



February 2026

LINK-up

Keeping Churches in Touch

www.godalmingchurches.org

facebook.com/ChurchesTogetherinGodalmingandDistrict

Message from the Chair

The election of Sarah Mullally as Archbishop of Canterbury is of interest to more than just Anglicans. Like the Pope, the ABC is a publicly identified Christian leader, and many ordinary people will have an idea who they are even if they don't think of themselves as Anglican or even Christian at all, and that means they may have an opinion about them.

For instance, I read a comment on Facebook this week from someone who 'wished her well' but felt constrained to point out that she was 'a fake bishop as Anglicans don't have the Apostolic Succession'. We're not going to get into those complexities here, but even putting that aside, her election finishes a process that began when women were first allowed to be ordained deacons in the Church of England in 1985, and that inescapably separates the CofE from other Churches that identify with historic Catholicism, quite apart from divisions that are still there within it. Her well-known commitment to an 'inclusive' approach to same-sex relationships and other issues will also not please many people.

In an organisation such as Churches Together, which is designed to bring together Christians with different ideas and assumptions, it's worth thinking about what issues are actually worth dividing over. I believe we should always begin from a position of charity. Dare I say even that, given how prone we are to error and self-delusion, absolute doctrinal correctness is less vital in Christian life than a fervent desire to walk with Christ in the company of others. There may reach a point when we absolutely feel we must choose an idea, a principle, over concrete community; but we should be wary of preferring our own ideas if they mean a radical break with our fellow believers.

This is not an easy, cut-and-dried process, and I have no neat conclusion, because there can't be any. In a given controversy different people will have their own red lines and sticking-points, each with rational arguments behind them. All I can suggest is that the absolute, irreducible fundamental is a determination to engage, listen, and, even when we can't grasp the point of someone else's position, not cast each other into the dark. We should not dare what only God has the right to do.

Rev James Rattue, Chair of Churches Together in Godalming and District
jamesrattue@hotmail.com

Churches Together news and events

AGM, Monday 16 March, 7.30pm

Godalming Baptist Church. Topic: 'The Quiet Revival?'

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.

28 February – St Mark's
28 March – Cellar Cafe
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
28 November – Godalming United Church

News of the Churches and organisations

Godalming Minster

Preparing for Lent and Easter

Godalming Minster is preparing for Lent and looking ahead to Easter. There will be an Ash Wednesday Communion with ashing at 7.30pm at Church Street, and the full programme for Lent and Easter will be available here: www.godalmingminster.org/easter

Prime Time events during Lent

Prime Time will be hosting three special events at Brighton Road during Lent which are open to all senior friends, and you can find out all the details on the online calendar, or by emailing primetime@godalmingminster.org:

- *Soup and Roll Lunch, Friday 27 February*
- *Movie Matinee, Saturday 14 March* – showing a political thriller starring Ralph Fiennes, Stanley Tucci, John Lithgow, Sergio Castellitto, and Isabella Rossellini. In the film, Cardinal Thomas Lawrence (Fiennes) organizes a conclave to elect the next pope and finds himself investigating secrets and scandals about the major candidates.
- *Celebration of Age Service, 27 March*

Alpha and Bible courses

The Alpha Course alongside the Bible Course at Godalming Minster Franklyn Road, GU7 2LD, are underway, and we are praying for participants and everyone involved in running the courses.

Godalming Community Gospel Choir 15th anniversary celebration

Saturday 21 March, 7.30pm at The Minster, Church Street Godalming GU7 1EW

Directed by Russell Blackman and accompanist Vaughan Larmond and band with special guest appearances from Hermione Thomas and Marsha Morrison.

Admission: Adults £15 includes interval drink and programme. Children free.

Tickets from GCGCinformation@gmail.com, on the door on the day, or Record Corner, Godalming – Cash only

godalmingminster.org

St John's Parish Church, Farncombe

February will bring the beginning of Lent, and we will be marking the penitential season with the usual proper observances and thinking of other ways to promote spiritual reflection this year.

We had hoped to run an enquirers' course in January following the successful one last year but without enough takeup to make it work we will rest that until a future occasion.

However, a board games afternoon with some very, very light spiritual content proved successful, and we will be taking that forward.

Our new Church Development Plan will be reviewed at the Archdeacon's Visitation at the start of the month. For Anglican churches these occasions used to focus on checking the silver was still in place in the church safe but over recent years we have made rather better use of them!

www.farncombe.org.uk

Godalming Baptist Church

Coffee Stop, Saturday 7 February

Please do call in between 10.00am to 12.00pm for delicious homemade cake and biscuits. There is no charge, but all donations much appreciated towards the Samson Centre Guildford, supporting those with multiple sclerosis.

Korean Choir, 16 and 17 February

The Korean Choir who visited us several times from the late 90s until 2015 are returning to the UK this year. In early February they will be in Belgium and Germany, and their first UK concert is here in Godalming in the Baptist Church. The 25-strong choir are graduates in music, many in voice, and the admission free concert will be at 7.30pm on Monday 16 February.

