



June 2026

LINK-up

Keeping Churches in Touch

www.godalmingchurches.org

facebook.com/ChurchesTogetherinGodalmingandDistrict

Message from the Chair

It is a longstanding joke among churches that keep the traditional calendar that nobody ever wants to preach on Trinity Sunday because of the difficulty of saying anything comprehensible about the subject. This year at St John's I decided to go for broke and combine the theme of Trinity Sunday with Pope Leo's encyclical *Magnifica Humanitas*. 'Can you do a precis?' someone asked and the answer was probably no. I'm not sure how well I managed.

I did try to put across how the encyclical is about much more than Artificial Intelligence, as it has been billed, but deals with issues such as war, work, truth, and democracy. It is as one might expect a very substantial and significant piece of work. The attention it's rightly attracted made me think of other Papal statements such as Pope Francis's encyclical on the environment, *Laudato Si'*, and I considered the way even those of us outside the Roman Catholic Church seem to have come to look for its head for thoughtful statements of how the Christian faith is brought to bear on the big issues of the world.

This was not always the case. Looking back through the list of papal encyclicals over the centuries you can see how they have become bigger events than they once were. Earlier popes often wrote about very specific and short-term topics. I think my favourite is perhaps Benedict XIV's from 1751, *Prodiit Iamdudum*, containing instructions on what to do when the last day of Carnival and the fast of the Vigil of St Matthias fall on the same day. I doubt anyone refers to that much now. Then there's Pius IX's *Ubi Nos* from 1871, which complains about the loss of the Papal States, and 'complains' is the right word: 'our heart is full of bitterness', he writes, and then states 'our rights are God's rights', which I doubt any of his successors would say now.

In fact I suspect the loss of the Papal States was a crucial point of change, as the Papacy no longer thought of itself as an earthly ruler and was liberated to start speaking for the whole of Christianity. It was Pius IX's successor Leo XIII who wrote *Rerum Novarum*, the document that really began Catholic social teaching and which Leo XIV quotes from repeatedly in *Magnifica Humanitas*. There's something for all Churches to learn from here: say something that it's worth humanity hearing, and at least some of it will listen.

Rev James Rattue, Chair of Churches Together in Godalming and District
rector@farncombe.org.uk

Churches Together news and events

Forthcoming Prayer Breakfasts

These take place at 8.30am on Saturday mornings.

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

We're hiring

Godalming Minster is currently advertising for three positions: a [Finance Manager](#), an [Administration Coordinator for Mission and Occasions](#) and a [Ministry Experience Participant](#) (for 18-29 year olds).

The closing dates for the first two part-time roles are coming up on 8 June (Admin Coordinator) and 16 June for the Finance Manager. Assuming no conflict of interest, please do share them in notices as we'd love people of faith – wherever they worship – to join the team.

The MES role is part of the national church scheme to enable young people to explore their vocational calling with a local church for a year. Participants will be funded through a living allowance and free accommodation, and we would love to welcome any young people between 18 and 29 this September to join our team and test their calling to youth and children's work, musical worship, or another area of ministry.

You can find details of each role and how to apply on our [website](#). Please do share them with your congregations, and anyone you know who might be right for the roles.

Please get in touch with the Minster Office if you'd like an informal chat about any of these opportunities. T: 01483 421267 e: office@godalmingminster.org

Bishop's Praise and Prayer Night

The Bishop of Dorking and acting Bishop of Guildford, The Rt Revd Paul Davies, is hosting a special Praise and Prayer Night at Godalming Minster Church Street on Thursday 16 July, and has issued an invitation to all parishes in the Godalming Deanery to attend. Starting at 7.00pm with refreshments and time to meet others. Bishop Paul's invitation can be found in full in the calendar: <https://godalmingminster.churchsuite.com/events/hpavk5h2>

This supports Godalming Minster's local focus on encouraging prayer personally and as a church. Revds Chris Lion and John Valentine will be leading two evenings on Thursdays 25 June and 2 July from 7.30pm to 9.45pm at Godalming Minster Brighton Road. Find out more at <https://godalmingminster.churchsuite.com/events/64aisrv>.

