



LINK-UP

February 2021

Keeping Churches in Touch

www.godalmingchurches.org

facebook.com/ChurchesTogetherinGodalmingandDistrict

Message from the Vice Chair

The “joyful season of Lent” began on 17 February, so perhaps this weekend we might have a little think about what Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving might mean this year. The best Lent usually has a little of each, not just one of the three.

Prayer is where everything in our lives begins. It matters less how we pray than that we pray, or at least make a concerted effort to do so.

Fasting, or self-denial, is about helping us to experience that “man does not live on bread alone”. The COVID restrictions we are all experiencing are probably penitential enough for most of us. Maybe we could take on some small act of self-denial, just as a daily reminder that it is a different time of year.

Almsgiving is that work of charity which flows from our prayer and self-denial. It is a good time to review our giving to the poor. Some ideas for this year: include something for the foodbank each time you shop; make contact with someone who is isolated by phone or letter; if you are not spending what you usually do on going out or holidays might you benefit from giving some of that to one of the local Charities?

Friday 5 March – World Day of Prayer - the theme this year is “Build on a Strong Foundation” with the service prepared by the women of the small South Pacific island of Vanuatu. This year we are joining with Churches Together in Farnham, who will host the service at St Peter’s Church, Wrecclesham. The service will be live streamed at 10:30 on 5 March. Just click on this link <https://cofewrecclesham.org.uk/world-day-of-prayer/>. Further information on the Website and Facebook pages.

The Executive Team will be meeting via Zoom to plan how we can work together during Lent and Easter in these challenging and ever-changing times. If you have any suggestions, feel free to email or post on our Facebook page.

In the interim, we have a chance to come together to pray and share at the Zoom Prayer Breakfasts on Saturday 27 February & 27 March at 8:30.

“Love is patient; love is kind; it does not envy; it does not boast; it is not proud; it does not dishonour others; it is not self-seeking; it is not easily angered; it keeps no record of wrongs”

1 Corinthians 13:4-5

Angela Gilmour, Vice Chair of Godalming & District Churches Together

Churches Together prayer breakfasts

This month's prayer breakfast is on Saturday 27 February at 8:30 via Zoom at: <https://zoom.us/j/9463914833> using the password 2021.

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.

The end of an era

The 4Churches4U team comprising pastoral assistants from the churches of St Peter & St Paul, St Mark's, St John's Farncombe and Godalming United Church has decided to bring closure to organising an annual trip to Worthing, which they have arranged since 2002. For several years before this it was arranged by Age Concern and before that privately by Town Councillor Ray Martin. Many hundreds of over 60s in Godalming and Farncombe have enjoyed this outing over the years. Our thanks are recorded for the support we have had from Churches Together in Godalming and from many other sources throughout the town including Godalming Town Council. Our balance in hand of £1810 will be donated to The Cellar and the current Mayor's charities who are Skillway, The Meath and the Trinity Trust Team.

Jacky Tickner

News of the Churches and organisations

Parish of Godalming

"Sitting at Jesus' Feet" - A journeying through Holy Week 2021

A series of zooming will take place from Palm Sunday - Easter Saturday, (with the exception of Good Friday) at 13:00 each day, which will last up to an hour. A link will be sent out from St.Mark's Church via Rev. Sheila Samuels.

These will include Sitting at Jesus' Feet - Mary & Martha; A Prayer Walk; Journaling; Silence, Space and Meditation.

On Easter Saturday, there will be two sessions, one in the morning aimed at families and one early evening with music at its heart.

Please feel free to make choices during the week to one or all sessions.

www.parishofgodalming.org.uk

St John's Parish Church, Farncombe

Like our friends from the other Christian communities around Godalming, we persevere with a variety of remote worship resources in place of the face-to-face events we hope to resume very soon, perhaps even before the end of the month. We held a short devotion for Candlemas on the 2 February, and will do the same for Ash Wednesday – ideally a live service which can be recorded and watched later.

www.farncombe.org.uk

Godalming United Church

Our 10:30 Sunday services continue online and can be accessed at <https://guc.online.church>. Recordings (audio and video) are available through our website (www.guc.org.uk) or our YouTube channel (<https://bit.ly/GUCYouTube>) after the services. Our thanks go, as ever, to Richard August – our technical guru - and his team.

Paper copies of each service are produced every week and delivered to members who do not use the internet.

Our Lent Appeal this year is for Médecins Sans Frontières an organisation that works constantly at the forefront of medical need, including, now, Covid vaccination and alleviation. www.msf.org

A regular watch is kept on the river – a great joy in our location, but also an anxiety in times of very variable flow!

www.guc.org.uk

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

Ash Wednesday

There is Mass at 7:30am at St Edmunds and a “drive in” option for receiving ashes in the car park of St Joseph's at Milford after the 10:00am Mass.

Stations of the Cross

Will take place on Fridays in Lent, mainly online.

Praying with the Scriptures

Each Wednesday evening continues at 19:30. Everyone is welcome to join us on Wednesday evenings from 19:30 to 20:45 on GoToMeeting Virtual Parish 450-922-301

Lent Resources for Children

We have copies of colouring books for Stations of the Cross and the Easter Story for younger children and an Activity Book for children age 7-12 available at the back of St Edmund's Church. Please feel free to pop by and collect if you would like them for your family. A small contribution is requested to cover the cost.

CAFOD Walk for Water

Are you a keen walker? Looking for a challenge this Lent? Join CAFOD's walk for water challenge and walk 10,000 steps a day, for 40 days, in solidarity with all those who do not have access to a safe water source. Whether you hop it, skip it, run it, jump it, dance it or stomp it. It doesn't matter how you do it, just as long as you put your heart and soul into it! Sign up at <https://walk.cafod.org.uk> and go the distance this Lent to help end water poverty.

Parishioners from St. Edmund's and the Sisters at Ladywell convent are taking part. Together we hope to raise £1,000 for those communities living in poverty around the world, and for those who have to walk to collect water for their families. So please sponsor us by clicking on the link below and donating to one of our just giving pages. Thank you for your support.

www.justgiving.com/team/st-edmunds-godalming

Big Walk for Water on Saturday 20 February

Sadly, we can't walk together, but whether alone or in your bubble, and whether in your garden or further afield, we can walk in solidarity with those who have to walk for water every day. For more information email jolewry@aol.com and to sponsor: www.justgiving.com/fundraising/stedmundsgodalming

Love One Another Fellowship

LOAF volunteers are willing to help in many practical ways, from shopping and picking up prescriptions to arranging regular befriender phone calls and delivering a copy of the weekly parish newsletter through the letterbox. It's important we all look out for each other and ensure those who are shielding, unwell and vulnerable do not become isolated, so if you know of anyone who may need a helping hand please let LOAF know by contacting Alan on 01483 420859

<https://stedsgod.com>

Items for next month's Link-up

Please send items for the March 2021 edition of *Link-up* to Matt Farrow: farrow.matt@gmail.com by Friday 12 March, for publication on Friday 19 March.