There will be an offering plate at the back of the church as the audience leave to show their appreciation and help with the choir's expenses. To be sure of a seat, tickets are available from the reception desk from Monday to Friday from 9.00am to 12.00pm and on Sunday Mornings, from 9.30am to 12.00pm with any still available at the door on the evening of the performance.

The following morning, Tuesday 17 February, there will be a short performance with tea and biscuits at 10.45am, for those unable to come to the evening performance. Again, this will be free, with a plate available for those wishing to contribute. Contact Eric and Barbara Jarman if you would like further information on 07504 309134.

Book review: *Everybody, always: Becoming love in a world full of setbacks and difficult people*, by Bob Goff

In his entertaining and inspiring follow-up to the New York Times bestselling *Love Does*, Bob Goff takes readers on a journey into the secret of living without fear, constraint or worry. The path towards the liberated existence we all long for is found in a truth as simple as it is hard to do: love people, even the difficult ones, without distinction and without limits.

Driven by Bob's trademark storytelling, *Everybody, always* reveals the lessons Bob learned - often the hard way - about what it means to love without inhibition, insecurity or restriction. From finding the right friends to discovering the upside of failure, *Everybody, always* points the way to embodying love by doing the unexpected, the intimidating, the seemingly impossible. Whether losing his shoes while skydiving solo or befriending a Ugandan witch doctor, Bob steps into life with a no-limits embrace of others that is as infectious as it is extraordinary ordinary. *Everybody, always* reveals how we can do the same.

Ecumenical ladies' breakfast, Saturday 21 March

Ladies, please keep in your diaries Saturday 21 March, 9.00am to 11.00am, when we are

holding an ecumenical ladies' breakfast at GBC. Please come and enjoy breakfast, followed by some time of worship and a speaker. It would be lovely to see you there and enjoy time together! More details to follow in the March *Link-Up*

www.godalmingbaptistchurch.org.uk

Godalming United Church

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

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

URC beliefs, Wednesday 4 February, 7.30pm

The last session of our four-part course on the story of the two "parent" churches in our Local Ecumenical Partnership: URC beliefs – led by Rev Michael Hopkins, Moderator of Wessex URC Synod.

Annual pantomime, Saturday 7 and Sunday 8 February

Four performances of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. For tickets, contact beckylkeene@gmail.com or see church website.

Board games and card games, Wednesday 18 February

2.00pm to 4.00pm, Fellowship and fun at the Wayfarers' Rest, Godalming High Street. Come and learn new board games and card games - children welcome as it's half-term week.

Messy Church, Saturday 28 February

3.00pm to 5.00pm, Messy Church "Ino the Desert" - Bible-themed fun for all the family: crafts, games, church trail, storytime and songs, party tea. messy.church@guc.org.uk

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

www.guc.org.uk

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

Pope Leo's prayer intention for February

Pope Leo's prayer intention for February is for children who are suffering from incurable diseases; that they and their families receive the necessary medical care and support, never losing strength and hope.

Bishop Richard Moth

Bishop Richard Moth leaves our diocese on 14 February to take up his new appointment as Archbishop of Westminster. Until then he remains our bishop and we give thanks to God for his nearly 10 years with us as Bishop of Arundel and Brighton. We will miss his kindness, his wisdom, and his sense of humour, and we pray for him in his new role. The process to appoint a new bishop often takes a year or so and will begin in February.

Mass with Anointing of the Sick

This Mass takes place at 2.00pm on Sunday 15 February in the chapel at Ladywell Convent, followed by afternoon tea. The sacrament of the sick is for those members of the church whose health is 'seriously impaired by old age or sickness in mind or body', and lifts can be arranged. Please contact the parish SVP group on 07379 108009.

The Presentation of the Lord, 'Candlemas'

During February we celebrate The Presentation of the Lord, 'Candlemas' on Monday 2 February, and mark Racial Justice Day on Sunday 8 February, and the Day for the Unemployed on Sunday 15 February.

Lent

The Season of Lent starts on 18 February with Ash Wednesday Mass (with the distribution of ashes) at 10.00am at St Joseph's Milford and 7.30pm at St Edmund's Godalming.

Stations of the Cross

Stations of the Cross during Lent are on Fridays at 6.30pm at St Joseph's Milford. Wintershall Stations of the Cross are on Friday 6 February at 8.00am; all are welcome. Meet outside Stable Cottage to join the walk, refreshments afterwards.

CAFOD Lent Fast Day

CAFOD Lent Fast Day is on Friday 27 February, and there are Appeal talks at Masses on the weekend of 21 and 22 February.

The Big Lent Walk

Our CAFOD fundraiser during Lent, 'The Big Lent Walk' will be even bigger than usual this year as we join forces with all our neighbouring parishes under the banner of our new Guildford parish. We will be asking parishioners to sign up to walk 5km (10,000 steps) each day for the 40 days of Lent and raise funds to help people overcome poverty, with a special focus on the people of Bangladesh, Sudan and Zimbabwe.

Knitting Group

Our parish group 'EdKnitters' knits for charities and recently delivered a bundle of knits to the Royal Surrey Charity. Please get in touch with us if you knit/crochet and would like to join us.

