

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN FARNHAM

MID-JANUARY & FEBRUARY 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

From Michael McDonnell:

Dear Friends,

Wonder.

The birth of Jesus in a stable, the visits of the shepherds and the wise men, the presentation in the temple, danger and the flight into Egypt: we are sometimes overwhelmed with activity at Christmas - but what must it have been like for the Holy Family? For them it was mystery, puzzlement and fear - but something else. When they asked themselves: "What can this mean" they must have experienced the most amazing wonderment. The Holy Family trusted. As Mary, at the time of the Annunciation, had said to the Angel Gabriel - "Let it happen to me as you have said." As we venture into the unknown of the New Year and face our own difficulties and fears let us also experience wonder as our Faith leads us to trust in the Lord.

Unusual Kindness.

"Unusual Kindness" is the theme of this year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: unexpected kindness shown by the people of Malta to Paul, some sailors and a Roman guard when they were shipwrecked. Suddenly into their lives, it was there - kindness - when it was most needed and without demand. How thankful those tired, wet and frightened men, must have been. The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity daily prayer meetings and the service at The Spire Church on Sunday 19th January at 4:00 p.m are opportunities for us to be thankful together, for the "Usual Kindness" of the Lord in every part of our lives.

With warm regards

Michael

Michael McDonnell - Chair of Churches Together in Farnham

NOTICES

LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AT THE FARNHAM UNITY SERVICE 2020 –

This will be held at the **Spire Church** (former URC building) on **Sunday 19 January** starting at **4:00 p.m.**

'**Unusual Kindness**' is the theme of this year's United Sunday – which will be 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 then enjoy fellowship following the service with old and new friends from other churches.

DAILY PRAYER MEETINGS DURING UNITY WEEK

These will be held each morning during the week at different churches in Farnham. **Schedule of Daily Prayer Meetings:**

Sat 18 th Jan	10:30 a.m	Meeting at Quaker Meeting House , 36 Tilford Rd
Sun 19th Jan	4:00 p.m	United Service - see above
Mon 20th Jan	11:00 a.m	At All Saints Tilford – "Prego" - a regular reflection on readings for next Sunday.
Tues 21 st Jan	10:00 a.m	At Farnham Vineyard, Union Road
Wed 22 nd Jan	8:30 a.m	Morning Prayers at St. Thomas-on-The Bourne, Frensham Road
Thurs 23 rd Jan	11:00 a.m	Unity Prayers in the Main Hall at St. Joan's Centre, Tilford Road
Fri 24 th Jan	9:30 a.m	Mass at St. Joan of Arc

Daily Prayer Meetings will be followed by refreshments

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 on **Friday 6th March** at **St.James’ Church**, Rowledge, starting at **10:30 a.m.** 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 – This took place last October. The report on the meeting, which includes individual reports from many of the Christian activities around the town, are now available to read or download on the CTF website.

CHRISTIAN AID VISIT TO ETHIOPIA – Did you see the interesting report of **Karen Fewster’s** recent visit to Ethiopia on the CTF website? Find it on the **“Notices”** page. The many Christian Aid activities across Farnham raised over **£22,000** in 2019, contributing to the UK/Ireland programme which involved over 10,000 churches. Watch out for events which you can support during 2020.

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 notice board.

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. For further details, see above or download the poster for your notice board from the CTF website (follow link from “Notices” page)

Sunday 19 January – 4:00 p.m – 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 – 7:00 p.m – 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.

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.

Thurs/Fri/Saturday 6/7/8 February – 7:30 p.m – St.Mary’s Frensham – Raspuncher Theatre Company presents **Noel Coward’s “Still Life” and “Fumed Oak”** – tickets **£15** including drinks and canapés from 01252 793138 or 01252 790690. Poster on CTF website (follow link from “Notices” page).

Thursday 20 February – 3:00 p.m – 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.

Friday 21 February – 7:30 p.m – Garden Room in The Museum of Farnham – Monthly meeting of **“The Filling Station”** in Farnham. Malcolm Beach on 01252 332781 for details.

Saturday 29 February – 2:30 p.m – Alton Abbey Church, Beech GU34 4AP – Lent Concert by the Alton Choir Society, who will perform highlights from Duruflé’s Requiem and other choral favourites. **Tickets £10** – for booking arrangements see CTF website “Notices” page.

Tuesday 3 March – 12:00 midday – St.Thomas-on-The Bourne, Frensham Road – First of the weekly **Lent Music Recitals** – Organised to raise funds for Christian Aid – full programme see CTF website Notice Board – followed by a soup, bread & cheese lunch.

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.