

# Churches Together in Farnham

## Annual General Meeting, Wednesday 18th October 2023

St.Andrew's Pavilions 7:30 p.m

### Agenda

Welcome and Introduction  
Attendance and Apologies  
Review of CTF activities  
Review of town-wide Christian activities  
The Way Ahead for Churches Together in Farnham  
Treasurer's report  
Election of Officers  
Minutes of last meeting

### Notes

#### Welcome and Introduction:

Revd David Uffindell welcomed everyone to St.Andrew's and opened in prayer.

#### Present:

David Uffindell	St Andrew's, Farnham (chair)
Andrew Partridge	St Andrew's, Farnham
Mary Hollocks	St Andrew's, Farnham
Jane Harrap	St Andrew's, Farnham
Marcus Ahmed	St Andrew's, Farnham
Linda Tolmine	St Andrew's, Farnham
Elise Marlow	St Andrew's, Farnham
Jo Scougall	Farnham Vineyard
Douglas Scougall	Farnham Vineyard
David McNeight	Bethel Baptist and Frontline Money Advice
Harriet Lanyon	St Mary', Bentley and Farnham Foodbank
Liz Burrell	St Mary's, Frensham and Christian Aid
John Edwards	Holy Family
Luke Price	St Thomas on the Bourne
Sandy Clarke	St Thomas on the Bourne
Yvonne Bryant	St Thomas on the Bourne
Jenny Floyer	Churches Together in Farnham
Bob Skinner	Weybourne Community Church
Andrew Marriott	Jubilee Church
Malcolm Beach	Weybourne Community Church
Michele Beach	Weybourne Community Church
Rodney Bates	Farnham ASSIST

#### Apologies for absence

Alan and Leslie Crawley	Badshot Lea and Hale
Stella Wiseman	Badshot Lea and Hale
Russ Gant	St James', Rowledge
Michael Hopkins	Spire Church
Guy Pritchard	Farnham Vineyard
Margaret Skinner	Weybourne Community Church
Sean Gubb	Jubilee Church
John Goodman	Churches Together in Farnham

#### Review of CTF activities

**CTF Prayer Group:** **Bob Skinner**, as coordinator, reported that we meet monthly on 3rd Tuesday of each month at St Joan's foyer, 1:30 – 2:30pm. Prayer for all churches in Farnham, church leaders and activities under the umbrella of CTF, including FCCT and other town-wide activities

**Thursday Thought in Farnham Herald:** **Andrew Partridge** reported that this continues weekly fairly smoothly, 17 churches participating each having three slots a year. As the "Herald" in Bordon, Haslemere, Farnham and Petersfield have more or less the same contents, Thursday Thought appears in each of these, alongside a separate contribution from a church in Haslemere and a weekly column from Bishop Christopher Herbert.

**Good Friday Walk of Witness: Stewart Dakers** continues to coordinate this annual event. This year, some 150 people walked silently with the cross from midday to 1:00 p.m through town, possible even with West Street closed for underground pipe works this year. The route, from Upper Hart car park by Farnham Baptist Church, finishes with prayers and a Good Friday hymn at St.Andrew's.  
A question was asked of the whereabouts of the Churches Together cross, last seen at St.Joan's for the Golden Jubilee celebration of CTF in 2012. This used to be carried at CTF Walk of Witness.

**Prayers at Farnham Town Council monthly meetings: Michael Hall** continues to coordinate the rota for church leaders to offer prayer at the start of the meeting.

**CTF Website: Andrew Partridge** reported that **John Goodman**, not present at the meeting, is stepping down from his role as webmaster after many years. David Uffindell thanked John for his great contribution to CTF. Expertise for the website is now needed.

**Church Leader Breakfasts: David Uffindell** reported that these take place six times per annum at 7:30 a.m. A confidential opportunity to discuss what is going well, to celebrate, challenge and to see what God is doing in Farnham.

**Week of Prayer for Christian Unity:** Nothing town-wide had been organised this year, but Revd Sandy Clarke (St Thomas-on-the Bourne) invited, at short notice, church leaders to join her in a short service at St. Thomas. It is hoped, now Covid restrictions have been lifted, a gathering will happen town-wide for January 2024.

