



LINK-UP

October 2020

Keeping Churches in Touch

www.godalmingchurches.org

Message from the Acting Chair

The introduction of the 'rule of six' means that our AGM scheduled for 7.30 on 14 October will now take place by Zoom. Everyone is welcome to attend and joining details are set out below. We are delighted that Revd Sandra Platford of Godalming Baptist Church is willing to take on the role of chair and that Angela Gilmour and Gillian Martin have indicated their willingness to continue as Lay Vice Chair and Secretary respectively. We will also be welcoming Andrew Bolton as our new Treasurer with many thanks to Tony Bennewith for his years of sterling service. As my term of office as Clergy Vice Chair and Acting Chair draws to an end, I'd like to add a personal thank you to the whole Executive Committee and particularly my co-Vice Chair Angela Gilmour for all their hard work and support over a very difficult year for all of us.

Remembrance-tide and Christmas will have to be marked very differently this year but in the midst of continuing uncertainty the Holy Spirit is teaching us new ways to communicate the good news of Jesus Christ.

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

(Ephesians 3:20-21)

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

Six months on: Prayers of Hope

It is six months since the Presidents of Churches Together in England issued a national call to prayer for all those affected by the coronavirus pandemic. They invited Christians across the country to join together in prayer at 19:00 each Sunday night. To mark six months since #PrayersOfHope began, CTE General Secretary, Rev Dr Paul Goodliff, has written a special prayer:

Gracious Lord, six months ago we faced an uncertain threat from the coronavirus pandemic and stood on the verge of the lockdown. Then we lit candles of hope and prayed for our world. Scripture calls us to persevere in prayer, and so we pray again and again that you would have mercy on our world, especially in those places where the virus is still spreading out of control. Give wisdom and courage to all charged with leading the responses, from Governments to public health leaders, and especially to those Christians seeking to serve their communities.

Closer to home, schools have re-opened, students are preparing to go to Universities and Colleges, and many face uncertainty at work. Grant that the same mutual support experienced at the height of the lockdown may now be released again as we face social, economic and employment challenges. Guide Christians throughout these islands to lead by example in building a fair and compassionate society, and give courage as we witness to the saving power of the gospel of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray, Amen.

This prayer was featured in the Prayers of Hope service on Premier Christian Radio on Sunday 20 September at 19:00.

Climate Sunday

Local churches are encouraged to hold a local Climate Sunday any time during a one-year period starting on 6 September (the first Sunday in the annual season of Creation Time/Season of Creation).

Free resources will be provided to suit every tradition and style of worship.

During their local Climate Sunday, churches are invited to do one or more of three things:

1. **Climate service:** Hold a climate-focused service, to explore the theological and scientific basis of creation care and action on climate, to pray, and to commit to action.
2. **Commit:** Make a commitment as a local church community to taking long term action to reduce its own greenhouse gas emissions.
3. **Call:** Join with other churches and wider society by adding its name to a common call for the UK government to take much bolder action on climate change in this country in advance of COP26, and to strengthen its credibility to lead the international community to adopt a step change in action at COP26. The culmination of the campaign will be a national Climate Sunday event on Sunday 5 September 2021, to share church commitments and pray for bold action and courageous leadership at COP26.

Climate Sunday has been organised by Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI) with support from charities including CAFOD, Christian Aid, Tearfund, A Rocha UK, and Operation Noah.

For more information visit <https://ctbi.org.uk/climate-sunday/>

Christmas Angels - a message of hope

Churches Together in Godalming and District would like to propose that the churches in Godalming come together to promote the message of hope that we have in Jesus this Christmas.

Please see attached pattern for knitted angels. We plan to place (covid-safe) angels around the town, near the schools for individuals in our community to find.

Each angel will bring a message of hope for the one who has found the angel. There will be a Facebook Page for those who find angels to write their comments on etc and will hopefully prove to be something positive and uplifting for our community in these difficult times. So all I ask is that you get involved at this stage by knitting the angels as many as you can!

Many Thanks, Rev'd Sandra Platford, Minister of Godalming Baptist Church.

Churches Together prayer breakfasts

The October prayer breakfast is on Saturday 24 October at 8:30 via Zoom. The Zoom room is: <https://zoom.us/j/9463914833> and the password is 2020.

Godalming Community Store/Food Bank

Well done to everyone who supports this. The Community Store is still operating from the Wilfred Noyce Centre and the Food Bank from St Marks Community Centre.

The Community Store is run by The Farncombe and Godalming Corona Virus Support Group in partnership with Godalming Town Council. Donations of food etc via Trolley Tuesdays will continue until January 2021, and other Hub collection points are in place.

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

We thank God that after many months of being ‘Zoom Church’ we are now in a position to open our doors for Sunday services once more as we meet each week at 10:00 for our main Holy Communion Service. On the first Sunday of each month we hold an 8:00 Holy Communion service, which is followed at 10:00 by our All Age Service, a more relaxed and informal style of worshipping God together.

All our services follow Covid-19 guidelines received from the National Church and the Government, as we seek to do all we can to ensure the safety of everyone.

We are conscious that not everyone is yet in a position to join us in church, with some members of our church congregation rightfully continuing to carefully safeguard themselves at home. We fully support them, and we’re delighted that they are still able to share worship with us, as we link the services via Zoom each week.

Our beautiful town centre church remains open, for those who value a time of quiet reflection and private prayer, on Mondays and Fridays each week from 11:00 until 13:00, with stewards on hand to guide and support. All are very welcome.

parishofgodalming.org.uk

Godalming United Church

At the beginning of September, we welcomed our new Minister, Rev’d Alan Payne and his family. His induction took place on 26 September.

The church has now been open again for a month for live Sunday morning worship. Spaces are limited to less than 50, so advance booking is necessary: 01483 860683.

