



**Minutes of the
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
CHURCHES TOGETHER IN FARNHAM
Tuesday 16th October 2007 held at
The United Reformed Church, South Street, Farnham**

The minutes are presented first in summary form in order of the Agenda items. A more detailed set of minutes together with the Annual Reports and notes on the questions asked and the discussions which took place during the election of officers item are included at the end.

SUMMARY

1. Welcome

The Chair of Churches Together in Farnham (CTF), Roy Graham welcomed everyone to the meeting. (Revd Michael Hopkins the minister of the United Reformed Church was unable to be present as he is still recovering from illness).

Revd Carol Wilson-Barker the vicar of St George's, Badshot Lea and David Childs a member of the United Reformed Church were both welcomed to their first CTF meeting.

Mr Graham then read parts of Psalm 19 and opened the meeting with prayer.

2. Apologies noted Attendance recorded

The attendance book was circulated and people were asked to enter anyone who offered apologies.

There were 37 people present with apologies offered for 10 people. A number of Churches were not represented.

3. Minutes of AGM October 17th 2006

The minutes were signed as an accurate record of the meeting.

4. Matters arising not in Agenda

There were no matters arising.

5. Annual Reports

Annual reports were presented by Chair/Secretary, Treasurer, Friday Focus/Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, UCCA Chaplain, Bible Society, Christian Aid, Jubilee Debt Campaign, Explore.

Of particular note was the need for a new Chairman and new Secretary for the Farnham Action Group of the Bible Society. If no one is appointed by the time of the committee meeting on 10th November 2007 then the Group will have to close. PLEASE PRAY about this.

6. Election of Officers

a) Chair

The Constitution was changed at last year's AGM to allow Roy Graham to remain Chair for a third year. Mr Graham finished his three year term and was not standing for re-election.

The Constitution suggests that the Chair rotates between Church Leaders and Laity. This time was the turn of the Church Leaders to nominate a candidate. No candidate was nominated.

There was no candidate offered from the Laity either so the position of Chair is vacant. Revd Andrew Tuck offered to be the 'Public Face of CTF' for this coming year if necessary.

b) Secretary

The current secretary, Richard Wimbush, wished to stand down.

There were no nominations so the position of secretary is vacant.

c) Treasurer

The current Treasurer Andrew Marriott was willing to remain in post for a second year.

d) Steering Committee

The remaining members of the Steering Committee were Jane Still and Jenny Floyer. Jane wished to stand down and Jenny was prepared to continue.

The Church Leaders did not nominate the two of their number to serve on the Steering Committee as required by the Constitution.

Four more Lay members, Gwen Mansfield, Mary Clarke, Desmond Parsons and Benedict Parsons all offered their services.

The committee is therefore:

Chair – vacant

Secretary – vacant

Treasurer – Andy Marriott

Church Leader members – vacant

Lay members – Mary Clarke, Jenny Floyer, Gwen Mansfield, Benedict Parsons and Desmond Parsons.

7. AOB

Michael McDonnell proposed a vote of thanks to Roy Graham, Andy Marriott and Richard Wimbush.

8. Date for AGM 2008

No date was set.

9. Closing Prayer

Roy Graham closed the meeting with the Grace.

Diary Dates

a) Christian Aid Annual Meeting 7.30pm 8 November at St Thomas

b) Christian Aid Carol singing Sunday 9th December outside Sainsbury's Water Lane.

c) Bible Society Carol singing Saturday 22nd December Lion and Lamb Yard.

DETAILED MINUTES

1. **Welcome**

Revd Michael Hopkins, minister of the United Reformed Church (URC), was still recovering from illness and so Roy Graham, Chair of Churches Together in Farnham (CTF) welcomed everyone to the Church and Meeting. Roy also offered thanks to Revd Malcolm Groom, minister of Farnham Methodist Church, who would be leaving Farnham before the next Annual General Meeting (AGM), for his time as Treasurer of CTF.

Mr Graham read parts of Psalm 19 (commenting that it was a favourite of C. S. Lewis) and opened the meeting with prayer.

Mr Graham welcomed Revd Carol Wilson-Barker, new vicar of St George's Badshot Lea and David Childs, member of the URC to their first CTF AGM.

