



Churches Together in Farnham Annual General Meeting 2011 13.10.2011 at Farnham Pentecostal Church

DRAFT MINUTES

- 1) **Welcome and Prayers with Music - Pastor Michael Hall.**
- 2) **Attendances and Apologies** – 31 people entered their names and churches in the attendance book and eight apologies were recorded.
- 3) **Minutes of AGM 13.10.2010** were approved.
- 4) **Matters arising** – None.
- 5) **Golden Jubilee Celebrations 2012** - CTF was founded under its original title of Farnham Christian Council on 4 October 1962. It had been suggested that we should mark our 50th Birthday with a shared **Thanksgiving Service** in October 2012. A provisional offer had been received to host this event and the Steering Committee had recommended that the Chair should explore this proposal further. This was agreed. [See: further plans and proposals for Golden Jubilee Year under Any Other Business].
- 6) **General Election Hustings** – Farnham Humanists had suggested that in future they should be jointly involved in arranging this event.

Several members of the CTF Council spoke against the Farnham Humanists' proposal of a jointly arranged Hustings. Former CTF Chairman and 2010 Farnham Hustings organiser Jenny Floyer was concerned that the Humanists would try to take over. CTF should involve them and invite them but should not agree to share with them the organisation of the event.

The Revd Dr Anne Gell, who chaired the last Farnham Hustings in 2010 was also against a jointly organised event.

The Revd Michael Hopkins said: 'I have grave reservations. I oppose it quite vigorously.'

John Edwards said: "I think I would be very unhappy to see a joint meeting sponsored by Churches Together and the Humanists."

Michael Gittins said: "I have no experience of the Humanists nationally but locally they have used our Meeting House and I have found them a very pleasant and open-minded lot."

A proposal that the Election Hustings should be kept under the umbrella of CTF alone was approved by 22 votes with none against and four abstentions.

It was agreed that a planned meeting of the Chair of CTF with the Farnham Humanists should go ahead when he would explain the position to them.

7) **WHAT HAS CTF BEEN DOING THIS YEAR?**

(i) Chair's Report - Pastor Michael Hall said:

There is not a great deal to report from the chair regarding this year, as Churches Together is now more of an umbrella and enabling organisation and most things pass through the 'hub', the secretary, so we will hear more in Mary's report.

The events that take place under the banner of C.T.F. are organised mainly by individuals and the regular ones have continued this past year. The only exception is One World Week which we have decided not to pursue in future.

You will hear from others about some of the events that have taken place, but just one I will mention is the week of prayer for Christian Unity. This took place as usual, in January and consisted of a week of prayer meetings, mostly held at St Joan's with one held here at the Pentecostal Church and a Unity Service which was hosted by St Georges at Badshot Lea. The prayer meetings were fairly well attended and the Unity Service was very much appreciated and enjoyed by all. There is a report on the board at the side with more details, but I would just

like to thank again Revd Carol Wilson-Barker who organised and led the service and of course Canon Jeffrey Bell who spoke on the plight of the Christians in Jerusalem.

So we look forward to another year of the events that are already planned and maybe others that churches want to organise and put under the Churches Together banner.

It was interesting to note that Churches Together started life as Farnham Christian Council and recently someone said to me, "You know it should be Christians Together in Farnham not 'Churches'." I do believe there is something in that and we do, as Christians from all denominations, need to work together to reach out to the people of Farnham. We in this church have an idea for an Easter Celebration, which I will share about later under A.O.B. but how about you, are there things you would like to organise? If so please let us know.

(ii) Secretary's Report - After words of thanks and welcome Mary Clarke said:

The CTF Steering Committee now consists of just the three officers, Chair, Treasurer and Secretary.

We have been active in our role as co-ordinators and enablers of CTF events and inter-church activities in general and also as communicators in both directions between the churches and the wider community. We have met together as a committee on three occasions and liaised whenever necessary.

Churches Together's regular events have continued successfully, thanks to the faithful commitment of the teams involved.

Michael McDonnell is away, so his report on the CTF Christmas Day Lunch has been circulated - and he asks you to note the appeal that it contains. The Christmas Day Lunch is a wonderful celebration for people who would otherwise be on their own. Public figures such as the Mayors and our MP with his wife and baby son helped to make it special by coming along. Thanks to Michael and his team, all is in hand for this Christmas. He has also reported on the library Christmas Crib.

