



May 2026

LINK-up

Keeping Churches in Touch

www.godalmingchurches.org

facebook.com/ChurchesTogetherinGodalmingandDistrict

Message from the Chair

There are many ways of analysing and thinking about the processes which go into determining how people vote, but one is to view them in terms of how we think about resources. It seems obvious that, if one person or group of people has access to a resource – say jobs, housing, or doctors' appointments – then someone else won't. It's a lesson that we learn early on in life and though we have to unlearn many of our earliest lessons it's hard to get past that one. An economist may insist that reality isn't that simple, but straitened times such as we are in give an added bite to what many people feel deeply is a basic fact about human society; and results may reflect voters feeling that they, or people like them, are not getting, or may lose, access to limited resources that others will get instead.

This apparently realistic and commonsensical world-view the Bible has no truck with at all. Biblical social ethics insists on the sharing of resources, all of which ultimately belong to God, a radical surrender of anxiety on the grounds that God rewards open-handedness, and that the weak and less competitively fit are cared for. It certainly doesn't like fraudsters exploiting the community (St Paul has hard words to say about that), and there is plenty of room for debate about how these ideas play out in practice, but it's absolutely clear, overall, what the Lord expects.

Our Christian communities once saw themselves in competition with each other, and of course at one time it was a matter not just of competition, but sometimes violent conflict. Today we probably regard ourselves as, mainly, offering a range of rather different experiences of worship and religious community from which people looking for a spiritual home select one that suits them. They may find themselves moving from one to another over time as their needs develop and change, and we rather expect and accept that. We also know that the great majority of local people don't find their way into our churches at all, so there are plenty of souls to go around! In times that are as difficult for the Church as they are for society as a whole, it's natural to focus on our own communities and what happens to them. If Christian life is lived within community, those immediately around us must have the first call on our time and energy, and that's understandable. But we must never lose sight of the broader picture and set aside at least something for a more common Christian endeavour: to share that much of what we have, at any rate.

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.

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

Summer is getting underway, and many of our groups are going from strength to strength. The Hearing Aid Clinics are busy, particularly at Godalming Library on third Mondays, and there are new young people coming along to the Friday Night Youth Social which we run with Trinity Trust Team each week. The Bereavement Journey is underway with participants who are within the Minster family, but mostly new friends.

Ascension Day Eucharist, 14 May

Everyone is welcome to join us at the Ascension Day Eucharist on Wednesday 14 May at 7.30pm at Godalming Minster Church Street, St Peter and St Paul’s. Please share the invitation in your notices if appropriate.

Opportunities

Godalming Minster is currently advertising for 3 positions: a [Finance Manager](#), an [Administration Coordinator for Mission and Occasions](#), and a [Ministry Experience Participant](#) (for 18-29 year olds).

The first two roles are paid and part-time, and would be great for someone who would like to join our staff team, and use their skills and expertise to support God’s work in Godalming.

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 the website at <https://godalmingminster.org/news/>. 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

godalmingminster.org

St John’s Parish Church, Farncombe

Spring Fair

The major event in the calendar for May at St John’s is always the Spring Fair, which this year falls on Saturday 16 May. As well as the church’s own stalls, we have representation from a wide variety of local groups and charities, and music and entertainment from the Farncombe Jazz Choir, Godalming Junior Band, Godalming School of Dance, and Charterhouse school students. Look out for the posters and online notices, and we hope to see you there!

Board game sessions

A recent development has been our Board Game sessions, which take place on the second Sunday afternoon each month from 4.00pm – just turn up and join in. These are intended as an outreach initiative and include a short, simple reflection.

Sanctus service

Could we also commend to friends in other congregations the contemplative Sanctus service currently at 6.00pm on the third Sunday evening – just music, a reading, and simple prayers in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament for 25 minutes or so.

www.farncombe.org.uk

Godalming Baptist Church

Coffee Stop, Saturday 9 May, 10.00am to 12.00pm

Do join us for delicious homemade cakes and tea or coffee. No charge but donations much appreciated for the work of Epilepsy Research UK.

Life Issue: *Living Well with Neurodiversity as an Adult*, Saturday 16 May

Focussing primarily on ADHD and Autism. Coffee is from 9.30am, and the first session begins at 10.00am, and the morning finishes by 12.30pm. Do come and gain a deeper understanding and empathy for yourself and for others. To book a place please contact Sally Pollard on 01483 428646 or pollard3@hotmail.co.uk

Library Book Review for May

Have A Little Faith-Whatever That Means To You by Revd Kate Bottley

Hello there, Come on in. I know what you're thinking 'I'm not religious, so I'm not sure if this is for me'. But the truth is this book is simply about being human. Believing in something, no matter what it is, gives us hope, and that's what helps us get through this messy, joyful, unexpected ride we call life.

