



November 2020

LINK-UP

Keeping Churches in Touch

www.godalmingchurches.org

Message from the Vice Chair

Every blessing is sent to you all as we once again revert to worshipping online. Hopefully we will be back in church again in Advent, but in the midst of continuing uncertainty the Holy Spirit is teaching us new ways to communicate the good news of Jesus Christ. Please refer to your church website for information on opening times for private prayer and online services or visit the new [CTiG&D website](#) and click on the photo of your Church.

The CTIG AGM went ahead via Zoom on 14 October, and I am delighted to confirm that Revd Sandra Platford of Godalming Baptist Church is our new Chair. Unfortunately, Sandra is currently off sick with long COVID, but we hope she will be well enough to lead the Zoom Prayer Breakfast on Saturday 28 November. Do remember Sandra and her family in your prayers, and also Andrew Bolton and Matt Farrow who are both recently bereaved.

I will stay on as Vice Chair and Gillian Martin will continue as Secretary. We will also be welcoming Andrew Bolton as our new Treasurer. Michael Stubbs will continue in the role of Past Chair and Prayer Breakfast co-ordinator and the Rev James Rattue has kindly agreed to be the Clergy Representative on the Executive. Edouard Le Maistre will continue to look after the publicity, Matt Blake the website and Matt Farrow our monthly *Link-up*. We are blest with several Parish Reps: Gwen Wheatman (GUC), John Stevens (SSP&P); Jacky Tickner (St Mark's); Colin Swait (Hascombe); Rev Margot Spencer (Busbridge) and Chris Meeks, Debbie Flack and Matt Farrow (Quakers). It is hoped that we will recruit a new Rep from both St Edmunds Church and Godalming Baptist Church.

Remembrance-tide and Christmas will have to be marked very differently this year, but in the meantime let me share with you the reading I should have done at the Godalming Remembrance Service

A Reading from St Paul's Epistle to the Philippians Chapter 4 Vs. 4-9

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!

Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near.

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every-thing, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.

Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you

God bless you all

Angela Gilmour, Vice Chair of Godalming & District Churches Together

Churches Together prayer breakfasts

The November prayer breakfast is on Saturday 28 November at 8:30m via Zoom at: <https://zoom.us/j/9463914833> using the password 2020.

A month of prayer

The Archbishops and the Evangelical Alliance have called on us to make this 'month of lockdown, a month of prayer.' This link from Church of England website that gives very specific and helpful daily focus for prayer:

www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-churches/call-prayer-nation#sunday

Also to pray the prayer:

*Loving God,
at this time of crisis
when so many are suffering,
we pray for our nation and our world.
Give our leaders wisdom,
our Health Service strength,
our people hope.
Lead us through these parched and difficult days
to the fresh springs of joy and comfort
that we find in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.*

And...

We have been asked that at 18:00 every night our church bells are tolled and we set an alarm in our phones to pray.

Godalming Community Store/Food Bank

As of 16 October 2020 the Community Store/Food Bank has supplied the equivalent of 17,024 days worth of food and hygiene products and support to 86 families consisting of 155 adults and 127 children.

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.

The Community Store is still operating from the Wilfred Noyce Centre, and The Food Bank from St Mark's Community Centre.

The Community Store is run by The Farncombe and Godalming Corona Virus Support Group, in partnership with Godalming Town Council.

Please keep supporting our local community. Donations of food etc can be via Trolley Tuesdays and various Hubs around the area.

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

Busbridge&Hambleton Church

Info correct at the time of writing! Check www.bhcgodalming.org for latest information.

Online services

With the winter lockdown, services will be broadcast from Busbridge and Hambleton Churches on the BHC Godalming YouTube channel: youtube.com/bhcgodalmingonline

- 9:00 - Heritage BCP (pre-recorded, from Hambleton Church)
- 9:00 - Classic (live stream)
- 10:15 - Contemporary (live stream)

All the details are on the web site: www.bhcgodalming.org.

Prayer meetings

Prayer meetings continue on Zoom on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays during the winter lockdown, and the prayer ministry team are receiving prayer for those who have lost employment or facing uncertainty due to Coronavirus, but welcome all prayer requests at this time too. Email: prayer@bhcgodalming.org. Requests for practical and financial support are also welcome via the email: coronaresponse@bhcgodalming.org.

Advent and Christmas – “Season of Comfort & Joy”

With a shortage of opportunities to gather people all at once, our key community event for Advent and Christmas will be the “Comfort & Joy” Exhibitions at Busbridge Church and Hambleton Church - open to anyone to get involved and contribute creative works loosely on the theme, and to visitors from 7 December. We’ve adopted the Church of England theme for Christmas 2020 (which you can read about [here](#)) and are calling on church members and the local communities to make it their own. BIG Advent Stars made by Rob Hewlett will be lighting up at both churches at 17:00 on Advent Sunday, 29 November.

