



March 2026

LINK-up

Keeping Churches in Touch

www.godalmingchurches.org

facebook.com/ChurchesTogetherinGodalmingandDistrict

Message from the Chair

It was only a month ago that Andrew, the Anglican Bishop of Guildford, told the diocese that he'd been diagnosed with incurable pancreatic cancer a few weeks before, and his death was announced on Tuesday 3 March. You don't expect bishops to die in office, still less in their mid-60s. Only a few days ago I was at the Cathedral taking part in the prayer vigil organised on Andrew's behalf, so for him to be gone so suddenly increases the sense of disorientation and shock.

Apart from completely independent churches, every Christian denomination has some kind of structure of authority and organisation, but for Churches that are episcopally-governed – that is, which have bishops – the relationship with people that occupy those positions of oversight has an extra element. It's not just a matter of management; it isn't even primarily about ensuring that ministers teach and do the things they are supposed to teach and do. Even if we don't see or interact with the bishop very often, even if we might disagree with the stance they take on this or that matter, the relationship is basically personal, familial. The bishop is the person who we are all connected with, and so forms the link between us; and not only the church members in their diocese now, but into the past and the future, as they are part of a succession that extends across time.

I think this can teach us something about all our church-community structures. We are called by Christ into community with one another – not just assenting to a set of beliefs, but a set of meaningful relationships with actual human beings, for whom Christ died.

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 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

We're Hiring: Foodbank and Community Centre Manager

Godalming Minster is seeking a compassionate and organised Foodbank and Community Centre Manager to lead and develop two vital expressions of Christian service within the local community. Based at Godalming Minster Franklyn Road (St Mark's Church and Community Centre) in Godalming, this is an exciting opportunity for a practising Christian who is passionate about mission, community engagement, and supporting those in need.

Hours: 18 hours per week – arranged over three days including 9.00am to 3.00pm, Monday and Wednesday.

Salary: £25,000–£28,000 FTE (depending on experience and qualifications)

Contract: 12-month fixed term (with anticipated extension)

More information can be found at <https://godalmingminster.org/2026/02/23/were-hiring/>. Please get in touch with Rev Mike Moritz if you would like to talk to someone about the role: mike.moritz@godalmingminster.org

Godalming Minster Foodbank, St Marks Community Centre

It is a sad reality that the need for foodbank provision is essential for many families in our area. Our clients range from families with small children, through single people of all ages, including the elderly, all struggling to make ends meet. We feel that it is a privilege to be able to help, and we like to welcome clients and make them feel at home. Some people have to dash in and out, but for those who wish to stay longer, we offer a hot drink and a safe space to sit down for a while, during which time we enjoy many lovely conversations. Christmas was particularly special, with extra bags of Christmas goodies.

We are open on Mondays and Wednesdays from 12.30pm to 2.00pm. If you know of an individual or family in need, please do refer them to us. One-off emergency parcels are freely available, and we provide a referral form for clients who need foodbank support over an extended period.

Donations are very welcome, and anything you feel able to provide would be greatly appreciated. You could add items to your weekly shop occasionally, and drop them off at Franklyn Road. The current shopping list of items we particularly need can be found at <https://godalmingminster.org/explore/help-support/foodbank>. Or you can donate at <https://godalmingminster.org/connect/giving>, labelling your donation "Foodbank".

And we would particularly value it if you could remember the Foodbank and our clients in your prayers!

New Children's and Families Pastor

We are delighted to announce that David Bott has been appointed as our new part-time Children's and Families Pastor. David Bott grew up in Godalming and brings with him a wealth of experience working with children, particularly through his 14 years as a teacher, and we are

so excited to welcome him into the life of the Minster. David shares the CYF ministry with Judith Hawkey, our other part-time CYF Pastor for 4-11s. Judith is continuing her mid-week ministry to the local primary schools, and David will oversee Sunday groups and special occasions.

