



LINK-UP

May 2020

Keeping Churches in Touch

www.godalmingchurches.org

Message from the Acting Chair

Alleluia, Christ is risen!

‘Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said “Peace be with you”.’ *John 20:26b*

Jesus came to traumatised, terrified, grief-stricken disciples locked down in fear of what was happening outside. And yet locked doors could not keep the Risen Jesus out as he brings his followers his gift of peace.

A poem has been circulating on social media entitled *How the Virus Stole Easter* by: Kristi Bothur (with a nod to Dr Seuss):

It hadn't stopped Easter from coming! It came!
Somehow or other, it came just the same!
And the world with its life quite stuck in quarantine
Stood puzzling and puzzling.
“Just how can it be?”
“It came without bonnets, it came without bunnies,
It came without egg hunts, cantatas, or money.”
Then the world thought of something it hadn't before.
“Maybe Easter,” it thought, “doesn't come from a store.
Maybe Easter, perhaps, means a little bit more.”

It has been the strangest Easter. Many of us are grieving. Many of us are fearful. But despite the lockdown, Easter came just the same. As we worship in our homes, alone or with others, with typed service sheets or on Zoom or Facebook, we find the Risen Jesus in our midst bringing peace and hope. Locked doors cannot keep him out.

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

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

The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. *Philippians 4:5b-7 (ESV)*

VE Day 75 Commemorations

CTiGD had been due to hold a service at Godalming Bandstand on Sunday 9 May as part of the nationwide commemoration of the 75th anniversary of VE Day. Along with all the other events planned for that weekend by Godalming Town Council, this has been cancelled. During the service the Mayor would have read the Tribute to the Nations www.veday75.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/VE-Day-Tribute.pdf

Churches who are livestreaming services on 9 May might like to include this, and others might like to use it in their private devotions that day.

Churches Together prayer breakfasts

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

Christian Aid Week – 10 to 16 May 2020

Think of Christian Aid Week and you might picture red envelopes through doors, plant sales, Big Brekkies, banners in front of churches, special services and much more.

Since 1957 the week has brought communities together in action and prayer, and while the coronavirus pandemic means that Christian Aid Week 2020 will be different, churches across the diocese are being invited to stand in solidarity with the world's most vulnerable people in new and innovative ways.

With daily quizzes and live-streamed worship, supporters can be involved from their own homes and could also take part in the 300,000 steps in May challenge which will be run through Facebook or send an electronic donation envelope - an 'e-envelope' – to friends and family.

Some groups are arranging online plant sales, while others are doing sponsored runs, cycles or walks in their daily outdoor exercise or in their own homes and gardens.

“It is at times like these – testing and painful times – that we recognise we are all in this together. Coronavirus impacts everyone, but love unites us all. Christian Aid Week has always been a joyful celebration of what we can achieve together for the world's poorest people and in this time of global crisis Christian Aid's work is needed as much as ever before.

“The most vulnerable and marginalised people are at the greatest risk from coronavirus. In Sierra Leone there are no ICU beds and in Malawi there is one ICU bed for every one million people. In refugee camps, people are not able to keep socially distant from one other and 40% of the world's population do not have access to soap and water.

Please donate to the Christian Aid Coronavirus Emergency Appeal:
www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/emergencies/coronavirus-emergency-appeal

News of the Churches and organisations

Busbridge&Hambleton Church

Online services

Busbridge&Hambleton Online Sunday services are going well, and the children's work on YouTube, Zoom and other online platforms is being well received. The services are pre-recorded and made available on the [BHC Godalming YouTube channel](#) at 10:00 every Sunday. Church members have been really supportive, and we've been able to include differently families doing the prayers, and remotely recorded songs by our worship bands too. We can see that non church members are watching too which is an opportunity we are keen to make the most of.

Prayer and coffee breaks

9:00 Morning Prayer and 10:30 coffee break sessions on Zoom are well attended, and we are looking at live mid-week services and reflections soon.

Register of volunteers

To support the local community, we have a register of volunteers who can help anyone in Busbridge and around with shopping, collecting prescriptions, a friendly phone call and other essential errands for those self-isolating. It's coordinated by a team who can be contacted at coronaresponse@bhcgodalming.org.

