



September 2026

LINK-up

Keeping Churches in Touch

www.godalmingchurches.org

facebook.com/ChurchesTogetherinGodalmingandDistrict

Message from the Chair

Grass is among the tougher plants in Farncombe Rectory garden and with the return of wetter weather, I can see some green among the burned and blasted brown when I go out to check how things are, and maybe even do something useful. There will be some plants that don't recover well from the hot conditions of the summer, though. I heard a couple of weeks ago that rowan and birch will be hard to grow in southern England as time goes on, while the Hampton Estate at Puttenham has decided that the new climate facts make it no longer economically viable to produce hops, bringing that crop to an end after a long while.

St Edmund's parish's contribution to Link Up this month reminds us that for some church communities September to early October is the so-called 'Season of Creation' when Christians are encouraged to reflect on the human role as stewards of the Earth. To be a steward is to be mindful of the best way of using the resources in your care, and ideally handing them on in a better state than you received them. Our generation will not be able to do that, but at least we have realised that the resources of God's creation – the ones we have access to, anyway – are not infinite, and we've begun to act on that knowledge.

We also have stewardship over our church communities, and we hand them on to future generations too. What state will they be in? Those of us who are directly responsible know how the ups and downs of congregation numbers are affected by factors far outside anything we can control; but our devotion, our faithfulness, our love for God and for one another, are the deeper things the Lord will look for.

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.

26 September – Godalming Baptist Church

24 October – St John's Church Farncombe

28 November – Godalming United Church

News of the Churches and organisations

St John's Parish Church, Farncombe

In common with everyone, probably, August has been a quiet time at St John's, but we hosted the annual Village Show on the 22nd which, even if entries were well down because of challenging growing conditions, was still a busy and enjoyable community occasion. We see these events as an important element of our mission.

The next such event is our Quiz Night on Friday 16 October, but in the meantime we hope our Harvest Festival service on 4 October will involve our local schools to a greater degree this year.

A team of congregation members is saving us some valuable funds by carrying out redecorations around the Church Room, leaving higher-level works around the church to the professionals, while we will soon be able to renew our hall seating thanks to a grant from the Town Council.

www.farncombe.org.uk

Godalming Baptist Church

Book review: Red Moon rising - Rediscover the power of prayer. The story of 24-7 prayer

By Pete Greig and Dave Roberts

Red Moon Rising is the best-selling story of how a single, unsuspecting prayer meeting self-seeded into the lives of more than two million people in more than 12,000 locations, most denominations, and more than half the nations on earth. From prisons to palaces, it's a powerful account of pain and perseverance, fighting injustice and experiencing miraculous answers to prayer. Whether you have followed the 24-7 Prayer Movement for years or are reading about it for the first time, this revised edition of *Red Moon Rising* will inspire you afresh to change the world where you live, one prayer and one life at a time.

GBC Library has a wide selection of books to encourage us on our faith journey and also a wide selection of books on many Life Issues. The library is open term-time only Monday to Friday 9.00am to 12.00pm.

Coffee Stop, Saturday 12 September

At Godalming Baptist Church from 10.00am to 12.00pm - a monthly event with coffee, tea and delicious homemade cakes with a chosen charity each month. September's charity is Chestnut Tree House and Shooting Star Children's Hospices. There is no charge, but any donations much appreciated. Do come - a warm welcome awaits!

Churches Together prayer breakfast, Sunday 26 September

At Godalming Baptist Church, 8.30am to 10.00am.

Ladies' breakfast, Saturday 10 October

At Godalming Baptist Church, 9.00am to 11.00am. Ladies are warmly invited to join us for breakfast followed by a time of worship and reflections from our speaker, Linda Chamberlain.

Please contact Sally on 01483 428646 or pollard3@hotmail.co.uk to book a place.

Sleep - How can we find it so hard when we spend a third of our lives doing it?, Saturday 31st October

10.00am to 12.30pm (coffee from 9.30am) led by Dr Martin Brunet, GP at Binscombe Medical Centre and Louise Berger, Occupational Therapist and NHS Insomnia Clinic lead at the Royal Surrey County Hospital. Do come and discover ways to help improve our sleep and explore whether medications or devices used to monitor our sleep are helpful or not. To book a place

please contact Sally on 01483 428646 or pollard3@hotmail.co.uk.

There is no charge, but donations much appreciated towards the vital work of Emerge Advocacy - a charity providing support and a voice of hope to people 10-25 during and after attending A&E because of self-harm, a suicide attempt or an emotional crisis.

www.godalmingbaptistchurch.org.uk

Godalming United Church

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

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

As young people move to the next stages in their lives in September, our thoughts and prayers go with Lizzy Payne, our Minister's daughter, as she begins her internship at the United Reformed Church Centre at Poole – the first step along the road to training for the Ministry.

