



# LINK-UP

January 2021

*Keeping Churches in Touch*

[www.godalmingchurches.org](http://www.godalmingchurches.org)

[facebook.com/ChurchesTogetherinGodalmingandDistrict](https://www.facebook.com/ChurchesTogetherinGodalmingandDistrict)

## Message from the Vice Chair

I would like to take this opportunity to send you all my wishes for every blessing and joy in 2021. The year has not started quite as we hoped, and it is a very anxious time for us all, but I am pleased to report that the churches have responded positively, with a whole range of online services and support for all members of our community, both young and old.

My grateful thanks go to everyone who helped with the CTiG&D Christmas projects, which were very well received and much appreciated.

We now focus on our plans for celebrating Christian Unity Week, which starts on Monday 18 January:

### **Friday 22 January - National Call to Pray**

We are being called along with all Christians from across the country to join together to pray for our nation in need! To pray for our government, our NHS, our schools and colleges, provision for the poor, mental health and relationships, for a revival in our nation and that our churches can be visible and beacons of light! You can join BHC in one of three zoom rooms, which will be hosted at 8:00; 13:00 and 18:00  
<https://zoom.us/j/9463914833> Password 2021

### **Saturday 23 January**

8:30: Prayer Breakfast with Rev Maggie Sterling Troy

### **Sunday 24 January**

CTiG&D United Service at 10:30 link in on YouTube via the CTiG&D website – [www.godalmingchurches.org](http://www.godalmingchurches.org)

### **Friday 5 March**

World Day of Prayer - the theme this year is “Build on a Strong Foundation” with the Service being prepared by the women of the small South Pacific Island of Vanuatu. Please add these dates to your new diary. This service will be live streamed with links and 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 and 27 March at 8:30.

### **Our Chairman Rev Sandra Platford**

Please continue to remember Sandra in your prayers as she copes with the daily challenges of Long COVID. Sandra has been guiding us along the way and participating when she can.

*“And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another” - Hebrews 10:24-25*

*Angela Gilmour, Vice Chair of Godalming & District Churches Together*

# Churches Together United Service, 24 January

In common with other churches across the world, Godalming Churches Together holds an annual service to celebrate the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Unsurprisingly, the service will be online.

The theme is Abiding in Christ, based on John 15:9 – *Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit*. At a time when many are feeling cast adrift and uncertain, it will be good to be reminded that – regardless of whatever is going on around us – we remain firmly rooted in Christ.

Many of the local ministers will be taking part, and there will, as always, be children's work provided by the amazing Trinity Trust Team.

The service will go live on YouTube at 10:30 and will also be available on the CT Website: [godalmingchurches.org](http://godalmingchurches.org).

We look forward to 'seeing' you virtually on the day – or of course, you can watch it later, if that suits you better.

## Churches Together prayer breakfasts

This month's prayer breakfast is on Saturday 23 January 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](mailto:michaeleashing@aol.com).

## News of the Churches and organisations

### Parish of Godalming

Due to the current situation, in order to keep our congregations safe, St Peter and St Paul's Church and St Mark's Church have now closed, but we continue to have services via Zoom. For services at SSPP, please contact [mccgreenfield@googlemail.com](mailto:mccgreenfield@googlemail.com) and for St Mark's, please contact [curate.godalming@gmail.com](mailto:curate.godalming@gmail.com)

### Taste and See

St.Mark's Church is formulating plans for "Taste & See - a journeying through Holy Week 2021" - a week of prayer and creativity from Palm Sunday through to Easter Monday. Because of COVID restrictions any plans may not come to fruition but hopefully something will happen on Zoom. Watch this space!

[www.parishofgodalming.org.uk](http://www.parishofgodalming.org.uk)

### Busbridge&Hambleton Church

#### Online services

In the light of the national situation announced on 4 January, there are no face-to-face gatherings or worship at Busbridge&Hambleton Church.

We're worshipping, praying and growing in faith online through January, and broadcast three services on YouTube: 9:00 Heritage (BCP) pre-recorded, and 9:00 Classic and 10:15 Contemporary: Conversations from

the couch which are broadcast live from the Old Rectory garden. Find our services on the YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/bhcgodalmingonline>. Children's and Youth groups are running on Zoom.

