



LINK-UP

August 2020

Keeping Churches in Touch

www.godalmingchurches.org

Message from the Acting Chair

One of the effects of lockdown has been to give us all more time to reflect. This may be one of the reasons why the murder of George Floyd made such an impact in this country and the USA. The Presidents of Churches Together in England have expressed their deep concern “about the lack of racial justice in our society”, and many individual members have been speaking out. If we feel that racial inequality is not really an issue for us in Godalming, perhaps we should consider recent words from Bishop Jo Wells:

The problem is not confined to particular incidents: if it were it would be much easier to address. The problems are deep-seated: buried in egregious problems of history which continue to shape attitudes in the present and the future. That's why the need is far-reaching: to revisit our history, understand our assumptions and uncover our biases. We all have them – it's how we survive in a complex world! But BLM prompts us to discern what they reveal about our power and prejudice in relation to race and ethnicity – what we see and don't see, what we say and don't say, what we think and what we don't even realise – so that we may learn, and be empowered to address the problems, and build a better world. The problems are individual and institutional, and therefore we must address them personally and corporately. That will involve repentance and change, two features that are surely foundational to us as Christians and as a Church, thanks to the transforming love of Christ.

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 22 August at 8:30.

Godalming Community Store/Food Bank

Well done to everyone who supports this. The Community Store (which is run by The Farncombe and Godalming Corona Virus Support Group in partnership with Godalming Town Council) is now supporting 60 plus families and it is thought it will be needed for at least six months. Donations of food etc via Trolley Tuesdays will continue until January 2021, and other hub collection points are in place.

The Community Store will need to move out of the Wilfred Noyce Centre in September, so other locations are being considered. The Food Bank will continue as before.

The Food Bank and the Community Store work together, with items being collected and distributed by both as needed. Citizens Advice Waverley are also involved in helping families with advice and guidance.

Please keep supporting our local community.

Keep a look out for further information and if you have any questions or suggestions please contact Michael Stubbs who is our representative on the Town Council Community Store Working Group on michaeleashing@aol.com.

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 hoping to open St Peter and St Paul's Church for private prayer, and we anticipate that we should be ready to do this in August. For more information on Sunday services, please visit our website parishofgodalming.org.uk.

Busbridge&Hambleton Church

Online worship

Busbridge&Hambleton Church is continuing to broadcast Sunday services on YouTube. Both the main and the Heritage service based on the Book of Common Prayer are available on the BHC Godalming YouTube Channel: youtube.com/c/BHCGodalmingOnline

Looking at restarting worship in churches

We are looking at ways to restart worship in the churches, and over the summer we are trying some experimental ways to test both safety and technology. We held an open air service in The Old Rectory next to Busbridge Church on 12 July, and a drive around service on 19 July and are planning a Drive IN service in September. YouTube services will continue over the summer, with some live events on zoom for all the family. All details are on the www.bhcgodalming.org website.

Showing support for keyworkers

We wanted to show our support and thanks to all the brilliant keyworkers at schools and care homes in the benefice, and the older people’s team and children’s, youth and family team have really enjoyed dropping token gifts to staff at Busbridge Juniors, Busbridge Infants, La Verna at Ladywell, Hydon Hill Cheshire Home, Hambleton Nursery and St Dominic’s school. Thanks to everyone who has worked so hard to care for others during these challenging times.

Church Family Support Fund

Are reminder too that the Church Family Support Fund is available to help anyone in the Godalming area. Thank you to those who have made gifts to the fund to in turn allow us to make gifts to local people since the Coronavirus crisis started. 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 www.bhcgodalming.org/c19-givingandsupport.

St John's Parish Church, Farncombe

We have recommenced physical worship at St John’s from Sunday 12 July, with celebrations of the Eucharist at 8:00 and 10:30. Although the Catholic parish hasn’t yet settled what their pattern of worship will be, the later start of our main service is to accommodate Mass (and cleaning!) in between ours should that be the preferred option.

