you done together?*

Activities with other Churches Pentecostal Church Praise, Methodist Hale – Prayer + Praise on the Dodgems.

*How do you serve the community?*

Distribute Harvest Gifts to Step by Step.

*Would you like Stronger Links with 2 or 3 other churches*

Yes.

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## ST JAMES' CHURCH, ROWLEDGE:

*Which other churches in Farnham do you relate to, and what activities have you done together?*

Rowledge Methodist, Frensham; joint harvest and remembrance services, Lent course co-operation, joint Church Council Meeting.

*What joint activities are planned for the future?*

Similar.

*How do you come into contact with / serve the community around you*

Through parish work, pastoral contact, church schools and organisations.

*With what community organisation in your area are you liaising?*

FCCT.

*Would you like stronger links with 2 or 3 churches?*

Given Rowledge's position visa vi Farnham not sure how that would help.

*What new things might you do / what might be ended?*

New children's leader - part time post - appointed; Good Neighbours Scheme due to be launched.

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## ROWLEDGE METHODIST CHURCH:

*Which other churches in Farnham do you relate to, and what activities have you done together?*

St James - joint harvest evening service in 2009 at RMC; "joint" Remembrance Day at St James 2009; also via Farnham Methodists links with URC.

*What joint activities are planned for the future?*

Similar - Vida Foday plans to meet Clive to discuss.

*How do you come into contact with / serve the community around you?*

Cameo twice a month (social afternoon); Lunch Club once a month - helpers from St James and RMC; Christian Aid Lunches - about six or eight a year; occasional Sunday Lunches - attended by people from both churches.

*With what community organisation in your area are you liaising?*

See above - also Border Forum - fortnightly evening meeting.

*Would you like stronger links with 2 or 3 churches?*

At present we probably have all we can cope with but appreciate hearing about activities in other churches, especially in Lent.

*What new things might you do / what might be ended?*

Some members attend ASSIST Silver Services and appreciate these.

*Any further comments:*

Village situation, so not as active with all churches as if we were in the town centre.

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## ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, TILFORD:

*Which other churches in Farnham do you relate to, and what activities have you done together?*

Tilford is part of a United Benefice with The Bourne. All Saints shares and interchanges with St Thomas-on-The Bourne in various activities (such as Lent courses); St Thomas' Tuesday Group has an annual interchange with All Saints. Some of our parishioners take part in the activities of other churches and of Churches Together in Farnham, including the annual United Service (which Tilford has hosted) and daily prayer meetings for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity; and the Good Friday Walk of Witness. We support the annual Sponsored Cycle Ride for Churches and provide a personal welcome at All Saints for participants. We print the CTF Booklet of Lenten events around Farnham.

*What joint activities are planned for the future?*

We hope to continue those listed. All Saints would be happy to host a United Service again in the future or for the Parish Rooms to be used for inter-church events. However, as there are no other churches of any denomination in Tilford we have no plans for other joint activities.

*How do you come into contact with / serve the community around you?*

Many open-to-all events are held at All Saints Church and in the Parish Rooms, some of which draw a large number of visitors from a wide area. These include the annual Tilford Bach Festival, with additionally this year the Tilford Community Opera; and the Tilford Summer Festivals, presenting dramatic and musical events; plus a number of social events in the parish rooms. We regularly hold special services for our two church schools. The All Saints Juniors Club and the Little Saints (for toddlers) are open to all young people and there are Bible studies and a Women's meeting that is open to all. We have close social contacts with the Amadiyya Muslim Association at Islamabad, Tilford, and members take part in the service at the War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday. We are actively involved in the annual village fete on the village green. Our monthly magazine is an organ of communication for the whole village, welcoming articles on secular as well as church matters, and with a regular column from the community at Islamabad.

*With what community organisations in your area are you liaising?*

We liaise directly with Tilford Village Fete Committee, Tilford Bach Society, our two church schools, Christian Aid, Traidcraft and a number of large and small charitable projects. We also liaise with Tilford Parish Council, Tilford Community Shop, Tilford Rural Life Museum, Tilford Cricket Club, Tilford Horticultural Society, our Community Police Officer and others - who have a public voice and publicity when needed through Tilford Parish Magazine.

*Would you like stronger links with 2 or 3 other churches?*

We already have strong links with the Bourne and our geographical separation from other churches would make the establishment of further links problematic.

*What new things might you do / what might be ended?*

This point has been covered in the answers above.

*The Revd Canon Jeffrey Bell  
Mary Clarke (CTF Representative)*

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## FARNHAM ASSIST:

Farnham ASSIST is an interdenominational organisation, covering Anglican, Baptist, Methodist, United Reformed, Vineyard, Roman Catholic and Jubilee congregations. We have over 130 volunteers, the majority of whom come from churches right across the town, from the Town Centre to Hale in the north and to Rowledge in the South.



*Which other churches in Farnham do you relate to, and what activities have you done together?*

All our activities involve people from different churches. These activities include:

Monthly lunches at weekends for around 100 people;  
Pie & Pint Club at 3 venues each month for men living on their own;  
One-to-One Befriending scheme where volunteers visit housebound folk each week;  
Understanding Computers – individual tuition in using a computer;  
Knit 'n Natter – New group meeting in the Borelli Yard Centre each week to knit clothes for local Christian organisations working overseas;  
Praise & Worship services in a number of Residential Care homes and the Gostrey Day Centre each month;  
Bible Studies – a six weekly series of studies of well known passages aimed at people not attending a church;  
Silver Services – a regular monthly service held in Farnham Methodist Church specifically aimed at older people.

*How do you come into contact with / serve the community around you?*

We have direct contact with over 350 older people across all of our different events and services. Since the opening of our Over 60s Information Centre in Borelli Yard, we have begun to reach people who would not otherwise have known of us and probably would not have gone into a church.

*With what community organisations in your area are you liaising?*

We have very strong links with Age Concern Waverley and Citizens Advice Waverley. Age Concern now use our Borelli Yard centre as their base in Farnham and their staff are in the Centre every Thursday. Citizens Advice have a representative who focuses on the needs of the elderly and she is in the Centre every other Wednesday – she also visits housebound older folk to advise them on all kinds of issues on a weekly basis.

*Would you like stronger links with 2 or 3 other churches?*

We are always seeking to strengthen our links with churches and would welcome the opportunity to work with church leaders to develop a joint initiative to bring hope to the lives of the older folk in the town, particularly those living on their own. Following on from our Bible Studies, we are planning to run an evangelism course, such as the “Y Course” later this year in conjunction with one or two local churches.

*What new things might you do / what might be ended?*

We are starting many new initiatives in 2010 (Outings, Special Interest days, a Men's group, a version of Pie & Pint for Ladies etc.) and, in the Summer of 2011, we would like to organise a “Holiday at Home” in conjunction with one or two local churches.

*Any further comments:*

From 2010, Farnham ASSIST is an independent charity. Our Mission is:  
“To be there for older people living on their own in Farnham, meeting them where they are (both physically and spiritually) and showing God's love through our work.”

*From Brian Kurton*

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