To read more about the theology and the practical reasons for this please see the latest Rector's Reflection on worship at <https://www.bhcgodalming.org/blogs/rectors-reflections>

### **Drive-in Carol Services**

Thanks to Godalming Baptist Church and St Mark's for their collaboration and support on the Drive-in Carol Services at Godalming College on Christmas Eve. Here's a short video to show how it worked <https://youtu.be/CEnlk4czmSg>. Please contact the event organiser [Patrick.samuels@bhcgodalming.org](mailto:Patrick.samuels@bhcgodalming.org) if you'd like to find out more.

### **Junior Lockdown Choir - starting Thursdays from 21 January (15:30 for Years R-2, 16:00 for Y3-6)**

To support children in our church and local community, particularly while they are not attending school physically, Lisa Olsworth-Peter is starting a Junior Lockdown Choir on Zoom. The choir will sing a range of Disney and pop songs suitable for each age group, and do different vocal exercises that will stimulate facial muscles, the body and the brain. The choir is being promoted through Busbridge Infant and Junior schools and St Mark's Primary, but open to all primary age children. If you know any primary age children who would be interested, please pass the message on to go to the [Lockdown Choir](#) page and complete the registration form.

### **Hope in Depression Course**

Busbridge&Hambleton Church is running the FREE six-week Hope in Depression Course online, on Tuesday evenings, starting 26 January. Find all the details and register in confidence on the [Hope in Depression](#) page, and please do share the details with anyone suffering with mental health problems, and those supporting them. This course has been run nationally by churches since 2003, and became a registered charity in 2018.

### **Alpha Online starting 9 February - is it for you? / Who will you invite?**

It's starting again soon! The next course will run on Tuesdays, starting 9 February for 11 weeks. The course begins with a 'no obligation' introductory session led by Rev Hilary Pettman and Keith Harper (LLM). Hilary and Keith have been involved in several Alphas, both the physical courses and online. To register your interest, please go to the [Alpha](#) page and complete the form, or send the link to a friend.

### **Church Family Support Fund - accepting applications**

The Busbridge&Hambleton [Church Family Support Fund](#) is able to help local individuals and families in need with financial gifts NOW - to pay for things such as a laptop or PC for remote learning, or a replacement washing machine or fridge. Information on how the fund operates, and to make an application on behalf of someone, see the [CFSE](#) page. The charity changed its remit at the beginning of COVID, and is open to applications for those in the wider community around Busbridge&Hambleton.

[www.bhcgodalming.org](http://www.bhcgodalming.org)

## **St John's Parish Church, Farncombe**

The Parochial Church Council of St John's took the decision on Monday 11 January to suspend public worship in the church building as COVID infection rates in the Godalming area had reached the point we had set ourselves to consider this step. Obviously this is very disappointing to everyone, but we felt that it was appropriate in view of the general public health situation. When infections have fallen below 300 per 100,000 for a fortnight, we will consider the situation again, and hopefully this will not take too long. In the meantime, our remote worship resources continue, and we are always looking for ways of improving and expanding them.

[www.farncombe.org.uk](http://www.farncombe.org.uk)

## **Godalming United Church**

### **Online worship**

In the light of the alarming rate of Covid infections we have ceased in-person worship since the beginning of January. Online Sunday morning services have resumed and can be accessed on Sundays at 10:30 at <https://guc.online.church>. Recordings (audio and video) are available through our website ([www.guc.org.uk](http://www.guc.org.uk)) or our YouTube channel (<https://bit.ly/GUCYouTube>) after the services.

Our thanks go, as ever, to Richard August and his team - the technical wizard behind these services.

Paper copies of each service are produced every week and delivered to members without use of the internet.

### **MBE for Ryan Kelly**

We learned with pleasure of the award of an MBE to Ryan Kelley in the Queen's New Year Honours – for work in Social Care in Surrey. He has worked for 45 years – mostly as CEO - for the Whitmore Vale Housing Association, providing supported living and services for adults with care needs. To the members of GUC he is the mastermind behind our church's charitable links with West Africa, sending out containers of medical and educational supplies and sponsoring cataract procedures.

### **Death of Rev'd Normal Edsall**

It is with the greatest sadness that we announce the death of Rev'd Norman Edsall on 15 January. Norman was first and foremost a Congregational Minister, serving in his younger days as a chaplain in the RAF and then as Minister in the Cobham and Elstead pastorates. On retiring from full-time ministry, he served Godalming United Church magnificently in many ways – especially during the three interregnums we have had in recent decades. On Paul Hume's retirement he chaired Church Council and was very involved in the appointment of Rev'd Adam Payne in 2020. His warmth, wisdom and humour touched everyone he met: he was much loved and will be sadly missed. Our thoughts go out to his wife Maureen, and their son and daughter.

