



December 2020

LINK-UP

Keeping Churches in Touch

www.godalmingchurches.org

facebook.com/ChurchesTogetherinGodalmingandDistrict

Message from the Vice Chair

Every blessing is sent to you all, as we carefully come together, once again to celebrate this season of Advent and Christmas in a very different way. Please refer to your church website for information on opening times and booking requirements or visit the [CTiG&D website](http://www.godalmingchurches.org) and click on the photo of your Church.

The CTiG&D Christmas 2020 team have been meeting by Zoom to progress the following initiatives, and our special thanks goes to Matt Blake and Andy Poulson for their time, skill and expertise in preparing all the artwork for our Godalming Shines initiative and our Christmas Ad, plus the updated website and [Facebook pages](https://facebook.com/ChurchesTogetherinGodalmingandDistrict) – do take a look using the links above.

Service of Hope - Matt and Andy, together with Penny Rivers, Rev Maggie Stirling Troy, Michael Stubbs and the local schools have produced a wonderful “Service of Hope”, which you will be able to download from the CTiG&D Website www.godalmingchurches.org or via youtube.com/watch?v=ItQ9goJDgfQ or www.facebook.com/ChurchesTogetherinGodalmingandDistrict/posts/864202634122020

We are producing DVDs for the more vulnerable members of the community, without access to the internet, who would enjoy listening to some lovely carols and readings by our local school children. During lockdown all the churches have been communicating with their parishioners who are unable to access the online services, so if you are a co-ordinator for this ministry please could let me know the number of CDs your church requires by 15 December? I will ensure they reach your nominated person.
angelagilmour181@btinternet.com

Angelic Angels – we have received over 300 angels, who are winging their way to new homes around the community. Our grateful thanks to our talented knitters, and to Anne, the Administrator of Godalming Baptist Church, who is helping with the packing and onward deliveries and monitoring the recipients on our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/ChurchesTogetherinGodalmingandDistrict>. Angels have been found in Milford, Witley and Elstead, and will soon be arriving in Godalming and Puttenham. Many hands make light work so if you could help with the packaging and onward delivery in your area, please call at GBC on a Friday morning between 10:00 and 12:00 noon.

CTiG&D Star in Crown Court – have you seen our lovely star, shining brightly in Crown Court, adjacent to the Godalming Town Council’s “Memory Tree”? Our grateful thanks go to Andy Jeffrey and his team at GTC for procuring and displaying the star to launch the Godalming Shines Initiative.

CTiG&D Vantage Ad – last but not least our thanks go to Gillian Martin, our very efficient Secretary, who keeps us all well informed; to Edouard Le Maistre for handling our advertising, the Ad inside the cover of the December *Vantage* Magazine works well, and lastly to Andrew Bolton our Treasurer for transferring us to online banking, which will make life so much easier going forward.

Our Chairman Rev Sandra Platford – please remember Sandra in your prayers as she copes with the daily challenges of Long COVID – she is signed off till mid-February with a gradual return to Ministry once she is feeling a little better. Sandra has been guiding us along the way and many of the initiatives above have been led by Sandra.

“We who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another” - Romans 12.5

Angela Gilmour, Vice Chair of Godalming & District Churches Together

Churches Together United Service

Every year, Churches Together in Godalming and District hold a United Service during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The service next year will be on Sunday 24 January 2021, in Godalming Baptist Church, at 10:30. The theme of the service is Abiding in Christ (Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit - John 15:5-9). After all that 2020 has thrown at us, it will be good to focus on where our roots need to be.

Because of the ever-changing COVID restrictions, we don't know yet whether it will be possible for people to attend this event in person, though we hope that at least some will be able to do so. However, whatever the situation inside church, the service will be live-streamed, so that you can watch it at home.

Please put the date in your diaries (there probably isn't much else in there!) so that we can look forward to worshipping together, one way or another.

Churches Together “Last Sunday service of the Year”

This will be on You tube from 18:30 on Sunday 27 December, look out for the link.

Churches Together prayer breakfasts

The November prayer breakfast is on Saturday 19 December at 8:30 via Zoom at: <https://zoom.us/j/9463914833> using the password 2020.

Godalming Community Store/Food Bank

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 and perhaps include Christmas things like wrapping paper or cards .

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

Parish of Godalming

Nativity trail at St.Mark's Church

A Nativity Trail has been arranged this year starting on Saturday, 5 December. It starts at St.Mark & All Saints CE school and follows a trail around Aarons Hill and returns to the church via Franklyn Road. There are 10 windows to see and a donation of £1 for PTA funds is requested. Please contact Jacky Tickner or Sheila Samuels for a paper trail.

www.parishofgodalming.org.uk

Busbridge&Hambleton Church

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

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.

Regular in-person Sunday morning services resumed on 6 December. 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://thesundayservice.gallery.video/godalmingunited> or bit.ly/GUCTV. There is no chat available on this platform.

