

CHURCHES TOGETHER

IN FARNHAM

April 2017 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

The two major ecumenical events happening in the coming weeks are the Good Friday Walk of Witness leaving the upper Hart car-park at 1200 on 14th April, and the Christian Aid service at St James', Rowledge at 4.00 pm on Sunday 14th May. Fuller details are given in the Notices section below, and I commend them both warmly to you. The refreshments after the Christian Aid service will afford a good opportunity to renew cross-church acquaintanceships and I regret that I shall not be able to participate due to being away on holiday in Scotland; I look forward, though, to meeting some of you at the Walk of Witness.

With very best wishes to you all for the Easter season

Andrew Partridge - Secretary, Churches Together in Farnham

NOTICES

COMMEMORATING A PIONEERING PRIEST WHOSE LIFE TURNED TO TRAGEDY. – Members of St Joan's congregation have honoured the priest who founded Farnham's first post-reformation Roman Catholic church. Michael McDonnell tells the amazing story of Father Matthew Gerin. To read it click this link: <http://together.ourchurchweb.org.uk/farnham/arch2017/arch17mg>

GOOD FRIDAY WALK OF WITNESS – PLEASE TAKE PART! - We are **ALL** urged to join in Churches Together in Farnham's Walk of Witness on Good Friday, 14 April. The assembly point is at the top of The Hart at 11.45am, where Christians of all denominations gather for prayer before the silent procession, following a cross through the centre of the town, to finish in St Andrew's Churchyard with a short service and singing of a Good Friday hymn. Please encourage everybody to join in and help us achieve a record turnout for this powerful act of Christian witness. Also download the attached poster for your noticeboard.

FARNHAM ASSIST WEEK - 23 to 29 April – The aim of this special week is to raise awareness of all that ASSIST is doing to enrich and enliven the lives of older people living in and around Farnham – and to raise funds for these activities. Events include a fashion show at Edinburgh Woollen Mill on the 27th, a bikeathon in St George's Yard on the 28th and multiple activities on the 29th – visit their office in St George's Yard or email info@farnham-assist.org.uk for details.

CHRISTIAN AID SERVICE & APPEAL FOR VOLUNTEERS – Karen Fewster writes: 'You are all invited to join us at a special service of thanksgiving at St James' church, Rowledge on Sunday 14 May at 4pm. Christian Aid is this year marking its 60th year and looking back at its beginnings -supporting refugees of Second World War. The stories of the plight of refugees now, as then, are heart- rending. Sadly, little has changed.' The Revd Russell Gant (St James') and the Revd David Ashby (Rowledge Methodist) will lead the service and the Revd David Uffindell (St Andrew's, Farnham) will give the address. The family friendly service will be followed by light refreshments. 'Our hope is that you and members of your congregation will be able to join us. For catering purposes, we would be grateful if you could RSVP to karenfew@gmail.com.'

The service marks the start of Christian Aid Week –. volunteers are wanted for the early morning bucket collections at Farnham Station from 15 to 19 May and all day in Central Farnham on 20 May. Contact Karen on 795169 or at above email address if you can help - see **DIARY** (below) for more dates.

[JERUSALEM AND MIDDLE EAST CHURCHES APPEAL](#) - Farnham-based Anglican charity JMECA (Jerusalem and Middle East Christians Association) is requesting support. Donation of Good Friday collections would help to fund the work of dioceses in the region, involved with hospitals, schools and other social welfare programmes that serve local communities of all faiths. Find out more on the [JMECA Website](#).

[WORKING TO TRANSFORM YOUNG LIVES](#) - Two trustees are sought for The Source, an Aldershot-based charity whose objective is to transform the lives of young people – enabling them to fulfil their potential through provision of specialist 1-2-1 and group support including: youth work, anger management, counselling, mentoring and training. The chosen trustees will be 'committed Christians belonging to a local church.' For more information about applying to be a Trustee contact Ellie Jones (Director) - email ellie.jones@thesourceforyou.co.uk - Tel 01252 333330. The deadline for expressions of interest is 31 May.

