

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN FARNHAM

December 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

A great wealth of Christmas activity is listed below, with thanks again to Mary Clarke. I would, though, like to remind you of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and the associated Unity Service, which rush up indecently quickly after Christmas! The service in 2017 will be at Farnham Methodist Church, South St. I will be sending out a poster for display next week and would be especially grateful if the details could be included in January editions of church magazines and newsletters. I will also circulate with it an updated version of the CTF Directory, following the inputs I have recently received from church offices.

The theme of this year's Signposts school tour is Joy, which I happily endorse: may God grant you all much joy this Christmas season!

Best wishes

Andrew Partridge - Secretary, Churches Together in Farnham

NOTICES

ANNUAL UNITY SERVICE – Churches Together in Farnham's United Service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity will take place at Farnham Methodist Church in the afternoon of Sunday 22 January; time is yet to be finalised. There will also be daily prayer meetings at various churches throughout the week (18 to 25 January). The 2017 theme is 'Crossing Barriers'. More details to follow and will be posted on CTF website. [Do please publicise this important event and encourage everyone to attend – Editors please include in January magazines and newsletters.](#)

CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH - Do you know someone who would appreciate an invitation to Churches Together in Farnham's Christmas Day Lunch for people who would otherwise be on their own? Also drivers are needed to help with transport. To book a place or to volunteer as a driver please ring either Mariola Boyd on 01252 716785 or Michael McDonnell on 01252 712600 **by Friday 9 December**. This festive feast will be held at the Brightwells Gostrey Centre.

INTERACTIVE NATIVITY SCENE AT LIBRARY - For the first time Churches Together's Christmas Nativity Scene at Farnham Library is interactive. Produced by a different school each year, the 2016 Nativity was created by children at St Andrew's C of E Infant School. Read the full story with picture on the CTF website.

CLOTHING COLLECTION BY FARNHAM ASSIST - Please check if you have any unwanted items of clothing and drop them in at Farnham ASSIST offices at 7 St Georges Yard, GU9 7LW in a bag or pillowcase. The donated items will be collected for reuse in Africa and the money raised will support the activities of Farnham ASSIST throughout the year. Tel 01252 717710 for more information.

DIARY - Some special events in the next few weeks. Go to the CTF website via link below for more details of these and other church events, including posters to download for your noticeboard.

Friday 9 December – Doors open 3.30pm – St Andrew's Church, Farnham - Bach to Baby Christmas Family Concert - featuring Elena Hull, double bass & Robert Hunter, piano, Magical music, mince pies, Monmouth coffee.

Saturday and Sunday 10 and 11 December – 2 till 6pm - St Peter's Church, Wrecclesham - Christmas Tree Festival. - No fee to take part - 'just bring along a tree no higher than 6ft, natural or made, and decorate it as your imagination takes you, perhaps to illustrate your activity or interest, or on a theme of your choosing. Lights would be lovely, but are not essential.' Refreshments provided; seasonal gifts, cards and eatables on sale. Quiz for families and a treasure hunt for children.

Saturday 10 December – 2 till 3.30pm – Farnham United Reformed Church – Carol singing outside the United Reformed Church – plus all day bucket collection for Christian Aid. The URC's Spire Cafe will be serving hot soup for Christian Aid until 2pm. Karen Fewster on 07977561567 would like to hear from any singers willing to join in the carol singing.

Saturday 10 December – 3pm and 6.30pm - All Saint's Church, Tilford – Tilford Bach Society Carols by Candlelight. All welcome - admission FREE. **At 3pm:** Carols by children from All Saints Infant School and Waverley Abbey Junior School; Haslemere Singing Studio; Tilford Bach Choir; Audience carols and traditional readings; Retiring collection for Shooting Star Chase Children's Hospice. **At 6-30pm:** Tilford Bach Choir; audience carols and traditional readings; Retiring collection for Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice Care. In addition to the feast of Christmas words and music, enjoy mulled wine, "naval drink" & loads of mince pies!

Saturday 10 December – 7.30pm – Alton Abbey - Advent Concert – 'a particularly lovely event as the atmosphere at Christmas at the Abbey is rather special'. Tickets £5 for mulled wine & nibbles after the Concert. Contact Br John OSB guesthouse@altonabbey.com . Alton Abbey, Beech, Alton, GU34 4AP. Tel. 01420 562145.

Saturday 10 December - 7.30pm – St Thomas-on-The Bourne Church - Farnham & Bourne Choral Society Christmas Concert - with the Bourne Brass Ensemble. Carols for Choir and audience.

Sunday 11 December – 10.30am – Farnham United Reformed Church - Outdoor Christmas Service for Farnham Christmas Market - on forecourt in front of the church. Indoor seating for elderly or disabled. Service held indoors if wet. Hot drinks afterwards. All welcome.

Tuesday 13 December – 1.10pm – St Andrew's Church - Music While you Munch – next in series of lunchtime organ recitals – Jane Palmer. Refreshments available or bring your own sandwiches. Free of charge but donations towards the development of music activities at St Andrew's welcome.

Tuesday 13 December 7.30pm – St Andrew's Church - Voices Together Community Choir annual Christmas Concert - the Jazz Band of Farnham Music will be special guests - retiring collection in aid of the charity Melanoma UK - no tickets. More information at www.farnhamvoicestogether.uk.

Tuesday 13 December, 7.30 pm - Methodist Church, Rowledge - Rowledge Community Choir Christmas Concert - directed by Edwin Rolles and accompanied by Geoffrey Tuson. Mince pies and coffee will be provided at the end of the concert. Admission free - retiring collection shared between FAST UK and the Methodist Church.

Wednesday 14 December 7.30pm (doors open at 7pm) - St Andrew's Church - Transform Christmas Carol Concert - with Carols for everyone to sing - Farnham Voices Community Choir performing a Capella. In aid of Transform Housing and Support- a charity working in Farnham to help vulnerable and homeless people.

Saturday 17 December 7.30pm – St Andrew's Church - Waverley Singers perform Words and Music for Christmas. Tickets £15 available from Lloyd and Keyworth in Downing Street.

Sunday 18 December - 6.30pm St Andrew's - Carols by Candlelight - followed by Winter Pimms and stollen.

Sunday 18 December – 6.30pm – Farnham United Reformed Church – Carols by Candlelight.

Tuesday 20 December - 11am - St Joan's Centre, Tilford Road - Churches Together in Farnham's Monthly Prayer Meeting – Christmas Special - seasonal light refreshments at the start – followed by reflective readings, prayers and intercessions All very welcome.

Sunday 25 December - CHRISTMAS DAY – Today and throughout this month, as Christians everywhere celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, our churches have a full programme of worship and thanksgiving, including carol singing, Christingles, and other activities. These are too numerous to include more than a few of them here - so please go to individual churches for details. Find links to their websites on CTF website (see below).

Tuesday 17 January – St Joan's Centre -Churches Together in Farnham's Monthly Prayer Meeting – hot drinks and biscuits at the start, followed by reflective readings, prayers and intercessions. All very welcome.

Wednesdays 18 till 25 January – Week of Prayer for Christian Unity – with daily prayer meetings and Sunday United Service. Times and venues will be in January E-News and on CTF website (see below).

Sunday 22 January – *time to be advised* - Farnham Methodist Church – CTF United Service for Unity Week – refreshments to follow – **ALL WELCOME** - see **NOTICES** (above).

Friday 27 January – 7 till 11pm - St Thomas-on-The Bourne – Burns' Night – welcome drink, Scottish Piper, Ceilidh, supper and raffle. Buy drinks at the bar. Phone 725098 for tickets.

More about these and other activities on the CTF website at <http://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.