[www.guc.org.uk](http://www.guc.org.uk)

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

### **COVID update**

Reflecting on the fact that very many parishioners are staying away until things improve, the main focus of parish activity for the coming weeks will move online, while still providing opportunities to come to Mass in person via a strict booking system. The Tuesday 9:30 Mass will be livestreamed, as will the Sunday 9:00 Mass, and this will be followed by a Zoom Parish Liturgy of the Word to allow parishioners to see and chat to each other – link on the homepage of the website

### **Praying with the Scriptures**

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

### **Sycamore**

Sycamore is an informal course about the Catholic faith and its relevance for life today. It gives you space to meet other people, share ideas, explore your beliefs, and think about questions that really matter. It has been produced by the very talented Fr Stephen Wang in London, who has a real gift for sharing the depth and richness of the Catholic tradition and its compassionate and life-giving vision. He helps us to see how these truths can be recognised in our lives and in the longings of our hearts. Each session includes a short film and opportunities for discussion. We will be running the first five sessions on Zoom on Tuesday evenings starting on 19 January 2021 (ID: 846 7892 5944, Passcode: 2021) Join at 19:30 for 19:45 prompt start). To register your interest please visit <https://tinyurl.com/y6hq5r4f>

### **/livesimply**

This Lent we invite you to help us to do something about water poverty by joining us on the St Edmund Big Walk for Water on Saturday 20 February. There's no set distance, so you can walk for as long as you want and whenever and wherever you want, but you must walk solo or in your bubble to observe the lockdown restrictions. Please sign up on the [Just Giving](#) page. And how about another challenge? Commit to walking 10,000 steps every day throughout Lent? If you are a keen walker and up for a 40-day challenge, this is for you! For sponsorship please set up your own Just Giving page by signing up here [Walk for Water | CAFOD](#) and then link your page to the St Edmund team page.

### **Love One Another Fellowship**

LOAF volunteers have been reaching out to parishioners through phone calls and other small acts of kindness. During December, 150 hand-signed cards designed and produced by the children at St Edmund's were sent to parishioners. In addition to this, 52 hampers were delivered to vulnerable parishioners including couples and families. LOAF 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>

## Trinity Trust Team

After the false start of primary schools being open to all pupils for just 24 hours of the new term, we are back in the rhythm and routine of lockdown. In many ways it is fairly straightforward to re-adjust as we have the systems and processes already in place to deliver a reduced output through online channels and maintain outreach, but for some it has been challenging having had a 'glimpse' of normality with gyms and leisure centres having reopened for a short while to face the relative tedium of being indoors during a lockdown that lacks the healing sunshine of first time round as the damp and gloomy January afternoons can seem to drag...

But with every season, be it rain, sleet, sun or snow there are opportunities to re-connect with God and one another, to embrace a life run below full capacity and to fill what might have been a commute or long office hours with more prayer, Bible study and reflection. As a team we have valued more regular morning meetings albeit not in person, to focus on our relationship with Jesus as opposed to running through the usual list of things to do, it has been a real encouragement to study various commentaries and online sessions all aimed at supporting our faith walks.

Following the successful video productions pre and over Christmas we look forward to working with partner churches on the United Service for Sunday 24 January where we'll provide some resources for various age ranges from school years 3 to 13. Hopefully these will be of use to you and your families. We continue with Little Noise and Fuse online (both for ages 11+) and are filming some resources for parents and children of Wowza age (school years 3-6) so do please check out our website for details: [www.trinitytrustteam.co.uk](http://www.trinitytrustteam.co.uk)

Please pray for:

- All young people and families struggling with lockdown, particularly lone parents attempting to manage home schooling with more than one child of school age without adequate space or tech resources.
- Those children and young people who miss the regular contact with their peers through our after-school clubs, youth cafes and discipleship groups and who are feeling too 'screen fatigued' to attend online sessions.
- All those currently in lockdown by themselves, that they will manage to remain positive and not succumb to unhealthy lifestyle choices or to feel depressed and isolated and for all those who are reaching out to lonely and vulnerable members of our local communities.
- 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 and the team.

[www.trinitytrustteam.co.uk](http://www.trinitytrustteam.co.uk)

## *Items for next month's Link-up*

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