Holiday Club

Bookings are now open for our [Kingdom Quest Holiday Club](#) at Godalming Minster from 26 to 28 August. It runs from 9.00am to 3.00pm at Brighton Road for ages 5 to 11. The cost is just £50 for three days, or £20 per day. Invitations are spaces are limited, but we'd love to share the invitation with everyone in Churches Together. Find out more at <https://godalmingminster.churchsuite.com/events/klivnqhy>

godalmingminster.org

St John's Parish Church, Farncombe

We had a very successful Spring Fair in May, with lots of organisations taking part and many friends from the parish coming along to enjoy themselves. In monetary terms, we made only a little less than the record total of 2025.

We are looking to complete some practical works around the building which have been advised for some time. This month, the Board Games afternoon takes place on Sunday 14 at 4.00pm and contemplative service Sanctus at 6.00pm on Sunday 21.

www.farncombe.org.uk

Godalming Baptist Church

Relationships – the good, the bad and the ugly – aiming for the good

The next life issue session - Relationships – the good, the bad and the ugly – aiming for the good - will be held on Saturday 20 June. This will be led by Libby Williams, who led a brilliant session on trauma last year. Libby will look at how and why we relate as we do to others. It promises to be such a worthwhile morning. To book a place - cost £8 per person - please contact Sally Pollard on 01483-428646 or pollard3@hotmail.co.uk.

New monthly evening service

A new monthly evening service is starting at GBC on Sunday 31 May at 6.30pm.

Women's day at Ladywell, 5 September

Just a reminder to book early for the women's day at Ladywell as it was over-subscribed last year. It will be held on Saturday 5 September and will be led by Georgina Varney. This is a great opportunity to come away from the demands of life to the beautiful surroundings at Ladywell and to be encouraged and blessed! Please book with Sally as above details. Booking forms are at GBC or please contact Sally as above-thank you.

Outing to the Isle of Wight

There is a special Friendship Lunch/churches and community outing to look forward to on Thursday 16 July to the Isle of Wight. Do call in to reception for more information and a booking form.

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 discover 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.

Our library is usually open Monday to Friday 9.00am to 12.00pm. Do call in - there is a great selection of books to borrow on Life Issues and also books to encourage us on our faith journey.

www.godalmingbaptistchurch.org.uk

Godalming United Church

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

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

Annual Collection for the Whitechapel Mission for the Homeless

The Whitechapel Mission has helped the homeless in London since 1876. Today, it is recognised as one of London's most effective homeless charities. The cost-of-living crisis sadly means that the need continues to grow. Entirely dependent on public support, the Whitechapel Mission always needs donations. Items highlighted in **bold** below are needed the most urgently.

BREAKFAST FOODS: Cornflakes, Weetabix, Nutella, chopped tomatoes, brown sauce, sugar, honey, plum tomatoes, chopped tomatoes, biscuits, baked beans, instant hot chocolate, coffee, squash, salt, black ground pepper, ketchup, honey, chocolate

spread, porridge, tinned fruit, bottled water, peanut Butter

MEN'S CLOTHING: Underpants, boxers, jeans 28-36", trousers 28-34", men's trainers, men's shoes, small rucksacks, winter jackets, winter coats, baseball caps, t-shirts, woollen scarves, woollen gloves, woollen hats, jumpers, bath towels, hand towels

TOILETRIES: Toothbrushes, roll-on deodorant, razors, shaving foam, shower gel, spray deodorant, razors, body lotion, body wash, shampoo, moisturiser, hand cream

The trailer will be in the church car park at the following dates and times:

