



LINK-UP

May 2019

Keeping Churches in Touch

www.godalmingchurches.org

From the Chair

Unique events and locations in May

Help, pray, worship, hope and vote.

Christian Aid Week 12 to 18 May

We are collecting in the High Street by Crown Court on Thursday 16, Friday 17 and Saturday 18 May. The rota has two people on each hour, so how about collecting with a friend for an hour? Please contact Muriel on muriel.clark@btinternet.com

Churches Together prayer breakfast, Saturday 25 May

Peper Harow Church (4th Sunday Prayer Breakfast) We meet at 8:30 for breakfast and chat and then from 9:15 to 10:00 we pray together led by someone from the host church. It's a good way to see how others pray and visit other churches!

Ascension Day service, Thursday 30 May

Ascension Day Service at St Edmund's Church, Croft Road at 20:00. Do attend - there may not be many more opportunities to attend a service at the church! (See item under St Edmunds Parish News)

Are we Hope Carriers?

This was the question asked during final talk at Spring Harvest Harrogate(*). Hope transforms lives, and we need to speak hope into our community to change situations and lives. Are we doing that?

"...if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land."

Also don't forget to vote:

- 2 May - Godalming Town Council and Waverley Borough Council
- 23 May - European elections.

(*) Spring Harvest is an ecumenical gathering held at Easter each year in Minehead, Skegness and Harrogate to help prepare the church for the world."

Hope for the World

An enjoyable and informative night was had by all at the recent Churches Together Curry with Compassion evening. 84 people, between 14 and 80+ years old, from a variety of churches and the local community, came along. Amazingly, for 12 children who have now got sponsors, it has also been life transforming.

Jane', himself a formerly sponsored child, provided us with curry and an amazing insight into what sponsorship has meant to many, not least himself. But the picture of the harsh realities of life in poverty were balanced by his humour, interesting anecdotes and the hope that is brought by the kindness of a stranger paying £25 a month to sponsor a child and building a relationship with them.

What was wonderful to hear was how it isn't just the child or their family who are impacted, but that communities also can be totally changed. The slum he came from in Kolkata now no longer exists, because its children have received education, health care and the opportunity to dream that their lives can be changed.

The cycle of poverty can be broken!

If you want to read more about the work of Compassion or to transform someone's life too, go to: www.compassionuk.org

Michael Stubbs, Chair of Godalming and District Churches Together, michaeleashing@aol.com

Events for your diary

Below is a selection of the many events taking place during May 2019 and beyond. More detail can be found in the sections below and on the Churches Together website: www.godalmingchurches.org/calendar

Saturday 27 April

8:30 to 10:00 – Churches Together prayer breakfast, St Mark's Church, Franklyn Road, Godalming
10:00 to 12:00 - Women's health throughout their lives, Godalming Baptist Church

Friday 10 May

19:30 to 21:30 - Godalming Filling Station, The Barn, Borough Farm, Borough Farm Road, Milford GU8 5JY

Saturday 11 May

9:45 to 15:30 - Life issue session: perfectionism, Godalming Baptist Church

Saturday 25 May

8:30 to 10:00 – Churches Together prayer breakfast, Peper Harrow Church

Thursday 30 May

20:00 – Churches Together Ascension Day service, St Edmund's Catholic Church

Friday 7 June

19:30 to 21:30 - Godalming Filling Station, The Barn, Borough Farm, Borough Farm Road, Milford GU8 5JY

Monday 10 June

10:30 to 11:30 – Feba prayer meeting, 42 Minster Road, Godalming, jimdogshome@aol.com

Saturday 27 July

14:00 and 19:00 – Manna Ministries show *Legacies*, Frensham Heights, GU10 4EA

News of the Churches and organisations

St John's Parish Church, Farncombe

St John's is gearing up for its annual Spring Fair on the Burys Field in Godalming, from 12:00 on Saturday 4 May. This great annual effort supports local charities and provides an inexpensive fun afternoon over the Bank Holiday weekend.

www.farncombe.org.uk

Godalming Baptist Church

A busy April

April was a busy month at GBC with our friendship Lunch Outing, Holiday Club, Away Day at Waverley Abbey and a morning Life Issue session 'Womens Health' led by the GPs at Binscombe Medical Centre.

