



LINK-UP

March 2021

Keeping Churches in Touch

www.godalmingchurches.org

facebook.com/ChurchesTogetherinGodalmingandDistrict

Message from the Vice Chair

The “joyful season of Easter” is almost here, and although we will worship and celebrate in a very different way this year, we will none the less rejoice that “God loves us so much that he sent his only son to die on a cross to take away our sins”. Some churches will be open, and some will be live streaming their service. Do visit our website www.godalmingchurches.org and click on the church of your choice for up to date information on their services.

As we emerge from lockdown, we will need to recognise some of the things that we have lost in these last 12 months - including family, friends and parishioners who have gone to the Lord. We may also wish to celebrate the many acts of kindness and examples of courage and resilience that have also been part of these times. As the spring emerges there are signs of new life and hope for the future.

‘Sitting at Jesus’ Feet’ A journey through Holy Week 2021, a series on Zoom, will take place from Palm Sunday to Easter Saturday, at 13:00 each day, which will last up to an hour. There will not be a session on Good Friday. The sessions will include ‘Sitting at Jesus’ Feet - Mary & Martha’; A Prayer Walk; Journaling; Silence, Space and Meditation. On Easter Saturday, there will only be one session at 17:00, which will sum up the weekend and include musical choices from the team. This week is being led by St.Mark’s Church and Busbridge and Hambledon Church. For further information email curate.godalming@gmail.com

Maundy Money Alms Giving - The name "Maundy" and the ceremony itself derive from an instruction, or mandatum, of Jesus Christ at the Last Supper that his followers should love one another. In the Middle Ages, English monarchs washed the feet of beggars in imitation of Jesus, and presented gifts and money to the poor. Over time, additional money was substituted for the clothing and other items that had once been distributed. Goods can either be dropped off between 10:30 and 13:30 or donations made via a bank transfer to St Mark’s Community Centre, Sort code: 40-22-12 Account number: 91277766. Please make cheques payable to 'St Mark’s Community Centre'

Good Friday Pilgrim Trail and Quiz – nine of our member churches in Godalming will be participating in this initiative for Good Friday. The route, questions and church details will be available to download from the website and Facebook pages from 27 March, and the publicity materials will be sent to all our members for inclusion on their websites and newsletters prior to this date. The quiz answers will be available on the website and Facebook page on Easter Saturday. You can visit as many churches as you wish and enjoy a great opportunity to walk and discover our lovely neighbourhood, there may be a tasty treat for passing Pilgrims www.godalmingchurches.org
facebook.com/ChurchesTogetherinGodalmingandDistrict

WWDP – our grateful thanks go to the Rev Michael Hopkins and to Marion Whiton for facilitating the CTiG&D link up with St Peter’s Church for the uplifting live streamed service that encouraged us all to “Build on a Strong Foundation” with the Service prepared by the Women of the small South Pacific Island of Vanuatu. The 2022 World Wide Day of Prayer will be facilitated by Gillian Martin and her team, and will take place on 4 March 2022 at St Nicholas Church, Peper Harow so please add this date to your diary now.

The Executive Team will be meeting via Zoom after Easter to review the next steps for CTiG&D.

“We are God’s work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live”

Ephesians 2:10

Angela Gilmour, Vice Chair of Godalming & District Churches Together

Churches Together prayer breakfasts

This month's prayer breakfast is on Saturday 27 March at 8:30 via Zoom at: <https://zoom.us/j/9463914833> using the password 2021. It will be led by the Rev Ian Maslin, Vicar of St Peter's at Hascombe. The room will be available from 8:15.

Christian Aid Week – 10 to 16 May 2021

Christian Aid is determined to change the world through our gifts, prayers and actions during the week. The focus this year is on the climate crisis and in particular how it is affecting our global neighbours in Kenya, and the coronavirus pandemic.

Now that house to house collecting is more difficult (there are deliver only envelopes) it's time to think of other ways that you can celebrate and help to raise money during the week

I'm organising a sponsored litter pick in the area during the week and I'm looking for helpers and sponsors. More details will be available in April *Link-up*.

Are you walking for exercise during the restrictions? Why not total up your distances and take on Christian Aid's 300,000 steps in May challenge and raise vital funds. Too far for you? Why don't you team up with others? (not necessarily on the same walks) Many women in Africa walk these distances every day to collect water.

Let us stand together against the climate crisis which is affecting so many countries.

Muriel Clark your Christian Aid representative 01483 424286

News of the Churches and organisations

Parish of Godalming

The churches in the Parish of Godalming will be opening their doors from Palm Sunday as follows:

St Peter and St Pauls

Palm Sunday 10:00 Holy Communion service

Maundy Thursday 19:00 Holy Communion service with a meditative theme

Good Friday 12:00 one-hour service of reflection, including times of silence, Bible readings and meditative music in church

Easter Sunday 10:00 Holy Communion service

St Marks

Palm Sunday 10:00 Morning worship

Maundy Thursday 19:00 Holy Communion

Good Friday 14:00 An hour of reflection and meditation remembering Jesus' crucifixion.