2. **Apologies noted Attendance recorded**

The attendance book was circulated and people were asked to enter anyone who offered apologies.

There were 37 people present with apologies offered by 10 people. A number of Churches were not represented.

3. **Minutes of AGM October 17th 2006**

The minutes were signed as an accurate record of the meeting.

4. **Matters arising not in Agenda**

There were no matters arising.

5. **Annual Reports**

a) **Chair/Secretary**

Mr Wimbush read the Chair/Secretary's report which had been circulated with the papers calling the meeting. A copy of the report is included in the Appendix to these minutes.

There was some discussion centred on the Walk of Witness.

Ione Carver commented that few people were in Farnham on Good Friday during the Walk of Witness and wondered whether there was a better day for the walk and could more be done to witness in Farnham.

Donald Simpson noted that in Guildford their walk took place very early so that it did not disrupt the traffic. He suggested that as Good Friday was a working day perhaps Saturday would be better for the walk.

Carol Harnett who was on the first Walk of Witness in Farnham said that in those days the shops were shut and very few people were around in Farnham. Now with some shops being open there were more people in Farnham. She considered it important that the walk should be on Good Friday.

Benedict Parsons pointed out that although perhaps a few hundred people witnessed the actual walk, provided it was reported in the Farnham Herald many thousands would see that it had taken place.

Mary Clarke agreed that it was a good idea for further witness but there should be a Walk of Witness on Good Friday. She also commented that stopping at the Woolmead for a short act of worship was a good idea.

Ione Carver then suggested that an extension of witness could be a prayer station using similar techniques as the Street Doctors on television.

b) Treasurer

Mr Marriott gave out copies of the summary of the accounts prior to the start of the meeting.

He summarised the accounts. The general fund started the year at £363, there was income of £88 which was the One World Week Offering. The Churches had not been asked for subscriptions this year. Expenditure had been £362 leaving a net balance of £89. There are two special funds. The Christmas Day Lunch fund had a balance of £700 as last year gifts totalled more than expenditure. The Jubilee Debt Campaign group funds were held in the CTF account and had a balance of £342.

c) Gwen Mansfield gave reports on Friday Focus and Worship and Study Group.

A copy of the report is included in the Appendix at the end of these minutes.

i) Friday Focus in the Farnham Herald

After the report had been given Roy Graham said that we need to keep Friday Focus going and it is disappointing if it fails to appear because a church hasn't sent the contribution to the Farnham Herald on time or it gets lost.

Donald Simpson suggested that it is better to take the contribution to the Farnham Herald on paper because emails get lost.

Benedict Parsons suggested that if email is used it is followed up by a telephone call to check the email has been received.

ii) Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

After the report had been given Ann Edwards suggested that as the theme was 'Pray Without Ceasing' a 24/7 Prayer Event should be held.

iii) Lent Study Groups

After the report Mary Clarke commented that it was good to share Lent Studies.

d) UCCA Chaplaincy

Nick Mills was accepted by the University College as Chaplain last year. He described some of his experience during the last year. He commented that the College had done away with the quiet room that he previously had access to. He saw his role as being there listening to the students, talking to them about their concerns and offering prayer if they would like it. Some students, although they say they are not religious, do accept the offer of prayer.

Donald Simpson suggested asking Farnham Baptist Church for the use of a room. Mr Mills said that a room on the campus was vital.

Roy Graham commented that it was a big college and Mr Mills was only part time and that he needed our prayers for his work in the college.

Bob Skinner suggested and led a pray for Mr Mills

e) Bible Society

Brian Kurton gave the report on the work of the local action group which had been prepared by Dorothy North who was unable to be present following an operation.

A copy of the report is included in the Appendix to these minutes.

Of particular note was the need for a new Chairman and Secretary by the time of the next committee meeting which takes place on 10th November. If no one comes forward for these posts then the group will need to close down.

f) Christian Aid

Sadie Blankley, the chair of the local Christian Aid Group, gave a report on the activities over the last year. A copy of the report is included in the Appendix at the end of these minutes.

