

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN FARNHAM

December 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

At this busy time of year, I am pleased to report lots of good news in shared events and working together for the benefit of God's work in our community. We are all on the same side, and it is a pleasure to share what we can for the benefit of the community and God's kingdom.

May you all find space for God's blessing in this season when churches give out so much to others.

Michael Hopkins

NOTICES

CTF'S NEW CHAIRMAN WELCOMED AT AGM - It was with great delight that Church Representatives and Associates of Churches Together in Farnham unanimously elected the Revd Michael Hopkins as our new Chair following a year during which this office was vacant. As well as hearing about the various activities of CTF in 2017, we heard inspirational accounts of the work being done by a multiplicity of Christian groups for the benefit of all ages and needs throughout the whole community.. We were glad to be introduced to the Revd Philip Simpkins, the new Minister of Hale and Rowledge Methodist Churches as well as Alton, who briefly addressed the meeting. It was also a pleasure to greet the Deputy Mayor of Farnham Cllr David Atfield as a special guest. Sadly, our Secretary Andrew Partridge was absent through illness, and the meeting sent him all our good wishes for his speedy recovery.

UNITY SERVICE – We look forward to coming together for CTF's annual United Service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. This will take place at **St Andrew's Church at 5.30pm on Sunday 21 January, 2018**. Please put the date in your diary and encourage everyone in your church and the wider community to come along. There will also be daily prayer meetings at various venues during Unity Week (18 to 25 January).

CHRISTMAS DAY FEAST FOR ANYONE ON THEIR OWN – Thanks to a band of wonderful volunteers, scores of guests living in Farnham and surrounding villages will again be sitting down together for a merry traditional Yuletide feast on Christmas Day. Churches Together in Farnham is inviting anyone who would otherwise be on their own to our annual Christmas Day Lunch. This is free of charge, with free transport available if required. Brightwells Gostrey Centre will be the venue for the last time before the centre's re-location in the New Year. Find full details and how to apply for an invitation (before 12 December) on the CTF website - address below.

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.**

Continuing this Saturday and Sunday 9 and 10 December - St Andrew's Church - Christmas Tree Festival 2017- open free of charge from 10am till 5pm on Saturday and from 12 noon till 5pm on Sunday. Music and refreshments. Spectacular display of more than a hundred trees provided by charities, schools and members of the community.

Saturday 9 December – Farnham United Reformed Church – Christian Aid fund raising day - 'Souper Soup' served for the cause at the Spire Café – bucket collections outside the church and carol singing in the afternoon.

Saturday, 9 December – 2pm - Alton Abbey – Vox Lucis sing “NE TIMEAS MARIA” - with a programme of mainly early music. Tickets: £7.50 (including refreshments) from Friends of Alton Abbey, Alton Abbey, Abbey Road, Beech, Alton, GU34 4AP - cheques payable to “Friends of Alton Abbey” with SAE and telephone number and/or email address.

Saturday 9 December – 10am till 4pm - and Sunday 10 December – 11am till 4pm - All Saints Church, Tilford - 150th Anniversary Community Christmas Tree Festival. 14 large Christmas trees each decorated by a different village group, from schools to pub, and from choir and junior church to good neighbours scheme and WI. Open free of charge. A warm welcome - plus mulled wine and mince pies or tea and home-made cakes - awaits visitors. The display will remain in church throughout the Christmas period.

Saturday 9 December – 7.30pm – St Mary's Church, Frensham – A Christmas Festival - The Sandhurst Military Wives and the Farnham Brass Band are coming to St Mary's Frensham to present an exciting concert of Christmas Music. Tickets, £15 adults; £10 under 16's, tel. 01252 794727 or +44 7899 950325.

Sunday 10 December – 10am till 4pm – Castle Street, Farnham – Farnham Christmas Market – more than 150 stalls selling gifts, plus seasonal treats including hot roasted chestnuts and mulled wine, with a Nativity presentation, festive music and Farnham ASSIST carol singing. Free park and ride from Farnham Sixth Form College in Morley Rd and Farnham Station and free hoppla bus route from Upper Hale..

Sunday 10 December – 10.30am – on the forecourt of Farnham United Reformed Church, South Street, Farnham - Outdoor Christmas Service for Farnham Christmas Market – indoor seating available for elderly or disabled. Hot drinks afterwards. Will go ahead indoors if wet. ALL WELCOME.

Tuesday 12 December- 1.10pm – St Andrew's Church – Music While You Munch – free organ recital – refreshments available or bring your own.

Wednesday 13 December to Sunday 17 December - Holly Barn, Wintershall, Bramley – The Nativity - Eleven performances of the 2017 production of this much acclaimed re-enactment of the real Christmas story. Tickets from www.wintershall-estate.com or call 01793 418299.

Thursday 14 December – 7.30pm – St Andrew's Church, Farnham – Farnham Civic Carol Service.

Saturday 16 December - 10am till 11am – Lion and Lamb Courtyard, Farnham - Parishioners of St Joan of Arc Church will be singing carols in aid of the Catholic Charity Mary's Meals.

Saturday 16 December – 3pm and 6.30pm - All Saints Church, Tilford – Tilford Bach Society Carols by Candlelight. Admission free, including mulled wine - sponsored by Tilford Woods. Collection for hospices.

Saturday 16th December - 5pm - South Farnham School The Vivaldi Singers telling the Christmas Story through music and readings in support of Challengers. Tickets £10, under 16s £5, under 5s Free.

Saturday 16 December - 7:30pm – St Andrew's Church - Waverley Singers Christmas Concert. There will be a retiring collection for Princess of Wales Royal Regiment Welfare and Benevolent Fund. Full details of the concert and ticket information at:www.waverleysingers.com.

Sunday 17 December – 6.30pm - Farnham United Reformed Church - Carols by Candlelight .

Tuesday 19 December – 11 am - St Joan's Centre, Tilford Rd – Churches Together in Farnham Ecumenical Monthly Prayer Meeting – Christmas Special - reflective readings, prayers and intercessions - seasonal refreshments served at the start of the meeting. Everyone welcome – just come along!

Tuesday 19 December – 1.10pm St Andrew's Church – Carols while You Munch – lunchtime carol service and lunch

Wednesday 20 December – 7:30pm - St Andrew's Church - Voices Together Community Choir with guests, Amici Singers, Christmas Concert.

CHRISTMASTIDE – Every Church will be celebrating the Nativity in worship, music and other events and activities too numerous to list here. Please go to their individual websites via the CTF website – see below – for full details.

18 to 25 January – Week of Prayer for Christian Unity - Daily prayer meetings at various venues.

Sunday 21 January - 5.30pm - St Andrew's Church – CTF's annual United Service . All welcome.

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.