Pastor Michael has spoken to you about our 2011 United Service, kindly hosted by the Revd Carol at St George's, Badshot Lea.

We owe a great debt of gratitude to Stewart Dakers for organising CTF's Good Friday Walk of Witness year after year and also to all of you who take part...

Finally, we once again published a booklet listing the great variety of activities you, our member churches, put on during Lent. I always enjoy this opportunity to join in the doings of other churches as well as my own... If you are able once again to supply the details, I hope it may be possible to do another 'What's on in Lent' booklet in the coming year.

2012 is a very special year for Churches Together in Farnham as it is our Golden Jubilee. A copy of the original report of our foundation on 4 October, 1962, under the title of Farnham Christian Council, is on the table. The Revd Desmond Parsons who is with us tonight was the first Secretary and the late George Baxter (former head of Farnham Grammar School) was the first Chairman.

Having myself served for three most fulfilling years as your Secretary. I am hoping that someone else will even now come forward for election and enable me to step down tonight. Thank you again for all your support.

(iii) Treasurer' Report – Presented by Richard Wimbush on behalf of Andy Marriott:

The General Funds from last year have been sufficient to cover expenditure, so no subscriptions have been requested this year, and £193 is carried forward to next year.

The Special Fund for Christmas Lunch received substantial gifts from the Farnham Institute and the Dempster Trust which fully covered the Christmas Lunch costs last December with £436 to carry forward to next Christmas.

The Accounts are published in the Appendix.

The following Reports are in the Appendix

- (iv) Friday Focus** – *Gwen Mansfield*
- (v) Prayer Meetings** – *Jenny Floyer*
- (vi) Good Friday Walk of Witness** – *Stewart Dakers*

John Edwards said he would like the practice of stopping in The Woolmead to be reinstated: "I think there is great power in stopping in the middle of the town."

- (vii) **CTF Website** – *Richard Wimbush*
- (viii) **Christmas Day Lunch** – *Michael McDonnell*
- (ix) **Library Christmas Crib** – *Michael McDonnell*

8) WHAT HAVE ASSOCIATES OF CTF BEEN DOING?

The following Reports are in the Appendix

- (i) **Chaplain to Industrial Estate** – *John Evans*
- (ii) **Christian Aid** – *Sadie Blankley*
- (iii) **Jubilee Debt Campaign** – *Ann Scrase*
- (iv) **ASSIST** – *Brian Kurton*
- (v) **Foodbank** – *John Horncastle*
- (vi) **FCCT / Catalyst** – *John Edwards*

- 9) Election of Officers** – The Chair has two more years of three year term to serve. The Treasurer and Secretary were re-elected by show of hands. There were no other nominations.

- 10) AOB:** Church Leaders outlined ideas for two events in 2012 in which they hoped that Churches Together in Farnham would participate.

Pastor Michael Hall said that Farnham Pentecostal Church was planning a Service of Worship and Praise in Gostrey Meadow on Easter Sunday afternoon: "We would like to do it and put it under the Churches Together umbrella, involving the other churches," he said. Permission had already been obtained to use Gostrey Meadow, including the bandstand, for this event.

The Revd Vida Foday proposed that churches should come together to put on an event in Farnham linked with the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. She said that the Methodist Church was sponsoring the 'More Than Gold' initiative. Its suggestions included a big screen showing ceremonies or key events; children's fun - face painting, clowns and competitions; sport based games; free barbecue; live music; and arts and theatre performances.

It was suggested that a meeting could be held to consider this after the Revd Vida had discussed the matter further with the CTF Steering Committee.

- 11) Host for United Service marking Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in January 2012:** Pastor Michael invited member churches to volunteer.

- 12) Date of next AGM:** 09.10.2012 was agreed.

Final Prayer

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN FARNHAM AGM

13.10.2011



APPENDIX TO MINUTES CTF & ASSOCIATES' REPORTS

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Friday Focus

It will not have escaped the notice of those of you who look out for the Friday Focus in The Herald each Friday that this year has had its ups and downs like other years. This is partly for two reasons. First I am still short of contributors for every week of the year so if there are people who would like to help I should be more than grateful. Secondly the Herald is not always reliable with its printing.

