



October 2026

LINK-up

Keeping Churches in Touch

www.godalmingchurches.org

facebook.com/ChurchesTogetherinGodalmingandDistrict

Message from the Chair

I'm fairly sure that this time a couple of years ago I was, as now, calling people's attention to the annual Churches Together Christmas Lunch and asking for help! This year our sterling cooks are stepping back and so we need to find a couple of souls willing to take that role on – full instructions are given and it's just a matter of following them: no culinary creativity is required!

Although I've never had anything to do with the actual organising of the Christmas Lunch, I know the work that goes into it and the return on that work in knowing that others have enjoyed their time (and food) together. In many areas of life we're told 'you only get out what you put in', but the Christian principle is that you get out far more than you put in: perhaps a law to reflect on in this Harvest season. The Lord in his mercy takes what we give him and works with it to produce 'far more than ever we can ask or imagine', as St Paul says.

Ecumenical activities are not at the top of the agenda of any of our church communities, which is completely understandable. Especially in straitened and difficult times the maintenance of our own direct relationships with those we worship with week by week is hard enough and forms the main part of our effort. But even if time and money are finite, love never is, and we might find that the more we are able to work, think and most importantly pray together, we and the town we strive to serve might find we reap a harvest we could never have anticipated.

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.

24 October – St John's Church Farncombe

28 November – Godalming United Church

News of the Churches and organisations

Godalming Minster

During September we have been busy preparing for a number of initiatives that support the Minster vision "Deeper, Bolder, Brighter". As part of this, we have started a programme called *Explore your calling* to help our members discern how God is calling and equipping them to serve, and from 4 October, Godalming Minster is making changes to some of its service times and formats to simplify the pattern and attract new groups in our community.

New Service Times

Church St

9.00am Choral Eucharist Church St will take place every Sunday

10.45am Contemporary also takes place every Sunday at a slightly later time.

Franklyn Road

Franklyn Road is piloting 9.30am Breakfast church with a free simple breakfast to start, flowing into an informal service suitable for all ages. A Midweek Communion will be celebrated on the first Tuesday of the month at 1.30pm (to follow the Tuesday Lunch).

Brighton Road

At Brighton Road, the new "Six" (at 6.00pm) has been specially reformatted with our older youth, 20s and 30s in mind. Please do share this with anyone you know who is in that age range who might be on the fringes looking for a congregation to engage with.

The 10.00am Classic Service at Brighton Road and 10.00am Morning Worship at Hambledon continue every Sunday as before.

Vacancies

We are advertising a number of roles on our website and would be grateful for GCTiG to help share with any potential candidates.

- [Worship Pastor](#) (full time)
- [Sub Organist](#) (part-time contract for services)
- [Assistant Manager for the Yew Tree Café](#) (part time)

Day of prayer for the Cellar Camino Café, Tuesday 13 October

There will be a day of prayer for The Cellar Camino café on Tuesday 13 October from 10.00am to 2.00pm at Godalming Minster Church Street. All are welcome.

godalmingminster.org

Godalming Baptist Church

Songs of praise service, Wednesday 7 October

A new initiative at GBC! On Wednesday 7 October at 2.00pm we have our first Songs of praise service at GBC. You are warmly invited to join us for a service where we will sing much-loved hymns and worship songs. Do come and bring a friend! A warm welcome awaits and a cup of tea afterwards!

Coffee Stop, Saturday 3 October

Coffee Stop at GBC from 10.00am until 12.00pm. Please do come and bring a friend, neighbour or relative and enjoy delicious homemade cakes and tea or coffee. There is no charge, but donations much appreciated towards the vital work of Age UK.

Ladies breakfast, Saturday 10 October

Ladies breakfast at GBC on Saturday 10 October from 9.00am to 11.00am. Do come and enjoy a continental breakfast together (£3 per person). Linda Chamberlain, who led our day at Ladywell last year, will share a reflective time after breakfast. For catering purposes, please contact Sally Pollard on 01483 428646 or pollard3@hotmail.co.uk by Sunday 4 October.

