November 2026

LINK-up

Keeping Churches in Touch

www.godalmingchurches.org
facebook.com/ChurchesTogetherinGodalmingandDistrict

Message from the Chair

You would have thought that, after nearly 20 years of running Messy Church at St John's, our planning team would be perfectly justified in reusing the themes and topics we've covered in the past. Sometimes they do (tweaking the games and activities), but they will also keep coming up with new ideas completely which means I have to too...

The current theme is *Journeys,* which gives a lot of scope. Many figures in the Bible go on journeys which mark transitions from one situation to another. Thinking what to talk about in the worship time, I found my mind turning to labyrinths. Labyrinths are not mazes: mazes are puzzles involving finding your way through a series of false paths, dead ends and confusing turns, while a labyrinth is just one continuous path which takes the person walking it from the perimeter to the middle and back again. They are invariably laid flat on the ground so you could 'cheat' by stepping from one wind of the path to another but that wouldn't be the point: the idea is to follow the course, winding and doubling back, approaching the centre and then retreating from it, as a meditative exercise. It's like the pilgrimage of life done in miniature. I used to go on retreat at Malling Abbey in Kent where there was a labyrinth laid in the turf, while there is a famous one in the pavement of Chartres Cathedral, and many others – an increasing number, in fact.

Christian denominations are far more accustomed now to borrowing spiritual resources from each other that they once wouldn't have touched, and I think that's a great step forward. The labyrinth for instance, isn't a rival to a Bible-based spirituality: you can use it to meditate on a journey recorded in the scriptures, employing the body as a means of prayer in addition to the mind.

Our hope is that our various Church communities are also following our own journey, which is a common one as well as an individual one. This labyrinth has a number of different paths, but God has designed them so that they fold and circuit around one another as we all approach the one and single goal, which is Christ. We can greet each other and encourage one another, ever advancing, however twisting and obscure the journey is, towards the same destination. Hail, fellow pilgrims!

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

Churches Together news and events

Churches Together Open Meeting, 23 November

The next Open Meeting will be kindly hosted by Godalming Baptist Church at 7.30pm on Monday 23 November. A couple of years ago at St John's we discovered a former Rector was a slaveholder: our discussion will explore this and how the Church deals with the ethical expectations of society. Everyone is welcome.

Churches Together Christmas lunch

The Churches Together Christmas lunch will take place again at Godalming Baptist church on Christmas Day. This is a free lunch for anyone who would like to come, with priority to those who would otherwise be on their own. Juice will be served at each table on arrival from 12.00 onwards (and we would ask that guests do not arrive before then). Lunch will be served at 12.30pm, and we will finish by 3.30pm.

If you would like to attend, please complete this form:
https://form.jotform.com/252914310950048

To put on such an event requires a good deal of organisation and a small committee each year finds volunteers, invites guests and does the necessary preparation. The actual day is very good fun and a lovely way to spend Christmas. Volunteers are needed for a variety of roles: preparing food and setting tables on 24 December; providing transport on Christmas Day, helping in the kitchen with serving and washing up, hosting the day; providing entertainment and a team to help clear away.

For further information please contact Sarah Higgins, sarahhiggins478@gmail.com

Forthcoming Prayer Breakfasts

These take place at 8.30am on Saturday mornings.
28 November – Godalming United Church

News of the Churches and organisations

Godalming Minster

Blue Christmas Service, Saturday 19 December, 3.00pm
Godalming Minster, Brighton Road GU7 1XA (Busbridge Church)

The Blue Christmas Service offers a short reflective service for those who struggle with loss, pain or difficult circumstances recognising that Christmas can be a difficult time for many. All welcome. Email office@godalmingminster.org

godalmingminster.org

St John's Parish Church, Farncombe

The season of Remembrance
The season of Remembrance began for us at the end of October with our annual Memorial Service, and continued with the parish Requiem Mass on All Souls' Day and concluding with Remembrance Sunday on the 8th: for all these services we welcome people who would not normally worship with us, which is always a privilege.

Service of Light, Sunday 29 November
The end of November, as usual, begins our journey towards Christmas and the commemoration of Christ's Nativity with the candlelit Service of Light (6.30pm, Sunday 29th).

Repairs to the roof woodwork
Farncombe residents have been kindly asking what's been happening to the church as it has been swathed in scaffolding and hoarding since early October. The works are in fact relatively minor repairs to the roof woodwork which will probably be concluded by mid-November, maybe even by the time you read this!

Treasure in the Field' enquirers' course
We are intending to run our 'Treasure in the Field' enquirers' course on five Monday evenings in January and February following the pattern of a meal, short film and discussion. A couple of people have expressed an interest so far – if anyone would like to take part, do contact the parish office on 01483 426353.