If we paid for our Friday Focus I should be there immediately to complain but since this is a grace and favour partnership it is difficult to be cross about it. It is certainly a disappointment when you have made the effort to write something not to see it published. I have had problems as the last three of my contributions were not published and when I have made contact with the editorial office they have no idea why this has happened - and so we go on. The Herald are sent the same reminder that I send to everyone else so they should know what it is all about. Meanwhile we carry on as best we can and hope that the contributions that have been printed are helpful.

Gwen Mansfield

Monthly Prayer Meetings

Some years ago Morna Partridge hosted monthly ecumenical prayer meetings in the parish rooms at St Andrew's. Following the week of prayer for Christian Unity in January 2010 folk felt they wanted to continue meeting during the year. We meet at 10.30am on the third Tuesday of each month in St Joan's Centre for a time of reflection on a theme and intercession, followed by refreshments and fellowship. Anyone is welcome to join us, just come along.

Jenny Floyer

Friday Walk of Witness

The Walk took place as usual, and as always the impact of its silent procession was palpable. As a veteran 'peace-marcher', I just wish the same format were adopted in the city protests, and we might have fewer wars ! Thanks go to Bob for guarding our backs in his car, to Angus for giving us initial voice, to Andrew for supplying the 'hardware', to Carol for setting us off and to Christian for providing protection. And, above all, to Mary for ensuring we all knew about it.

Stewart Dakers

CTF Website

The CTF website, www.churchestogetherinfarnham.org.uk, is available for any church to advertise events or submit articles that could be of interest to Christians in other churches. Just send them to info@churchestogetherinfarnham.org.uk.

Some of what is available on the site at present is:

- Notice about this AGM
- The CTF Monthly Prayer Meeting
- Receiving Gifts for our Needs – making an ecumenical gear change
- Public debate on 'morality without religion has no firm foundation'
- Christian Aid Autumn meeting
- Annual Coffee Morning with stalls in aid of Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice
- Job vacancy at Flame International in Aldershot
- Surrey faith Links Newsletter
- Worship with Joy meetings at the Pentecostal Church
- Christian Meditation meetings at St Joan's
- Filling Station at Farnham Castle

So to keep up to date please regularly look on the site and to keep other people up to date let us have your input.

If it would help I can send out a monthly email from the site with links to the various articles and events.

Richard Wimbush

Christmas Day Lunch – with an appeal for help

The Christmas Day Lunch for people who would otherwise spend the day on their own, is now a tradition in our town. Coordinated by Churches Together in Farnham the lunch is provided **for** Farnham people, **by** Farnham people and it is enjoyed by around 80 very appreciative guests. Arrangements are in hand for the Lunch to take place this Christmas.

You all know that there are many volunteers who help on the day and on Christmas Eve and they are appreciated tremendously - and we will be distributing posters in November inviting these volunteers. You all know these volunteers are supported by a team – we call it the **Christmas Day Lunch team** – each member of which takes responsibility for a particular area – for example Transport, Publicity, Chef, Front of House – bringing together everything on the day. The present team has been in place for several years, with only a few changes; however it won't be here for ever and it is important we look to the future. We would therefore like to invite you and members of your churches **to join the Christmas Lunch team** - and offer support in one of the key areas - learning the ropes and with a view to being able to take over next year if necessary, if a present member has to or wishes to stand down. The commitment would be to learn the ropes this year and do the job next year - if required – that would be the commitment - you won't be taking on a job for life.

Please consider carefully this appeal. It is only right that the fun and the privilege of working as part of the team should be shared by the Churches and it's right we put in place an arrangement for that to happen.

Michael McDonnell

Tel: 01252 712600

email: mjmcdonnell2004@yahoo.co.uk

[Copies of a form listing key areas available from the Secretary or from Michael McDonnell]

Christmas Crib in Farnham Library

The Nativity scene for Christmas 2010 was created by students from The Abbey Special School. It received many compliments. This year the crib will be installed as usual, for the month of December but I am unable to announce the name of the school involved until arrangements have been finalised. If anyone would like to be involved in this initiative – please advise me. Very many thanks.

Michael McDonnell

Farnham Trading Estate Chaplaincy

With little local activity to report for the past year, the Industrial Mission Association has enabled me to learn about the 2012 Olympic Games. I toured the Stratford site as buildings neared completion. Chaplaincy is already offered to the multi-national and multi-faith building force, and there are plans for the much greater task of caring for competitors and spectators before and during the festival. Then a “behind the scenes” tour of Gatwick Airport showed how the chaplaincy team there is contributing to the care of travellers, airport staff and airline crews as the new owners undertake commercial redevelopment. Interest has shifted back to the local scene with the start of work on the Monkton Lane site for a new leisure centre and, later, Rugby football ground. The Netherlands-based construction firm has welcomed me to the site office, canteen and staff rest room; heavy machinery and many tonnes of materials keep all but essential workers with hard hats and stout boots away from the fast-rising buildings.

