



April 2026

LINK-up

Keeping Churches in Touch

www.godalmingchurches.org

facebook.com/ChurchesTogetherinGodalmingandDistrict

Message from the Chair

Our doctrine tutor at theological college once made the interesting point that if it had been King Herod who had been raised from the dead rather than Jesus, it would say very different things about God and the world he had made. Thankfully it is Christ and not an ancient despot who is the model and example of our faith, and whose life is vindicated by the Father. This Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter Day, in our own separate church communities and the events we hold together, we proclaim the unlikely and paradoxical kingship of the figure who died the lonely and despised death of a criminal, and who we yet affirm is the key to understanding our human lives and the whole creation. Had he not been raised, nobody would ever have thought such a thing and he would have disappeared like the other would-be Messiahs we find traces of here and there in the Bible and the writings of ancient historians. In a chaotic world which seems to be governed by power and delusion, the truth about what's really going on, who is really sovereign, and what's really demanded of us, has never been more necessary.

Rev James Rattue, Chair of Churches Together in Godalming and District

jamesrattue@hotmail.com

Churches Together news and events

Good Friday Walk of Witness

An invitation to walk in witness after your Good Friday morning services of reflection and join us on the High Street as we witness to the town on the significance of Jesus going to the cross. Meet outside The Jack Phillips at 11.30am for worship songs, a short message and interactive reflection, followed by refreshments at Godalming Baptist Church.

Easter Sunday Sunrise Service at the Minster Field, Ladywell Shrine,

We desperately need musicians and singers to help lead the singing. It is a short service in a lovely setting with the most generous hospitality after the service – in the past hot chocolate and Danish pastries. If you can help, please contact Angela Gilmour on

angelagilmour181@btinternet.com

Joint services

Good Friday, 11.30am, Godalming High Street

Easter Day, 6.45am, Minster Field

Forthcoming Prayer Breakfasts

These take place at 8.30am on Saturday mornings.

25 April – Elstead Barn

23 May – Godalming United Church

27 June – Godalming Minster Brighton Road (Busbridge Church)

25 July – Milford Baptist Church

26 September – Godalming Baptist Church

24 October – St John's Church Farncombe

News of the Churches and organisations

Godalming Minster

Bereavement Journey

Please share with your congregations: We have a few spaces left on the next *Bereavement Journey* - a 6 to 7 week course for anyone who has been bereaved recently or some time ago. It runs from Tuesday 14 April to 2 June at Godalming Minster Brighton Road, in the Busbridge Old Rectory, and the content is suitable for those of all faiths and none. Find out more and sign up at <https://godalmingminster.churchsuite.com/events/laezajmw>

Tuesday Lunch at Godalming Minster Franklyn Road (St Mark's Church and Community Centre)

To avoid local confusion, the Hub has been simply renamed the *Tuesday Lunch* and will continue to offer a free lunch in a "warm space" every Tuesday from 12.30pm to 2.00pm, with time for games, tea and cake afterwards. All are welcome.

Friday Night Youth Social at Godalming Minster Brighton Road - New helpers welcome

Godalming Minster and Trinity Trust Team host a popular youth night every Friday in term time from 6.30pm to 7.45pm for Years 7 to 8 and from 8.00pm to 9.15pm for Years 9 and over. If you'd like to join the team to facilitate the fun and the catering, and enjoy mentoring young people, please get in touch with ben.barnes@godalmingminster.org. (DBS required).

godalmingminster.org

Godalming Baptist Church

Good Friday

A very happy and blessed Easter from all at GBC, and we hope that you will join us for hot cross bus after the Good Friday Service on Friday 3 April at 11.30am in the High Street - around 12.00pm at GBC.

Coffee Stop, Saturday 18 April, 10.00 to 12.00pm

Do call in for delicious homemade cakes and tea or coffee. No charge but all donations towards the work of Homestart - a charity supporting families with under-fives in our communities. There is an opportunity to browse in GBC Library and see Art Space in action!