Godalming Community Gospel Choir Christmas Showcase, 11 December
GCGC (Godalming Community Gospel Choir) are excited to invite you to join us at our Christmas Showcase at St John's Church, Farncombe, GU7 3EJ at 7.30 pm on Friday, 11 December when we shall be bringing the spirit of Gospel Christmas to everyone. Our Choir Director, Tim Uffindell, will lead us, and Vaughan Larmond and band will accompany us with their amazing talent.

Tickets are £15 including a drink at intermission, and children are free to attend. Tickets are available from gcgcinformation@gmail.com or on the door, so come along and join us as we celebrate the season with amazing and inspiring gospel music. Check out our website www.gcgc.org.uk or Instagram GCGC Gospel Choir for further information.

www.farncombe.org.uk

Godalming Baptist Church

Mid-week praise service
We have been introducing a new mid-week praise service with much loved hymns - open to everyone - and on Wednesday 2 December at 2.00pm at GBC we have a lovely opportunity to sing some wonderful carols. You are warmly invited to join us and enjoy tea, coffee and a mince pie afterwards. Do come and bring a friend.

Movie Time, 4, 12 and 19 December
Movie Time at GBC 7.00pm. Do come and enjoy a special Christmas movie.

Coffee Stop, Saturday 5 December
On Saturday 5 December our monthly Coffee Stop from 10.00am to 12.00pm will be held in memory of Catherine Lawton, who was called home to glory a year ago, to support The Phyliss Tuckwell Hospice where Catherine was previously a much loved nurse. Do come and enjoy delicious homemade cakes and mince pies. There may even be a little carol singing too!

Toy Service, Sunday 6 December, 10.00am
We will be continuing dear Roger Barnett's legacy of donating new toys to Merton Christian Care for families who find it difficult at this time of year.

Christmas events
Carols By Candlelight, Sunday 20 December at 5.30pm

The Christmas Quest, Tuesday 22 December - an interactive service for all ages

We send our Christmas greetings and love to all the many churches that we are so blessed to be part of in Churches Together

www.godalmingbaptistchurch.org.uk

Godalming United Church

Online services: https://guc.online.church.
Service recordings: www.guc.org.uk, https://bit.ly/GUCYouTube.

Harvest thanksgiving
Our Harvest thanksgiving at the beginning of October was marked by a splendid Harvest Festival on 4 October, preceded by a magnificent Harvest Supper the night before – a safari supper cleverly arranged – and cooked – by Louise Steele, with participants changing tables between each course. A great way of mingling the guests!

Those with memories stretching back to the Millennium and beyond will remember Grace Pratt – a shy student from Sierra Leone studying at Godalming College and hosted by the Paines and Kelleys. Well, she is now Grace Pratt-Morris-Chapman, married to Daniel (whom she met at Cliff College for ministry-training), both of them ordained, parents of four delightful children – and now recently-appointed Minister in the Emmanual group of churches, Northampton. We wish Grace and family all the best in this the latest chapter of their lives.

Upcoming Dates
- Sunday 8 November - No service at GUC as we will be supporting the Town Service of Remembrance at the Parish Church and War memorial on The Burys.
- Saturday 14 November, 7.00pm - Quiz evening with quizmaster Ian Honeysett. Tickets £10 each, tables of 6, BYO refreshments. Contact alison@sargeants.org

Wanted: book trolley
We are looking for a pre-loved book trolley or similar – price negotiable. Contact Adam on 01483 414709

For more information and other future 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 November
Pope Leo's prayer intention for November is for the proper use of wealth; that not succumbing to the temptation of selfishness, it may always be put at the service of the common good and solidarity of those who have less.

All Saints and All Souls
We start the month with the great feasts of All Saints and All Souls. And on the Eve of All Saints, we are hosting 'Holywins' an All Saints party for children which celebrates light overcoming darkness. And all are invited to dress as their favourite Saint! St Edmund's School, 4.00pm to 5.30pm, 31 October.

The month of the Holy Souls
November is the month of the Holy Souls, and Fr Jonathan will be blessing graves at Eashing Cemetery at 12.00pm on Sunday 1 November, the Feast of All Saints; and at Milford Cemetery at 10.30am on Monday 2 November, the Feast of All Souls.

Remembrance Sunday
Remembrance Sunday falls on Wednesday this year and will be marked at our weekend Masses on 8/9 November with a minute's silence to remember those who have died in war.

The First Sunday of Advent
The First Sunday of Advent falls in November on Sunday 29 November, and we will be holding a Family Advent Day from 10.00am to 3.00pm at St Edmund's School. It is a 'drop-in' event, and all are welcome to come and join the activities and find out how to prepare for Advent and Christmas!

Mass in Latin on Friday evenings
Fr Jonathan is offering this on most Fridays – check the calendar on the parish website.

Live Simply News
During November we will be collecting for our nominated charity for our Christmas Appeal; check our newsletter for details of the appeal. Also this month, we will be praying for the UN Climate Talks COP31 - the world's biggest climate talks – which are taking place in Turkey (9 to 20 November), with UK Energy Secretary Miatta Fahnbulleh attending.