Library Book Review: *Overcoming insomnia* by Colin A Espie

All the help you need to conquer your sleep problems and start living life to the full. Poor sleep is one of the most common health problems and can leave you feeling exhausted, stressed and run down. This essential self-help book includes advice on:

- Developing good pre-bedtime regimes
- The most effective relaxation techniques
- Establishing a new sleeping and waking pattern
- Dealing with a racing mind
- Using sleeping pills more effectively
- Handling jet lag and sleepwalking

Do call in and browse in our library - open Monday to Friday 9.00am to 12.00pm (Phone reception on 01483 414544 to check regarding lettings). There is a wide selection of books to borrow - books to encourage us on our faith journey and books on various life issues we may encounter or to support others.

www.godalmingbaptistchurch.org.uk

Godalming United Church

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

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

As we all settle into another "new year" we look forward to:

Harvest Festival – family service, Sunday 4 October, 10.30am

Gifts – non-perishable foodstuffs for foodbank, please.

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 October

Pope Leo's prayer intention for October is for mental health ministry, that the mental health ministry be established throughout the Church, helping to overcome the stigma and discrimination of persons with mental illnesses.

CAFOD's Family Fast Day

CAFOD's Family Fast Day is on Friday 2 October. Our donations this year support children in Zimbabwe, where hunger and thirst are stopping them from learning. Your donation of £20 will enable a child to stay at school for a year. Donations can be made online at <https://cafod.org.uk/?form=Cafod-sWork> Thank you!

Congress 2026 – Growing as a welcoming community

This year's parish Congress takes place on 3 October from 10.00am to 3.30pm at St Polycarp's School, Waverley Lane, Farnham GU9 8BQ.

The Congress offers us an opportunity to gather and reflect on how we can grow as welcoming communities, with Jesus Christ himself at our centre, especially through sharing in a "Conversation in the Spirit"; to hear about how our new 'Guildford Catholic Parish' is developing; and an occasion to meet others from the new parish and to build a shared sense of hope and mission. It is open to anyone involved with liturgy, catechesis, formation and outreach as well as to those who are interested in becoming more involved.

Anniversary of the Dedication of St Edmund's Church

The anniversary of the Dedication of St Edmund's Church is on Saturday 3rd October. It is a Solemnity with special readings and prayers for the feast day.

Friday evening Latin Mass

Fr Jonathan is trialling Mass in Latin on Friday evenings at 6.30pm at St Edmund's. The next Mass will be on 9 October. Please check the calendar for further dates. (Missale Romanum 2002, with readings in English).

Ordination of Bishop-elect Fr Stephen Wang

Fr Stephen Wang is installed and ordained as the new Bishop of Arundel and Brighton on Monday 19 October at Arundel Cathedral, and the service at 12.00pm will be livestreamed. The Mass of Welcome is at Worth Abbey on Saturday 24 October, and seats are allocated via a ballot.

All Saints Children's Party

Saturday 31 October at 4.30pm at St Edmund's church. There will be more information in our newsletter in the coming weeks.

MPs vote against Assisted Suicide

Reflecting shortly after the parliamentary vote, our Diocesan Administrator, Canon Jonathan Martin, said: 'Every year, the diocesan Trustees approve a financial contribution to each and every hospice in the Diocese to support the care that they offer to the terminally ill. In this moment of gratitude for prayers answered, let us embrace our nation's common, renewed responsibility to care for people who are terminally ill, perhaps even reflecting within our pastoral councils and parish leadership teams on what more we can do, as local Christian communities, to make good on our commitment to care for those who are terminally ill and their families.'

Weekend Masses

Weekend Masses are celebrated at St Edmund's Godalming (6pm Vigil Mass) on Saturday evenings (with refreshments after Mass on 10th October); and on Sundays at St John's Farncombe at 8.45am (with coffee after Mass on 4 and 18 October); and at St Joseph's Milford at 10.30am (with coffee after Mass on 18th October).

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 14 October. 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

The Franciscan Centre Ladywell

Footsteps of Francis

Saturday 10 October or Tuesday 27 October, 10.00am to 4.00pm

As Franciscans mark the 800th anniversary of the death of St Francis of Assisi, this Day of Reflection offers an opportunity to explore his remarkable life, enduring legacy and continuing invitation to follow Christ with humility, joy and simplicity.

Through reflection, prayer and time for personal contemplation, we will consider what the example of St Francis can teach us about living faithfully in today's world—recognising God in one another, caring for creation and becoming instruments of peace.

The day is open to everyone, whether you are familiar with Franciscan spirituality or discovering it for the first time.

Cost: £35 per person, including lunch and refreshments.