Over 200 palm crosses with texts written by the fellowship were given out in the High Street on the Saturday before Palm Sunday as well as over 50 bunches of flowers with the simple message that God loves them [John 3:16]. The most important event in April was the joyous message of Easter.

Life issue focussing on perfectionism

On Saturday 11 May from 9:45 to 15:00, we have a life issue session focussing on 'perfectionism' and we are delighted that Chris Ledger is returning to lead our session. Do come to gain an insight into the characteristic of perfectionism. It promises to be such a worthwhile morning. To book a place please contact Sally Pollard - pollard3@hotmail.co.uk, Janet Fry - janetfry1@gmail.com or Church Office – office.gbc@btinternet.com, Tel 01483-422105, Monday, Wednesday or Friday mornings

www.godalmingbaptistchurch.org.uk

Godalming United Church

On Palm Sunday our Minister, Paul Hulme, returned to his former domain - Wesley's Chapel in the heart of London - for the 30th anniversary celebration of its unification with the Leysian Mission. (Historical note: The Leys School, Cambridge, was opened in 1875, just two years after non-Anglicans were admitted to Oxbridge, and intended to be "the Methodist Eton". Its London mission was started in 1886 by former pupils concerned by the appalling social conditions in the East End, and Leys alumni gave time and money towards

social and evangelical programmes that touched thousands of lives.) Wesley's Chapel is world-famous as the "Cathedral of Methodism", attracting thousands of visitors every year. It was founded by John Wesley, and he is buried there. The chapel has never looked back since its fusion with the Leysian Mission, when Paul was Superintendent. Far from being merely a historic monument, it is a lively active church in the heart of the City, serving the thousands who live and work there, its work and witness, in the words of Mr. Wesley himself, 'serving the present age'.

www.guc.org.uk

St Edmund King & Martyr Godalming with St Joseph's Milford Roman Catholic Churches

Welcoming & Safeguarding awareness training

During April, Parish Volunteers from all three Mass bases attended both Welcoming and Safeguarding awareness training courses, which were delivered by the Pastoral Team from Arundel Cathedral. Many valuable lessons were learnt, and the good practice is being implemented to enhance current procedures. A committee has also been set up to look at the music offering within our services. This is all part of our Vision to make our parish a place where love leads the church to grow, to work for Christian Unity and to reach out to those who do not believe and those on the edges of society.

Wintershall Passion Play

As I write this update, several members of the Parish are busily rehearsing for the Wintershall Passion Play to be performed over Easter in Trafalgar Square and Guildford High Street.

Sale of St Edmunds & Refurbishment of St Joseph's

The Parish came together on 17 March to formulate a 'wish list' to enhance our worship. The Refurbishment Sub Group met with one of the architects on 3 April and were delighted with the plans they presented, which delivered all our aspirations without having to enlarge the footprint of the building, thus preserving the car parking facilities. Their vision for a two-storey building has prompted us to visit the new Godalming First Church of Christ Scientist, which has the meeting rooms downstairs and the worship centre on the first floor after our meeting with the 2nd firm of architects. Maybe a nice venue for a prayer breakfast!

Sunday Summer Alpha Programme

The programme starts on Sunday 5 May and runs to 14 July 2019. The sessions are held in the evening from 19:00 to 21:00, with a break for half-term. Each session will include a meal and drink, a video and then some discussion. You can register to attend either the whole programme or just come along to the first three sessions and then see how you feel about continuing. You are most welcome to bring guests. We appreciate that most people may have to miss a session or two. Apart from the weekly sessions, there is also an Alpha Away Day. Please note that there is NO CHARGE for this course. Venue: St John's Church Hall, St John's Street, Farncombe, Godalming GU7 3EJ. To register, visit our website <http://stedmundgodalming.btck.co.uk>

Breakfast Alpha on Friday Mornings

The programme starts on 10 May and continues until 19 July from 9:15 to 11:00, with a break for half-term. Each session will include breakfast, a video and then some discussion. If you have children who need looking after during the programme, please bring them along. You can register to attend either the whole programme or just come along to the first three sessions and then see how you feel about continuing. You are most welcome to bring guests. We appreciate that most people may have to miss a session or two. Apart from the weekly sessions, there is also an Alpha Away Day. Please note that there is NO CHARGE for this course. Venue: Four Elms, Grosvenor Road, Godalming, Surrey GU7 1PA. To register visit our website <http://stedmundgodalming.btck.co.uk>

