



# LINK-UP

April 2020

*Keeping Churches in Touch*

[www.godalmingchurches.org](http://www.godalmingchurches.org)

## Message from the Acting Chair

*God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Psalm 46:1*

Our church buildings may be closed, but our churches are alive and active, united in prayer and service of our local community in so many different ways, and whether high or low tech. I was particularly conscious of our unity in Christ as I lit a candle at 19:00 on the evening of Mothering Sunday as part of the National Day of Prayer and also when praying the Lord's Prayer at 11:00 on Wednesday 25 March along with the Pope and Christians all around the world. Maybe rediscovering the power of prayer is one of the good things that will come from this time of trial. 24/7 Prayer have posted many resources at <https://www.24-7prayer.com/coronavirusprayer>, including the option to sign up for a virtual prayer room.

These are dark and anxious times, but the Church has lived through many such times over the last two millennia. Peter writing to Christians suffering trials and persecution spoke of a 'new birth into a living hope' (1 Peter 1:3). Our hope is in Christ who brings light in darkness and life out of death. And perhaps as the world experiences an enforced sabbath, our opportunity to share that Easter hope has never been greater.

*Revd Maggie Stirling Troy, Acting Chair of Godalming & District Churches Together*

## Churches Together prayer breakfasts

The events for March, April and May have been cancelled. We will review the situation in May and update you then.

## Statement from Churches Together in England

Churches Together in England has released the following statement

As our nation faces the unprecedented challenge of the coronavirus pandemic, Churches Together in England (CTE) is encouraging Christians across our nations to continue uniting in prayer, praying #PrayersOfHope in their homes at 19:00 each Sunday evening.

Following the overwhelming response which the National Call to Prayer and Action received on Mothering Sunday, CTE has prepared a candle poster for those who would like to place a permanent symbol in their front windows of Christ's light shining in the darkness. Visit [www.cte.org.uk/prayersofhope](http://www.cte.org.uk/prayersofhope)

This poster has been made available due to our awareness of the potential fire risk posed by lighting live candles, particularly on windowsills. We are keen to avoid adding any pressure to our emergency service personnel, particularly at this difficult time.

*'The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.'* John 1:5

## News of the Churches and organisations

### Busbridge&Hambleton Church

Busbridge&Hambleton Church continues to be alive and active, but our buildings are now closed. Our ministry is continuing online, and in the community. We are using YouTube to broadcast a pre-recorded service every Sunday (search BHC Godalming) and Zoom for Morning Prayer on weekdays at 9:00, for youth work and other events and gatherings. Our Holy Week and Easter programme is also on YouTube and Zoom.

BHC is coordinating community support in Busbridge and Hambleton. Leaflets have been dropped into all houses in Busbridge and we have a large register of volunteers ready to help those who are ill and self-isolating.

Hambledon is working with the parish council, the village shop and the Merry Harriers pub to look after those self isolating.

[www.bhcgodalming.org](http://www.bhcgodalming.org)

## St John's Parish Church, Farncombe

As the situation has been changing daily, we're only now getting some clarity as to what each church can do over the next few weeks/months. We now know (at least as far as the Diocese of Guildford is concerned) that all churches must be closed completely and that we cannot even livestream a service from the church.

Everything must be done from the ministers' homes. At Farncombe we are still working out how we can best support the nearly 1/3 of our congregation who have no internet access. As well as emailing a weekly bulletin with the Sunday Service and sermon as pdf and audio file we are hand delivering a printed version round the parish. Our pastoral team is also keeping in touch with every church member by telephone.

### **Fundraising concert for The Cellar and CAFOD**

A huge thank you to all those who supported Farncombe Music Club's Pink Floyd tribute band 'Any Colour You Like' fundraising concert, in aid of CAFOD and The Cellar. The event raised the magnificent total of just over £2,000 which will be split equally between these two charities. This is a fantastic result and thank you again to everyone!