There were no questions on the report.

g) Explore
Revd Jeffrey Bell summarised the activities of 'Explore'. Issues are addressed which are not the normal things and varied between a small intimate Quiet Day led by one of the Sisters of Bethany to a Workshop on Dreams led by Revd Russ Parker from the ACORN Christian Healing Centre and most recently Spirituality through hands on art. The next event to be held at St Andrew's on 12th December will be an Advent Special where there will be refreshments at the start and an Advent meditation to be led by Jeffrey Bell at the end. Any proceeds will go to Biblelands. There will also be two workshops to choose from; Making Christmas Table Decorations with Ann Tweed and Fairtrade Wine Tasting with Richard Punshon. Also planned is 'Between the Two Temples' – How did Christianity and Rabbinic Judaism develop? Wednesday evenings 23 and 30th January 7.30-9.30pm, to be held at Farnham Methodist Church and led by Revd Jeffrey Bell. There is also a Festival of Pentecost, Saturday 10th May 10.00am – 3.00pm, to be held at St Andrew's Church. This will be a Fayre of Christian Spirituality with stalls from various Christian Organisations.

h) Jubilee Debt Campaign
Ann Scrase presented a report on the activities of the local Jubilee Debt campaign action group. A copy of the report is included in the Appendix at the end of these minutes.

6. Election of Officers

a) Chair

The Constitution was changed at last year's AGM to allow Roy Graham to remain Chair for a third year. Mr Graham finished his three year term and was not standing for re-election.

Mr Graham said that the Constitution suggests that the Chair rotates between Church Leaders and Laity though this is not mandatory. This time was the turn of the Church Leaders to nominate a candidate. No candidate was nominated.

There was no candidate offered from the Laity either so the position of Chair is vacant. Carol Harnett asked what the function of the Chair was. Mr Graham replied that the main task was to chair the meetings, hold things together, assist with sorting out venues and speakers, to be a name that was the interface with the 'Town'.

John Edwards said that he and Ann had held the Secretaryship for many years. He had prayed a lot about taking on the role of Chair but God had told him to 'wait and see'. What he saw was a lack of commitment and would not consider taking on the role of Chair without a secretary and committee. He pointed out that there was no retirement in God's kingdom.

b) Secretary

The current secretary, Richard Wimbush, wished to stand down.

There were no nominations so the position of secretary is vacant.

Carol Harnett asked what the function of the Secretary was. Mr Wimbush replied that the main task was the sending of information to the Churches and Church Representatives.

c) Treasurer

The current Treasurer Andrew Marriott was willing to remain in post for a second year. Mr Wimbush pointed out that it was important to maintain the Public Liability Insurance for events such as the Walk of Witness.

d) Steering Committee

The remaining members of the Steering Committee were Jane Still and Jenny Floyer. Jane wished to stand down and Jenny was prepared to continue.

The Church Leaders did not nominate the two of their number to serve on the Steering Committee as required by the Constitution.

Four more Lay members, Gwen Mansfield, Mary Clarke, Desmond Parsons, Benedict Parsons all offered their services.

The committee is therefore:

Chair – vacant

Secretary – vacant

Treasurer – Andy Marriott

Church Leader members – vacant

Lay members – Mary Clarke, Jenny Floyer, Gwen Mansfield, Benedict Parsons, Desmond Parsons.

Prior to the formation of the above committee there was significant discussion:

Jenny Floyer suggested that interested people meet as a group and see what emerges.

Michael McDonnell asked the question ‘Is it possible to carry on without the Chair and Secretary?’

Roy Graham replied possibly.

Revd Andrew Tuck said not to be concerned about the money for the Public Liability Insurance he also offered to be the ‘Public Face of CTF’ for this coming year if necessary.

Jane Still said society is changing, people are discovering the joy of doing things themselves. Churches Together in England is also disintegrating. What is God saying? Perhaps monolithic things such as CTF are now in the past.

Revd Jonathan Still said he supported what Jane Still had said and added that the Clergy meet together for lunch and have a good relationship and commended this to lay people. Using an analogy about runner beans he said the life was in the beans not the supporting structure of the poles.

Bob Skinner said that sometimes a pruned tree looks dead but it can come to life.

Mary Clarke added that it was sad that there were no clergy coming forward.