Parish Pilgrimage to sites of special Catholic interest in London, Thursday 16 May

Coach leaves from St Joseph's in Milford at 8:00. The day will be led by Fr David. The first stop will be at St Etheldreda's Church in Ely Place, www.stetheldreda.com, one of the oldest Catholic churches in England. Fr David will celebrate Mass in the church, which will be followed by lunch in the church crypt. The next visit is to Corpus Christi Church on Maiden Lane, just off the Strand corpuschristimaidenlane.org.uk. The church is now described as 'The Shrine of the Blessed Sacrament' since Cardinal Vincent Nichols raised it to this dignity in 2018. There will be time to look round before gathering for quiet reflection and the option of reciting a decade of the Rosary together. The pilgrimage ends with a visit to Tyburn Convent www.tyburnconvent.org.uk where one of the sisters will take the group around the historical sites and explain their significance. After tea and cake the coach will head home at 17:00. For all enquiries and to book a place on the pilgrimage please contact Jan Honeysett on 01483 429615 or email honeysett@btinternet.com

Day of Reflection, Saturday 18 May

Journeying with God through the Wilderness – these may have been creative times, challenging times or both. Drawing upon the Exodus story, this day will offer an opportunity to reflect upon and learn from our journeys with God through times of “wilderness” about how God walks with us and how we might walk with God. We will do this through meditation, reflections on scripture, reflections on experience, and prayer. The day is led by Aidan Coyle, an academic psychologist whose research has examined various issues to do with religion and society, including religion and mental health and interfaith engagement, Time 10:00 to 16:00 at St John’s Seminary, Cranleigh Road, Womersley GU5 0QX – suggested donation £13. Bring a packed lunch – drinks will be provided. To book a place, contact Patrick Coyne at paulcnw10@aol.com or call 07973 500811.

Golden Jubilee of St Edmund's Catholic Primary school, Thursday 23 May

Celebrated with Bishop Richard Moth on May 23rd at Ladywell Convent -
<http://www.stedmundschool.co.uk>

Churches Together Ascension Day Evening Prayer Service, Thursday 30 May – 20:00 to 20.45

To be held at St Edmund's Catholic Church, 19 Croft Road, Godalming, GU7 1DB. We are delighted to be hosting this event and look forward to welcoming you all and sharing refreshments with you in the Parish Room after the service. Parking is available in South Street Car Park – just cross the Flambard Way at the pelican crossing and walk up the hill till until you reach Croft Road then turn right. There is also parking at Croft Road Car Park behind the Baptist Church.

www.stedmundgodalming.btck.co.uk

Godalming Filling Station

The Godalming Filling Station is re-launching its monthly gatherings on Friday 10 May 2019. Friends, we invite you to join us for an evening of celebration, in honour, wonder and awe of our Mighty and Most Powerful God Almighty. Fellowship, worship and prayer at The Barn, Borough Farm, Borough Farm Road, Milford, Surrey, GU8 5JY.

Friday 10 May, 19:30 to 21:30

Friday 7 June, 19:30 to 21:30

Please visit our website for further details: <https://thefillingstation.org.uk/station/godalming>

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/GodalmingFillingStation>

Godalming Prayer Walkers

An open/public group "Godalming Prayer Walkers" for people to meet walk and pray, usually once a month, no set day/time. Look out for scheduled events on our Facebook page and feel free to join us:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/248847602431786/>

Manna Ministries

Legacies – Silence the voices, rebuild the walls, Saturday 27 July

Join Manna Academy Surrey in a moving musical re-enactment of the story of Nehemiah, seen through the eyes of a group of evacuees in WW2. As they journey through the courage and dedication of those that have walked the roads before them, they gain courage and determination, knowing that prayer and dedication to a call regardless of the voices around you can change both the present and the future.

Over 70 children and adults will bring this musical to life this summer, a musical for all the family will leave your faith stronger and your life challenged.

Performances at 14:00 and 19:00.

Tickets £7 for adults, £6 for children and £20 for families (2 adults and 2 children).

www.mannaministries.org.uk

Items for next month's Link-Up

Please send items for the June 2019 edition of *Link-Up* to Matt Farrow: farrow.matt@gmail.com by Wednesday 15 May for issue on Wednesday 22 May.