**Christmas Day Lunch:** The team consisting of **Mariola Boyd, Michael McDonnell** and others have organised this for over a decade. The lunches ceased during Covid pandemic and the team does not feel able to continue. The general feeling is that the Christmas Day lunches are no longer feasible but that there are other organisations who could possibly provide lunch in December (not on Christmas Day itself). It was noted that "Right at Home" and "Meals on Wheels" can deliver Christmas Day lunches. Farnham Assist organises a lunch in December.

**Addendum:** Michael McDonnell has forwarded information found on Jeremy Hunt's newsletter re The Gaskins Free Christmas Lunch: **freechristmaslunch.com** . Andy has taken posters to Town Hall and Library.

## Review of town-wide Christian activities

The wide range of activities in Farnham supported by, or organised through, Christian groups was presented and discussed.

Several presentations were supported by Powerpoint slides, a selection of which is reproduced in the following notes:

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

Verbal presentations were given on further activities:

Community Fridge Initiative	Sandy Clarke
Friends Together Bereavement Support	Yvonne Bryant
Open the Book	Bob Skinner

## Christian Aid in Farnham – Liz Burrell (for Susanna Maybin)

**Liz Burrell** (Surrey & Hampshire Engagement Officer) is standing in for **Susanna Maybin**, Chair of CA Farnham. Liz talked of the role of CA worldwide, fundraising, CA church reps, and various events of the last year in Farnham, such as coffee mornings, concerts, etc. There has not been a door-to-door collection in Farnham for the last few years; instead more church-based fundraising events have taken place. Liz was warmly thanked for her excellent report.



Christian Aid is a global movement of churches, peoples and organisations which aims to end poverty and injustice worldwide.

It works, through local partners, with communities of all faiths and none.

Programmes include helping communities adapt to climate change, working in inclusion, peace building and tackling violence, helping people to claim rights and access services, for example education and health.

It also responds to humanitarian emergencies in the areas where its partners work.

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 in 2023

**Key Appeals 2023** (appeals for funding for Christian Aid day-to-day development programmes)

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

#### Emergency Appeals 2023

DEC Turkey – Syria Earthquake  
Libya Floods

#### Current Campaigns in UK

Loss and damage campaign for climate justice  
Faith Will to encourage will donations



### Farnham and district events and fundraising 2023

*Fundraising events included:*

Midday concerts at St Thomas on The Bourne

Spire coffee mornings

Musical evening at St George's, Badshot Lea

Rowledge stall in the forest

Open Garden refreshments at Crosswater Farm

Christian Aid Week collections from the churches using Christian Aid envelopes and e-envelopes.



### OVER THE NEXT YEAR

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

Lack of representation of Farnham and District churches in our group is a significant challenge. We currently have very few church reps and these numbers are dwindling.

**The role of the church rep is to raise awareness of the work of Christian Aid within their church, keep them informed about campaigns and activities and encourage congregation members to take part in local fundraising activities.**

We would very much welcome someone from each church in the district. We need people who are interested in supporting the type of work Christian Aid does. Ideally, they should be comfortable working with email, including attachments and links to the Christian Aid homepage. (please contact [susanna.maybin@btinternet.com](mailto:susanna.maybin@btinternet.com) for more information)

More Information about Christian Aid can be found at <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/our-work/what-we-do>

## Farnham ASSIST – Rodney Bates

**Rodney Bates** looked back at the last year of day outings, lunches and services for those experiencing loneliness and isolation, also carers. The Daffodil service is held around Valentine's Day for folk to remember a loved one. A quiz and other events are planned for November. Rodney spoke of the challenges and needs:- website designer; drivers to take people with limited mobility to events; befrienders who can visit and chat over a cup of tea; also financial support, especially legacies.

### The last year of Farnham ASSIST.....



Expanded our day trips  
Increase in Central Lunch  
Daffodil & Other Services

And coming up...