Donald Simpson asked ‘Why don’t we see who is ready to continue’

Carol Harnett said that groups should do as St Joan’s is doing with the ‘Prayer for Peace’ and ‘Night of Light’ meetings i.e. organise it and let people know.

Ione Carver was not sure that CTF had an understanding of what is was for in the present day.

Andy Marriott directed us to Ecclesiastes 3 and suggested perhaps the time of the monolithic organisation was past and was now just a fig leaf for unity. Perhaps Churches should pair in two’s or three’s to do things.

Someone asked ‘Do we all agree that CTF should cease to exist in its current form?’

The meeting then returned to consider who would like to form a committee to consider the future. The people whose names are at the head of this section came forward.

7. AOB

Michael McDonnell proposed a vote of thanks to Roy Graham, Andy Marriott and Richard Wimbush for their work over the years.

8. Date for AGM 2008

No date was set.

9. Closing Prayer

Roy Graham closed the meeting with the Grace being said to each other.

Diary Dates

- d) Christian Aid Annual Meeting 7.30pm 8 November at St Thomas
- e) Christian Aid Carol singing Sunday 9th December outside Sainsbury's Water Lane.
- f) Bible Society Carol singing Saturday 22nd December Lion and Lamb Yard.

Chair/Secretary's Report 2006-2007

Annual General Meeting October 17th 2006

Changes were made to the constitution which allowed the Chair to serve for 3 years (in line with other committee members) and be eligible for re-election and the AGM became the only mandatory Council meeting of the year.

The Steering Committee members were Roy Graham (Chair), Andy Marriott (Treasurer), Richard Wimbush (Secretary), Jenny Floyer (Lay member), Jane Still (Lay member). There were 2 vacancies for Church Leaders and 2 vacancies for Lay members which remained unfilled. Nick Mills has been appointed Chaplain to the University College of the Creative Arts.

Activities throughout the year

Thanks are due to all those involved in arranging the various activities through the year.

Friday Focus

Gwen Mansfield arranges the rota of which Church is responsible for providing the column to the Farnham Herald each week.

One World Week

Ann Scrase and Dorothy Russell arranged the United Service for One World Week at St. Joan's Church on October 22nd. The theme was 'Mind the Gap'. The aim was to point out the inequalities in today's world as trade talks fail the world's poor, as the hole in the ozone layer gets bigger, as violence increases in a divided world and encourages us that if we speak with one voice we can help to do something about it. There were two local speakers drawing attention to local issues. Vince Crowley spoke about the gardening teams from Bells Piece and Nasir Virji about the work of First Base for the Homeless. There was a retiring offering for the work of First Base and afterwards there was the opportunity for the congregation to enjoy tea together in the hall.

Christmas Crib in Farnham Library

Each year Michael McDonnell arranges the display of a Christmas Crib scene with Farnham Library. Michael arranges a different school each year, this time it was Weydon County Secondary School, to make the display and co-ordinates setting up of the display with the Library.

Christmas Day Lunch at the Gostrey Centre for those on their own on Christmas Day

After a false start an organising committee (Mariola Boyd, Tony Calway, Michael McDonnell, Roy Graham, Rob Heasman, Richard Wimbush) was formed and the lunch arranged. Roy made an appeal for a Chef on 96.4 The Eagle Radio Station and this was heard by Aldershot businessman, Paul Foy, who arranged for and paid Chef, Victor May, to come and cook the Christmas Lunch. We are grateful to Paul Foy for providing the Chef and to the Dempster Trust and individuals for donations towards the costs of the lunch. We are also grateful for the team of volunteers who helped with transport, the setting up of the room, food preparation, serving and waiting as well as a multitude of other tasks, without them the event could not go ahead.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 18th-25th January

The theme for the week was 'Breaking the Silence' based on the passage 'He makes even the deaf to hear and the mute to speak. Mark Ch 7 v 37

Prayer meetings, of about 12 people, took place at St. Andrew's church led by a different person each week day and the United Reformed Church on the Saturday. Gwen Mansfield organised the rota of leaders and venues.

