

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN FARNHAM

MID NOVEMBER – DECEMBER 2019 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,

It is an honour to have been asked to take on the role of Chairman of CTF for the next twelve months and write this short introduction to the latest CTF newsletter. But as I write I am interrupted by a phone call, from a gentleman asking to book a place at Farnham's Christmas Day Lunch for people who would otherwise spend Christmas Day on their own. Part of the booking routine is to ask for an address, but this gentleman has no address and he tells me a little about his complicated living and sleeping arrangements, as a homeless person. He does not have an easy life and he will of course be welcome at the Lunch. On Christmas Day we will welcome Jesus, joining us at our happy family celebrations but equally we will welcome Jesus, remembering His concern for the homeless and the poor.

May Jesus bless us all,

Michael McDonnell

NOTICES

FIRSTLY A GREAT WELCOME TO OUR NEW CHAIR MICHAEL McDONNELL AND A BIG THANK YOU TO HANNAH MOORE FOR ALL HER WORK DURING THE PAST YEAR - In accordance with the new procedure agreed at the 2017 AGM, the Chair of CTF is nominated by a different group of churches year by year. Accordingly, at the 2019 AGM in October the Revd Hannah Moore of the Anglican Parish of Badshot Lea and Hale stood down and Michael McDonnell of the Roman Catholic Parish of St Joan of Arc was welcomed as the new Chair. We were also pleased to welcome Yvonne Fairlamb, of All Saints, Tilford, to the CTF Steering Committee and as the new co-ordinator of the 'Thursday Thought' feature in the Farnham Herald. Jenny Floyer, stepping down after doing this task for several years, was warmly thanked for her service.

The Revd Michael Hopkins of the Spire Church volunteered to host the 2020 United Service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity on **Sunday 19 January at 4pm** and the Revd Father Niven Richardson volunteered to host the United Service in January 2021. We also heard inspiring reports about the fantastic work that Christians are doing throughout the Farnham community, including an update from the Revd Michael Hopkins on the Pilgrim Project to improve and expand facilities at the Spire Church (former URC building). The Minutes of the AGM, including reports, will be published later on the CTF website.

AN INVITATION TO CHURCHES TOGETHER'S RENOWNED CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH FOR ANYONE WHO WOULD OTHERWISE BE ALONE ON THE DAY - Disproving the adage that there is no such thing as a free lunch, a dedicated team will again be preparing a sumptuous Yuletide feast, with musical entertainment, for anyone who would otherwise be on their own on Christmas Day - all completely free of charge. **Please spread the word** to ensure that nobody misses out on this opportunity to enjoy a big welcome, great company and a truly festive Christmas celebration. Volunteers will provide free transport for whoever needs it. The lunch will be served at 1pm on 25th December at Farnham's Memorial Hall. To book a place for yourself or someone else, please ring either Michael McDonnell on 01252 712600 or Mariola Boyd on 01252 716785. Volunteer drivers are also needed. See full particulars on the CTF website and please download a poster to display.

HEAR FROM KAREN – BACK FROM A VISIT TO DROUGHT STRICKEN SOUTHERN ETHIOPIA-- Karen Fewster, chair of Farnham and district Christian Aid was one of nine supporters selected from across the South East for a ten-day trip, visiting communities supported by Christian Aid projects in South Omo, a region already being seriously hit by climate change.

She reports: "It was really inspiring and encouraging to meet people who have benefited from the support of Christian Aid and its local Ethiopian partners, Action for Development. I learned a great deal about life in South Omo, the constant search for water and the ever present fear that the rains will fail. Now I have returned, I hope to share my experiences with people in churches, schools and clubs in the Farnham area, and to speak about how rural communities in Ethiopia are adapting to the real and immediate pressures caused by the changing climate, with longer periods of drought, less rain and higher temperatures all taking their toll on people, animals and crops.

'I am able to give talks both during the day and in the evening, if people or groups would like to get in touch. My email is karenfew@gmail.com or call me on 07977 561567.'

In 2019, Christian Aid supporters across the Farnham area raised £22,785 for Christian Aid, including events such as street, station and supermarket collections, Big brekkies, carol singing and a charity tea tent at Music in the Meadows, individual donations and church collections.

