

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN FARNHAM

In place of the monthly E-News

The current Corona virus pandemic is resulting in the cancellation of most if not all services and other events and activities. Our normal monthly newsletter is therefore replaced by this special edition with advice and information on what is taking place in our Churches and the community.

A MESSAGE FROM THE STEERING COMMITTEE

The Churches Together in Farnham steering committee is able to communicate and share information with all the Churches in the town. In the present critical situation we will aim to give publicity to anything which might help via the Churches Together in Farnham Website and through e-mails.

May we invite Churches or other local organisations to advise us by e-mail of any news or information they may wish to be sent to all our Churches. We will pass it on and, where appropriate, publicise it on the CTF web site. Particularly we invite news of help being offered to the local community.

Our e-mail address for this purpose is: web@ct-farnham.org.uk

Please keep checking the CTF website at <https://www.churchestogether.org/farnham> for the latest information.

Sunday 22nd March is Mothering Sunday. May we also wish all Mothers, a peaceful and joyful Sunday and call your attention to the National Day of Prayer this Sunday (see below).

Very many thanks

From Michael McDonnell - Chair of Churches Together in Farnham and the Steering Committee

Light a candle of hope: A national call to prayer

In the midst of the Corona virus pandemic, Presidents of Churches Together in England are calling all churches to a National Day of Prayer & Action on Sunday 22nd March.

They write....

“This Mothering Sunday, 22nd March, we are calling all churches to a National Day of Prayer and Action. At such a time as this, when so many are fearful and there is great uncertainty, we are reminded of our dependence on our loving Heavenly Father and the future that he holds.

“At 7:00 p.m this Sunday, light a candle in the windows of your homes as a visible symbol of the light of life, Jesus Christ, our source and hope in prayer.

“Whether you are continuing to worship as congregations or not, we have the great privilege and freedom to be able to call upon God, wherever we are, individually and corporately, for healing in our nation. We would pray for all in leadership at this time, making decisions about the containment of the COVID-19 virus, for those working in health and social care, and especially for the most vulnerable, whether elderly or those with underlying health conditions.

“There are already stories being told of wonderful acts of kindness across neighbourhoods. Alongside your prayers, take the opportunity to telephone or e-mail someone who is isolated, buy some additional food for your local foodbank, or offer to deliver shopping for an elderly neighbour. We may not be able to touch physically, but we can make connections in so many other ways.

“In the meantime, do please attend to all the government health advice that will be issued, and look out for resources from your specific church governing bodies. At least for those of us in the global North, we do seem to be in unusual times, and wisdom and flexibility about worship gatherings are a key part of our Christian discipleship during this period.

“We note that this call to prayer and action comes on Mothering Sunday: a time of thankfulness, remembering especially mothers who have served us, often in very costly ways. It is also a very mixed day for many. For some the remembrance is painful, and for others Mothering Sunday is a reminder of disappointment or loss. In many ways, this period under the shadow of the corona virus will be prompting similarly diverse reactions and

so it seems especially appropriate that the call to prayer is made this Sunday. At this time of uncertainty join in with the National Day of Prayer and Action, lighting a candle of hope.”

“Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you” 1 Peter 5:7

Presidents of Churches Together in England

Archbishop Justin Welby, The Archbishop of Canterbury
Cardinal Vincent Nichols, The Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster
Revd Dr Hugh Osgood, The Free Churches Moderator
Archbishop Angaelos of London, CTE President for the Orthodox Churches
Pastor Agu Irukwu, CTE Pentecostal President

NOTICES

ANGLICAN CHURCHES – Following the letter from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, **all public worship is suspended**. Many of Farnham’s church buildings will, however, remain open to all for private prayer and reflection. Please enquire of the relevant Parish office.

CATHOLIC CHURCHES – All **Masses will be suspended** from Saturday 21st March until further notice. St.Joan’s Church will be open 7 days a week from 9am to 7pm for personal prayer for everyone. All are warmly welcomed to use St Joan’s as a house of prayer during these challenging times.

SPIRE CHURCH FARNHAM – All church events, activities and worship are **currently suspended**, and the Spire Café is closed. The URC Daily Devotions are offering an extended Sunday Service, which is available either to read or as a podcast to listen to. Alternatively, live services are streamed from **Woking United Reformed Church** or **Wesley’s Chapel**. Call the church office if you are interested in participating.

FARNHAM ASSIST has decided to **suspend all normal activities and outings throughout April and May**. They will then notify everyone when we are able to resume, which hopefully will be by June or July. During this period they will endeavour to keep the office open, increase their telephone contact with all those they support to be a point of social contact and also ensure everyone is being looked after. They are setting up a network of volunteers to keep in telephone contact with clients and also offer to help with picking up essentials for those who can’t get out. Amongst other activities, the monthly **Silver Service** is suspended for the time being and the **Curry Night** on Tuesday 31st March is cancelled.

FARNHAM WALK OF WITNESS – This was planned for Good Friday 10th April. Due to the current Corona virus pandemic, the 2020 Walk of Witness **WILL NOT TAKE PLACE** this year. Back on Good Friday 2021.

CTF MONTHLY ECUMENICAL PRAYER GROUP – This is a morning meeting which normally takes place at St.Joan’s Church on the 3rd Tuesday of the month. During the current emergency, **the prayer group is suspended**.

FARNHAM FILLING STATION MEETINGS – These evening meetings normally take place each month on the third Friday of the months. **Meetings planned for March and April** are cancelled, but it is hoped to be able to meet from May onwards, subject to Government advice.

NEW ALPHA COURSE – St.Joan of Arc Catholic Church planned to run a Sunday evening Alpha Course during the coming Spring and Summer. Given the latest government directives, the church has decided to **cancel the course this year**.

LOCAL CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES – During the emergency, many local charitable activities continue and will prove even more important to the community. **They still need your help**, through financial donation and in other ways such as volunteering. Notable local organisations which would love to receive offers of help include:

- **Farnham Foodbank**
- **Farnham ASSIST**
- **Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice**

DIARY – Our regular monthly E-News includes a **Diary Section** giving notice of some special events in the following weeks. The **CTF website** provides more details of many of these activities.

During the current COVID-19 virus pandemic, the vast majority of church and other local activities are not taking place, but the **Diary Section** will return as the emergency eases and we are again able to start enjoying these events.

The CTF website is at:

<https://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.