A United Service was held at St. Peter's Church in Wrecchlesham, organised by Jenny Floyer, based

on the theme 'Breaking the silence'. A good number of people were in the congregation. The service included two very interesting talks; one by Maureen Grew on a project with deaf children in Honduras and the other by Peter Byatt from 'Toybox' about their work with street children in Guatemala.

Good Friday Walk of Witness 6th April

A group of 255 people from the Church in Farnham walked in silence from outside the University College for the Creative Arts through the town to St Andrew's Church. Revd Michael Hopkins led in prayer and the hymn 'When I survey the wondrous cross' was sung. It was pleasing to see people from the different congregations in silent procession through the town witnessing to their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. It was a beautiful day and many people took the opportunity to greet each other before going home. The walk and all the arrangements are organised by Stewart Dakers.

Communication

Throughout the year the Church Representatives receive notice of the various events, activities organised by one Church to which others are invited and also other information relayed from Churches Together in Surrey.

I need to apologise for sending out an the A4 envelope containing Churches Together in Surrey information which incurred excess postage charges because I used an ordinary 2nd class stamp. The Churches Together in Farnham web-site (www.churchestogetherinfarnham.org.uk) also contains the information on the various events.

The Network Farnham web-site (www.networkfarnham.org.uk) contains information on other Christian activities in the area.



Churches Together in Farnham

Accounts for 2006 - 2007

Income and Expenditure Account 1 September 2006 - 31 August 2007

		Income	Expenses	Net	Balance
2005/2006					
£388.18	Brought forward at 1st September 2006				£363.47
315.00	Subscriptions	0.00		0.00	
0.00	Donations & Collections	0.00		0.00	
-27.99	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity	0.00	-19.76	-19.76	
-82.75	One World Week	88.00	-115.09	-27.09	
0.00	Jubilee Debt Campaign		0.00	0.00	
-7.98	Lent Activities		0.00	0.00	
-76.78	Administration		-64.28	-64.28	
0.00	UCCA Chaplain		-68.43	-68.43	
-94.50	Public Liability Insurance		-94.50	-94.50	
-49.71	Church Leaders Mtg		0.00	0.00	
0.00	Speakers		0.00	0.00	
£363.47	Total Account Balance	£88.00	-362.06	-£274.06	
Balance CTF funds c/f at 31 August 2007					£89.41
SPECIAL FUNDS					
480.48	Holding Account for Christmas Dinner	590.00	-369.61		£700.87
£367.05	Holding Account for Jubilee Debt Campaign	0	-25.00		£342.05
£1,211.00	Bank Account Total	£678.00	-756.67		£1,132.33

October 2, 2007

Report of Friday Focus

Around June/July time contributions in the Farnham Herald were not reliable to time and I think this was because the office was confused. The problem seems to have sorted itself out now and, provided the churches continue to send in their contributions, Friday Focus will be satisfactory. Each month I send the Herald the same reminder as I send to the churches so all should go well.

Worship and Study Group

A satisfactory Week of Prayer for Christian Unity took place in January and we were grateful to St.Andrews Church for their hospitality. Thank you to St.Peter's Church at Wrecclesham for arranging so well the United Service during that week.

Lent Study has not been arranged for sometime by Churches Together. There are some churches that arrange their own Lent Study. It would be good if these churches could advertise their studies and perhaps be able to welcome others to them.

2008 marks the 100th anniversary of the Week of Prayer. Since it was first marked by an Episcopalian priest in the USA the resources next year will be prepared in the USA. The image will be from Ground Zero and symbolizes the sense of praying for peace and reconciliation, both within the church and the world.

Gwen Mansfield –

REPORT FROM THE
FARNHAM ACTION GROUP
OF THE BIBLE SOCIETY
OCTOBER 2007

The theme this year for Bible Society has been "to change lives in Ethiopia" and the aim was to raise money to supply 15 million people with the Bible by September 2007. Ethiopia celebrated their Millennium and in September 2007 Ethiopia will be buzzing with celebrations as the new Millennium is ushered in.

The Farnham Action Group have held four events this year, the first being on Friday March 9th when we had a Buffet supper which was held in the new "Church on the Heath at Elvetham Heath ". We catered for approximately 120 people and everyone enjoyed the meal. The Speaker was the Bible Society representative in Parliament, David Landrum and he spoke about the wonderful opportunities which arise to proclaim the gospel in Parliament such as Bible Study Groups etc.