Weekend Masses
These are celebrated at St Edmund's Godalming (6.00pm Vigil Mass) on Saturday evenings (with refreshments after Mass on 7 November); and on Sundays at St John's Farncombe at 8.45am (with coffee after Mass on 1 & 15 November); and at St Joseph's Milford at 10.30am (with coffee after Mass on 15 November).

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 next one is on Wednesday 11 November. 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), 5.30pm 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

The Franciscan Centre Ladywell

As Christmas approaches, Franciscan Centre Ladywell warmly invites you to join us for a weekend retreat or one of our December Days of Reflection.

Advent Residential Retreat, 11 to 13 December 2026
A weekend of prayer, reflection and preparation for Christmas, led by the Franciscan Centre Team. £210 per person. Two nights, full board and retreat programme

Days of Reflection: Gaze Upon Love, Tuesday 8 and Saturday 19 December 2026
Two opportunities to explore the Advent theme Gaze Upon Love. Arrive from 9.30am; programme 10.00am to 4.00pm, with lunch at 1.00pm. £35 per person, per day, unch included.

Bookings and enquiries: 01483 675575, franciscancentre@ladywell.org.uk

www.franciscancentre.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.

Mid-week Meetings for Worship
Mid-week Meetings for Worship take place on the first Thursday of the month at the Meeting House. Meetings start at 12.15pm and last for 30 minutes, with a picnic lunch afterwards. The next Meeting will be Thursday 3 December. All are welcome.

www.quaker.org.uk/meetings/godalming

Chiddingfold Baptist Church

A Victorian Christmas – The Manna Family, Sunday 6 December, 6.00pm
A festive presentation of the Christmas story, suitable for all ages. Mulled wine and mince pies served afterwards. Free admission; donations welcome.

Community Christmas Lunch, Sunday 13 December, 12.45pm
Arrive 12.45pm for 1.00pm. Suggested donations: £6 adults, £2 primary-aged children. Places limited; booking essential.

Carol Service, Sunday 13 December, 2.45pm (approx.)
Traditional Christmas carols and readings. All welcome; no booking required.

Little Lights Toddler Group Christmas Party, 18 December, 10.00am to 11.30am
Father Christmas visit and gift, Christmas songs, nativity story, festive snacks, non-alcoholic mulled wine and mince pies for adults. £1 per child. Booking essential.

Christmas Day Service, Friday 25 December, 10.00am
A short, joyful celebration of the birth of Jesus. All welcome.

Bookings: Rosemary Harris or bookings@chiddingfoldbaptist.org.uk

Venue: Chiddingfold Baptist Church, Woodside Road, GU8 4RW.

www.chiddingfoldbaptist.org.uk

Milford Baptist Church

Christmas community lunch - Tuesday 8 December
All are welcome to join us for a two-course meal and some Christmassy fun. There is a voluntary donation of £6

Take Time cafe, every Monday between 10.00am and 12.00pm
Come for a chat and some fun activities, or just meet up for coffee and cake. Free of charge, everyone is welcome. There will be a free Christmas craft morning on 14 December

Family Christmas party, Friday 18th December 6.00pm to 8.00pm
Free fun for all the family, to include food, Christingle, and games

www.milfordbaptistchurch.org.uk

Feba

Come and pray for Feba, a media organisation with partners in many of the world's newsworthy places. The next Zoom meeting, on Wednesday 2 December from 7.00pm to 8.00pm, will focus on work in Mali.

www.feba.org.uk/prayermeeting

Trinity Trust Team

Despite a smaller team, we are able to run our full schedule for autumn with additional groups and programmes, through partnerships with local youthwork teams, volunteers and part-time workers (Isaac Lucas and Jessi Poulsom) so praise the Lord for his provision!

Our current weekly youth programmes
Monday night - Loseley Fields Youth Café from 6.30pm to 8.00pm

Tuesday lunchtime - Christian Union at Rodborough School

Wednesday - Youth Alpha at the Old Rectory, 7.00pm to 8.30pm (with Minster Team)

Thursday lunchtime - Christian Union at Broadwater School

Friday afternoon - outreach at Aarons Hill (with Godalming Youth Service)

Friday Night - Socials at the Old Rectory, 6.30pm to 9.15pm (with Minster Team)

Monthly
Snack-Chat all girls group at Godalming United Church (every third Sunday)

FUSE youth discipleship group at Godalming Baptist Church (every last Sunday)

We're currently gearing up for Christmas assemblies and RE Days, so lots to be thankful for and to look forward to.

Please pray for:

- The funds to enable us to continue to plan longer term
- Volunteers to join the Trustees (particularly with secretarial/HR experience)
- 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 ministries of TTT.

Our thanks and blessings to you all as ever, Andy & the team.

www.trinitytrustteam.co.uk

Items for next month's Link-up

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