



LINK-UP

June 2020

Keeping Churches in Touch

www.godalmingchurches.org

Message from the Acting Chair

Thy Kingdom Come – 21 to 31 May

“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses ...to the ends of the earth. When he had said this... he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight... Then they returned to Jerusalem ... and were constantly devoting themselves to prayer... When the day of Pentecost had come they were all together in one place... All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit... and that day about three thousand persons were added.” Acts 1, 2

As many of you will be aware, *Thy Kingdom Come* is an ecumenical call to prayer from Ascension to Pentecost, which this year runs from 21 to 31 May. This year, in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic, it feels that there is a new urgency and sense of the Holy Spirit moving. In the words of Reverend Canon Chris Russell, the Archbishop of Canterbury’s Advisor on Evangelism and Witness:

Haven’t we sensed more than ever the longing for the Kingdom of God – where there is no pain or crying, no injustice or loneliness? Haven’t we longed for God’s ways to be seen in the world? Haven’t we been most moved by those who give their lives to serve all that the Kingdom of God stands for? We long for signs of the Kingdom. And as a church do all we can to serve that Kingdom.

This year, although we can’t physically meet together, we’re encouraged to join with Christians all over the globe, praying not only for more people to come to know the love and peace of Jesus Christ, but also that they may experience that love in action through our churches.

For more information on how to take part and prayer resources go to www.thykingdomcome.global

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

Churches Together prayer breakfasts

Our prayer breakfasts have moved online! You can join by visiting <https://zoom.us/j/9463914833> and using password **2020**. Each person to provide their own breakfast! The next event is Saturday 27 June at 8:30, led by Fr Jonathan How, the Parish Priest of St Edmund’s Catholic Parish.

News of the Churches and organisations

The Parish of Godalming – St Peter and St Paul’s Church and St Mark’s Church

Our online services via Zoom continue to be well attended by members of our regular congregation and by some who have joined us from churches around the country. We are also offering a form of worship Monday to Friday, this varies from morning prayer to coffee and fellowship. Please see the list of regular worship below and if you would like to participate in any of these, visit our website – parishofgodalming.org.uk

10:15 - Sunday Worship

10:30 - Monday morning coffee and fellowship

9:30 - Tuesday morning prayer

12:00 - Wednesday prayers

9:30 - Thursday morning prayer

10:30 - Friday morning coffee and fellowship

St John's Parish Church, Farncombe

In common with our brothers and sisters in other Christian communities, St John's is having to get used to remote worship. We're distributing an audio service each week, printed out for the two dozen-or-so members of the congregation who don't have access to any online resources, and the Rector records a solitary Eucharist each Sunday morning, which is posted on YouTube. Links can be found on the church's Facebook page: [facebook.com/StJohntheEvangelistChurchFarncombe](https://www.facebook.com/StJohntheEvangelistChurchFarncombe).
www.farncombe.org.uk

Busbridge&Hambleton Church

Online services and activities

Busbridge&Hambleton Church is continuing to broadcast Sunday services on YouTube and has introduced a Heritage service based on the BCP each Sunday too. Both are available on the BHC Godalming YouTube Channel. We are delighted to share the service for Pentecost with Godalming Baptist Church for Pentecost on 31 May.

More and more regular activities have moved onto Zoom, particularly prayer groups and meetings and youth activities - the latter in particular seems to be thriving online. A full list is on the website:
www.bhcgodalming.org.

Church Family Support Fund

We're pleased to share that the Church Family Support Fund has made a series of gifts to local people in the past few days. Please pray for those who have been blessed in this way. Details for making donations and applications to the fund – which is open to anyone in the Godalming area – can be found on <https://www.bhcgodalming.org/c19-givingandsupport>.

Looking to the future

We are also starting to think actively about the future and what church will look like going forward, and thinking about this in terms of the stages: Rescue, Recover, Renew. Please send any thoughts you make have to church.office@bhcgodalming.org.
www.bhcgodalming.org

Hascombe St Peter

In common with other churches, we are streaming services either of our own or with Dunsfold and Cranleigh. Both Dunsfold and Hascombe have their own pewslips which are circulated each week together with the sermon and Bidding Prayers. We look forward to the day when we can all meet again as Church members.

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

Godalming United Church

Online church

We continue to keep in touch with each other by phone-calls, emails, Zoom etc.