To book, please contact the Franciscan Centre Ladywell on 01483 675575 or

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. Upcoming dates are 3 September, 1 October, 5 November and 3 December. All are welcome.

www.quaker.org.uk/meetings/godalming

Chiddingfold Baptist Church

Little lights toddler group

Our toddler group runs during term time on Fridays from 10.00am to 11.30am. There is a £1 entry charge (50p for siblings), which includes drinks and biscuits for adults and drinks, biscuits, and fruit for children (cash and contactless payments).

Our sessions include multiple play areas, crafting table, designated snack table and time, children's Bible story or Christian themed story using basic Makaton signs, and singing time where we also incorporate a few Makaton signs.

We sometimes also run special holiday sessions.

All volunteers are DBS checked and safeguarding trained. Our leader is Makaton trained to level 2.

Harvest service, Sunday 4 October, 10.30am

We will be holding our harvest service, where dried produce will be collected for the Cellar Camino Cafe, and a portion of the mornings offering will also go to the Cellar Camino to support them in their continued work.

The Chosen, Season 5

An 8-week screening event starting Sunday 27 September 2026 at 6.30 pm. Admission is free, and everyone is welcome.

You're warmly invited to join us on Sunday evenings as we screen Season 5 of *The Chosen*, the internationally acclaimed drama series based on the life of Jesus Christ.

Whether you've followed the series from the beginning or have never seen an episode before, this is a wonderful opportunity to experience one of the most compelling portrayals of the Gospel in recent years.

Everyone is welcome. There is no charge to attend. Each evening will include a welcome, the screening of one episode, and an opportunity for informal conversation over refreshments afterwards.

Sunday 18 October, 10.30am

We welcome regional minister, Rev Paul Kerley, as we continue in our 140-year church anniversary celebrations. All are welcome to attend this special service.

Light party, Saturday 31 October 4.00pm to 5:30pm

£10 per family, which includes hotdogs, drinks, party bags, chocolate fondue, crafts, face painting, pick 'n' mix and more. If there are concerns over costs people can email as we want to ensure this is accessible to all.

Welcome Home Sunday, 1 November, 10.30am

Have you been away from church for a while? Whether it has been months, years, or even decades, you are warmly invited to come home.

Join us for a welcoming service as we explore God's invitation to each one of us. There will be no pressure or expectations—just a warm welcome, uplifting worship, and a message of hope.

Nativity, Sunday 6 December

We are also looking forward to *Nativity* by Manna Family on Sunday 6 December at 6.00pm. This is a family-friendly event, and we welcome all to share with us. There is no charge to attend but donations are welcome for the continued work of Manna Family.

www.chiddingfoldbaptist.org.uk

Milford Baptist Church

TakeTime, Mondays 10.00am to 12.00pm

Free drop-in social group for everyone! Join us for tea, coffee and cake, optional activities and a friendly welcome. No booking required and it's all free. Check out our website for more information <https://www.milfordbaptistchurch.org.uk> Mondays 10:00 - 12:00 At Milford Baptist Church, New Road, Milford, GU8 5BE

www.milfordbaptistchurch.org.uk

Feba

FEBA Radio is a Christian media organisation with partners in many of the world's trouble spots. Join them in prayer on Zoom on Wednesday 7 October between 7.00pm and 8.00pm and meet and pray for a partner who works in Mozambique.

www.feba.org.uk/prayermeeting

Trinity Trust Team

We are fully up and running with all our regular groups and programmes, and our newsletter will be out detailing the full weekly range of groups we run. There are a couple of changes to the schedule:

New! Midweek Youth Alpha

Run in partnership with the Godalming Minster Team at the Old Rectory every Wednesday from 7.00pm to 8.30pm with pizza provided...

New! FUSE discipleship group

Run in partnership with the Godalming Baptist Church team after the monthly contemporary service (last Sunday of the month). You've guessed it – pizza provided!

We wish Joe Evans and Annette Davies well in their new roles in their respective hometowns and thank Matt Blake for stepping in as our administrator on an interim basis. If you have a few spare hours each week, we are looking for an administrator so please get in touch with Andy Poulson if interested.

Please pray for:

- The funds to enable us to continue to operate into and beyond 2027
- 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.

Items for next month's Link-up

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

farrow.matt@gmail.com by **Friday 16 October**, for publication on Friday 23 October.