- Quiz Night (2<sup>nd</sup> November)  
- Tea & Nature talk (14<sup>th</sup> Nov)  
- Frensham tea (21<sup>st</sup> Nov)



### The next year for Farnham ASSIST ....



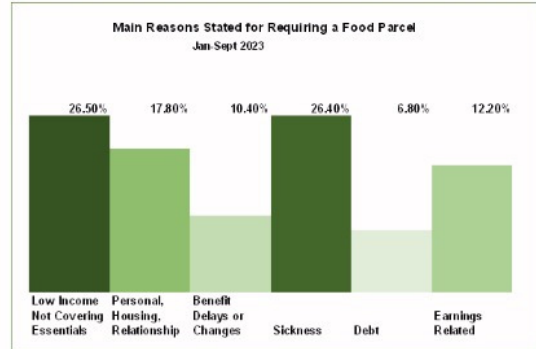
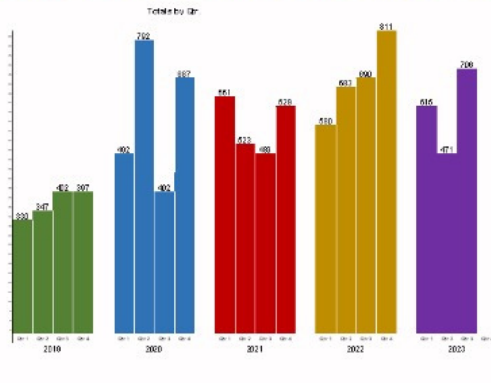
Our current 2024 challenges are...

- 1) **Communication** – Our website needs an urgent update. Do you know someone that can help with this paid or unpaid?
- 2) **Drivers** – We need to transport those less mobile to enable them to attend. Mileage and lunch available.
- 3) **Befriending** – The need is there in Farnham. Can you chat over a cup of tea for 1 hr a week?
- 4) **Financial** – Can you support us regularly or in your will?

## Farnham Foodbank – Harriet Lanyon

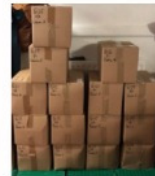
**Harriet Lanyon** spoke to her slides showing the number of people supported by Foodbank each quarter over the last five years and, for this year, a chart of the reasons people required a food parcel. She outlined areas for development such as the need to keep up with supply of food donations. Twenty-six schools in the Farnham area donate their harvest festival goods to Foodbank. Foodbank expects to develop their partnership with referral organisations such as Frontline Money Advice that addressed the underlying causes that bring people to Foodbank. Clients are also referred from CAB and other organisations. In addition, a Community Coaching Programme will begin in the Spring, trained volunteers to come alongside clients, enabling them to define their goals in making significant changes in their lives and to work towards these.

### Food Parcel Data: number of people supported by quarter Food Parcel Data: reasons for requiring a food parcel



### Areas of Development

- Keep up with the demand for food parcels.
- Continue to strengthen our relationships with referral partners and other organisations.
- Establishing our Community Coaching Programme – volunteers needed!



## Farnham Christian Community Trust – Andy Marriott

**Andy Marriott**, as chair, outlined FCCT's Mission: "Serving Christ and the community by encouraging, facilitating and supporting inter-church initiatives". He quoted *John 17* where Jesus prayed for the unity of all believers, "that they may be one" (v.21). Encouragingly, over 470 folk of all ages attended the gathering at Waverley Abbey in July. In addition, many people support the work of FCCT in the community. Ongoing challenges are meeting the increasing needs of folk through both existing and new projects.



### Farnham Christian Community Trust - FCCT

FCCT's MISSION: "Serving Christ and the community by encouraging, facilitating, and supporting inter-church initiatives".

FCCT provides a **framework for Churches to work together** to benefit the community around Farnham – **you will hear from many of the projects tonight.**

Unity is one of our values. Jesus prayed for the Unity of believers.

Unity begins with God – One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism – we are called to demonstrate that unity to the world as we work together and fellowship together with brothers and sisters from various churches.



### Challenges and Encouragements

#### Challenges

Developing broader and deeper relationships between Christians in Farnham as we support existing and new projects to serve our local community at this time of increasing need.

#### Encouragements

- Over 470 adults and young people from different churches gathered at Waverley Abbey in July to worship, share fellowship and pray for Farnham
- People from many churches faithfully support and work for projects serving the community around Farnham.