Services 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.

December and January services

Special December and January services are as follows:

Sunday 20 December, 19:00

Digital Carol service – join in from home

24 December, 16:00

Christmas Eve Holy Communion

25 December, 10:00

Christmas Day Family Service – bring along one of your presents to show!

27 December, 10:00

Methodist Circuit Service from St Mary's Guildford led by Circuit Superintendent Rev'd Keith Beckingham – join in online from home or online in fellowship at church

3 January, 10:30

Annual Covenant Service led by Rev'd Alan Payne: a reconsideration of our faith and renewal of commitment. A great start to 2021.

Christmas appeals

Christmas at the United Church has always been a time for charitable giving – which must be handled differently in this time of Covid. The need is greater than ever, so we urge friends who join in any of our Christmas services to support our Christmas Appeals:

- Christian Aid www.christianaid.org.uk
- Action for Children www.actionforchildren.org.uk
- The Cellar via Godalming United Church
- Gambian Ophthalmic Project via Godalming United Church

For details of online giving to Godalming United Church or payment by cheque please contact Kath Riddy, Broadbridges House, The Avenue, Compton GU3 1JN or tel 01483 861446 or GUC.Missions@gmail.com
www.guc.org.uk

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

Praying with the Scriptures

Each Wednesday evening in Advent at 19:30, Fr Jonathan will lead a meditation on some of the key readings of the Advent Season - Isaiah 40, Isaiah 61, The Annunciation and the Prologue of St John. Everyone is welcome to join us on Wednesday evenings from 19:30 to 20:45 on GoToMeeting Virtual Parish 450-922-301: 020 3713 5028 – access code 450-922-301

livesimply support for prisoners

Visiting hours and church services have been reduced in many prisons during the pandemic, causing extra hardship; acting in solidarity with prisoners at Send and Coldingley we are collecting: packs of Christmas cards to enable prisoners to send Christmas messages to their families; and CDs of Christmas carols so that they can sing along. To donate these items, please place them in the collection boxes at our churches ASAP or phone Sarah in the parish office.

Buying charity Christmas cards and Advent Calendars

Many charities have suffered financially this year through lack of fundraising opportunities, so please make an extra effort to support charities rather than buying Christmas cards/calendars from High Street shops. Some good options are: Aid to the Church in Need, Traidcraft, and Oxfam

Wintershall Nativity Walk 18 to 21 December

Join Mary and Joseph – safe and socially distanced! – and follow the donkey to Bethlehem, meet the Shepherds watching their sheep, spot the Angel as you climb the hill and help the Wise Men find the star. The mile-long walk should take 1½ hours through fields and woods across the hills at Wintershall. Free parking and hot drinks/refreshments available. Tickets are £35 per family group of up to 6 people, from: www.wintershall.org.uk/nativity-winter-walk

Church services for December

Our churches will be open to the community to come and worship from 2 December. To ensure we keep everyone safe, a strict booking system is in place for the weekend and Christmas services. For a full update on times and location do visit our website, and to book a space log onto <https://tinyurl.com/y4lu4dtj> or ring or email our Parish Assistant Sarah.

<https://stedsgod.com>

St Peter's, Hascombe

We are doing an Advent Course by Zoom on Sunday evenings, and in preparation for Christmas, we are working with the children of the village where they will be collecting hand-painted figures of the Nativity Scene building up to a Nativity Presentation projected on to the outside of the Church, with pictures and Carols. With safe distancing we will continue to have services in church, and all will need to book in to attend as there will be limited space.

Trinity Trust Team

If you have children and/or grandchildren in local schools, do ask them about 'We Three Kings' our pandemic production this Christmas. The three wise men are not able to meet in person due to lockdown but meet on Zoom to discuss their recent epic journey to follow the star and bow down at the spot where Heaven met Earth through the birth of Jesus. Of course, we are unable to visit local schools as usual so have recorded

the assembly and sent out links to 10 local schools.

Although written for children and young teens, adults can get a flavour of the piece as it will appear in the 'Service of Hope' that has been put together in collaboration with CTiGD, TTT and local schools. This will be available via the Churches Together website, and a link will be sent out to local church administrators by mid-December.

A recording of the service will also be available on DVD/CD to go out to members of church families (and further afield) to those who might lack the technology to watch via a link.

Thank you all for your continued support throughout this most challenging of years and we hope that through this publication and our regular newsletters you feel up to date with all that TTT has been doing with local young people pre and during the lockdown. We look forward to a brighter 2021 and to seeing many of you in person.

Please 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.
- For this to be a year when those who might overlook the star and the crib in favour of more earthly distractions remember to put Christ back into their 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.

www.trinitytrustteam.co.uk

Items for next month's Link-up

Please send items for the January 2021 edition of *Link-up* to Matt Farrow: farrow.matt@gmail.com by Friday 15 January, for publication on Friday 22 January.