

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN FARNHAM

Mid November - December 2018 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 Friends,

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as Chair for the coming year. I look forward to meeting you at various events in the year ahead.

The next few weeks offers a significant time of engagement with our local community with the rethink Farnham week, Advent and Christmas. The Christmas season provides us with the opportunity to share our joy of "God with us" and the hope which is available to all, not just for this short season, but for our whole lives through the Christ-child. It is also a time when as Christians we can challenge the culture of materialism which surrounds us. I will be praying for a joyful Advent and Christmas season and for meaningful, life changing conversations as we share our message of hope.

Hannah Moore

NOTICES

WELCOME TO OUR NEW CHAIR – A big welcome to the Revd Hannah Moore as the new Chair of Churches Together in Farnham. Hannah was unanimously elected at our annual meeting last month. She had been nominated by the Anglican churches under the new system agreed last year by which groups of member churches take it in turns year by year to choose a candidate. The retiring Chair, the Revd Michael Hopkins, was warmly thanked for all his work during the past year.

NOT TO BE MISSED! - Rethink Farnham presents an exciting programme of events for all, beginning this Monday 19 November at South Farnham School at 7.30pm with Rethink Meaning. "Farnham Humanist Society, the local Christian community, and the Oxford Centre for Christian Apologetics come together to host a dialogue in which we explore the meaning of life." The Rethink project will continue throughout the week, featuring world class speakers taking part in a wide range of events. Supported by Farnham Christian Community Trust, Rethink is a collaboration between seven Farnham Churches of various denominations, with eminent speakers from the Oxford Centre for Christian Apologetics. "Rethink is an opportunity for people in Farnham to engage with other like minded individuals to discuss, discover and explore some of the fundamental questions of life, in a variety of fun, informal, intellectual or practical ways...Don't miss this opportunity to hear from world class speakers and ask your most difficult questions."

Sessions include Rethink Youth - a 'no question off limit' gathering for 11 to 18 year olds. Quiz of Life – pub quiz with a twist at two local hostelrys. Rethink History – what can history tell us about Jesus? Rethink Science – has science buried God? Ladies Tea Party - cream teas served and a short talk. Rethink Faith – a chance to ask your big questions around faith. Rethink Business – where's the line in good business? Rethink Suffering - proof against a loving God? Rethink Beauty – about the wonder of creation – featuring lunchtime music.

Follow the link on the CTF website to find Rethink Farnham's own website with the full programme. You can either reserve a place in advance or turn up at the door.

CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH - Anyone on their own on Christmas Day is invited to Churches Together in Farnham's Christmas Day Lunch at the Memorial Hall. To book a place, ring Michael McDonnell on 01252 712600 or Mariola Boyd on 01252 716785 before Tuesday 11 December. There is no charge and transport is provided if required. Please spread the message and display the poster available on the CTF website. Volunteers are needed, especially drivers. Please contact Jo Rendall on 01252 737162 / joanna.rendall@btclick.com asap if you can help.

IMPORTANT DATE FOR YOUR 2019 DIARY – Churches Together in Farnham's United Service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity will be held on Sunday 20 January, 2019. The Revd John Morris has kindly agreed to host the service at St Thomas-on-The Bourne. There will also be daily prayer meetings at various churches throughout Unity Week.

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.

Saturday 17 November – 10am till 5pm - St Andrew's Church – Winterfest - Art and Craft with Music. Festival with Pop-up Cafe.

Saturday 17 November – 12.30 till 2pm - Brambleton Hall, Talbot Road, GU9 8RR – Lunchtime Christmas Fair for Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice. Enjoy Laurie's Hot Dogs and Mince Pies with Tombola, Raffle and Christmas Stalls.

Saturday 17 November- Spire Church (URC building) – Rock Choir Christmas Lights Switch on Concert – Join the Rock Choir for a free concert straight after Farnham Christmas Lights are switched on.

Sunday 18 November – 3pm - St Andrew's Church – Winterfest Concert followed by afternoon tea.

Monday 19 to Sunday 25 November – various venues - Rethink Farnham - a varied programme of thought-provoking events. Everyone welcome. See **Notices** above and go to <https://www.rethink.guide/> to find out more.

Tuesday 20 November – 10am until 3pm – Aldridge Theatre, Frensham Heights School, Rowledge, GU10 4EA – Frensham Christmas Gift Fair with Adult Craft Sessions in aid of Phyllis Tuckwell. Over 40 stalls selling gifts for the home, fashions, cosmetics, fine foods, art, jewellery, books, candles and more. Refreshments available, Rock Choir will be performing and there is free parking. £3 entry, children free. This year there will also be adult craft sessions of cracker making (£25) and Napkin Ring making (£20) run by Escape2Art. Profits go to the Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice. Contact fundraising@pth.org.uk or phone 01252 729446 to pre-book and avoid disappointment. Susan Griffiths Jewellery Designs will also be running jewellery workshops throughout the day on a drop in basis.

Tuesday 20 November – 11am – St Joan's Centre, Tilford Road - CTF Monthly Ecumenical Prayer Meeting – Reflective readings, prayers and intercessions following refreshments. All welcome – just come along and join us!

Saturday 24 November - 7.30 pm - St. Andrew's Church, Farnham - Luminosa Concert to celebrate Leonard Bernstein on the centenary of his birth. Includes *Chichester Psalms* and the *Missa Brevis* plus the popular choral melody from *West Side Story* and the The Ramierez *Misa Criolla*, a folk mass with Hispanic American themes. Luminosa will be joined by a Latin American Instrumental Ensemble and the internationally acclaimed pianist Nico de Villers. The Concert supports the charity *Challengers* who provide play and leisure activities for disabled children and young people. Tickets at £15 (under 12s at £5) from Waterstones in Alton or Farnham or by email, see Luminosa's website.