#### Future

- Pray that two evenings in November addressing grief, suffering and finding hope would reach out to many people.

## Signposts: Schools Work -

### Jo Scourgall

**Jo Scourgall** reported that the Easter message in 2023 reached over 3000 children in 11 infant and 7 junior schools. The title was "*The Mystery of the Empty Tomb*". In the summer term, five junior schools, involving some 650 children in year 6, had a "moving on" assembly. For this age group, it is a big step to Year 7. For Christmas 2023, some 3,500 children in 12 infant and 8 junior schools will, during November and December, experience the Christmas Story "*A Royal Visitor*".

Bob Skinner asked regarding Cohesion, work within secondary schools. David Uffindell replied that John Marrow, previous curate at St. Andrew's, had coordinated this work but that, after he left, it had not continued. It was noted that some work is still going on in supporting R.E. lessons, but that youth workers were hard to come by and replace.

The Mystery of the Empty Tomb



A Royal Visitor



Easter 2023 : March  
 •7 Junior schools  
 •11 infant schools  
 •Approximately 3000 children

'Moving On' assemblies – Summer 2023  
 •5 Junior schools  
 •Approximately 360 year 6 children

Christmas 2023 : November/December  
 •8 Junior schools  
 •12 infant schools  
 •3500 children

## Farnham Frontline Money Advice – David McNeight

**David McNeight** reported that Frontline works closely with Farnham Foodbank, being present when Foodbank is open on a Friday, also working closely with CAB. Frontline workers listen non-judgementally to the deeper issues and life story behind a person's debt, also being alongside if appealing benefit decisions in tribunals, etc. Currently there is a team of ten advisors who are working with a growing demand for their services, clients bringing more difficult issues. The team requires more capacity, also sufficient resources into the next two years. Goals are to strengthen links with Foodbank and to increase prayer support for workers and the clients.

David emphasised that the churches should be places of welcome, clients attending Mother-&-Toddlers groups, for example. God can provide and transform.

A question was asked regarding educating clients re budgeting better for food and learning to cook. Harriet Lanyon responded with news of the course "*East Well Spend Less*" cookery that has been up and running for several years. It is free and is held one morning a week over five weeks. The clients are taught basic cookery skills and discuss topics such as nutrition, budgeting, affordable grocery shopping, meal planning, health & wellbeing, also ideas for using up leftover food and food safety.

Frontline Farnham Life after debt	In the last year ...	Frontline Farnham Life after debt	Looking forward
<p>Team of 10 volunteer advisers</p> <p>Deepening adviser experience</p> <p>Increasing Client Demand</p> <p>Cost of living crisis dominant</p> <p>Stronger alignment with Farnham Foodbank</p>	<p>Team at capacity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- more clients</li> <li>- more difficult issues</li> </ul> <p>Reduced options, budgeting crucial</p> <p>More holistic approach, more sustainable help</p>	<p>CLAIM APPLICATION Benefits</p> <p>Budgeting</p> <p>DEBT</p>	<p>Grow team capacity</p> <p>Continued alignment with Farnham Foodbank</p> <p>Ensure sufficient resources into 2025</p> <p>Strengthen prayer support for our work and the people we help</p>
<b>God provides</b>		<b>God transforms</b>	

## Community Fridge:

**Sandy Clarke** spoke briefly on Community Fridge, an ecumenical venture, its purpose being not to let food go to waste but to offer it free. The Brambleton Hall CF is open on Fridays 11:30 a.m to 3:00p.m. Excess food is donated by various supermarkets and by individuals. Kitchen and other items are also available for free, as are sleeping bags, etc. for homeless people.

## Friends Together Bereavement Support:

**Yvonne Bryant** spoke of the encouragement people get from this group that meets on 2nd & 4th Monday afternoons at The Maltings Riverside Cafe, bringing in a core of about eight participants and three volunteers. This enables a participant to have a private chat if required. In addition, a small group meets on the 1st Monday evening; the other Monday evenings meeting via Zoom, some folk preferring this. From

January 2024 a group will meet also on the 3rd Monday evening at The Maltings. Advertisements in doctors surgeries and local press outlets, also word of mouth and folk looking online for help are some of the ways bereaved folk find the group. This year, nine people from the group had an enjoyable outing to Hayling Island.