Outing to Parham House and Gardens, 30 April

On Thursday 30 April, Friendship Lunch and Community outing are visiting Parham House and Gardens. Do call in to GBC when reception is open Monday to Friday school-term 9.00am to 12.00pm for flyers with more information and booking forms.

Neurodiversity in children, Saturday 25 April

Do come and gain a deeper understanding about autism, ADHD, dyspraxia and dyslexia to support all our children. We shall follow-up on 16 May with the session 'Neurodiversity In Adults'. Flyers available at GBC. To book a place please contact Sally Pollard on 01483-428646 or pollard3@hotmail.co.uk

Ladies Day at Ladywell, Saturday 5 September

Advance date - please book early as over-subscribed last year! Saturday 5 September, Ladies Day at Ladywell 'Learning to live above the clouds' led by Georgina Varney. We are so looking to seeing Georgina again after her years at GBC as Pastoral Assistant. Flyers available at GBC. www.godalmingbaptistchurch.org.uk

Godalming United Church

Online services: <https://guc.online.church>.

Service recordings: www.guc.org.uk, <https://bit.ly/GUCYouTube>.

Methodist Modern Art Collection comes to Guildford, 9 March to 5 April

"From Darkness... To Light". Explore stunning artworks from internationally renowned artists including Graham Sutherland, Elisabeth Frink, Patrick Heron and Maggi Hambling at St Mary's Quarry Street, Guildford GU1 3UP Free entry: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays 11.00am to 3.00pm

MMAC2026@htsmguildford.org.uk

Maundy Thursday, 2 April, 7.30pm

Holy Communion in our Upper Room overlooking the River Wey

Easter Sunday, 5 April, 10.30am

Holy Communion and dedication of Lenten Appeal gifts (supporting the work of the Red Cross in Gaza)

Lunch in support of local charities, every Friday, 12.00pm to 1.30pm

Come and enjoy convivial company and delicious great-value home-made food (three courses an option) in the delightful surroundings of our River Room. (Not Bank Holiday weekends or August).

For other events, please visit www.guc.org.uk for a constantly updated rolling calendar

Roman Catholic Parish of St Edmund, King & Martyr, Godalming with St Joseph's Milford

Pope Leo's prayer intention for April

Pope Leo's prayer intention for April is for priests in crisis. Let us pray for priests going through moments of crisis in their vocation, that they may find the accompaniment they need and that communities may support them with understanding and prayer.

Easter Services

Easter Services are at St Joseph's Milford as follows: Maundy Thursday at 8.00pm; Good Friday at 3.00pm; Holy Saturday Vigil at 8.30pm; Easter Sunday at 8.45am (St John's Farncombe) and 10.30am.

Family Stations of the Cross on Good Friday

Family Stations of the Cross on Good Friday are at St Edmund's at 10.30am.

New members joining our parish family at Easter Vigil

We look forward to welcoming seven new RCIA candidates to our parish family at the Easter Vigil, when they will receive the Sacraments of Initiation. We congratulate them and pray for them at this special time.

The Gift

The Gift is a six-week course on rediscovering the Holy Spirit and the joy of our faith, with inspiring videos, discussion and prayer. Endorsed and blessed by Pope Francis. Wednesday evenings, St Joan's Farnham Parish Centre 15 April to 20 May, 7.45pm to 9.15pm. To register or find out more, visit bit.ly/THEGIFT2026. All welcome - please register by Easter Sunday.

Weekend Masses

Weekend Masses are celebrated at St Edmund's Godalming (6.00pm Vigil Mass) on Saturday evenings (and with monthly coffee after Mass - next on 11 April); and on Sundays at St John's Farncombe at 8.45am, with children's liturgy (and with coffee after Mass on 5 and 19 April);

and at St Joseph's Milford at 10.30am.