Easter Sunday 10:00 worship service with Holy Communion

All services will require the wearing of face masks, strict adherence to social distancing and will be safeguarding compliant.

www.parishofgodalming.org.uk

St John's Parish Church, Farncombe

Our aim is to resume public worship at St John's on Palm Sunday, provided nothing has gone too wrong with the general public health situation! It will definitely be Holy Week and Easter Redux but we pray it will be feasible. Unable to hold our usual Mothering Sunday service on Sunday 14 March, we prepared a tray of 'posies and prayers' outside the church for anyone to take who liked one!

www.farncombe.org.uk

Godalming Baptist Church

Goodbye to Rev Sandra Platford

It is with sadness that Godalming Baptist Church are saying goodbye to the Rev Sandra Platford and her family. We will miss Sandra, who has been a blessing and support to us. We pray for peace as she, Bryan and Liona settle in Hampshire, and we pray that God will lead them forward as a family together. We also ask for prayers for our Church as we begin the search for a new minister.

Good Friday

We will be holding a half-hour time of reflection and meditation on Good Friday from 10:00 to 10:30 via Zoom.

Easter Sunday

We are delighted to announce that we will be back in church for the first time on Easter Sunday. Our Easter service will be led by Stuart Davison of SEBA and will start at the usual time of 10:00.

www.godalmingbaptistchurch.org.uk

Godalming United Church

We plan to re-open for face-to-face worship on Sunday 11 April in line with Step 2 of the Lockdown easing road-map. This will follow whatever government guidelines are in place at the time and will depend on the current state of infection. Work on cleaning and redecoration will precede this happy day – all being taken care of by “Mr Property” John Drake.

10:30 Sunday services will continue to be streamed 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 Lent Appeal this year is for the Médecins Sans Frontières Covid fund: www.msf.org

We look forward to welcoming you at our foyer on Good Friday on the CTiGD Easter Pilgrimage Trail!

www.guc.org.uk

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

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

Love One Another Fellowship - St Edmund's Easter Egg Hunt

This fun event will take place in local parks and fields on Easter Sunday, Monday and Tuesday. Choose your day based on the weather or to suit your schedule. It is free, and there are plenty of Easter egg prizes as long as you can find the hidden tokens! To register, please email Nicki & Alan Lion - alion@btinternet.com or phone 01483 420859. In addition to this LOAF volunteers will be delivering 80 bouquets of flowers and Easter cards to the most vulnerable members of our community over the Easter Weekend and posting a further 50 Easter cards.

Accompanied Prayer/Retreats

There are several retreats taking place at the House of Prayer, hosted on Zoom, over the next few weeks and weekends. More information or to book any of these events visit: www.christian-retreat.org

Parish Knitting Group

A new initiative in the parish and we're knitting for seafarers, dementia patients and RSH special care baby unit. We can provide patterns, and there are knits for all levels of ability. We'd love to hear from anyone who would like to join. Even if you haven't tried knitting before, perhaps lockdown might be the time to start? It's known to be a therapeutic activity and increase feelings of usefulness. If anyone has wool to donate, please also get in touch godalming@abdiocese.org.uk

Easter Services

Our celebrations this Easter will be a blend of liturgy in the church and opportunities to participate. To book a place, email godalming@abdiocese.org.uk

Maundy Thursday - Mass of the Lord's Supper, 20:00

Good Friday - Celebration of the Passion of the Lord – 15:00

Easter Vigil – 20:30

(All at St Edmund's and live-streamed)

Easter Sunday Mass

19:30 or noon at St Edmund's (live-streamed)

9:00 at St John's (subject to their resuming public worship)

10:30 at St Joseph's

<https://stedsgod.com>

Milford Baptist Church

Easter Alive Virtual Holiday Club

Tuesday 6 April to Friday 9 April. Easter Alive is a four-session children's holiday club being run virtually using Zoom, one session per day for four days from 10:30 - 11:30 on Tuesday 6 April to Friday 9 April. Easter Alive is for children in Reception up to Year 6 at school and is organised by members of Milford Baptist Church. It will be fast moving with lots of fun & games, crazy presenters, video clips, dramas, quizzes, Bible stories as well as lots and lots of craft! If you would like your child to join us for Easter Alive please complete the Registration and Consent form on our website by 27 March 2021: www.milfordbaptistchurch.org.uk

Trinity Trust Team

A year on from Lockdown 1.0 we have all become familiar with the various online platforms available to enable us to remain connected. The sense of 'fatigue' that comes with spending hours on video conferencing platforms every day is real, but we have, equally, been blessed in the sense that we have been able to meet daily as a team and run regular groups online as well as record assemblies and sessions.

This Easter we will again be recording a message for local schools, both being quite different in style and tone. For junior and primary schools, we will be retelling the lovely and poignant 'Three Trees' fable, and for secondary schools a short reflection on the theme of grace, featuring 'Blinded by your Grace' (written and performed by the artist Stormzy). Both will be available via our website.

We look forward to participating in the Easter RE Day at Godalming Junior School again, albeit remotely, and to a return to some of our regular groups face-to-face after the Easter break.

Please pray for:

- Those children and young people who miss the regular contact with their peers through after-school clubs, youth cafes and discipleship groups and who are feeling too 'screen fatigued' to attend online sessions.
- For wisdom when planning a return to face-to-face groups and in creating safe and secure environments within which young people can engage and flourish.
- 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 this Easter. Andy and the team.

www.trinitytrustteam.co.uk

Feba

During the lockdown, Feba prayer meetings have been taking place over the phone, with prayer needs circulated by post. We hope to be able to meet in person in April, but please contact Shelagh on jimdogshome@aol.com for details.

Items for next month's Link-up

Please send items for the April 2021 edition of *Link-up* to Matt Farrow: farrow.matt@gmail.com by Friday 9 April, for publication on Friday 16 April.