[www.farncombe.org.uk](http://www.farncombe.org.uk)

## Godalming Baptist Church

We at GBC have a YouTube Channel - what a steep learning curve for us all! We have divided the church into Pastoral Groups with individuals calling individuals on their list, and we have some who are able to go and shop for others and do doorstep deliveries. We are encouraging people in the church who do have email to send in favourite hymns and passages and jokes and funny stories etc and we will post these out to those stuck at home without computers and the rest will receive by email. Blessings, Sandra

[www.godalmingbaptistchurch.org.uk](http://www.godalmingbaptistchurch.org.uk)

## Godalming United Church

Members of our congregation are in Pastoral groups who we are trying to support one another with phone calls and by post. Many folk do not have the internet. One of our members has organised a virtual Sunday service containing excerpts from previous services, but this is only available to those with internet access. May all these efforts help us all at this difficult time. Gwen Wheatman

[www.guc.org.uk](http://www.guc.org.uk)

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

### **Online Liturgy of the Word**

Fr Jonathan is delivering an online Liturgy of the Word at 10:00 on a Sunday morning to provide an opportunity to be with others to listen to the Word of God and pray together using a video conferencing platform called GoToMeeting. You will need to download the app in your tablet or browser:

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/install/450922301>. To join from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/450922301> or you can also dial in using your phone. United Kingdom +44 20 3713 5028 Access Code 450-922-301. This worked very well on Sunday when we had 50 Parishioners join the worship.

### **Evening prayer**

We also used the same platform for Evening Prayer at 17:00 last Sunday and on the feast of the Annunciation on 25 March. If you require further information on how to set this up email Fr Jonathan

[pp.godalming@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:pp.godalming@abdiocese.org.uk)

### **Communication**

We are trying to keep the website up to date and will publish a newsletter there at the weekend. We are also thinking of setting up a Facebook presence as we know that it is helpful in some other parishes and an easier way for some people to access information and contact one another. Comments welcome:

<https://www.stedsgod.com>

## Resources for Personal Prayer

The Jesuits produce a well-known and much-loved daily meditation. They are usually 10-15 minutes and include a piece of music, a scripture reading and a guided meditation <https://pray-as-you-go.org>  
<https://stedsgod.com>

## Godalming Quakers

We have been holding online Meetings for Worship on Sundays using the Zoom platform: <https://zoom.us>, as well as virtual coffee breaks on Friday afternoons. These have allowed us to worship and socialise together in spite of the physical limitations.

[www.godalmingquakers.org](http://www.godalmingquakers.org)

## Trinity Trust Team

Like many others, we are acclimatising to our 'new normal' of working from home, staying connected via video conferencing and developing safe and creative ways to deliver online sessions to the young people we serve on a regular basis. So much of our time each week is spent face-to-face with young people in our schools, church halls, community centres and out on the streets and there are only so many of these interactions we can re-create online, but we are working on how we can run as many of our regular sessions as possible online.

Please pray for:

- The team - as we seek to create safe and creative ways to remain connected and engage with the young people we see on a regular basis;
- Parents struggling to juggle work/home school and for children and young people who are finding it difficult to adapt to these challenging times.
- That, with so many people anxious regarding their health and those of friends and family, many will turn to Jesus to seek comfort and strength.
- For the right candidate to come forward to take the role of Chair of TTT and help drive the vision with the Board of Directors/Trustees.
- All those who currently donate to TTT (both corporately and individually).

We continue to thank all those who play a part in and support the youth ministry of the Trinity Trust Team, particularly in these challenging times. Our thanks and blessings all. Andy

[www.trinitytrustteam.co.uk](http://www.trinitytrustteam.co.uk)

## Wintershall

Wintershall will not perform the *Passion of Jesus* live in London on 10 April 2020 or in Guildford on 11 April 2020. BUT we are excited to tell you, we have been thinking of a plan so as not to disappoint you. We are endeavouring to get rehearsal clips, interviews, stills, mobile phone videos from all the One Good Friday locations into a documentary of 2020, that we will livestream on our Facebook page on Good Friday at 12 noon and again at 15:00. This of course is pre-recorded but gives you an idea of the work we have all been doing to take this story into our streets. We will then follow it up with a repeat showing of last year's performance.

[www.wintershall.org.uk](http://www.wintershall.org.uk)

## Godalming Filling Station and Godalming Prayer Walkers

All of our meetings are suspended for the present time. Please visit our website for further details:

<https://thefillingstation.org.uk/station/godalming> or go to our Facebook page:

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

## Godalming Prayer Walkers

All of our meetings are suspended for the present time. Please visit our Facebook page for more information:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/248847602431786>

## *Items for next month's Link-up*

Please send items for the May 2020 edition of Link-Up to Matt Farrow: [farrow.matt@gmail.com](mailto:farrow.matt@gmail.com) by Wednesday 15 April, for publication on Wednesday 22 April.