

Churches Together in Farnham

Annual General Meeting, Wednesday 19th October 2022

Notes

Proceedings of the meeting

The Agenda for the meeting was as follows:

- Chairman's introduction
- Business matters
- Review of Churches Together activities 2020-22
- Review of town-wide Christian activities
- A county-wide view: Churches Together in Surrey

The meeting was centred around a Powerpoint presentation comprising slides supporting the various presentations given. The presentations covered activities specifically organised by Churches Together in Farnham and those of other Christian organisations across the town.

The Powerpoint presentations were as follows:

Churches Together in Farnham activities	Andrew Partridge
Christian Aid	Susanna Maybin
Farnham ASSIST: support for the elderly	Rodney Bates
Farnham Foodbank	Harriet Lanyon
Farnham Christian Community Trust	Andy Marriott
Signposts: schools work	Becky Porter
Frontline Money Advice	David McNeight
Friends Together: bereavement support	Yvonne Bryant
Ukraine response	David Uffindell

In addition, verbal updates were given:

- by **Bob Skinner** on the "**Open the Book**" Bible Story presentations given at two infant schools in the Hale / Badshot Lea area;
- by **Guy Pritchard** on the moves being made by churches to support those affected by the steeply-rising cost of living;
- and by **Revd. Sandy Clark** on the **Community Fridge** initiative operated out of Brambleton Hall, and the plans for expanding this work.

Present:

Lynn Attwood	St Andrew's, Farnham
David McNeight	Bethel Baptist and Frontline Money Advice
Susanna Maybin	St Mary's, Frensham and Christian Aid
Harriet Lanyon	St Mary', Bentley and Farnham Foodbank
Becky Porter	St James', Rowledge and Signposts
Malcolm Beach	Weybourne Community Church
Michele Beach	Weybourne Community Church
Bob Skinner	Weybourne Community Church
Margaret Skinner	Weybourne Community Church
Jenny Floyer	Churches Together in Farnham
Sandy Clarke	St Thomas on the Bourne
Michael Hopkins	Spire Church, Hale Methodist, Rowledge Methodist
Janet Stone	Spire Church
Rodney Bates	Farnham ASSIST
Grace Keal	Churches Together in Surrey
Andrew Marriott	Jubilee Church
David Uffindell	St Andrew's, Farnham
Sean Gubb	Jubilee Church
Guy Pritchard	Farnham Vineyard
Andrew Partridge	St Andrew's, Farnham

Apologies for absence

Alan and Leslie Crawley Jane Walker Yvonne Bryant Russ Gant Michael McDonnell John Goodman	Badshot Lea and Hale St Mary's, Frensham St Thomas on the Bourne St James', Rowledge St Joan's, Farnham Churches Together in Farnham
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Update on Christian activities across Farnham: (selected slides from presentations)

Christian Aid in Farnham – Susanna Maybin



A global movement of people, churches and local organisations seeking to eradicate poverty by tackling the root causes.

It works with local partners and communities of all faiths and none to fight injustice and respond to humanitarian emergencies

Programmes include Emergency response, accountability, peace building, health, land rights, tax justice and helping communities adapt to climate change.

Farnham and district activities include fundraising for these programmes and raising awareness of and promoting the work of Christian Aid where possible.

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/>



Fund Raising Appeals 2021 and 2022

Key Appeals (appeals for funding for Christian Aid day-to-day development programmes)

These focussed on issues of climate justice. Key appeals were held at Easter, during Christian Aid Week, Harvest and Christmas, as in previous years.

Emergency Appeals

- East Africa Crisis
- Ukraine Humanitarian
- Afghanistan Crisis
- Haiti Earthquake
- Coronavirus Emergency



Farnham and district events and fundraising 2021 -2022

2020-2021

Christian Aid week service hosted on line by the Spire Church

Fundraising through midday concerts at St Thomas on the Bourne, selling refreshments at Music in the Meadows and open garden at Crosswater Farm, bucket collection in the Lion and Lamb and Christian Aid Week collections from the churches using Christian Aid envelopes and e-envelopes

2021-2022

Christian Aid week service hosted live at St Andrews Church

Fundraising through midday concerts at St Thomas on the Bourne, open garden refreshments at Crosswater Farm, Spire coffee mornings and plant sale, picture raffle, music evening at St Georges, bucket street collection in Farnham centre, Christian Aid week collections from the churches (envelopes and e-envelopes), presence at other events including Tilford Exhibition of Hope and Rotary Events.