If you are unable to join us in person, we will be live-streaming the service at 10:30 on Sundays, with two options on how to connect:

- the same platform we have been using during lockdown: <https://guc.online.church>. This will include availability of the chat function to allow you to say “Hello”, raise anything that you’d like us to pray about, and so on.
- the same platform that we were using before lockdown – at either <https://thesundayservice.gallery.video/godalmingunited> or bit.ly/GUCTV. There is no chat available on this platform.

The service can also be watched later on our YouTube channel: bit.ly/GUCYouTube. There will, at other times, be some limited access for private prayer – please phone 01483 420459.

www.guc.org.uk

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

Online Alpha Course for adults and young people

A morning course: 10:30 to 12:00 weekdays and an evening course: 20:00 to 21:30 weekdays. A typical session involves an introduction, a video, a break for a drink and group discussion. All you will need is a reasonable internet connection. The videos run for 20-25 minutes. The Saturday morning session will involve two videos. The courses will start either in the week commencing 28 September or the week commencing 5 October. All courses involve 11 sessions plus a Saturday morning session.

The Saturday morning session will be in November from 10:30 to 13:00. The start date will be agreed with the participants. We are planning to offer the Youth Alpha programme in conjunction with the Trinity Trust Team. To register or for further information contact Alan Lion on 01483 420859 (no answer phone) or email to alion@btinternet.com or register at www.stedsgod.com

Lectio Divina

A very special way of praying with the scriptures helping us to hear the “God who speaks” and to find that God is not indifferent to our struggles and search for meaning. Everyone is 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

Wednesday Word

Free online children's activity sheet for each Sunday: www.wednesdayword.org/school

Parish Quiz Night, 10 October

Something social and fun for everyone - even if it's on Zoom! To register, email honeysett@btinternet.com and please make a minimum donation of £5 per person to the CAFOD harvest appeal at: <https://tinyurl.com/y33xte2t>

Alton Day of Renewal, 24 October on Zoom

'How can we, like Mary, use the words of Scripture to praise God?' Led by Monsignor John Armitage. www.altonrenewal.com/2020.html

Stress in Your Marriage?

This has been a very difficult year for many. Retrouvaille is a program for married couples that feel bored, disillusioned, cold, conflicted, frustrated, or angry in their marriage. Many don't know how to change the situation or even communicate with their spouse about it. This programme has helped 6,000 couples who were experiencing difficulties in their marriage in the past year alone. There is no group therapy or group work. For confidential information or to register for the next virtual weekend on 12 to 15 November, visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk, call 0788 7296983 or email retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com

Sources of Practical Support

Parish Welfare Fund aims to support those who are struggling at this time to afford basic necessities. The SVP are also able to help: 07990 717067. Their members, motivated by their faith, are committed to meaningful and long-term befriending. Inspired by the message of the Gospels they seek and find those in need and offer them sincere friendship. They visit them on a regular basis and offer additional practical support such as food, furniture or financial help where needed.

<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.

www.godalmingquakers.org

Trinity Trust Team

The new academic year started positively with Trinity Trust Team again delivering team-building activities as part of the new Year 7 Intake Days in Rodborough and Broadwater secondary schools. We had been planning for the return of face-to-face after-school clubs and groups this term but will progress these plans with extra caution with the possibility of a spike in the pandemic. Many local schools are maintaining an equally cautious stance of allowing no external providers or partners to deliver sessions in or after school on-site, to be reviewed after the half term break. We will continue to develop plans for a safe return to some of our groups, working closely with centre managers and local authorities.

With fewer opportunities to return to regular centre-based activities, we continue to maintain a high visibility presence on our local streets and in open spaces through outreach into Broadwater, Farncombe, Godalming and Milford three nights a week and in developing online sessions in order to remain connected with young people we would see regularly and to keep them engaged with one another socially.

We remain positive and hopeful of, in good time, a safe transition back to regular face-to-face sessions with young people knowing that God is sovereign over all things. We value your ongoing support and ask that you pray for:

- The team - as we continue with detached work, for our safety and the safety of the young people we engage with out on the streets and in open spaces.
- Local young people to make sensible choices regarding socialisation, balancing the need for peer-contact with remaining healthy and safe and maintaining social distancing guidelines.
- Longer-term plans to return to face-to-face sessions, for wisdom in decision-making and protection over the team and the young people we serve.
- 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

The Cellar Café

Despite moving out of Crown Court, the Cellar has still been very active. The following has been received from Chris Jagger.

The Cellar community is offering an early response listening service for troubled young people in our locality in association with the newly formed 14-18 group, plus the Dan Eley Foundation and the well-established Trinity Trust Team.

Confidential appointments are being offered at no charge to any young person, either alone or with a friend or parent, who is struggling with the challenges of the current uncertainties and the emotional problems that they may be facing. The appointment would be held at a designated address with two of our team in attendance offering a sympathetic ear, words of comfort and encouragement with assistance in finding the right pathway for a purposeful future. The group has a network of professional psychologists to access should this be considered necessary. All the team members are DBS checked and have experience or expertise in the field.

To book an appointment please phone or text Chris on 07818675528 or phone Jill on 01483 414646.

Feba

Feba is a media ministry which has partners in most of the world's trouble spots including Ukraine, Lebanon and Syria. Come and pray with us in the garden of 42 Minster Road on Monday 19 October from 10:30 to 11:30. If weather is inclement, contact Shelagh at jimdogshome@aol.com for prayer points. Or log on to www.feba.org.uk for information to fuel your prayers.

Items for next month's Link-up

Please send items for the October 2020 edition of *Link-up* to Matt Farrow: farrow.matt@gmail.com by Thursday 15 October, for publication on Thursday 22 October.