



LINK-UP

April 2021

Keeping Churches in Touch

www.godalmingchurches.org

facebook.com/ChurchesTogetherinGodalmingandDistrict

Message from the Vice Chair

"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

This passage inspired me to look up "Living the Good Life" on Google – the definition was "Living a life that satisfies and fulfils you; that adds happiness and joy and a sense of purpose to life. It also means to live a life that is worthwhile; a life that makes a contribution instead of being solely self-centered."

Sitting at Jesus' Feet

What an amazing start to Holy Week 2021 and our grateful thanks go to Revd Sheila Samuels, Jackie Tickner and all the team from Busbridge and St Mark's that made this daily lunchtime reflection so poignant and meaningful. We reflected on 'Sitting at Jesus' Feet - Mary & Martha'; A Prayer Walk; Journaling; Silence, Space and Meditation, and came together on Saturday to review our time together.

Maundy Money alms giving to the Foodbank

Thank you to everyone who donated gifts or made a financial donation. Why not make this a regular payment via a bank transfer to St Mark's Community Centre, Sort code: 40-22-12 Account number: 91277766.

Good Friday Pilgrim Trail & Quiz

Nine of our member churches in Godalming participated in this initiative for Good Friday. We were blest with wonderful weather, and it was so lovely to visit each church and chat with the lovely volunteers who provided a tasty treat for passing Pilgrims. Do view the photos on our Facebook page facebook.com/ChurchesTogetherinGodalmingandDistrict

New Chairman

The Executive Team met via Zoom on Monday 12 April to discuss proactively seeking a Clergy Chairman for CTiG&D following the resignation of Rev Sandra Platford. We will personally approach our Clergy members to discuss the role and fill the current void.

Ascension Thursday 13 May, 17:30 - CTiG&D Evening Prayer

Fr Jonathan from St Edmunds and Rev James Rattue, the Rector of St John's Farncombe, have agreed to co-celebrate an Evening Prayer Service at St John's Farncombe GU7 3EJ. St John's can safely accommodate 60 parishioners, so we are hoping that CTiG&D members will come together in fellowship and prayer. Both Fr Jonathan and Rev James have beautiful singing voices, so it should be a lovely 30 mins with time to reflect and give thanks.

Open Air Songs of Praise on Pentecost Sunday 23 May, 15.00

Although we cannot sing in church, we can hold an external "Songs of Praise Service within Church Grounds". We are exploring the possibility of just coming together to sing our best loved hymns in Praise of the Holy Spirit. We hope to hold this service at the United Church in Godalming due to the ease of parking locally and the outside facilities adjacent to the River Wey. Planning is in the early stages, but if you would like to email me with your favourite hymn for Pentecost, that would be a good start angelagilmour181@btinternet.com. We will produce a hymn sheet that can be downloaded from the website and email this to our members.

"Let your light so shine before people, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father in heaven." Matthew 5.16

Angela Gilmour, Vice Chair of Godalming & District Churches Together

Churches Together prayer breakfasts

This month's prayer breakfast is on Saturday 24 April at 8:30 via Zoom at: <https://zoom.us/j/9463914833> using the password 2021. The room will be available from 8:15.

Christian Aid Week – 10 to 16 May 2021

Climate chaos means every drop of water is precious to Rose. She is doing all she can to battle against the climate crisis. Rose, and many people like her, have to walk 6 miles per day carrying back 2 large plastic containers full of water.

During the last year many of us have been walking for our health, fitness and wellbeing. Why not join Christian Aid sponsored 300,000 steps challenge during May. Find out more at caweek.org/steps

Donations to Christian Aid will help to install safe and reliable sources of clean water near communities.

Christian Aid Zoom Quiz, Thursday 13 May, 19:30

Put on your thinking caps! Join Muriel for a Zoom quiz email: murielca21@btinternet by 5 May to register for the Zoom Code and donation details.

News of the Churches and organisations

Busbridge&Hambleton Church

Services at Busbridge Church and Hambleton Church from 11 April

Services are back in both churches from 11 April, AND broadcast live on YouTube.

From 25 April the Classic service at Busbridge and the Heritage service at Hambleton will remain at 9:00. The Contemporary Conversations service will also move into Busbridge Church and start at the slightly later time of 10:30.

Communion (bread only) will take place on 1st Sundays of the month in the 9:00 Busbridge Classic service, and on 3rd Sundays in the 9:00 Hambleton Heritage service.

Those attending will need to sign up and wear a face covering, and listen to the worship. Unfortunately, we have been advised by the Diocese that physical youth and children's groups cannot restart until 17 May at the earliest, so the Ark, Explorers, Pathfinders and Ichthus will continue on Zoom for the time being.