Monday 26 November – 6.30pm - Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice, Waverley Lane - Light Up a Life Service - to remember loved ones and to celebrate their lives. Readings, carols and prayers. All welcome. Outdoors at the Christmas Tree so you are advised to bring a torch and wrap up warm. More details from the hospice if required.

Thursday 29 November – 7.30pm – St Andrew's Church – St Andrew's Day Concert - The Friends of St Andrew's will be presenting 'The Food of Love' - everything from opera to jazz. Operatic singer Diana Vivian, Harry White *violin* and Claire Tester *piano*. Also including students from Farnborough Sixth Form College. Tickets £10, including wine and canapés, available from St Andrew's parish office tel. 715412 or on the door. Students free.

Saturday 1 December - 10am to 1pm – St Thomas-on-the Bourne Church - Phyllis Tuckwell Christmas Fair. Many stalls offering cakes, Christmas gifts, decorations, plants, handbags, cushions, books, toys, jams and preserves, raffle, silent auction and much more. Hot drinks.

Saturday 1st December – 7.30pm - St Thomas-on-The Bourne Church – Advent Concert by Vox Chamber Choir Farnham. Music from Pergolesi and Poulenc to the present day. Tickets £15 at the door (u/18s free) or £12 in advance from the parish office or voxchamberchoir@outlook.com.

Monday 3 December – 2.15 - St Mary's Church, Frensham - Organ Recital given by Gillian Lloyd (Guildford URC). Followed by Tea@Three in the church hall. Free admission with retiring collection to offset series expenses.

Monday 3 December - 3pm - Farnham Baptist Church - Farnham ASSIST Annual Carol Service - all over sixties welcome to this traditional service with tea & mince pies afterwards. Graham Culver will be speaking, with Farnham ASSIST trustees as well as the Mayor of Farnham playing a part in the service. Call 01252 717710 for more information or if you would like transport.

Tuesday 4 December – 1pm – Spire Church (URC Building), South Street – Recital by Sylvia Ellison oboe and bassoon and Jakob Rothoff piano. The well-known oboist will be presenting an interesting programme from the oboe and bassoon repertoire through the ages.

Thursday 6 December – 9:30am till 12noon - Bethel Baptist Church, Rushden Way, Farnham - Farnham ASSIST Christmas Wreath making workshop - Create your own masterpiece and get in the festive mood this Christmas time. Talented florist Carrie will be showing us how to create our own wreath with mixed foliage, berries, citrus fruits and feathers ready for Christmas. All materials will be provided as well as tea, cake and mince pies. This festive event needs to be booked in advance and there are limited spaces. Refreshments will be provided. To book your place please call Farnham ASSIST on 01252 717710. Cost £20 - all proceeds go to Farnham ASSIST Charity.

Saturday 8 December – 6pm – All Saints Church, Tilford, GU10 2DD – Tilford Bach Society Carols by Candlelight. Carols sung by the TBS Choir, the Choir of Edgeborough School and some by the congregation, plus a variety of readings. Admission FREE - retiring collection for charities. Free mulled wine available, kindly donated by Tilford Woods Lodge Retreat.

Saturday 8 December - 7.30pm - St Thomas-on-The Bourne Church – Christmas Concert with Farnham & Bourne Choral Society. Carols for Choir and audience. Finzi 'In Terra Pax' BOURNE BRASS Conductor: Calum Fraser; Organ: James Gough; Soprano: Tamsin Raitt; Baritone: Jonathan de Garis. Tickets £13 / £5 (under 16s) to include refreshments Call 01252 721075 or www.farnham-choral.org.uk.

Tuesday 11 December – 1.10pm – St Andrew's Church – Music While You Munch – free organ recital - refreshments available or bring your own lunch.

Wednesday 12 to Sunday 16 December - Wintershall Estate, Bramley – The Wintershall Nativity. Enjoy this unique experience - stand with the shepherds in the field to see Mary arrive on a donkey. Sit in the barn where the baby Jesus lies in the manger. A timeless experience for young and old. Tickets: Adults £18, Children £9 & Family £50 (2 adults 2 children). 12-14 Dec 4.30 & 7pm, 15 Dec 11am, 2 & 5pm, 16 Dec 2 & 5pm. Full details and tickets on website: www.wintershall-estate.com.

Thursday 13 December – 7.30 – St Andrew's Church – Civic Carol Service.

Saturday - 15 December - 7:30 pm - The Spire Church (URC Building), South Street, Farnham - Rejoice and be Merry Christmas Concert - the Wessex Chamber Choir will perform a programme of Seasonal Music with Organist Ian LeGrice and readings by William Whympster. Tickets £15 per head and £5 for under 16s can be purchased at the door or in advance on 01264 736342 or on the Wessex Chamber Choir website. The ticket price includes festive refreshments.

Tuesday 18 December – 1.10pm - St Andrew's Church – Lunchtime Carols and Readings.

Sunday 23 December – 6.30pm St Andrew's Church – Carols by Candlelight.

Tuesday 25 December – CHRISTMAS DAY – throughout Christmas-tide there will be many services to celebrate Christ's Nativity at all our churches. Too numerous to list here, please go to individual churches and their websites for details. Links to these can be found on Churches Together in Farnham's website.

Tuesday 25 December – 1pm – Memorial Hall, West Street, Farnham – CTF Christmas Day Lunch for anyone on their own on Christmas Day. See details under [NOTICES](#) (above) and on the CTF website, with poster.

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.