Christmas Eve Drive-in

Christmas Eve Drive-in “Bling your Car” at Godalming College! (16:00) Given the likelihood of existing or higher COVID 19 restrictions severely limiting numbers (and singing!) in church, a drive in carol service offers the safest opportunity to gather and share a Christmas experience with the church family and the local community - and exercise ones lungs in the confines of your car. We are delighted that Godalming College has offered its grounds to host the event. Watch the web site for details.

Godalming United Church

We continue to “Worship, witness and serve” in these uncertain times.

Sunday morning spaces are limited to less than 50, so advance booking is necessary: 01483 860683.

If you are unable to join us in person, we are 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://thesundaysevice.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. Recordings (audio and video) are available through our website www.guc.org.uk

There will, at other times, be some limited access for private prayer – please phone 01483 420459.

Communion

We were delighted to share in our first Communion service for seven months in mid-October. All who wished to participate were issued with an individual “kit” as they came in – a neat [disposable mini-goblet](#) with double peel-off top, enclosing first the wafer, and then the communion wine. “Communion-ready-to-go” isn’t

the same as the traditional serving of the elements, but is a safe way of sharing the Eucharist –at the heart of our Christian tradition.

Premises hire

We are taking bookings for general hire of the premises – in line with church covid protocols and hirers' risk assessments: lettings@guc.org.uk

www.guc.org.uk

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

Supporting local Charities in Advent

As part of the CAFOD Parish Live Simply Award we are looking to support local charities during Advent. Last year we supported Guildford Action and Number 5 Project - both homeless charities - and we have asked parishioners to add their suggestions for 2020. <https://cafod.org.uk/Campaign/Livesimply-award>

Holy Souls

November is the month of the Holy Souls, and Fr Jonathan will be blessing graves in Eashing Cemetery on Sunday 1 November at 15:00 and in Milford around 10:15 on Monday 2 November. If you wish to have a grave blest, please email Sarah at <mailto:godalming@abdiocese.org.uk>

Lectio Divina

Lectio Divina is 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

Wednesday Word children's activity sheet for each Sunday. This is free online and available at:

www.wednesdayword.org/school

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>

Cellar Café

I am writing to inform you that The Cellar Café is re-opening in its new home in the old staff café within the Waverley Borough Council complex (the entrance is opposite Waitrose in Bridge Street and it is located in the walkway opposite, between there and the rear entrance of the Council offices – it is between the CAB and the Town Council offices).

We are rebranding our identity after 41 years and we will be called 'Cellar Camino Cafe' – we will also be housing the 'Community Fridge'.

We all feel that our mission has never been more needed than now, and with the coming weeks and months are here to support anybody and everybody in our community.

Please spread the word and when you have a moment, come and visit us and have a cup of coffee (observing social distancing of course) and hear what we have to say.

Simon Crowther, Trustee, The Warehouse Christian Trust

www.thecellarcafe.co.uk

Trinity Trust Team

Despite a second but less all-encompassing lockdown, we remain extremely busy as we gear up for Christmas. Instead of a tour of local schools with an assembly as per previous years we will instead be recording a Christmas message that local schools will be able to download and will be available through our website. We are also, in partnership with Churches Together, working on a virtual 'Carol Concert of Hope' as we link up with local schools who will contribute songs and readings that will again be available via ours, CTiGD and local church websites. We also hope to have this distributed on CD/DVD to some of the vulnerable and isolated who won't be able to enjoy the hospitality of Godalming Baptist Church and the Christmas Day lunch this year. We are blessed with a range of technology and channels of communication at our fingertips and some great expertise from Matt Blake at TTT, so are able to remain connected with many young people we would usually see at weekly groups and to reach out to others who might need additional encouragement and support.

Yes, in many ways Christmas will be different in this year of the pandemic but the essence of Christmas remains the same; the saviour came to earth in the form of a vulnerable baby to grow up to be the man who went to the cross to save us from sin and reconcile us to our Father, God. Jesus is light, love, peace and hope so may we hold on to his promise of new life through him during these dark and often sad and anxious times. Let us re-focus on Jesus this Christmas as, more than many of us can remember, we need his light and love in our lives and the hope we have in him to steer us through the storm of uncertainty we are currently riding out. Jesus offers the certainty and lasting fulfilment that this vulnerable world simply can't.

We value your ongoing support and ask that you pray for:

- all young people and families facing uncertainty and anxiety this time of the year and for those who are vulnerable and struggling to make ends meet. May we be generous and giving to those who might not be blessed with the resources we have.
- local young people to make sensible choices regarding socialisation as we emerge from a second lockdown, balancing the need for peer-contact with remaining healthy and safe, maintaining social distancing guidelines.
- this to be a year when many who might overlook the star and the crib remember to put Christ back into Christmas, may those seeking hope for an uncertain future find it in Jesus.
- 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 this Christmas season. Andy and the team.

Items for next month's Link-up

Please send items for the December 2020 edition of *Link-up* to Matt Farrow: farrow.matt@gmail.com by Friday 4 December, for publication on Wednesday 9 December.