Friday 26 June	12.00pm to 1.30pm	Friday 3 July	12.00pm to 1.30pm
Saturday 27 June	10.30am to 12.00pm	Saturday 4 July	10.30am to 12.00pm
Sunday 28 June	11.30am to 12.30pm	Saturday 4 July	2.00pm to 3.00pm
Tuesday 30 June	2.00pm to 3.00pm	Sunday 5 July	11.30am to 12.30pm
Wednesday 1 July	6.00pm to 7.00pm	Monday 6 July	7.00pm to 8.00pm

Church anniversary and annual summer BBQ, Sunday 5 July, 10.30am

Morning service followed by BBQ, strawberries & cream, and entertainments. Contact frymaile@gmail.com for more info or see church magazine on church website. £10 adult, £5 child.

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 June

Pope Leo's prayer intention for June is that sports be an instrument of peace, encounter, and dialogue among cultures and nations, and that they promote values such as respect, solidarity, and personal growth.

Corpus Christi - Sunday 7 June

We celebrate this feast with Mass and a procession at Ladywell Convent, starting at 10.45am, with refreshments in the gardens afterwards. This is the one time in the year when we try to gather as a single parish, so there is no 8.45am Mass on this day. Our annual Pete's Plant Sale for Kasanka takes place this year on Corpus Christi – please grow, donate and buy plants at the sale and help us raise money to support the literacy project at the St Francis Community School in Kasanka.

Remembering our loved ones

Our parish bereavement group invites you to join them for this special Mass in the Ladywell Chapel on Wednesday 17 June at 10.30am. It's an opportunity to pray for any family or friends who have gone to the Lord. You are welcome to bring a photo or memento to place on the altar, and to join us for coffee, tea, cake and chat after Mass.

Permanent Diaconate

Fr Jonathan and Deacon Simon would like to invite anyone who would to know more about a vocation to the Diaconate, to supper at St Edmund's on Thursday 18 June at 7.00pm.

Wintershall Life of Christ

Tickets are available for performances on Thursday 18, Friday 19 and Saturday 20 June, from 10.00am to 3.30pm. This powerful drama, which is performed outside on the nearby Wintershall estate in Bramley, is a truly memorable experience, don't miss it!

www.wintershall.org.uk

Day for Life – 21 June

This is the day in the Church's year dedicated to raising awareness about the meaning and value of human life at every stage and in every condition, and emphasising the Church's message that life is to be nurtured from conception to natural death. This year's theme for the Day for Life is The Wonder of the Child in the Womb.

Weekend Masses

These 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 7 and 21 June); 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 June tea is on Wednesday 10 June at 2.00pm at Busbridge Village Hall. Our parish SVP group meets in person monthly and welcomes new volunteers. For more information phone SVP on 07379 108009.
- *Prayer Group on Monday evenings* in Elstead (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 Sarah in the parish office: godalming@abdiocese.org.uk
- *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

Puzzle morning and plant sale, Saturday 6 June, 10.00am to 12.00pm

Join us on Saturday 6 June for a morning of puzzles over a cuppa and cake. Let's come together and raise money for mental health charity, Legend on the Bench and for our church. To learn more about Legend on the bench, visit www.legend-on-the-bench.co.uk. We will also have plants for sale, puzzles, books, and CDs - all items that can support mental health.

An evening with Ishmael, Saturday 27 June, 6.00pm (5.00pm for light tea)

To celebrate our 140th anniversary, we welcome Ian Smale (Ishmael) to our church, he will perform a number of his songs including "Father God I Wonder". You may have seen him over the years at spring harvest, he is now an ordained minister in the Church of England. Come along and celebrate with us. Entry is free, a donation basket will be available.

It would be helpful to know numbers so please RSVP to: hello@chiddingfoldbaptist.org.uk

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

Items for next month's Link-up

Please send items for the July 2026 edition of *Link-up* to Matt Farrow: farrow.matt@gmail.com by **Friday 19 June**, for publication on Friday 26 June.