Canon John Evans

Farnham and District Christian Aid

Thanks to the dedicated efforts of Christian Aid representatives in 14 churches in and around Farnham, fund raising for Christian Aid has continued to be very successful during 2011. Once again this has been against a background of difficult economic conditions for everyone, and in the light of many requests for help from domestic and overseas charities. But however small individual donations are, they still amount to significant sums when they are added together. In Christian Aid Week itself, about £22,000 was raised in the Farnham area, including Gift Aid reclaimed, which is in line with collections in recent years.

The week began with a joint service at Farnham United Reformed Church, and as well as organising house-to-house collections in Christian Aid Week, local supporters held many other events during the year including Lent concerts, a plant sale, numerous lunches and coffee mornings, and carol singing. Local Christian Aid activities are always well supported by clergy, and the annual letter to the Farnham Herald on the Friday before Christian Aid Week always makes an impact and is also signed by ministers from churches who are not currently able to take part in the house-to-house collections.

A highlight of the year was the visit in March of Salwa Morcos from the development arm of the Coptic Orthodox Church in Egypt. She told an interested group of about 25 supporters about her work in the poor and marginalised communities of Egypt and also about her first hand experiences of the recent revolution. This evening event was hosted by the Lion and Lamb bistro.

The most difficult job for church representatives is to recruit and retain house-to-house collectors, and it is a mark of their dedication that year after year they are able to marshal

about 400 collectors, but it doesn't get any easier. Yet the annual visit of the 'red envelope' to about 14,000 homes in Farnham is an important act of Christian witness, and we need to do all we can to keep this going. As is often the case, it's a job which becomes less of a burden the more people who are involved, and potential collectors should be reassured that just six envelopes put through their neighbours' letterboxes is enough if that's what they have time for.

The way to substantially increase the amount we raise is to involve new churches, and new collectors, and to devise new fund raising events throughout the year. To this end I want to set up a committee to lead Christian Aid activities in and around Farnham, I hope that next year this group will be able to take over my role as chairman, after eight years I intend to stand down in 2012; it is time for some new ideas and new energy. Anyone who is interested in taking part in this vital and enjoyable work should firstly come along to the annual meeting next month.

The aim of our activities is of course to support the work of Christian Aid's partner organisations in over 50 countries around the world. For details about how the sums we raise are transforming the lives of our global neighbours please see the Christian Aid website: www.christianaid.org.uk

Diary Dates:

- Farnham and District Christian Aid Annual meeting: Thursday 3 November, 8pm at the URC, South Street
- Carol Singing: Saturday 10 December from 10:00 at Sainsbury's Water Lane
- Christian Aid Week 2012: 13-20 May
- Joint Christian Aid Week service: Sunday 13 May, 6:30pm, St Andrew's Church

Sadie Blankley

Chair, Farnham and District Christian Aid

Jubilee Debt Campaign

I am no longer able to continue as the Farnham Group representative, but I would like to thank everyone who has supported me during my time in the post. I would like to single out for particular thanks Benedict Parsons for always being ready with his camera, to Rob Thorburn for attending so many events, and to Richard and Brenda Wimbush for always being willing to assist.

If anyone is interested in taking over the position of representative, please let me know.

The national group continues to bring injustices to our attention. They are currently drawing attention to the debt which the new administration in Egypt has inherited. Our Export Credit Guarantee Department is not prepared to divulge how ex President Hosni Mubarak ran up the debt which the Egyptian people are expected to pay.

I have discovered that one of the positive benefits of working with people from different Christian denominations, is the realisation that although we practise our faith in different ways. we all serve the one Lord.

Ann Scrase

Farnham ASSIST

It has been another busy year of growth and development of the services and activities offered by Farnham ASSIST. The annual Events Booklet which is distributed each year has grown to 28 pages and the print run has been extended to 750 copies.