Within the unavoidable limitations the service went very smoothly, everyone was understanding of what we can and can’t yet do, and it was a relief to be able once again to join together as the Body of Christ to ‘do this in remembrance’ of Jesus.

We’re continuing to offer remote worship resources as not everyone can get to church or feels confident to do so. The time to come will almost certainly be hard as we face questions about what we are able to manage in terms of outreach and community service, as continuing restrictions will not only impose limitations themselves but also reduce the human resources we have available.

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

Godalming United Church

Online church

Our Sunday morning services are streamed real-time every Sunday at 10:30 at <https://guc.online.church> and 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. Recently we received an appreciative email from a couple living on the west coast of Scotland who have found our weekly services especially helpful – and, being 2½ hours' drive from the nearest Methodist church, have taken real pleasure in sharing in the special character of Methodist worship. Many thanks to Richard August and his team for enabling all this to happen.

Bob Weighton - 29 March 1908 to 18 May 2020

It was with sadness that we heard of the death of the world's oldest man – Bob Weighton. A resident of Alton, he was until recent years a familiar face at GUC through his family (Peter and Sue Weighton) and was a well-loved and respected member of our wider church family.

Born in Hull, he trained as an engineer in the North-East. Always a strong member of the Presbyterian (later Congregational) Church he went out as a teaching missionary to Taiwan in the 1930s. With the coming of the War in the Pacific, he and his growing family were evacuated to Canada, where Bob used his skills working for the Air Force. In 1946, the Weightons returned to the UK, and Bob lectured at the college which was later to become City University.

Bob was an extraordinary man - and not simply because of his amazing age. A role model to all, he lived his life interested in and engaged with all kinds of people from across the world. Viewing everyone as his brother or sister and believing in loving, accepting and caring for one another. He had many, many friendships and read and talked politics, theology, ecology (he cared greatly for the environment) and more right up until his death. The second bedroom in his flat was a workshop, filled with furniture, windmills and puzzles he made and sold in aid of charity, often from bits of wood pulled from skips. Bob celebrated his last birthday behind closed doors in lockdown, describing the world as "a bit of a mess" in the crisis. When asked about the key to his longevity he simply replied, "I just haven't died." He previously had told the BBC: "I think laughter is extremely important. Most of the trouble in the world is caused by people taking themselves too seriously."

Until the very end Bob remained the witty, kind, knowledgeable, conversationalist father, grandfather and great grandfather of the Weighton clan, and he will be greatly missed.

www.guc.org.uk

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

Virtual Pilgrimage

St Edmunds Parish Godalming Facebook page has received lots of visits from funders and parishioners following our 109mile Virtual Pilgrimage and looking at all the photos posted by the Pilgrims walking to Bury St Edmunds but in our local area at <https://www.facebook.com/stedsgod> we have raised £2,675 for the CAFOD COVID 19 Appeal over 5 weeks from 13th June to 18th July when we met up to celebrate with a socially distanced picnic near the bandstand in the Phillips Memorial Gardens. If you would like to contribute to this worthwhile cause here is a link to the Parish Just Giving Page

www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Jo-Lewry1

Back to the Pews...

It has been so lovely to be able to worship as part of our Community back in our churches. Our Churches opened on the 4 and 5 July with Masses at both St Edmunds in Godalming and St Joseph's in Milford, and even without any singing and all the social distancing measures, it was still a joy to be back in church as a worshipping family in Christ. As part of our Pilgrimage, Sue and I walked from Milford into St Edmunds to weekday Mass on Monday 5 July – we just could not get enough of a good thing! There is a strict booking system for the weekend services, but as the weekday services attract a smaller congregation, you can just go along without pre-booking.

We continue with the St Edmund's Virtual Parish - GoToMeeting Virtual Parish 450-922-301 t: 020 3713 5028 – access code 450-922-301 – Every Sunday at 10:30 for those still shielding or who may be unwell or just fearful of returning.