A FUN WAY TO HELP THE PHYLLIS TUCKWELL HOSPICE - 'With Christmas on the way, why not get in the festive spirit by signing up for one of **Phyllis Tuckwell's** Santa & Elf fun runs? Anyone of any age is welcome – including dogs (on a lead) - and you can run, jog or walk at whatever pace you feel comfortable with. This year the younger members of the family can join in too, with the new Santa's Little Helpers fun runs for toddlers! Register now to secure your spot, and get friends, family and work colleagues to sponsor you to take on the challenge. Choose from a 3.5km route around the beautiful **Devil's Punch Bowl in Hindhead** at 11am on Sunday 1 December, a 4k circular route at 10am on Saturday 14 December, starting at The **Pepperpot in Godalming**, or a 5km run starting and ending at the **Wavell School in Farnborough** at 11am on Sunday 15 December. All adults who register will get a Santa suit and everyone who is registered will receive a medal at the end of their run. Visit www.pth.org.uk/event-diary or call 01252 729446 to register. Registration costs £16 for adults and £9 for children (under 14), and includes a Santa suit for adults and elf hat for children. Fees will be higher on the day.'

'SIGNPOSTS' AND 'OPEN THE BOOK' REQUEST YOUR PRAYERS – The SIGNPOSTS team will be visiting 16 different Primary Schools in and around Farnham between 25 November and 13 December presenting the Christmas story in dramatic form. A similar presentation by 'Open the Book' entitled 'The First Christmas' will also be visiting local schools, including for the first time All Saints Infant School, Tilford. Your prayers are asked for the children, their teachers and the teams.

FUNDRAISER WANTED BY BRF - The Bible Reading Fellowship has asked us to make known that it is recruiting for a Deputy Head of Fundraising. Sara Sheerin, Head of People & Culture, BRF, writes that the Fellowship is seeking a creative person with fundraising experience. The successful candidate will be full time, based in the BRF office in Abingdon, but with some home working possible. So someone living in the Farnham area might be able to take on the job. The closing date for applications is 5pm on Friday 3 January 2020. For further information visit www.brf.org/current-vacancies.

ST JAMES' CHURCH, ROWLEDGE, AND ST JOHN'S CHURCH, HALE, ARE BOTH CELEBRATING SPECIAL ANNIVERSARIES – See details in [DIARY](#) 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.

Saturday 23 November – 10am till 2pm – St Mary's Church, Frensham – Thanksgiving Weekend – tours on the hour. Tower tours at 45 minutes past the hour. Refreshments. 'Come and learn about the fascinating history of the church and churchyard. Go behind the scenes in the Bell Tower. Find out more about how we are funded, our services and what we are doing in the community.'

And: **Saturday 23 November – 6pm – St Mary's Church, Frensham – Thanksgiving Weekend - Vivaldi Singers Concert** – Second of two concerts performing music through the ages – Beethoven to modern day. Tickets: Full Price £10, Students/Under 16s £5. Under-5s Free. See Vivaldi Singers website.

Saturday 23 November – 7.30pm St Andrew's Church, Farnham - Alton-based choir Luminosa Voices will perform Handel's scintillating and much-loved Messiah. The choir, led by its Artistic Director Rebekah Abbott, will be accompanied by the Surrey Chamber Players, performing as an ensemble, authentic to the Baroque period and reflecting earlier performances of Messiah. Soloists include Michaela Parry (Contralto), Ed Hughes (Tenor) and Ben Cooper (Bass) of the Glyndebourne Opera Company. Enjoy a glass of mulled wine, served during the interval. A retiring collection will be taken for Cystic Fibrosis at Frimley Park (CF@FP), the choir's charity for 2019. Thanks to the sponsorship of BaByliss, tickets are priced at £15. Tickets on sale at www.ticketsource.co.uk/luminosamusic and at local venues in Farnham. More information can be found on the choir's website www.luminosamusic.com

Saturday 23 November – 7.30pm – St Thomas-on-The Bourne Church – How can I keep from singing? - VOX Farnham Chamber Choir - with some inspiring music including a Bach motet and pieces honouring St Cecilia, patron saint of music. Tickets £16 (under 18s free) on the door or £13 in advance from Parish Office (01252 715505) or contact voxchamberchoir@outlook.com.

Sunday, 24 November – 9.30am - St John's Church, Hale – Service to Celebrate the 175th Birthday of St John's Church - Everyone welcome at this special service marking the 175th anniversary of the consecration by Bishop Sumner in November 1844. The Rt Revd Andrew Watson, Bishop of Guildford, will lead the service and preach, and the Archdeacon of Surrey, the Ven Paul Davies will also be there, along with former clergy and members of the congregation. There will be traditional, favourite hymns, a Communion service and afterwards birthday cake and a chance to reminisce about the past and look forward to the future.