We still run our traditional activities of One to One Befriending, Pie & Pint Club for men and Ladies Pub Lunch for women, Understanding Computers, Praise and Worship services in local nursing homes, plus the regular Silver Services, bus outings and the events in the Centre (Knit 'n Natter, craft days, digital photography etc). We have recently commenced a new series of Bible Studies which have been specially written for older people and based on Bunyan's The Pilgrim's Progress.

Recently, we needed to produce some statistics for Waverley Borough Council and these highlighted some of the work that we do in Farnham.:

We are blessed with around 120 volunteers from nearly all the churches in the town and some from no church. These volunteers give a staggering 5,400 hours of their time each year to enable us all to show God's love to older people. We come into contact with around 590 people during the year with, on average, each person seeing us 12 times a year. This means that we have over 7,000 contacts with older people - what a privilege this is and what a challenge it gives us in the Christian community in Farnham.

We appreciate the support of local churches and are always willing to come and share about our work. Our Friends of ASSIST scheme enables Christians to support us in prayer and in financial giving.

In addition, we would like to bring two events to the notice of churches.

- Firstly, the Two Rock Choirs in Concert at St Andrew's Church on Saturday November 19th at 7:30pm. Following their recent ITV series, this is an ideal opportunity to hear the Rock Choirs and support Christian work with older people. Tickets are available now from the ASSIST Over 60s Centre in Borelli Yard or from Computer UK at 5 The Woolmead.
- Secondly, the Grim Challenge – Do you know someone, a friend, a member of your church (or perhaps even you?!) who may like to run for ASSIST in the Grim Challenge in Aldershot on Saturday December 3rd? It is a 'fun' run over 8 miles and we would like to have more people in the ASSIST group. Is this something that you can help in? More information can be found on our website (www.farnhamassist.org.uk) or by ringing me at the ASSIST office.

Brian Kurton

Farnham Foodbank

It hardly seems a year since Farnham foodbank was initiated in June last year.

We opened our doors on 5th November 2010 since when over 200 people in crisis have been given at least three days food. These 200 people have come from 60 family units (2 or more family members), and 26 singles. The split between food given at the Distribution Centre on Mondays and Fridays, and Emergency Food Boxes is approximately 50:50.

Over 60 organisations, including charities, schools, GP practices and churches now hold vouchers. Many also hold Emergency Food Boxes.

About 80% of food was collected from church and school Harvest Festival gifts. However, we are starting to get low now on many items, and are hoping the Harvest Festival will help restock our warehouse. We are also now making lists of specific items which we have found are needed more than some others. We are also networking with other organisations, the most notable being the Furniture Helpline in Bordon, who also hold Emergency Food Boxes and will deliver them to clients in outlying areas.

We still need a larger (minimum 250 sq feet), more permanent building to store our food, preferably within walking distance of Farnham Centre. If you know anyone who has space they would be happy for Farnham foodbank to use, please put them in touch with me. We also need volunteers to help with key tasks ranging from prayer support, administration, helping writing articles, fundraising, answering our telephone, linking with churches, schools and GP practices as well as collecting food to deliver to our warehouse.

John Horncastle

FCCT/Catalyst

The transition to FCCT facilitating project and activities and Catalyst providing funding is now complete. Between the two we wish to encourage and release more dreams and visions for the Christian people of Farnham. We are always prepared to discuss any possible project that will involve more than one Christian community.

Any enquires should be addressed to the FCCT office (Heather Reeves is the main contact) in the first instance and advice as to what to do next will be given. Telephone 01252 714414.

John Edwards

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN FARNHAM

ANNUAL STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

2009/2010		Income	Expenses	Net	Balance
£427.16	Brought forward at 1st September 2010				£299.63
0.00	Subscriptions	0.00		0.00	
-26.00	Election Hustings	0.00	0.00	0.00	
-7.03	Administration		0.00	0.00	
-94.50	Public Liability Insurance		-106.00	-106.00	
<u>-127.53</u>	Total Income and Expenditure	<u>£0.00</u>	<u>-£106.00</u>	<u>-£106.00</u>	
£299.63	Balance CTF General Fund at 31 August 2011				£193.63
SPECIAL FUNDS					
198.13	Holding Account for Christmas Lunch	720.00	-482.03		£436.10
£145.05	Holding Account for Jubilee Debt Campaign	0.00	-12.00		£133.05
<u>£642.81</u>	Bank Account Total	<u>£720.00</u>	<u>-600.03</u>		<u>£762.78</u>

Andy Marriott