Our next event was the Sponsored Walk on Saturday 12th April We were disappointed by the fact that we did not get much support from all the Churches that we sent information to, but about 12 people did the walk and raised just over a £1,000.

Our third event was the Sponsored Cycle Ride which was held on Saturday, 6th October at Alice Holt Forest. This began at the Rowledge Parish Church and we were so grateful to the Parish Church in lending us the Octagon to enable cyclist to enlist and on their return they were given hot soup and rolls etc. About 12 riders, including tiny tots as well, took part and we felt that everyone enjoyed the ride. The weather was good for us and we were grateful to the Lord that there were no accidents to mar the occasion. We raised about £400.

We have one more event taking place which will be on Saturday, 22nd December when we hope to sing carols in the Lion & Lamb Yard. We would so appreciate your help on this occasion and Churches will be notified of the time of the event in the very near future. PLEASE help us to make this event not only enjoyable but also raise more money for Ethiopia and the Bibles they want. The time of the event is 10.a.m. to 11am. PLEASE DO JOIN US.

Finally, sadly as a Committee, our Chairman, Brian Kurton, who has worked on the Committee as Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and committee member for over 25 years, has resigned as chairman of the Farnham Action Group. He will be staying on as a committee member, BUT we are urgently looking for a new Chairman from among all the churches in Farnham.

The secretary, Dorothy North is also resigning as Secretary. She has been on the Committee for over 10 years and is willing to stay on the committee, but not as secretary any longer. Neither tasks are onerous. We hold four committee meetings a year, which are arranged to suit committee members. At the moment we have 10 committee members, but four of these come from one church and quite a lot of churches are not represented on this committee. Please would you consider, if your church is not represented, finding someone who would represent the Farnham Action Group for your church. This matter is urgent as sadly this committee will be holding its last committee meeting on Saturday, November 10th 2007, unless we find a new Chairman and Secretary. PLEASE PRAY about this as the Bible Society are in need of groups like the Farnham Action Group to help them raise money for Bibles.

Please have a word with Brian Kurton afterwards if you wish to have further information and we will gladly send you details. We have approximately four committee meetings per years, plus of course, events that are planned.

One last happy event was that we were able to supply a substantial number of brand new BIBLES to a school in Farnham recently. Brian Kurton was able to obtain about 60 copies and money was given from several different avenues enabling us to purchase them.

Signed
Dorothy North (Secretary)

Farnham and district Christian Aid

Annual report to Churches Together in Farnham

October 2007

It has been a good year for Christian Aid activities in and around Farnham.

2006 Annual meeting

The Farnham Christian Aid Annual meeting was held on 30 October 2006 at St Andrew's church. Holly Ellson from the Christian Aid South East office came to talk about current campaigns and the meeting generated some good ideas about new ways of raising awareness and funds in Farnham.

Christmas 2006

The main events last Christmas were a stall at the Farnham charities market on 18 November 2006 and carol singing outside Sainsbury's Water Lane in Advent. At the charities market several hundred Present Aid catalogues were given away and there was a lot of interest in the idea of virtual gifts. The carol singing raised money and helped to remind busy shoppers about the real meaning of Christmas.

Christian Aid Week 2007

The focus for Christian Aid Week 2007 (13-19 May) was El Salvador and this theme was the basis for the annual service which was held at the URC in South Street. Jeremy Hunt MP spoke at the service and it was well attended by supporters from many churches. Other activities associated with the week included lunches, a coffee morning and plant sale, and a raffle for an original painting by a local artist.

The main effort for Christian Aid Week is the house-to-house collection, and once again some 400 collectors took to the streets with their red envelopes.

Fundraising during this year's Christian Aid Week was particularly successful. The cash sum raised was £23,300, almost 17% more than in 2006. Christian Aid will be able to add about £3,000 to this through Gift Aid.