Tea-and-Talk café

Starting Tuesday 1 September, from 11.00am to 12.30pm and the first Tuesday of every month, Tea-and-Talk Café with CHD Living – a dementia-friendly community space for people living with dementia, and their carers.

Friday lunches

Friday Lunches re-start on 4 September, from 12.00pm to 1.30pm. Join us for modestly priced home-cooked food in support of local charities.

Pantomime read-through, Sunday 6 September, 2.30pm

Pantomime read-through "Beauty and the Beast" thekeenes@btopenworld.com (four performances on the weekend of 6 and 7 February). Rehearsals start Sunday 20 September.

Communion service, Thursday 10 September, 2.30pm

Communion Service in the River Room led by Rev'd Adam Payne with cuppa and chat afterwards.

Cream tea on the patio, Saturday 12 September, 2.30pm to 4.30pm

Cream Tea on the patio in support of GUC's Gambia Ophthalmic project. (Just £15 pays for a sight-saving cataract operation.)

Music Kids

Music Kids - for children aged 5 to teens - restarts on Friday 18 September at 6.00pm. thekeenes@btopenworld.com

Messy Church, Saturday 26 September, 3.00pm to 5.00pm

Messy Church "What a Wonderful World": Bible-based activities for all the family, story-time and songs, party tea. messy.church@guc.org.uk

Harvest Festival, Sunday 4 October, 10.30am

Gifts – non-perishable foodstuffs for foodbank, please

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 September

Pope Leo's prayer intention for September is for the care of water, and for a just and sustainable management of water, a vital resource, so that everyone may have equal access to it.

The Season of Creation

In September we celebrate the Season of Creation, an ecumenical season in the Church's calendar, that begins with the World Day of Prayer for Creation on 1 September and ends with the Feast of St Francis on 4 October. The season is a call to the return to the biblical vision of creation as God's gift and humanity's responsibility – a reminder to Christians that caring for the natural world is not an optional extra, but central to our faith.

The theme this year is 'Living Water' and our parish Live Simply group will be marking the Season of Creation at Masses on weekend of 19 and 20 September, inviting parishioners to write their pledges on paper fish, which will be added to the flowing river display across the altar.

2026 is special as it is the 800th anniversary of the death of St Francis of Assisi in 1226, best known for his love of the natural world and for his commitment to the poor and to the cause of peace. The FMDM community at Ladywell will be celebrating this big anniversary over the weekend of 3rd and 4th October and we join them in spirit.

Live Simply

The next Live Simply meeting is on Thursday 10 September, 8.00pm on Zoom, and we will be discussing our celebration of the Season of Creation. All welcome, contact Sarah in the parish office for details.

Surrey Churches Ride & Stride

Our parish team has valiantly raised over £20,000 for the Surrey Churches Preservation Trust over the last 30 years, and is in action again this year, though 'striding' rather than 'riding'. The group leaves St Johns, Farncombe, at 10.00am on Saturday 12th September, for a walk around the churches of Godalming. For more info: www.SurreyChurchesPreservationTrust and to join/sponsor, please contact Ian: honeysett@btinternet.com

Parish toddler group

Our parish toddler group starts back after the summer break on Monday 7 September. Details below; and our Sunday morning Children's Liturgy at 8.45am Mass restarts on Sunday 6 September.

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 (and with coffee after Mass on 6th & 20th September); 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 next one is on Wednesday 9 September. 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

Blessing of the Animals at Franciscan Centre Ladywell

Saturday 26 September, 9.00am to 11.30am. Blessing and prayers at 10.00am

To mark the 800th anniversary of the death of St Francis of Assisi, the Franciscan Centre Ladywell warmly invites you to a special Blessing of the Animals.

St Francis is remembered for his love of creation and his particular affection for animals. Bring along your much-loved companion and join us for a morning celebrating the animals who share our lives.

Any pet welcome – and you are very welcome to come along even if you don't have a pet.

Join us at the Tipi in the grounds of Ladywell, with a short time of prayer and blessing at 10.00am, refreshments, and an opportunity to enjoy the beautiful surroundings.

All are welcome.

<https://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.

www.quaker.org.uk/meetings/godalming

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 an ecumenical mission with partners in most of the world's trouble spots. Their next Zoom prayer meeting is on Wednesday 2 September from 7.00pm to 8.00pm. Visit www.febo.org.uk/prayermeeting

Items for next month's Link-up

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

farrow.matt@gmail.com by **Friday 18 September**, for publication on Friday 25 September.