

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN FARNHAM

May 2020 E-News

During the current Corona virus pandemic, our services, prayer meetings and other events have either been cancelled or gone on line. 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.

AN URGENT MESSAGE FOR CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2020: A £15,000 POTENTIAL FUNDING SHORTFALL IS EXPECTED IN FARNHAM!

Karen Fewster (Chair, Farnham & District Christian Aid) has asked us to circulate this special appeal:

“It will come as no surprise to you to know that Christian Aid Week (10 to 16 May) will be different this year. There will be events and worship but these will all be ‘virtual’. There will be no street collections or door to door envelopes.

“The likely effect of this is that, from Farnham alone, the donations will be down some £15,000.

“I know that the focus at the moment is on COVID-19 locally — but Christian Aid is dealing with the same virus in refugee camps in Africa and Asia, where soap is a luxury and clean water non-existent. East Africa has just seen the worst plague of locusts for many years! So we need a steady stream of donations to fund Christian Aid’s work.”

Please help!

- ... by joining in **Farnham’s virtual Service for Christian Aid Week** on **Sunday 10 May**. The service will be on U-Tube and should be live from 9:15 a.m Sunday morning. The service has been prepared by local churches. Please use this link:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qxn-g4pBWGQ&feature=youtu.be>
- ... by **donating on-line or by telephone** (links on the Churches Together website).
 - Visit: justgiving.com/campaign/caweek2020
 - Visit: caweek.org/payin
 - Telephone: **020 7523 2269**
 - SMS text: “**HELP**” to **70020** to give £5

A MESSAGE FROM CHURCHES TOGETHER IN FARNHAM

Dear Friends

Christian Aid, which brings relief and hope Worldwide to large numbers of suffering people, now has its own massive added problem – its annual street collection and door to door collection cannot take place. At a time when Christian Aid is most needed, their funds and ability to provide help are under pressure as never before.

Please let as many people as possible know about this dire situation and invite them to help make up the potential shortfall with generous donations. Thank you very much.

We are in a situation as never before. Worldwide people are suffering. Everywhere people are struggling with their own personal difficulties. The sick, the dying and the bereaved cry out for help.

Families are without food and children without the lifelines of support their schools give them. Men and women have lost jobs and income, with devastating consequences. Those on the edges often suffer alone, the homeless, asylum seekers, those without family and friends.

At the same time, doctors, nurses, care home workers, the police, social workers and many others are working heroically and tirelessly for our good. We are deeply in their debt.

A few days ago the dawn chorus was at its spectacular peak for the year. We are in May, when amazing Spring flowers remind us of the beauty and wonder of God’s creation and his love for us. We hope, work and pray for suffering people, for an end to the pandemic and for a speedy return to a settled life for all.

Blessings

Michael McDonnell
Chair of Churches Together in Farnham

CORONAVIRUS HELPLINE OPEN IN FARNHAM – If you need help during the COVID-19 emergency and have no access to family, friends and neighbours, call the **FARNHAM AND VILLAGES HELPLINE** at the Farnham Co-ordination Centre on **01252-745446** (9:00 a.m to 8:00 p.m) or e-mail help@farnhammaltings.com. There is a recorded message on the phone line outside hours.

The helpline was announced by Farnham Town Council on 26th March and has been established in conjunction with **Farnham Herald** and **The Maltings**. More information is on the Churches Together website, where you can view or download the Farnham Helpline Leaflet.

MESSAGE TO VOLUNTEERS AND SUPPORTERS from the Manager of Farnham ASSIST – On 7th April, June Trantom wrote to volunteers and supporters to thank them for their continuing support for the older folk of Farnham. Farnham ASSIST is now working as part of the **Farnham and Villages Coronavirus Community Hub** (Helpline available on **01252-745446**).

June reminded supporters that they can donate financially through the Farnham Assist website or by cheque or bank transfer (please see the Churches Together website for a link with bank details).

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:

- **Your local church**, (for example collecting items for those who cannot get out, or telephoning those alone) - call the church office
- **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.