Over the years, I've sat on plenty of sofas, drank plenty of (questionable) cups of tea and learned endless lessons from the wonderful people I've met. Above all, they have taught me that there is no right way to do things-and that's OK. In these pages, I have shared everything I've learned about how to deal with life's biggies-like love and death, as well as confidence, conflict and loneliness-In the hope that I can make you feel less alone and arm you with the tools to face the tougher times.

Hopefully this book will remind you to pause, appreciate how far you've come, savour the precious moments and enjoy a giggle or two along the way.

Visit our library

Do call in and browse in our library on Monday to Friday mornings from 9.00am to 12.00pm. Please ring Reception first regarding any bookings 01483 414544. There is a great selection of Library books to borrow on life issues and books to encourage us on our faith journey.

Womens Day at Ladywell, Saturday 5 September led by Georgina Varney

Do book early as over-subscribed last year!

www.godalmingbaptistchurch.org.uk

Godalming United Church

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

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

Talent Show, Saturday 9 May, 6.00pm to 8.00pm

Music, magic and more. All-age family fun with pizza. Tickets £5 from beckylkeene@gmail.com

Messy Church, Saturday 16 May, 3.00pm to 5.00pm

Family fun for all ages. Lost and Found based on the story of the Lost Sheep. Bible-based crafts, games, storytime and songs, church trail; party tea. messy.church@guc.org.uk

Christian Aid Service, Sunday 17 May, 10.30am

Followed by a simple lunch at 12.15pm. Phone 01483 424286 if you are joining us.

Annual collection of items for the Whitechapel Mission for the homeless

Late June to July, dates TBA – annual collection of items for the Whitechapel Mission for the homeless www.whitechapel.org.uk. Non-perishable breakfast foods, men's clothing, toiletries, blankets, small rucksacks. As usual the trailer will be parked in the church car park for ten

days or so – start collecting now!

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 May

Pope Leo's prayer intention for May is that everyone might have food. Let us pray that everyone, from large producers to small consumers, be committed to avoiding food waste, and to ensure that everyone has access to quality food.

First Holy Communion Masses

Our parish family celebrates First Holy Communion Masses on Sunday 10 and 17 May, at which over 30 children in our parish receive Holy Communion for the first time, having prepared for this important moment at monthly sessions from September last year. As a parish we welcome and pray for the children and their families.

Theological Café with Fr Jonathan

The next Theological Café with Fr Jonathan is on Wednesday 13 May and will focus on issues of war and peace. All are welcome to join this informal discussion group, and refreshments are provided. 7.45pm for 8.00pm at the presbytery, 19 Croft Road.

Summer Alpha

We are delighted that the Alpha programme is running in May and June, with weekly sessions on Sunday evenings from 7.00pm to 9.00pm. This course is for everyone and is the ideal tonic to renew and to inspire you. For more information, contact Nicki and Alan 01483 420859 or alio@btinternet.com

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 3 and 17 May); 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 May tea is on Wednesday 13 May 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 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

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

Trinity Trust Team

Fundraising appeal: 2026

For over 20 years, TTT has been taking the love of Christ into our local schools and communities through assemblies, workshops, Christian Unions, outreach events, youth and children's groups, summer activities programmes and gospel partnerships with local churches.

The mission field is huge, the workers are few, and we desire to continue these important ministries but are facing serious financial challenges. Many of you in local churches have supported us over the years through prayer, financial donations and use of church spaces. We are so thankful for the many blessings we've received over so many years.

In May we will launch an appeal where we aim to raise £30,000 by the end of the year to ensure we may continue to prosper the gospel in our town into 2027 and, God willing, beyond. If you are able to contribute to this appeal or raise awareness with others who might, we will of course be grateful.

Please pray for:

- The funds to continue to operate into and beyond 2027
- Continued gospel opportunities in the town's schools and communities
- A desire for local children and young people to come to know Jesus

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

www.trinitytrust.co.uk

Feba

May's Zoom prayer meeting for the work of Feba, a media organisation with partners in all of the world's trouble spots, will take place from 7.00pm to 8.00pm on Wednesday 6 May. Visit www.feba.org.uk/prayer for the Zoom link.

Items for next month's Link-up

Please send items for the June 2026 edition of *Link-up* to Matt Farrow: farrow.matt@gmail.com by **Friday 22 May**, for publication on Friday 29 May.