Lectio Divina

Many of you experienced this very special way of praying with the scriptures at the June Prayer Breakfast

when Fr Jonathan used this way of praying to help us to hear the “God who Speaks”, and we find in it that God is not indifferent to our struggles and search for meaning. You are all very welcome to join us on Wednesday evenings from 19:30 to 20:45 on GoToMeeting Virtual Parish 450-922-301t: 020 3713 5028 – access code 450-922-301

Family Quiz of Godalming

With the school holidays upon us you may be interested in the Family Quiz of Godalming which Alan Lion is happy to share with you – for a copy email alion@btinternet.com

Face coverings

Now that face coverings are mandatory in shops, you can obtain these vital items, which have been lovingly made by Sr Mary Burke FMDM from Ladywell Convent. They are three-layered, light cotton with gentle elastic which goes around the ears. Sr Mary also prays for the health and safety of the wearer as she sews them. There is no charge, and our lovely Parish Assistant: Sarah Stilwell will be happy to help you

e: godalming@abdiocese.org.uk : 01483 416880.

Sources of Practical Support

Love One Another Fellowship If you would like help from our team of parish volunteers do not hesitate to call the help line number (07593 121430) or send a message via the parish email or Fr Jonathan.

Godalming Food Bank is still providing vital support to many. For latest update and details, including new collection points see: <http://www.parishofgodalming.org.uk/ourchurch-of-st-marks/food-bank/>

Some *food vouchers* are available from the Diocese for those in need. Please speak to Fr Jonathan or Sarah in the parish office.

Parish Welfare Fund aims to support those who are struggling at this time to afford basic necessities. If you need a bit of help or know someone who does, please don't hesitate to contact Fr Jonathan, in confidence.

The SVP are also able to help

<https://stedsgod.com>

Godalming Quakers

Online Meetings for Worship

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.

Ecumenical Sunday morning

During a recent Quaker Meeting for Worship on Zoom, a friend started smiling with the sound of a little chuckle. He later told us that his silence had been accompanied by the sound of a congregational hymn sang in a good voice by his lodger from upstairs during her Zoom Church service. A welcome Covid period side effect of Gospel unity.

Walking to Jerusalem - start: Godalming

In 2017, Amos Trust friends walked some 3,000 miles from London to Jerusalem in solidarity with Palestinian people. Now, three years later, Amos friends are again aiming to complete 3,000 miles, this time from people's homes in the UK and call for 'full equality for everyone who calls the Holy Land home'. I have started walking to and around Godalming aiming to add my 50 miles to the total and help to 'walk, fundraise, donate', www.amostrust.org/just-walk-again. Today I could feel a spring in my step when I added my walk to the post office to 'Just Walk to Jerusalem'. To join me, please ring 01483 414767. Anna Seifert

www.godalmingquakers.org

Trinity Trust Team

Moving On workshops

We were delighted to be able to take our revised, COVID-compliant Year 6 *Moving On* workshops into a number of local junior and primary schools before the end of the school term. The workshop underscores key teaching points around ownership, organisation, opportunity and orientation (secondary school sites are bigger and more spread out) and is seen as a valuable tool by Year 6 leads and Heads. Our Year 7 intake activities will now be delivered early in September in Broadwater and Rodborough schools.

Monday evening outdoor sessions

TTT has been running outdoor sessions on Monday evenings for small groups of young people who would usually attend our regular youth café, and this has been appreciated by them and their parents. We aim to run these sessions through the school summer holidays, as well as maintaining a presence in our communities through street outreach. Our online groups will pause now until the autumn term and will either resume virtually or face-to-face depending on how guidelines change between now and then.

New Chair and Vice-Chair

Our last set of prayer points contained a prayer request for a new Chair and Vice-Chair, and these prayers have been answered with Michael Stubbs taking over as Chair and Siobhan Walsh as Vice-Chair. We are excited about working with them both as we continue to seek God's vision for our youth ministries in and around the town.

Please pray for:

- The team - as we continue with detached work, for our safety and the safety of the young people we engage with.
- For local young people to make positive choices over the school holidays, especially with regards community harmony and cohesion.
- For all those planning for the autumn term, that wise decisions are taken regarding the safety of children and staff in our local schools
- 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.

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