Financial support

Busbridge&Hambleton Church can also provide financial support to individuals and families in the Godalming area affected, through the Church Family Support Fund. Details about how to give to the fund, and nominate people for a gift are now available on the www.bhcgodalming.org website.

We are in contact with the Town Council and Godalming & Farncombe Community Corona Virus Assistance, and there is a collection trolley for the Community Store in Busbridge Church porch. Hambleton Church is working with the Parish Council to offer similar assistance to Hambleton residents.
www.bhcgodalming.org

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

Hascombe St Peter

Like all churches we received the order to close the Church in March, the first time we have locked it in daylight, since 1864! In the meantime, our Priest, Ian Maslin, has recorded services for Palm Sunday and Easter, which have been posted on our website and has carried on with weekly sermons which are circulated with our weekly pewslip, readings and prayers. We keep in touch with our congregation and further afield and look forward to restarting when we may.

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

During Lockdown, the United Church continues to "witness, worship and serve" thanks to the marvels of technology. With our interregnum continuing for the foreseeable future, this has been quite a challenge.

However, Senior Steward Alan Steele has arranged for a series of local preachers, lay readers and ministers to deliver videoed sermons appropriate to the season, and these have been supplemented by video and audio clips from bygone Sundays - all accessed, assembled and delivered by our tech wizard Richard August - to whom we owe a great debt of gratitude. Indeed, all of our preachers and participants must be praised, for often overcoming hesitancy with the technology and willingness to "step up to the mark".

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. Viewing figures have been very positive and include people watching from across the country.

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

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 55 but on Easter Sunday we stretched the software to its limits and had 69 attendees including several families. He also streams evening prayer at 17:00 on a Sunday evening. It is a lovely 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. After the morning service we all go and get a coffee and have a good old chat, getting updates on parishioners who have sadly been victims to the virus. One recent success story is that one of our Parishioners who had been in RSCH on oxygen for several weeks and is due to celebrate his 60th Wedding Anniversary on St George's day may well be home in time.

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

Love One Another Fellowship

Fr Jonathan has been working with Alan and Nicki Lion, and Sarah Stilwell, the Parish Assistant, to recruit a wonderful team volunteers for the "Love one Another Fellowship", and the team have called over 300 Parishioners and made a short list of the more vulnerable members of the Parish with whom they have arranged to keep in regular contact. As well as the phone calls, they have been following up with good deeds when required, such as shopping, collecting medicines etc.

Sycamore Programme

Walsingham will be showing the 20 half hour videos from this course, starting on Monday 27 April at 10:30 and 16:00 each day. The programme is an informal course about the Christian faith, and its relevance for life today and was written by Fr Stephen Wang, a leading Catholic speaker of our time. www.sycamore.fm
<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

Feba

18 May was to have been the date for our next Feba prayer meeting: may I suggest that those interested in Feba e-mail me at jimdogshome@aol.com 10 days earlier on 8 May, on which day there will be an on-line prayer meeting at 19:30? I can then give them details of how to sign on, or alternatively can give them an outline of the prayer points.

Trinity Trust Team

We pray that you are all managing to stay healthy and positive in these challenging times. How blessed are we that 'God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.' (Psalm 46). How comforting are these words when there is so much fear and uncertainty around us, that God is Sovereign over all things and that the risen Lord Jesus sits at His right hand, interceding for us. We, like so many teams locally and globally, have had to adapt to new working routines and environments and remain thankful for the technology that enables us to remain connected, as a team and with some of the young people we serve. Matt, Isaac and I meet via video conference every morning for prayer and Bible study and have decided to share a chapter from the OT and one from the NT each day, starting at the beginning of both.

Matt and Isaac are running two of our regular youth groups online, *Little Noise* and *Fuse* (run in partnership with the team at Godalming Baptist Church) each week and we are in regular contact with local schools as we remain prepared to deliver our usual raft of summer transition workshops and retreat days, but with no firm dates as to when these will go ahead. You know how much we value your support, and we remain equally committed to supporting young people in whatever way we can during lockdown and beyond. Please do let us know how we could be praying specifically for you and your church family. With love and prayers, Andy, Matt and Isaac

www.trinitytrustteam.co.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 June 2020 edition of Link-Up to Matt Farrow: farrow.matt@gmail.com by Friday 15 May, for publication on Friday 22 May.