Job vacancy: Online Enhanced digital producer and technician

Our growing church is in need of an exceptional content producer and technician to help deliver our vision for Online Ministry on a contract for services basis. The closing date is Sunday 9 May 2021. More information can be found at www.bhcgodalming.org/job-vacancies
www.bhcgodalming.org

St John's Parish Church, Farncombe

At St John's we are delighted to have been able to reopen for public worship at the end of March, and over Holy Week and Easter we had a mixture of in-person and remote worship. We hope gradually to resume activities and welcome groups and events as restrictions ease.

www.farncombe.org.uk

Godalming Baptist Church

Church open for services

GBC is happy to say that the church is now open for services only, and our first service was on Easter Sunday! This was a lovely occasion for all. Sunday services start at 10:00 and must be booked beforehand due to COVID guidelines. The services are also livestreamed on our [YouTube channel](#) for those not able to attend.

We plan to restart our Groups at the beginning of June.

Little lights

Little lights is a parents' and children's group (0 to 4 years), which aims to 'Share God's love' with craft, interactive storytelling and singing (when allowed). It will start on the 9 June, but due to COVID restrictions, you will need to book to let us know you are coming. Email catherine@lawtonfamily.net or phone 07973 927233.

The Ark

The Ark mother and toddler group will commence on the 24 June, but spaces are limited and will be given to existing parents and toddlers initially. Please do contact Catherine Lawton catherine@lawtonfamily.net or phone 07973 927233 if you wish to join us / go onto a waiting list, but do not just turn up due to COVID restrictions.

www.godalmingbaptistchurch.org.uk

Godalming United Church

Face-to-face worship resumes

The joyful day dawned on Sunday 11 April when face-to-face morning worship resumed!

COVID restrictions mean that attendance is restricted to just less than 50, and booking is essential – please ring 01483 860683 or 01483 420459. Masks are worn, and spaced entry is via the foyer.

Online services

Meanwhile, Sunday services 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.

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

Christian Aid Week

Looking ahead, we plan to support Christian Aid Week - 10-16 May as fully as circumstances allow. Our CA co-ordinator Muriel Clark has attended the CA Supporters' Virtual Conference and shares ideas to think about different ways to joyfully celebrate and raise funds. How to donate: information at www.christianaid.org.uk Need help? - email hello@christian-aid.org Christian Aid Week Events at GUC: Daily devotionals; Church Members Sponsored Steps Challenge; Virtual Quiz Thursday 13th May at 7.30. Email for details murielca21@btinternet.com

Collection for Whitechapel Mission

And further ahead we are hoping to have the trailer for a collection for the Whitechapel Mission for the Homeless in East London probably at the end of June/beginning of July, but this has yet to be confirmed.

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 Zoom 845 7892 5944, password 2021.

CAFOD Walk for Water

Our Parish Group completed 2,570 miles and raised £2,755 to provide wells for communities in Ethiopia, many of whom have to walk 10 miles to access water.

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

This was a great success, and good fun was had by all. LOAF volunteers delivered 80 Bouquets of flowers and Easter cards to the most vulnerable members of our community over the Easter Weekend and posted a further 50 Easter cards.

Plant Giveaway - 30 April to 2 May

After the success of this event last year, held in memory of Pete Kelly RIP, the livesimply group are organising another 'plant giveaway' over the May bank holiday weekend. If you are able to support this event with donations of seedlings and plants from your garden, please let Janet Quinlan know on 01252 702156.

Parish Forum – 4 May, 20:00 on Zoom

This will be the first of what we hope will become a regular opportunity to talk as a parish about our life together in Christ and being faithful to our mission.

CTiG&D Ascension Thursday Evening Prayer, 17.30 on 13 May @ St John's, Farncombe GU7 3EJ

Fr Jonathan is looking forward to co-celebrating a service of Evening Prayer on Ascension Thursday with Rev James Rattue. St John's can safely seat 60 parishioners, so we hope to welcome members of CTiG&D to this lovely service.

Parish Knitting Group

This is a new initiative in the parish, and we're knitting for seafarers, dementia patients and RSCH 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 therapeutic activity and increase feelings of usefulness. If anyone has wool to donate, please also get in touch godalming@abdiocese.org.uk

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

<https://stedsgod.com>

St Peter's Church, Hascombe

We reopened both churches for Easter and will alternate each week with Dunsfold, leading to resuming normal services when we are able. A muffled bell will be rung in both churches today in memory of the death of Prince Philip. We are able to Zoom from Dunsfold and have booked to have a landline and Wi-Fi at Hascombe as soon as possible.

Items for next month's Link-up

Please send items for the May 2021 edition of *Link-up* to Matt Farrow: farrow.matt@gmail.com by Friday 7 May, for publication on Friday 14 May.