OVER THE NEXT YEAR

Christian Aid's focus* remains on Climate Justice, with:

Loss and Damage Campaign which includes a petition, resources to help churches get involved and to involve MPs.

Talking Climate Justice Tour which includes public talks and resources to get churches and their congregations talking about climate justice.

Farnham and District Christian Aid reps will continue with fund-raising events as well as try to keep their churches up to date with Christian Aid campaigns, appeals and resources needed.



*See <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/get-involved/campaigns>

Farnham ASSIST – Rodney Bates

The past two years of Farnham ASSIST....



- Change of Manager & staff
- Remote activity in pandemic
- Volunteers evolving
- Some activities have paused
- But also....

- ✓ New activity such as jubilee
- ✓ New partnerships
- ✓ Different gifts & energy



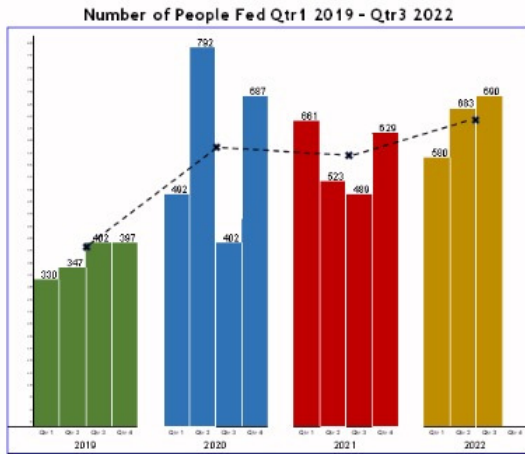
The next year for Farnham ASSIST



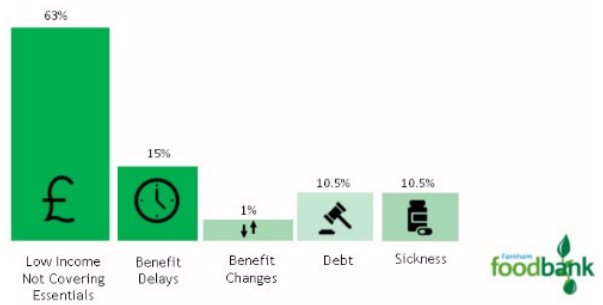
Vision and service is the same but we have 5 themes for 2023:-

- 1)Communication – Regular newsletters, update our video & social media. (Can you help?)
- 2)Closer links with Churches/Leaders – We would love to have a Farnham Assist link in every Church. Invite our Leaders to just enjoy our events. (Can you be the link for your Church?)
- 3)Signposting to wider groups – playing wider role in wider Farnham work addressing loneliness & research gaps.
- 4)Activities – Review with a view to bringing ages together.
- 5)Volunteers – Use gifts wisely & encourage more into our work.

Farnham Foodbank – Harriet Lanyon



Main Causes for People Using the Foodbank



Looking ahead into 2023 our priorities are to:

- Ensure the Foodbank has enough food supplies to meet the increasing demand for food parcels.
- Continue to work closely with our referral partners to alleviate some of the root causes bringing people to the Foodbank.
- Work towards reducing the need for a food bank in Farnham aligning with Trussell Trust's vision.

We very much appreciate:

- The continued support of local churches and provision of food, financial funds and volunteers.

Farnham Christian Community Trust – Andy Marriott



Farnham Christian Community Trust FCCT

Mission

Serving Christ and the community by encouraging, facilitating, and supporting inter-church initiatives.

FCCT provides a **framework and admin support** for projects where Churches want to work together to benefit Farnham.

Farnham and the surrounding area has a rich heritage of Christians working together on projects that make a significant and positive difference in our community.