[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.](#)

Holy Week – 9 till 15 April – Churches commemorate the Passion – including Palm Sunday Processions with a donkey, Stations of the Cross, Maundy Thursday ceremonies, Good Friday Liturgy and Holy Saturday Easter Vigil - go to individual churches for details, the CTF website has links to their websites (see below).

Tuesday 11 April - 12 noon – St Thomas-on-The Bourne Church – Midday Music for Lent in aid of Christian Aid – Nicola Sharkey (soprano) and Brian Cotterill (piano and organ) - followed by soup, bread and cheese lunch in the church rooms.

Tuesday 11 April– 1.10pm - St Andrew's Church - Music While You Munch Organ recital by John Belcher Enjoy listening to the music while eating your lunch. There is no charge for these concerts. Home-made soup with rolls are normally on offer, in addition to tea or coffee. Donations to a fund for development of music activities at St Andrews welcome.

Wednesday 12 April - 10am -St Andrew's Church - Bach to Baby - starting with coffee - the concert begins at 10.30am. Tickets £10 per adult, children and babies free.

GOOD FRIDAY 14 April – 11.45am - top of The Hart (opposite Waitrose car park) – assemble for Walk of Witness through the town to St Andrew's Churchyard – see [NOTICES](#) (above) and attached poster for more details. ALL Christians invited to join in the Walk.

EASTER DAY Sunday 16 April – All churches celebrate the Resurrection with thanksgiving and praise. Full details on their individual websites – find links on the CTF website (see below).

Tuesday 18 April – 11am – St Joan's Centre – Tilford Road – Churches Together Ecumenical Prayer Meeting – refreshments, followed by meditative readings, prayers and intercessions. All welcome, just come along.

Thursday 20 April – 3pm – Farnham Methodist Church – Farnham ASSIST Silver Service for Over Sixties – followed by home-made cakes and tea. Contact Farnham ASSIST for help with transport.

Saturday 22 April – 3pm – Farnham Methodist Church - Vivaldi Singers present 'In an English Garden' - music and songs to celebrate spring - a selection of well known folk songs as well as Benjamin Britten's Five Flower Songs. There will be a cream tea following the concert, included in the price of the ticket. Entry tickets: adults £15; students/under16s £5; under 5s free - from Vivaldi Singers' website.

Sunday 23 April till Saturday 29 April - Farnham ASSIST Week - see [NOTICES](#) (above)

Saturday 6 May – 10am till 2pm – United Reformed Church - Souper Soup Day at Spire Cafe – fund-raising event for Christian Aid Week.

Saturday 6 May - 6.30pm - All Saints Church, Tilford – Organ Recital by Stephen Lacey celebrating the 150th Anniversary of the consecration of the church. Tickets £12.50, inclusive of wine and canapés, from The Village Shop or Dorthe Quelch - Dorthe@hotmail.co.uk – tel. 01252 782314. All proceeds for the maintenance and renovation of the church.

Saturday 6 May - 7.30 pm – Alton Abbey - “An Evening with Rudyard Kipling” - by Philip Geddes and Friends - the story of Kipling's life with readings from his poetry and prose – wine, soft drinks and light refreshments served - tickets £15 from Friends of Alton Abbey.

Saturday 13 May – 10am - St Thomas-on-The Bourne Church – Plant Sale and May Fayre. Plants galore; Cake Stall; Bottle Tombola; Sweetie Jars; Bouncy Castle; Breakfast; Sugar Cove (scarves, etc). Entry: £1 Lucky Programme. In aid of Parish funds.

Sunday 14 May – 4pm – St James' Church, Rowledge, – Special Thanksgiving Service marking the start of Christian Aid Week, followed by refreshments - see **NOTICES** (above) for full details.

More Christian Aid Week Events:

15-19 May - from 6.30am till 9am - Farnham Station - Bucket Collection - volunteers needed for these collections - see **NOTICES** (above).

Wednesday 17 May - from 10am till 12 noon - St Martins by the Green - Coffee Morning.

Saturday 20 May – from 10am till 12 noon - Farnham Methodist Church - Coffee Morning.

Saturday 20 May - 10am till 4.30pm - Central Farnham - Bucket Collection.

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.