The bereavement journey course

The Bereavement Journey Course is a 6/7-week course for anyone who has been bereaved either recently or some time ago. It is being held at Busbridge Old Rectory, GU7 1XB, starting on Tuesday 14 April, from 7.00pm to 9.00pm. It is led by the Godalming Minster Pastoral Support team. If you wish to reserve a place on this course or simply want more information the contact is pastoral@godalmingminster.org.

Fourth anniversary of the war in Ukraine

On Tuesday 24 February, the fourth anniversary of the war in Ukraine was marked with a short ceremony at the Godalming Council Offices, followed by a prayer gathering at Godalming Minster Church Street. Members of the Ukrainian community and friends then came to the Yew Tree Café at Godalming Minster Brighton Road to enjoy the Ukrainian national dish of Borscht - free to all visitors to mark the day. Borscht is still on the menu at the café if you'd like to try this very tasty soup while it lasts. Our café manager, Natalia and assistant manager, Olena find great comfort in all the support they have received, and in sharing Ukrainian style hospitality at this time.

Easter events

Our Easter events and services can be found on the website:

<https://godalmingminster.org/explore/whats-on/easter/>

godalmingminster.org

St John's Parish Church, Farncombe

Board games afternoon

Our trial Board games afternoon proved successful, so the team is aiming at running one every second Sunday in the month going forward – the next will be at 4.00pm on 8 March.

Sanctus service

Because of Mothering Sunday on 15 March, our relatively new third-Sunday contemplative service Sanctus will move to the 22nd this month – this is also something that might appeal to friends from other churches and takes the form of gentle music, light, and prayer before the Blessed Sacrament for about twenty minutes.

Lumos candlelit concert

Lumos stage a second candlelit concert with us on the evening of Saturday 28 March, for which see their website: www.lumos-experiences.com/events/godalming.

Passiontide Devotion and Stations of the Cross

We have a musical Passiontide Devotion on the evening of Palm Sunday, to which all are welcome, and the same applies to Stations of the Cross at 6.00pm on Friday 20 March and noon on Saturday 28 March, the latter outside if it's dry enough.

www.farncombe.org.uk

Godalming Baptist Church

Christianity Explored

A free seven-week course looking into life's big questions, the man who claimed to be God and how this changed the world. Starts Monday 2 March, 6.30pm to 8.00pm. For more information, contact office.gbchurch@gmail.com

Coffee Stop, Saturday 7 March

Please do join us for delicious homemade cakes and tea and coffee from 10.00am to 12.00pm. No charge but donations much appreciated towards our chosen monthly charity Cut Out Cancer - rotarycutoutcancer.enthuse.com/profile

Life Issue 'Navigating Retirement', Saturday 14 March

Led by Peter Shaw (coffee from 9.30am). Do come and gain a deeper understanding of what retirement brings. Peter will consider questions such as *How can we use our experience, time and energy in a creative and fulfilling way? How can we experience retirement as an exciting entry into the next phase of life?* This promises to be such a helpful and informative morning. To book a place please contact Sally Pollard on 01483 428646 or pollard3@hotmail.co.uk. There is no charge, but donations much appreciated for Tear Fund.

Women's Breakfast, Saturday 21 March, 9.00am to 11.00am

You are warmly invited to join us at Godalming Baptist Church for a continental breakfast (£3 per person). Sarah Shelley, from Binscombe, will share with us after breakfast 'When God is doing more than we can see' Please contact Sally as above, for catering purposes by Saturday 14 March if you would like to join us.

Friendship Lunch and Community Outing to Parham House and Gardens

Thursday 30 April. Please do call in to GBC for a flyer and booking form if you would like to come.

Book review: The highway code for retirement by David Winter

Are you retired or about to be? Whether this seems an exciting or daunting prospect, this uplifting, positive and practical guide - written by someone who has retired more than once - will help you in this transitional time.

David Winter will show you that retirement can be a positive and exciting new chapter in your life. Looking at issues such as planning for retirement, facing life without work and without other people involved. David offers practical wisdom and real-life case studies to prepare you financially, emotionally and spiritually for this new stage of life. His honest, accessible style will help you answer some of the big questions and plan your retirement in a way that suits you.

