



LINK-UP

July 2020

Keeping Churches in Touch

www.godalmingchurches.org

Message from the Acting Chair

Thy Kingdom Come – 21 to 31 May

For the time being we are still unable to meet together physically for worship, but it was good that so many of us could meet together virtually for our Churches Together online Ascension Day service. Our Saturday Zoom prayer breakfast for Thy Kingdom Come was also a great encouragement. It was hard celebrating Pentecost under lockdown, but many of us were inspired by the online national Thy Kingdom Come Pentecost Service – a truly ecumenical and global celebration (still available to view at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qEgk_zMMzbs).

We would have been due to have our annual Churches Together Staycation service at the bandstand on 9 August. All Staycation events have been cancelled and so this service has also been cancelled as the guidance for outdoor worship gatherings is still very unclear.

We welcomed the Government's permission for places of worship to reopen for private prayer from 15 June and for public worship from 4 July. Each of our member churches is having to work out how to do that safely and in compliance with social distancing guidelines. The Coronavirus and its devastating effects are still very much with us, and it will be a long time before our previous patterns of worship can be restored. There's a great temptation for us to fill our time with online replicas of all that we are missing in the real world, as we strive to return to 'normal' as soon as possible. That risks us failing to hear what God is saying to us through the pandemic - or forgetting too quickly what we have learnt. The Mayor of Bristol in a recent interview drew the distinction between secular 'optimism' and Christian 'hope'. Hope recognises the reality of death but takes us through death to resurrection.

'May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit'. Romans 15:13

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 25 July at 8:30.

Annual outing to Worthing for the over 60s

There will be no outing to Worthing for the over 60s this year. We look forward to meeting up next year.

Godalming Community Store/Food Bank

Well done to everyone who supports the Store/Food Bank. As you may have seen, Prince Edward visited the store recently and was suitably impressed!

There is a Town Council Working Group (Michael Stubbs is our representative on the Group), which is looking into how the Community Store can be reorganised going forward, as the Wilfred Noyce will need to revert to a public hall. The Food Bank will continue as before.

The Community Store is supporting 50+ families at present, and it is thought this will be needed for at least six months. The Group is looking for churches to be donation points and to get involved with collecting and supporting the Store.

The Food Bank and the Community Store work together, with items being collected and distributed by both as needed.

Do keep a look out for further information and if you have any questions or suggestions please contact Michael 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 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

St John’s is now open for private prayer on weekday mornings, usually 9:30 to 12:30 – check the porch sheet for weekly timings as these will differ. We are wondering how to carry forward worthwhile adaptations to our practices which we’ve adopted during the restrictions, but technology and (lack of) expertise may make it difficult! We are lucky to have the continued support and good wishes of so many people locally.

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 continue to be streamed real-time every Sunday 10:30 am 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.

Introducing Rev’d Adam Payne – our new Minister

Recently, the pastoral committee of the URC Wessex Synod held a Zoom meeting and unanimously agreed the following: “In the light of the clear indications of Godalming United Church that they wish to issue a strong call to Adam Payne to serve as their minister at the earliest opportunity, the Pastoral Committee agrees to appoint Adam Payne as a Synod Minister to serve at Godalming United Church.”

Adam hails from Indiana, USA. He’s always been an anglophile, and after a family trip over here a few years ago he and his wife felt that they really wanted to come and live in England permanently. He’s currently living in Basingstoke, working in IT, his wife Kyla is an A&E nurse, and their two daughters, aged 12 and 8 are in local schools. While over here he’s been preaching at local URC churches

Adam first preached at our church right at the beginning of February (filling a Sunday “slot” during the interregnum created by Paul Hulme’s retirement last summer). He and the family liked us, and were due to attend our annual pantomime the following weekend, but sadly storm Ciara prevented them. However, a link had been forged! Adam applied for the post of Minister, and on the weekend of 16/17 May had an online discussion with Richard August (Church Council and our resident IT wizard) followed by “preaching with a view” (the week’s virtual Sunday service). Social distancing has meant that communications with church

members have been online or, for those without the technology, via transcripts/CD/DVD. This has meant a lot of work for members of Church Council – but everything has been coordinated, and the result is that we have a new minister – who will be in post on September 1st.

Adam is a minister of the US United Church of Christ (the American equivalent to the United Reformed Church) and his upbringing was in the United Methodist Church. His priority is “being part of a church that is active” and he is “excited about the possibilities of making a positive difference in the world”. He sees the congregation “as an active part in the ministry” and church as “a place where people can know they can turn in times of need and find themselves welcomed”. We feel that Adam and his family are a close fit with Godalming United Church and look forward to welcoming him properly into our church and community.

www.guc.org.uk

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

Virtual Pilgrimage

Follow our progress on our 109-mile Virtual Pilgrimage walking to Bury St Edmunds but in our local area at <https://www.facebook.com/stedsgod> to raise funds for the CAFOD COVID 19 Appeal. Our target was £1,000 over 5 weeks, but in the first week we have raised £961, so if you would like to contribute to this worthwhile cause, here is a link to the Parish Just Giving page <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Jo-Lewry1>

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 continues to live stream our Morning Service, which continues to have an attendance of around 70, including several families which is so nice. He also streams evening prayer at 17:00 on a Sunday evening.

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 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

Opening Times within our Parish

Thanks to our team of volunteer stewards and cleaners, opening times are as follows:

St Joseph’s, Milford

Tuesday 10:00 to 11:00

Wednesday 10:00 to 11:00 and 19:30 to 20:30

St Edmund’s, Godalming

Monday 10:30 to 11:30, 14:30 to 16:00 and 19:00 to 20:00

Thursday 10:00 to 12:00 and 14:30 to 16:00

Saturday 11:00 to 12:00

Sunday 16:00 to 17:00

Face Coverings

Sr Mary Burke FMDM from Ladywell has emailed to say “I am currently ‘shielding’ and will be for a while. I would like to ask if you might appreciate some face-coverings for those who find it hard to source them and may need them. They are three layered, light cotton with gentle elastic which goes around the ears... I got the material free and it is passing the time for me. I also pray for the health and safety of the wearer as I sew them. So there is no charge except if the recipient wishes or can do a kind deed for someone else.” Please contact Parish Assistant: Sarah Stilwell 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

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 Radio

We shall have appropriately socially distanced prayers for Feba Radio in the garden of 42 Minster Road from 10:30 to 11:30 on Monday 20 July. Bring something to sit on. Please contact jimdogshome@aol.com if you wish to come. If the weather is inclement the meeting will be cancelled: please e-mail me at the same address and I shall give you prayer points.

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