Challenges and Encouragements

Challenges

- Changes in personnel with Staff, Trustees and volunteers stepping down
- Needing to adapt during Covid to new ways of meeting and working together

Encouragements

- New Staff, Trustees and volunteers joining FCCT
- Individual and Church support in prayer, giving and practical support

Future Needs

- Further needs for Staff, Trustees and Volunteers
- Prayer and support for the 'Things That Matter' Mission Nov 17 - 27

Signposts: Schools Work -

Becky Porter



Frontline Money Advice – David McNeight



Our Covid Experience

- Team of new advisers - from 2 to 10 since Aug-20
- Client demand ramping up: '20 - 20, '21 - 50, '22 – 50+
- Cost of living crisis looming
- Stronger alignment with Farnham Foodbank

Growing adviser knowledge and experience

Team at capacity, harder to get underlying issues resolved

Increasing demand, reduced options

More holistic approach to dealing with the same approach



Looking Forward

- Consolidate team experience, then grow capacity
- Strengthen budgeting education
- Continued alignment with Farnham Foodbank
- Ensure sufficient resources into 2024
- Strengthen prayer support for our work and the people we help



Budgeting






Budgeting




God provides

Friends Together: bereavement support

Yvonne Bryant

Friends Together – during and after Covid

During lockdowns:
One-to-one weekly phone calls maintained

After lockdowns:
Face-to-face meetings resumed at new venue – Maltings Riverside café
Twice monthly: 2nd and 4th Mondays at 3-4.30pm
Zoom meetings on Monday evenings continue

Ukraine Response

David Uffindell



Ukraine Response

Farnham Homes for Ukraine
Farnham Stands with Ukraine
Individual Sponsors

Hospitality – host families for 6 months
Gatherings/ Outings
Pop-up shop
Discounts and Bursaries: leisure and travel

English Lessons
Art Exhibition

Help with Administration
Help with Hosting

Churches Together in Farnham – Business matters

Election of Officers

After his two-year tenure of the post, **Guy Pritchard** stood down as Chairman. **Rev. David Uffindell**, Rector of St Andrew's, had volunteered to stand as Chair for the coming year. His nomination to that post was endorsed unanimously.

Andrew Partridge proposed a vote of thanks to Guy for his chairmanship and support during the Covid lockdowns and beyond, which was carried unanimously.

The existing members of the standing committee – **Andrew Partridge**, secretary; **Andy Marriott**, treasurer; and **John Goodman**, webmaster – agreed to continue to serve. However, it was noted that the committee had reached critical mass; new blood was urgently required to prevent its demise.

Jenny Floyer expressed an interest in joining the committee.

Minutes of 2020 meeting

These are available on the CTF website at: <https://together.ourchurchweb.org.uk/farnham/docstore/489.pdf>

There being no objections, a printed copy was duly signed by the outgoing chairman, Guy Pritchard.

Financial report

Andy Marriott supplied a Financial Statement for 2021-22 (see end of this report) Income is from subscriptions from member churches which are requested periodically. The main outgoings are for **public liability insurance** for the Good Friday Walk of Witness, and support for the **Christmas Day lunch**. The current balance stands at £532.67, of which £137.14 are funds specifically earmarked for the Christmas Day lunch.

The 2021-22 Statement of Accounts was endorsed by the meeting.

A Financial Statement for 2020-21 is also attached to these notes, as no A.G.M. was held last year.

Report on Churches Together in Farnham activities

Monthly Prayers – Bob Skinner – These have continued over the past year, meeting at St Joan’s Centre on the third Tuesday of the month. Average attendance is 8–10.

Farnham Herald “Thursday Thought” – Yvonne Fairlamb has been organising the annual rota and issuing monthly reminders to contributors. She and Neil have now moved away so the Secretary has taken this on for the time being. It is not an onerous role and a volunteer to take it on would be welcome.

Christmas lunch – Michael McDonnell – There has been no Christmas lunch since the first Covid lockdown. Last Christmas (2021) the team gave support to an agency providing lunches for those housebound and on their own, but the agency has decided not to repeat the exercise IN 2022. The CTF team met recently and decided very reluctantly that, because of forecasts indicating another spike in the pandemic, it would be unwise to embark on organising the traditional, crowded, Christmas lunch this year.

Good Friday Walk of Witness – After missing two years due to Covid lockdowns, the Walk was re-instigated this year thanks to the efforts of **Stewart Dakers**. Each year, the walk starts at the Upper Hart car park at 12 noon and processes round the town to St Andrew’s churchyard. About 200 attended this year.

