

# CHURCHES TOGETHER IN FARNHAM

## MID DECEMBER 2019 – JANUARY 2020 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](mailto:web@ct-farnham.org.uk)*

### CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS

From Michael McDonnell:

Dear Friends,

#### What can we do?

One of the things most people do at Christmas is think of others. Children, grandchildren, parents, family members; we think of them and because it's Christmas we think of ways to please them – Christmas presents, special treats etc, etc. We might think "are they all right" - we may not have given some of them a thought since last Christmas. Many of us may also think of lonely neighbours and people who are struggling. The homeless, the lonely, the plight of refugees may come to mind also – what can we do? Very little it might seem. But in small ways we can help – the little we do does make a difference. Donating extra provisions to Farnham Foodbank or supporting a charity are examples. Our Christian belief which directs our life, teaches us to think of others. At the same time we think of Jesus and the wonder of his birth 2000 years ago, "The True Light which gives light to everyone was coming into the World" and we give thanks.

With warm regards for Christmas, as we give thanks (again) and celebrate.

*Your Chairman and Steering Committee, Michael, Mary, Andrew, Andy, and John.*

#### NOTICES

**LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AT THE FARNHAM UNITY SERVICE 2020 - 'Unusual Kindness'** is the theme of the **2020 United Service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity to be held at the Spire Church (former URC building) on Sunday 19 January at 4pm** – led by the Revd Michael Hopkins. Prepared by churches in Malta and Gozo, the 2020 theme celebrates the hospitality shown to shipwrecked St Paul and his companions by islanders who did not yet know Christ – thus focussing on the spirit of human kindness and generosity that can bring people of different communities and creeds together. Please come yourself and encourage as many people as you can to come as well. This is our annual opportunity to worship together and enjoy fellowship with old and new friends from other churches over refreshments, to follow. We are also hoping for a big attendance at the daily prayer meetings taking place at different churches during Unity Week. *Full details and poster for your noticeboard available soon on the CTF website.*

#### **LAST CHANCE FOR ANYONE ON THEIR OWN TO BOOK A PLACE AT CTF'S CHRISTMAS DAY**

**LUNCH** – There may still be a few places available for this traditional Christmas feast. Completely free of charge, it will be served at 1pm on 25th December at Farnham's Memorial Hall. For an invitation, please ring either Michael McDonnell on 01252 712600 or Mariola Boyd on 01252 716785 ASAP! *See full particulars on the CTF website.*

**EVERYONE IS ASKED TO JOIN IN WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2020** – Devised by women of a different country year by year, this is an annual 'wave of prayer encircling the world'. For 2020, the Farnham service will take place at **10.30am on Friday 6 March at St James' Church, Rowledge**. Women of Zimbabwe have prepared a vivid and colourful service with the title 'Rise! Take Your Mat and Walk'. The themes are Peace, Reconciliation and Love. The Farnham team is already at work on planning this exciting inter-active presentation, with, hopefully, some Zimbabwe-style refreshments to follow. This is a **'Service for Everyone'** so please put the date in your diary now!

**CHURCHES TOGETHER IN FARNHAM'S 2019 AGM** – The Minutes of the annual general meeting, including reports, are now available to read or download on the CTF website.

**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 a poster to download for your noticeboard.**

**From now till 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 – 11am – St Joan's Centre, Tilford Road, Farnham – CTF Monthly Ecumenical Prayer Group – Christmas Special** - with seasonal nibbles and drinks followed by reflective readings and intercessions. Everyone welcome – just come along!

**Wednesday 18 December till Sunday 22 December – Holly Barn, Wintershall, Bramley GU5 0LR – The Nativity – a play for all the family, telling the 'real' Christmas story.** Book tickets on the Wintershall website or phone 01793 418299

**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.

**Tuesday 24 and Wednesday 25 December – CHRISTMAS EVE AND CHRISTMAS DAY – and the days running up to Christmas** – go to individual church websites for full details of the Midnight Masses, Christingles, Crib, Carol and Christmas Day Services and other events (too numerous to list here) with which our various churches will be celebrating the Nativity this year.

**Friday 10 January - 7.30pm - Alton Abbey Church - Epiphany Concert by Winchester Consort.** The choir of invited, experienced, choral singers also aims to raise charitable funds and to provide opportunities for young and aspiring musicians. The Concert will be followed by seasonal refreshments. Events in 2020 will be important fund-raisers for the Friends who plan to build an access ramp to the church to make this easier for the less active, and those with disabilities, also the church lighting is to be updated. Tickets £15 available from "Tickets", Friends of Alton Abbey, Alton Abbey, Beech, Alton, GU34 4AP.

**Thursday 16 January – 3pm – Spire Church (Methodist Church building) – Farnham ASSIST Silver Service for older people** – friendly non-denominational service with traditional hymns – followed by tea and home-made cake served by members of the church– contact Farnham ASSIST if help is needed with transport.

**Thursday 16 January – St James' Church, Rowledge – Alpha Course begins** - 'Start of a 12 week exploration of the big questions of life'. Contact the Church Office to register your interest.

**Saturday 18 January to Saturday 25 January – 2020 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity – daily prayer meetings at various churches.** Full details, with poster for your noticeboard, available on the CTF website soon.

**Sunday 19 January – 4pm – Spire Church, South Street, URC building) – CTF United Service for the 2020 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity – everyone welcome!** - followed by fellowship and refreshments.

**Saturday 31 January – 7pm – St Thomas-on-The Bourne Church - 'Burns Night' evening of fun and fellowship.** Scottish reels danced in the nave accompanied by the Craigievar Scottish Dance Band. With a traditional meal of haggis – welcomed ceremoniously with the skirl of the bagpipes – neeps (swede) and tatties (mashed potato) + pudding. Cash bar for drinks. Come as a group (tables of 8 or 10) or on your own. £25 per person. Go to church website for tickets.

**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.**