Other events and appeals

This year has seen some new events as well as continuing support for those which are more well-established. St Peter's church held an evening event called 'Trade Rules' which uses a game to help people understand the impact of international trade agreements. The St Thomas on the Bourne Lent concert series celebrated its tenth anniversary. These concerts are an excellent show case for local classical talent, and the lunchtime events are popular and raise significant amounts of money. The Rowledge Methodist church hold Christian Aid lunches at various times during the year, and the 'Count Your Blessings' appeal also helped to focus supporters' prayers and donations during Lent. The Tilford Bach choir donated the proceeds from their 2006 carol concerts and more recently there was a Christian Aid tea party at Tilford.

There have been several special appeals during the year, of which one for the Asian floods disaster in the summer was especially well supported.

‘Cut the Carbon’ march

From July until the beginning of October Christian Aid campaigners from the UK and overseas marched 1,000 miles around the UK on the ‘Cut the Carbon’ march. The aim of the march was to help people understand the impact that climate change is already having on the world’s poor. It was a call to action both for individuals to use the earth’s resources more carefully and for the government to enact more rigorous climate change legislation.

Twenty-three marchers stayed overnight in Farnham on 27 September 2007. They were welcomed at St Andrew’s church with a hot meal provided by Christian Aid supporters from many churches. The meal was followed by a public meeting which included a panel discussion of the issues raised by carbon emissions. At the meeting the marchers were also able to express their demands to our MP who shared his views and his party’s policies on tackling climate change. Bed and breakfast accommodation was provided for the marchers by fourteen families around Farnham, and there was good coverage in the Farnham Herald.

Fundraising

The accounts for 2006-07 are still being prepared, but subject to independent examination, the total raised for Christian Aid is expected to be over £31,000 (£27,700 excluding Gift Aid).

Forth coming events

The Christian Aid annual meeting 2007 is at 7:30pm on 8 November at St Thomas on the Bourne church.

This year’s carol singing will be outside Sainsbury’s Water Lane on Sunday 9 December 2007 from 2:00pm until 3:30pm. Present Aid catalogues will again be distributed through churches for Christmas 2007.

Christian Aid Week 2008 is from 11 to 17 May.

Thanks

Thanks are due especially to the church representatives who work so hard to put on events and especially in preparing for Christian Aid Week. This year there are new reps at All Saints’ church Crondall, Farnham Methodist church and St Martin’s church. Jo Taylor’s calm and organised work as treasurer is much appreciated, and finally thanks to the many Christian Aid supporters in and around Farnham who give so generously of their time, money and prayers.

Sadie Blankley

Chair

Farnham and District Christian Aid

16 October 2007

**FARNHAM JUBILEE DEBT CAMPAIGN GROUP
REPORT TO CHURCHES TOGETHER AGM 2007**

Farnham Jubilee Debt Campaign Group continues to have a small loyal band of supporters who have campaigned alongside Oxfam against so called Vulture Funds, like Donegal International, which bought Zambia's debt for \$3.3million and then sued through the High Court for \$55million but were awarded \$15.5million. We have sought the assistance of our MP Jeremy Hunt in trying to secure legislation which would prevent Vulture Funds from operating in this way.

The Jubilee Debt Campaign AGM in April had two powerful keynote speakers. Both of them female and African. The former Nigerian Finance Minister, Dr Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala and the Wahu Kaara who is running for the Kenyan presidency this year.

I attended a workshop given by Geoff Powell from the Bretton Woods Project, who was able to give a behind the scenes report on the IMF and World Bank.

In May, we had prepared a Lucky Dip stall for the Rowledge Village Fayre, but the event was cancelled because of poor weather, and we finally got to use the the Lucky Dip at St.Andrew's Parish Fete last month, when we collected signatures on behalf of the Lift the Lid campaign which looks to making lenders responsible for reckless lending in the past on inappropriate projects which were of little benefit to the recipients, or loans which were made to known dictators and now the citizens who suffered at the hands of these brutal regimes are being asked to repay these loans.

A demonstration was organised on 2 June along the river at Westminster to coincide with the G8 summit in Germany and I attended a talk at Surrey University given by Mulima Akapelwa from Zambia who spoke at the rally in Edinburgh in 2005. This was a very poorly attended event, even given the handful of students who turned up.

I am grateful to Richard Wimbush for the way he has kept the Jubilee Debt Campaign section of the Network Farnham website up to date.

Ann Scrase