Weekday Masses

The dates, times and venues of these vary, so please check the calendar on the home page of our website: www.stedsgod.com

St Edmund's church remains open every day, usually between 10.00am and 5.00pm (19 Croft Road, Godalming GU7 1DB).

Parish gatherings

We offer a warm welcome to newcomers at our regular parish gatherings:

- *Bumps, Babes & Toddlers* on Monday mornings at St John's Farncombe from 10.30am to 12.00pm, term time only. The group welcomes parents, carers and grandparents and babies, toddlers and pre-school children. For more info: eileen.hudson@gmail.com
- *SVP Afternoon Tea* The April tea is on Wednesday 15 April at 2.00pm at Busbridge Village Hall. Our parish SVP group meets in person monthly. For more information phone SVP on 07379 108009.
- *Prayer Group on Monday evenings* (phone Richard for details on 01252 702230), 5.00pm in winter and 7.30pm in summer.
- *Live Simply group* Our parish eco-group meets monthly online; to join the next meeting email: jolewry@aol.com
- *Bereavement group* This group offers support and meets monthly, usually on Fridays at 10.30am. More information: bereavementatsteds@gmail.com
- *EdsKnitters* This group knits for charities. If you can knit hats, gloves, scarves or blankets for adults and/or baby clothes please get in touch via the parish office: Godalming@abdiocese.org.uk

www.stedsgod.com

Chiddingfold Baptist Church

Easter

Good Friday we once again run our *Little Lights* family session; this is our toddler group which runs term time, and each Good Friday we welcome families for a special session. During this session, the Village churches come in as part of their walk of witness and read scripture and a poem. The session is 10.00am to 11.30am.

Good Friday service is at 7.00pm at the church.

Easter Sunday Celebration 10:30am

Agnostics Anonymous

Agnostics Anonymous starts on Tuesday 14 April and runs until Tuesday 19 May at 7.00pm, a six-week course. Email minister@chiddingfoldbaptist.org.uk to book onto the course.

Coffee morning and plant sale

On 2 May, from 10.00am to 12.00pm, we will run a coffee morning and plant sale to raise funds for the church; we also have six tables available for sellers to come and sell their own wares at the cost of £6 per table (contact pa@chiddingfoldbaptist.org.uk).

Ishmael

You may recall us sharing that Ishmael (Ian Smale who has written and recorded over 400 songs - including *Father God I Wonder*) will be coming to the church for our 140th anniversary. Our timings have slightly changed. Light tea from 5.00pm and Ishmael from 6.00pm on Saturday 27 June. This event is free to attend but a donation basket will be available. Ish has

also assured us that *Father God I Wonder* will be included in this event! Come along and celebrate with us.

www.chiddingfoldbaptist.org.uk

Godalming Quakers

Sunday Meetings for Worship

The regular weekly worship session continues to be held on Sunday mornings, starting at 10.30am at the Quaker Meeting House in Mill Lane, and all are welcome.

www.quaker.org.uk/meetings/godalming

Join the *Open the Book* team

Would you like to indulge your childhood passion for acting and dressing up? The *Open the Book* team, which does about three assemblies a term at Moss Lane School, which are very well received, is keen to recruit new and preferably younger members. Please contact jackscurtis@hotmail.com or jimdogshome@aol.com. Normally we meet on Monday afternoons between 2.00pm and 3.00pm but this could change.

Prayer meeting for the persecuted church

If you are interested in praying for the persecuted church, there is a zoom meeting held monthly on a Sunday at 4.00pm. Further details from David at rymissionsnews@hotmail.com

Feba

We are all praying for the Middle East just now. May I encourage you to join Feba Radio's Zoom prayer session on Wednesday 1 April from 7.00pm to 8.00pm, at which the focus will be on one of Feba's partners? Go to www.feba.org.uk/prayermeeting

Items for next month's *Link-up*

Please send items for the May 2026 edition of *Link-up* to Matt Farrow: farrow.matt@gmail.com by **Friday 24 April**, for publication on Friday 1 May.