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, Guildford, 9 March to 5 April

Methodist Modern Art Collection comes to Guildford. *From Darkness ... To Light*. Explore stunning artworks from internationally renowned artists including Graham Sutherland, Elisabeth Frink, Patrick Heron, Maggi Hambling at St Mary's Quarry Street, Guildford GU1 3UP Free entry: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday 11.00am to 3.00pm.

MMAC2026@htsmguildford.org.uk

Messy Church, 21 March, 3.00pm to 5.00pm

Messy Church – Egg Trail and More. Family fun for all ages. Bible-themed activities based around the Easter story: crafts, games, church trail, storytime and songs, party tea.

messy.church@guc.org.uk

Maundy Thursday, 2 April, 7.30pm

Holy Communion in our Upper Room overlooking the River Wey

Easter Sunday, 5 April 5, 10.30am

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

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

Pope Leo's prayer intention for March

Pope Leo's prayer intention for March is for disarmament and peace. Let us pray that nations move toward effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.

Lent Small Groups

We have several Lent groups taking place in the parish, all following the 'We Dare to Ask' programme, which focuses on our baptismal vows and the vocation to discipleship. If you are free to join a group on Monday evening, Tuesday afternoon or Friday morning, please check our website for more information or contact the parish office. No sign up is required, please feel free to come along.

CAFOD Big Lent Walk

We have joined with the larger Guildford Catholic Parish this year, and our walkers are committing to walk 5km each day of Lent (or as much as they have the time and energy for) so that we can cover the distance of approx. 10,000km to Bangladesh – and pray for and raise funds for the projects which CAFOD supports, helping communities to grow food in conditions of flooding and drought, and to access clean water. Our fundraising page is here:

<https://parishes.walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/catholic-parish-of-guildford-fundraising-page>

Stations of the Cross

Stations of the Cross during Lent are on Friday evenings at St Joseph's Milford, 6.30pm to 7.00pm; and at Wintershall on Friday 6 March, 8.00am. All are welcome, meet outside Stable Cottage to join the walk, refreshments afterwards.

Confession during Lent

Confession during Lent is available at St Joseph's from 10.00am to 11.00am on Saturdays 7 and 28 March from 10.00am to 11.00am; and at St Joseph's Guildford there will be all day Confession, 8.30am to 4.00pm, on Saturday 21 March.

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 15 March); 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 March tea is on Wednesday 11 March 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 March, 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

Milford Baptist Church

Rooted and Held: A Mother's Day ministry experience

Saturday 14 March, 9.00am to 12.30pm

Refresh your spirit, learn pastoral skills, find social connection. Join us for a morning of healing and hope. All details and bookings: www.makesensetraining.com/event-details/rooted-held-1

Brick Church, Sunday 22 March, 3.00pm

In partnership with St John's Church, Milford. Join our adventure through Bible stories with Lego bricks, songs, videos and refreshments. Everyone welcome, no booking required. Activities are most suitable for ages 2-10, with parent participation. Contact milfordbaptistinfo@gmail.com for more information.

Kingdom Builders Holiday Club for Reception to Year 6

Monday 30 March to Wednesday 1 April, 9.45am to 12.30pm

Kingdom Builders is a three-day children's holiday club, inviting children to explore the kingdom of heaven, as described by Jesus in Matthew's Gospel. So pick up your hard hat of salvation and tool belt of truth and let's get building! There is no charge for the holiday club, but if you would like to donate we suggest £3 per child per day which includes all crafts, a drink and a mid-morning snack. To register, please visit

<https://forms.gle/VYGfEMUgPJVAc7pp9>

www.milfordbaptistchurch.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

Feba will hold another of its online prayer meetings on Wednesday 4 March at 7.00pm. Please join them to pray for countries where Christians are under pressure for their faith. Go to www.feba.org.uk/prayer

Items for next month's *Link-up*

Please send items for the April 2026 edition of *Link-up* to Matt Farrow: farrow.matt@gmail.com by **Friday 20 March**, for publication on Friday 27 March.