## Open the Book

**Bob Skinner** reported briefly that "Open the Book" is a project run under the Bible Society, involving teams going into Primary Schools to present Bible Stories to and with children in Assemblies. In North Farnham a team goes every fortnight during term time to Folly Hill and Badshot Lea schools.

## The Way Ahead for Churches Together in Farnham

**David Uffindell** introduced a discussion on the merging of CTF and FCCT. Various comments were forthcoming on the pros and cons of a merger.

- "Different mission but with overlap. Both groups need to change."
- "There is possible value of the two groups coming together."
- "In place is a CTF prayer group that prays for all aspects of Christian work in Farnham, meeting at St Joan's foyer room on the third Tuesday each month, 1.30 – 2.30."
- "More prayer is required regarding any merger."
- "Are CTF and FCCT there for different purposes? What would be lost if merged?"
- "FCCT is already under the umbrella of CTF."
- "Need to examine the constitutions of each sector."
- "Need to look at where the two overlap, but caution re the value of merging, this might not work."
- "Unite in outreach activities; have more impact."

David Uffindell thanked people for their comments and suggested we go ahead with the next stage in his wishes to merge CTF and FCCT. No dissents were expressed.

### Way ahead for Churches Together in Farnham

#### Discussion paper

#### Proposed next steps:

- We begin a conversation with the Trustees of the FCCT about closer partnership working
- We fix a meeting for all church leaders
- We fix a meeting for all stakeholders (leaders of town-wide projects)

#### Website developments – ASSIST, CTF

#### CTF Directory

#### CTF Finances

## Churches Together in Farnham – Business matters

### Treasurer's report

**Andy Marriott** spoke to the circulated report (see final page of this report), noting total funds are £593.07, i.e. General fund £455.43 and Christmas Lunch Fund £137.14. The Christmas Day lunches had not taken place during and since the Covid pandemic.

### Election of Officers

**David Uffindell** reported that he had asked the RC leadership (Fr Niven), whose turn it was to have been chair, to allow him a further year so that he could conclude his plan to dissolve CTF.

**Revd Sandy Clarke** proposed the following are elected:

<b>Chair:</b>	<b>David Uffindell</b>
<b>Secretary:</b>	<b>Jenny Floyer</b>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	<b>Andy Marriott</b>

**Standing Committee:** As above plus **Andrew Partridge**, who has stepped down from his amazing service as secretary.

It was noted that the church-leader landscape was changing with **Russ Gant** having left recently for his new parish in Southwold, **Alan** and **Lesley Crawley** are retiring in February and **Michael Hopkins** has a new role as Moderator of the United Reformed Wessex Synod.

**The meeting concluded with prayer.**

### Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the AGM held on 19th October 2022, together with minutes of earlier meetings, are available on the CTF website at:

<https://together.ourchurchweb.org.uk/farnham/docstore/489.pdf>

**Jenny Floyer (Secretary)**



# Churches Together in Farnham

## Accounts for 2022/23

### Income and Expenditure Account 1 September 2022 - 31 August 2023

2021/22	GENERAL FUND	Income	Expenditure	Net	Balance
365.13	<b>General Fund at 1st September 2022:</b>				<b>£395.53</b>
120.00	Subscriptions	150.00			
-	Administration		-		
-89.60	Public Liability Insurance		-89.60		
30.40	<b>Total Income less Expenditure:</b>	£150.00	-£89.60	£60.40	
<b>395.53</b>	<b>General Fund at 31st August 2023:</b>				<b>£455.53</b>
	<b>SPECIAL FUND</b>				
137.14	<b>Christmas Lunch Fund</b>	0.00	0.00		<b>£137.14</b>
<b>532.67</b>	<b>Bank Account Total:</b>				<b>£593.07</b>

#### Notes

Subscription requested in 2022/23: £10 (2021/22: £10)  
 No Christmas lunch 25 Dec 2022.

**Mr. Andy Marriott**  
 (Treasurer)