Prayers at council meetings – Michael Hall continues to organise a rota among ministers in the town to lead these.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and Unity Service – It was decided in 2020 to discontinue the daily prayers during the Week of Prayer (15-22 January), due to lack of support. This year the Steering Committee has decided to discontinue the Unity Service also, due to its very awkward midwinter timing, and the fact that its format and that of the World Day of Prayer (formerly Women’s World Day of Prayer) that is held annually in March are now almost identical.

Churches Together website – This is organised by **John Goodman** and provides the following services:

- Access to a printable directory of churches and leaders, with contact details;
- Displaying calls for volunteers and applicants to paid and unpaid vacancies;
- Displaying details of events organised by churches, Christian groups or charities.

To offer material, please use the “contact” address on the website.

Church Leader meetings – there was considerable support for re-establishing these in the recent survey of local ministers regarding the future of CTF. The outgoing chairman, **Guy Pritchard**, organised a successful breakfast meeting in July. It is intended that the practice be continued on a termly basis.

Observations arising from subsequent presentations

Christian Activities across the town

Almost all the organisations reported a considerable change of staff over recent years. It is noteworthy that the presenters for all the activities covered at the meeting, with the exception of Friends Together Bereavement support, were different from those who presented at the last in-person AGM, in 2019.

Rodney Bates, the new Manager of Farnham ASSIST, reported a complete change of staff since before lockdown. **Andy Marriott**, trustee of Farnham Christian Community Trust, reported a big change in personnel over the same period. **David McNeight**, manager of Frontline Money Advice, reported that his team of advisers had grown from two to ten since August 2020. **Becky Porter**, who took on the Signposts work with schools during lockdown, reported that her term of appointment would cease at the end of December this year.

Staff turnover and refreshment of the organising committee has not been a recent feature of **Churches Together in Farnham** itself. All the current members of the Steering Committee have been in post since 2015 and some for considerably longer.

Churches Together in Surrey

The meeting concluded with a short and entertaining presentation on the activities of **Churches Together in Surrey**, by the county coordinator **Grace Keal**.

Her observations were gleaned from her travels around Churches Together groups in different parts of Surrey. She noted in particular that, where local church leaders meet to pray together regularly, “things happen”.

Attached accounts

For the 2020/2021 and 2021/2022 accounts presented by the Treasurer at the meeting, see following pages.

Andrew Partridge (Secretary)



Churches Together in Farnham

Accounts for 2021-2022

Income and Expenditure Account 1 September 2021 - 31 August 2022

2020-2021	GENERAL FUND	Income	Expenditure	Net	Balance
444.73	General Fund at 1st Sept 2021:				£365.13
10.00	Subscriptions	120.00			
-	Administration			-	
-89.60	Public Liability Insurance		-89.60		
-79.60	Total Income less Expenditure:	£120.00	-£89.60	£30.40	
365.13	General Fund at 31st August 2022:				£395.53
	SPECIAL FUND				
190.94	Christmas Lunch Fund	0.00	-53.80		£137.14
556.07	Bank Account Total:				£532.67

Notes

Subscription requested in 2021/22: £10 (2020/21: £10)

No Christmas lunch 25 Dec 2021. Cards sent instead

Mr. Andy Marriott
(Treasurer)



Churches Together in Farnham

Accounts for 2020-2021

Income and Expenditure Account 1 September 2020 - 31 August 2021

2019-2020	GENERAL FUND	Income	Expenditure	Net	Balance
344.33	General Fund at 1st Sept 2020:				£444.73
190.00	Subscriptions	10.00			
0.00	Donations – Unity Service		-		
-	Administration			-	
-89.60	Public Liability Insurance		-89.60		
100.40	Total Income less Expenditure:	£10.00	-£89.60	-£79.60	
444.73	General Fund at 31st August 2021:				£365.13
	SPECIAL FUNDS				
190.94	Christmas Lunch Fund	0.00	0.00		£190.94
635.67	Bank Account Total:				£556.07

Notes

Subscription requested in 2020/21: £0 (2019/20: £10)
No collection taken at Unity service in Jan 2021

Mr. Andy Marriott
(Treasurer)