During Lockdown, the United Church, though closed, continues to “witness, worship and serve” thanks to the marvels of technology.

Services are streamed real-time every Sunday at 10:30 at <https://guc.online.church>, with a facility to exchange greetings and comments. They are available for viewing later on our website www.guc.org.uk. Or YouTube channel bit.ly/GUCYouTube. Viewing figures have been very positive and include people watching from across the country.

VE Day and Christian Aid Week

On Sunday 10 May, we remembered VE Day and also marked Christian Aid Week. We have always been wholehearted supporters of Christian Aid, and this was a timely reminder of the continued essential work of

this charity worldwide – and a very tangible way of witnessing our faith. Like all charities, fundraising has been knocked by the Lockdown, so this year there has to be a different approach to Christian Aid Week donations, which are now online. Please visit the Christian Aid e-envelope scheme for donations.

<https://envelope.christianaid.org.uk/envelope/evJlbnZlbG9wZSI6MzA3MSwgImNoYW5uZWwiOiJjb3B5Ino=>

There is also a Christian Aid Sermon from Dr Rowan Williams on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/iISBv4YV8U4>

Potential new minister

At the time of writing, the weekend of 16/17 May is set to be a very special one for GUC, with a potential new minister “preaching with a view” on Sunday morning – to be preceded by a virtual Question and Answer session the day before.

Keeping in touch

In addition to our monthly magazine, *Span*, we are also producing a more frequently emailed newsletter, with hard-copies home-delivered (with the usual precautions) to those not on the internet, by volunteers on an exercise-walk!

www.guc.org.uk

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

New Facebook page

St Edmunds Parish Godalming Facebook page was launched last month and has proved very successful. Do visit the page, which is packed with useful links: www.facebook.com/stedsgod

St Edmund’s Virtual Parish

GoToMeeting Virtual Parish 450-922-301 t: 020 3713 5028 – access code 450-922-301

Every Sunday at 10:00, Fr Jonathan live streams our morning service, which regularly has an attendance of around 70, including several families, which is so nice. He also streams evening prayer at 17:00 on a Sunday evening. It is a great way of getting together as we can all see each other and talk to each other, and our regular readers can still do the readings etc.

Lectio Divina

Lectio Divina is a very special way of praying with the scriptures. It helps us to hear the “God who Speaks” and we find in it that God is not indifferent to our struggles and search for meaning. Wednesday evenings from 19:30 to 20:45 on GoToMeeting – details as above.

Family quiz of Godalming

One of our parishioners, Alan Lion, (formerly Chairman of Trinity Trust Team) has devised a family quiz of Godalming, which he is happy to share with you – for a copy email alion@btinternet.com

Please sign the CAFOD Coronavirus petition...

Please join CAFOD in asking the Prime Minister and all leaders to work together with other world leaders to:

- Make sure that any vaccine developed with UK public money is made available to everyone regardless of their income or where in the world they live
- Provide urgent financial and technical support to help developing countries cope with this crisis
- Cancel all debt payments by developing countries due in 2020 so that countries can spend money on much needed healthcare rather than debt repayments
- Put plans in place to rebuild a fairer, more just society after the crisis so that the world’s most vulnerable people can live in dignity and to restore our common home for future generations.

Now is the time for the world to unite in love and compassion for our sisters and brothers overseas:

cafod.org.uk

<https://stedsgod.com>

Godalming Quakers

We continue to hold 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

Trinity Trust Team

During the past couple of months in lockdown, the team have met daily for Bible study and prayer and have been using the time to undergo some online training in areas we feel to be pertinent when anticipating some of the issues that young people will be facing when re-integrating into social/educational 'norms' (such as mental health and adverse childhood experiences as experts predict a spike in mental health issues in teens as a result of lockdown). In addition to running a number of our regular groups online, from 1 June we will resume our street outreach, to be a presence in our local parks and open spaces, seeking to re-connect with the many young people we are used to engaging with in on the streets and in local parks.

Please pray for:

- The team - as we seek to resume detached work, for our safety and the safety of the young people we engage with.
- 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 candidates to come forward to take the role of Chair and Vice Chair of TTT and help drive the vision with the Management Team.
- 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.

www.trinitytrustteam.co.uk

Godalming Filling Station

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 July 2020 edition of *Link-up* to Matt Farrow: farrow.matt@gmail.com by Monday 15 June, for publication on Monday 22 June.