

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN FARNHAM

January 2016 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

Happy New Year to you all!

You would expect me dutifully to be reminding you of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and the Unity Service on 24th January, but I am doing so with great enthusiasm this time as Canon Andrew White, the 'Vicar of Baghdad', will be speaking. I can personally vouch for the fact that he is a very striking character and stirring speaker, with experience that is particularly relevant to our troubled times. I am most grateful to Fr Niven for organising and hosting the service at St Joan's. Do publicise it vigorously!

With very best wishes to you all

Andrew Partridge - Secretary, Churches Together in Farnham

NOTICES -

THE VICAR OF BAGHDAD TO BE KEYNOTE SPEAKER. We are privileged to be welcoming Canon Andrew White – the celebrated Vicar of Baghdad - as our keynote speaker at Churches Together in Farnham's UNITED SERVICE for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. This year's Service will be hosted by Fr Niven Richardson at St Joan of Arc's Church at 3pm on Sunday 24th January.

Please publicise this special event both within your church and in the wider community so that as many as possible can hear from Canon White about his extraordinary ministry of reconciliation and mediation in the war-torn Middle East and of the desperate plight of persecuted Christians throughout the region. There will be a collection to support The Foundation for Relief and Reconciliation in the Middle East's work with refugees from the stricken areas. Enjoy fellowship and refreshments at St Joan's Centre after the Service.

There will be daily Prayer Meetings at 10.30am during Unity Week. *See details on poster. - please display.*

SUCCESS OF CHRISTIAN AID CHRISTMAS APPEAL. Karen Fewster reports that the full total from across Farnham is not yet available but carol singing outside Farnham United Reformed Church and the Souper lunches on the same day at Spire café raised at least £560 (not including any gift aid).

'ECO-CHURCH' LAUNCH. The Revd Lesley Crawley, recently appointed Diocesan Environmental Advisor, writes that "there will be an environmental conference at Guildford Cathedral on Tuesday 9th February from 7:45-9:45pm with some excellent speakers planned. At this event, 'Eco-church' will be launched which will offer parishes simple and measurable ways to make a difference to the environment. Then in June we will be having a competition for the most environmentally friendly churchyard. Bishop Andrew will plant a yew tree in the winning churchyard, so start work now!"

TRAINING COURSE FOR HELPLINE VOLUNTEERS. The Guildford based Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre is offering a training course (women only) for its helpline volunteers. This starts on Sunday 21st February following interviews on 31st January, and 7th February. The Helpline offers listening and support for women and men who have experienced childhood or adult rape and/or sexual abuse. See <http://www.rasasc-guildford.org> for more details.

DIARY - 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.

Tuesday 12th January – 1.10pm- St Andrew's Church - Music While you Munch - the next in our series of free organ concerts. Refreshments available or bring your own sandwiches.

Sunday 17th January – 5.30pm - St James Church, Rowledge – Modern Praise – an informal session of praise, prayer, worship and a challenging discussion – followed by refreshments. This session led by the Revd David Ashby and focussing on 'Exodus foretells the Gospel.'

Thursday 21st January – 3pm - Farnham Methodist Church - Farnham ASSIST Silver Service – with traditional hymns and prayers for over sixties - followed by home-made cakes and tea provided by the church. Contact Farnham ASSIST if transport is needed.

18th until 25th January – WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY – daily prayer meetings and on ...

Sunday 24th January – 3pm – St Joan of Arc Church - Churches Together in Farnham United Service - hosted by Fr Niven Richardson - keynote speaker Canon Andrew White, Vicar of Baghdad – followed by bring and share tea at St Joan's Centre. *See more details under NOTICES (above) and attached poster.*

Wednesday 27th January - 10am - St Andrew's Church - Bach to Baby - the next in our series of classical music concerts for children and babies. Tickets cost £10 and children and babies are free. Includes coffee and cakes/biscuits.

Tuesday 2nd February – 1.10pm – Farnham United Reformed Church – Music at Lunchtime – Students of Lord Wandsworth College on another welcome visit.

Ash Wednesday - 10th February - and the start of Lent– special services at many churches tonight and Lenten courses, worship and other special activities begin this week. Let us know what your church is doing for inclusion on CTF website and in February E-News.

Tuesdays from 16th February to 22nd March – 12 noon – St Thomas-on-The Bourne - Midday Music for Lent - Tuesday recitals followed by soup and cheese lunches – donations for Christian Aid. *See poster for full details.*

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.