Sunday 24 November – St Mary's Church, Frensham – 10.30am Thanksgiving Weekend Communion – 12 noon – Thanksgiving Weekend Lunch.

Saturday 30 November- 3pm till 6pm – St Mark's Church, Upper Hale - Candles of Hope Amnestea – art, music, reflections and afternoon tea in support of Amnesty International.

Saturday 30 November – 5pm – St Andrew's Church, Farnham – St Andrew's Day Concert with Shuffle Tunes Choir. An exciting concert for all the family by Shuffle Tunes, 'a local organisation who pride ourselves on having fun with music, and extending happiness to as many people as we can'. Interval nibbles and drinks. Entry free with retiring collection for Friends of St Andrew's, raising funds for the upkeep of the church.

Saturday 30 November – 7.15pm – Rowledge Village Hall – Talk on the History of the Parish of Rowledge and its Church by local historian Roy Waight. This is the opening event of a year of celebrations to mark the 150th Birthday of St James and the formation of the Parish of Rowledge.

Saturday 30 November – 7.30pm - The Spire Church (URC building), South Street – Farnham – The Sound Company Fundraising Concert – celebrate the festive season with Sound Company and the High Notes.

Monday 2 December – 3pm – The Spire Church (URC building), South Street, Farnham - Farnham ASSIST Annual Carol Service. All welcome to this traditional service, tea, coffee and mince pies will be served afterwards. For more info please call: 01252 717710.

Wednesday 4 to Saturday 7 December from 10am-5pm and Sunday 8 December from 12noon to 5pm – St Andrew's Church, Farnham - Christmas Tree Festival. A magnificent display, showcasing the towns' charities, businesses, schools and churches through the decoration of over 100 Christmas trees. 'Do come along to this magical community event, it's free entry with tea/coffee, soup and cake available. Musicians will play throughout.'

Friday 6 December – 7:30 and Saturday 7 December – 5:30pm – St George's Church, Badshot Lea – Come and hear the Carillon Singers in their pre-Christmas concert and raise money for the parish.

Saturday 7 December – 9am till 12noon – The Spire Church – Christmas Fayre – cakes, gifts, cards, café - all stalls indoors.

Saturday 7 December – 6pm – All Saints Church, Tilford – TBS Carols by Candlelight – carols and seasonal readings. Free admission with a retiring collection for charity. A delightful way to celebrate the approach of Christmas.

Saturday and Sunday, 7 and 8 December – St Mary's Church - Frensham Christmas Festival – Christmas Tree Festival with musical performances, Christmas stalls, raffle, refreshments and light lunches, bell-ringing demonstrations. Admission: adults £4; 5-16 years £1. Open on Saturday from 11am to 6pm with Carols by Candlelight at 7.30pm (tickets £4). Open on Sunday 11am-5pm with Family Christingle Service at 5pm.

Tuesday 10 December – 1pm St Andrew's Church – Music While You Munch – Free lunchtime organ recital. Refreshments provided or bring your own lunch.

Friday 13 December – 6pm – St Andrew's Church – Challengers Christmas Carol Concert – An evening of carols, mince pies and mulled wine with performances by Rock Choir, Paul Wilson and Potters Gate School Choir. Tickets £5 per adult, under 16s free, available from www.disability-challengers.org.

Saturday 14 December – 5pm – St Mary's Church, Frensham – Farnham Brass Band Concert. Tickets £10 on the door.

14 to 28 December – daily 3.30pm till 7.30pm – St James' Church, Rowledge – Christmas Tree Festival – celebrating the 150th birthday of the church and parish of Rowledge.

Tuesday 17 December - St Joan's Centre, Tilford Road, Farnham - CTF Monthly Ecumenical Prayer Group - Christmas Special - with seasonal nibbles and drink followed by reflective readings and intercessions. All are welcome - just come along!

Thursday 19 December - 8pm - St Joan of Arc's Church, Tilford Rd, Farnham - Holden Evening Prayer - beautiful musical setting by American composer Marty Haughen. This was used at St Joan's for the first time last Advent and was greatly appreciated by everyone.

Further special Christmas events in next month's newsletter. Go to individual church websites for details of numerous carol services, Christingles and other opportunities to celebrate the Nativity of Christ.

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.