

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN FARNHAM

August 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

How good to hear of the appointment of a new vicar at St Thomas-on-The Bourne! More details are given below. Congratulations to Revd John Morris, the successful candidate - and to all involved in the selection process and in keeping the church flourishing during its vacancy.

Some of you may remember Rosemary Stephens and her wonderful Interchurch Players. A tribute to her is reproduced below, following her death earlier in the summer at the age of 94.

Finally, Mary Clarke has, in her customarily splendid fashion, assembled in the Diary section below a list of summer activities for us all across the Farnham area. Enjoy!

With very best wishes

Andrew Partridge

NOTICES

WELCOME TO EX-COMMANDO-CHAPLAIN VICAR – We look forward to welcoming the newly appointed Vicar-designate of The Bourne and Tilford. The Revd John Morris has served as a Royal Naval Chaplain around the world, including operations with the Royal Marine Commandos in Northern Ireland and Afghanistan. A skilled yachtsman, he was one of the skippers of the Royal Navy entry in the Inter-Services Round the World Race in Millennium Year. He is also a talented singer, who has performed with leading choirs and orchestras. Read more about John on the CTF website.

A TRIBUTE TO ROSEMARY STEPHENS - 'Rosemary, who died on 24th June 2017, aged 94, was a significant contributor to the ecumenical scene in Farnham in the 1980s and 1990s. In 1986 she founded an ecumenical drama group - the Farnham Interchurch Players - which she subsequently ran for 16 years. During this time the group performed some 20 full-length plays or anthologies, and numerous shorter items all with a Christian message. Each of these presented various aspects of the Christian faith in a striking and entertaining way, and many were seen by people who would rarely, if ever, attend a normal church service. Rosemary was the driving force and inspiration behind the Players from beginning to end. She was continually on the look-out for performers and, over the lifetime of the Players, nearly one hundred individuals contributed, from ten congregations across seven denominations.

'Rosemary trained and worked as a Nightingale nurse in the 1940s and subsequently trained for the Church Missionary Society, during which time she met her future husband, Revd (later, Canon) John Stephens. They were both sent to work in different parts of Nigeria before marrying in 1952. They continued in Nigeria together, Rosemary going on to train midwives there, before returning to England in the mid-60s. After serving in parishes in Swindon, Ash Vale and Thursley, where Rosemary's dramatic skills were also exercised, they retired (!) to Farnham in 1985. In the 2000s, with Rosemary 80 and John nearly 90, they retired more genuinely and in 2006 moved to Sway in the New Forest.

'Drama truly has a part to play in Christian life, and Rosemary worked tirelessly during her time in Farnham to realise this potential. Many of us who participated were truly sorry that the Players demised when Rosemary stepped down but she was an act that was impossible to follow. It was a great delight at the Service of Thanksgiving for Rosemary's life, held at Sway church on 30th June, to be able to acquaint the

assembled family and local friends with the activity of the Players, Rosemary's personal ministry in the service of God's mission to his world.' [Slightly abridged - full version will be on CTF website soon].

By Andrew Partridge – former member of Farnham Interchurch Players

UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO REVEAL CREATIVE TALENTS – If you are in any way associated with the parishes of The Bourne and Tilford, you are invited to show your work at an **EXHIBITION OF ART AND PHOTOGRAPHY** to celebrate the 150th birthday of All Saints Church, Tilford. This will be open to the public, free of charge, on the two weekends 23/24 September and 30 September/1 October.

Artists and photographers of all ages and abilities from experienced professionals to budding amateurs will be taking part. Featuring the work of adults and also children, this innovative show is expected to attract visitors from a wide area, as did the highly successful Flower Festival in June.

Featuring the work of adults and also children, this innovative show is expected to attract visitors from a wide area, as did the highly successful Flower Festival in June. Entries can be on any subject. Paintings of any size and shape will be allowed and any number may be submitted. Adult entries need to be mounted or framed. Photographic entries must be no larger than A4 and only two photographs put in per person. There is an entry fee of £1 per exhibit for adults and 50p for children. Work should be submitted early in September - by the 16th at the very latest. Pick up an entry form at St Thomas Church or All Saints Church or email susansmall24@googlemail.com. We hope to have an electronic version on the CTF website soon.

BON VOYAGE TO ST THOMAS' CHOIR - St Thomas-on-The Bourne's renowned choir will be singing at Concerts and Masses at cathedrals in Ghent, Brussels and Brugge while on tour in Belgium later this month.

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY - **The AGM of Churches Together in Farnham will take place on Tuesday 10 October – please keep the date free!**

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.

Tuesday 15 August – 11am – - Churches Together Ecumenical Prayer Meeting - Summer Special! – meditative readings, prayers and intercessions followed by bring-and-share picnic lunch. *For this month only* the meeting will be held at Vine Cottage, 19, Mount Pleasant, Farnham. All welcome, just come along with your picnic.

Thursday 17 August - 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 19 August – 2pm till 5pm - Waverley Abbey House – Farnham ASSIST Garden Party – including cream teas, house tours, music – buy tickets in advance, £12.50 per person, from Farnham ASSIST tel. 717710 or email info@farnham-assist.org.uk

Saturday 2 September -1pm - Frimley Lodge Park - Phyllis Tuckwell Dash of Colour - Registration is £18 and can be completed online at www.pth.org.uk or by calling PTHC Fundraising team on 01252 729446.

Thursday 7 till Sunday 10 September - Heritage Open Days (HODS) – many of the buildings most closely associated with Farnham's Christian past and present will be open free of charge on one or more days between these dates. They include St Andrew's, St Peter's, and Farnham United Reformed Churches, Farnham Vineyard, Farnham Castle, Waverley Abbey ruins and Waverley Abbey House, Ellel Pierrepont in Frensham, and the Chapel of Rest at West Street Cemetery, Farnham. Find full list of buildings, tours, walks and other details on Farnham Society website.

Saturday 9 September – Surrey Churches Ride and Stride Event - cycle or walk to as many participating churches as you can and raise sponsorship money for the upkeep of your own and other churches through Surrey Churches Preservation Trust. At some churches you will receive a personal welcome and be offered refreshments to help you on your way. Sponsor forms and particulars available from churches or the trust.

Saturday 9 September - from 11am till 3pm - St Andrew's Church - Parish Fayre - Parachute your teddy from the tower; Lunches; stalls; silent auction and much more. In aid of church funds.

12 September – 1.10pm – St Andrew's Church - Music While You Munch – organ recital by Mike Smith. Bring your own lunch or sample the goodies on offer.

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.