Weekend Masses

Weekend Masses are celebrated at St Edmund's Godalming (6.00pm Vigil Mass) on Saturday evenings; and on Sundays at St John's Farncombe at 8.45am, with children's liturgy (and with coffee after Mass on 1 and 3 February); 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 10am and 4pm (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 February tea is on Wednesday 11 February 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; the next meeting is on Thursday 5 February, 8.00pm. Joining details: 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

The Franciscan Centre Ladywell

Step away from the noise and haste of your everyday life and into the quiet beauty of the Franciscan Centre Ladywell in the heart of Surrey. Set on expansive grounds which are peaceful and beautiful, with wonderful walks and a stunning woodland to explore, find God in the sacred book of nature and in the peaceful, prayerfulness of our wonderful house.

February 6-Day Individually Guided Retreat (IGR)

Date: 8 to 15 February, 15 to 22 March

Suggested offering: £550

Each day you will be accompanied by a trained spiritual director, who will listen attentively and offer suggestions for allowing you to go deeper into your relationship with God.

Arrival Sunday evening from 4.00pm and depart next Sunday morning after breakfast and Mass.

Lent Retreat

Date: 27 February to 1 March

Suggested offering: £210

The Spirit drove Jesus into the wilderness. (Mark 1:12)

During Lent we're invited to shed what is superfluous and enter into the desert with Christ.

A Way in the Wilderness – finding meaning Direction and Hope in Lent

Date: 6 to 8 March

Suggested Offering: £210

Where does the wilderness lie? Where might we find it? Not only in sand and rock. It stretches between ending and beginning; between loss of meaning and its recovery; between awareness of deep longing and finding that which we long for; between questioning and the start of understanding. In the Bible the wilderness is also a place of encounter with God, where we learn to understand ourselves afresh. Using insights from the Bible, poetry and the Christian spiritual tradition we will explore our own experiences of wilderness and the invitation of God within them.

<https://franciscancentre.org.uk>

Chiddingfold Baptist Church

Firstly, we would like to thank Churches Together in Godalming and District for welcoming us; we are thankful to be part of this shared Christian witness.

Makaton training

Level 1 Makaton training Saturday 28 February and Saturday 7 March 2.00pm to 5.00pm. £75 per person (includes a manual and level 1 certificate). 12 spaces available, payment by 13 February, bookings@chiddingfoldbaptist.org.uk

Little Lights

Every Friday during term time we run our toddler group (we also welcome older siblings) 10.00am to 11.30am, first session is free and then it's £1 for your first child and 50p for siblings. We have a seated snack time with fruits and biscuits; refreshments also served for adults. We recently started introducing Makaton during story time, which always carries a Christian message. Contact hello@chiddingfoldbaptist.org.uk

Agnostics Anonymous

We are preparing to run 'Agnostics Anonymous', a course written by Rev. Andy Twilley (South Eastern Baptist Association regional Minister). This course is useful as a pre-Alpha and designed for those who are exploring life's big questions, who are unsure about God, faith or

religion; curious but cautious, thoughtful sceptics, agnostics or 'not sure what I believe' types. Contact minister@chiddingfoldbaptist.org.uk for more information

140 years!

This year we celebrate 140 years of Chiddingfold Baptist Church, and we have a special evening with Ishmael (I'm sure many of you know of him!) Saturday 27 June at 5.00pm (light tea from 4.00pm). All are welcome.

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.

Trinity Trust Team

Over 20 years ago, a group of forward-thinking clergy and church members decided it was important to have Christian youth workers active not only in our churches but in our local schools and communities – to be a positive presence for Christ in a world that had become indifferent or even hostile towards Him.

For over two decades, Trinity Trust Team has been that presence, running after-school clubs and youth groups, delivering assemblies and school workshops, leading services and retreat days, partnering with local churches and youth-focused organisations, and gaining the trust and respect from local churches, schools, government and statutory organisations along the way.

2026 presents some of the biggest financial challenges we have faced, as we continually seek new funding opportunities to support, in particular, our church and community-based projects. We ask all those who have supported us so faithfully to renew your prayer for the Lord to show us the way forwards, trusting in Him to reveal His plan for our ministries.

Our Newsletter to donors to be circulated by the end of the month will carry a similar plea, and to any who are aware of relevant funding channels that we might explore and pursue.

If you, or someone you know might be connected to grant giving bodies or corporations committed to supporting charitable causes, please contact andy@trinitytrustteam.co.uk

Please pray for:

- continued open doors to prosper the gospel locally in 2026
- the right funding to support/grow our various ministries
- new/existing partnerships within local churches to flourish
- local young people to want to know Jesus and be transformed by him

We continue to thank all those who play a part in and support the youth ministry of the Trinity

Trust Team. Our thanks and blessings to you all as ever..

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

The next Zoom prayer meeting for Feba, a media charity with partners in many of the countries on the newly released Open Doors World Watch list, will take place on Wednesday 4 February at 7.00pm. Details from www.feba.org.uk/prayer

Items for next month's *Link-up*

Please send items for the March 2026 edition of *Link-up* to Matt Farrow:

farrow.matt@gmail.com by **Friday 20 February**, for publication on Friday 27 January.