



LINK-UP

July 2021

Keeping Churches in Touch

www.godalmingchurches.org

facebook.com/ChurchesTogetherinGodalmingandDistrict

Message from the Acting Chair

Farewell to Maggie Stirling Troy

Due to COVID restrictions, a small group from the Executive met to say goodbye to Maggie Sterling Troy and to present her with a book and card from us all. She will be sadly missed, not only by CTiGD but by her Parish community and the staff and inmates of Send Prison. Maggie was such a wonderful Vice Chair for CTiGD, and we owe her a huge debt of gratitude.

Welcome to James Toon

Many of you will know James Toon, a former Chairman of CTiGD, who recently joined the Executive as Rep for SS Peter & Paul's after the resignation of John Stevens. Following on from the Ministers' Meeting on 9 June, James has accepted the post of Chairman, with Rev James Rattue as Vice Chair. These changes will take effect at the AGM on 13 October.

Our Last Zoom Prayer Breakfast - Saturday 24 July at 8:30

We really do hope that this will be the last time we will have to hold a virtual prayer breakfast and that in August we will be able to reinstate this very enjoyable monthly get together, possibly at the Cellar Camino Café in Godalming. The Prayers will be led by the Rev Jonathan How.

Staycation – Sunday 8 August at 10:30

We will have an opportunity to come together to pray and praise the Lord at the Godalming Bandstand on Sunday 8 August at 10:30. The Rev Margot Spencer is co-ordinating this event, and we hope that you will all come along to share in this lovely Service of Worship.

Big Green Week 18-26 September 2021

The Big Green Week is a national event. Here is a link to the website to find out how you can get involved <https://greatbiggreenweek.com>. Many of our members are already Accredited Green Churches, and their teams are discussing how to participate during the week. I am sure the reps will update us on their plans via their monthly reports to *Link-up*.

CTiGD 2021 AGM

This will be held on Wednesday 13 October at 18:00 at Busbridge Church. Please add this date to your diaries.

Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honour except in his own town, among his relatives and in his own home." Mark Chapter 6 Vs. 4

Angela Gilmour, Acting Chair of Godalming & District Churches Together

Churches Together prayer breakfasts

The July Prayer Breakfast is still by Zoom from 8:30 to 9:15 (hopefully for the last time!). The Zoom room is: <https://zoom.us/j/9463914833> Password 2021. Just click on the above and then enter the password when requested. The room will be available from 8:15. The prayers will be led by Father Jonathan How

August Prayer Breakfast

We would like to have a REAL Prayer Breakfast on Saturday 28 August, if there is somewhere which would be prepared to host the Breakfast, assuming COVID restrictions are lifted. If your church would be able to do this, please let me know at michaeleashing@aol.com

News of the Churches and organisations

Parish of Godalming

We are continuing to meet in the church buildings for services. All services require the wearing of face masks and strict adherence to social distancing, and are safeguarding-compliant.

St Peter & St Paul

- First Sunday of the month – 8:00 Holy Communion Service (BCP), and 10:00 All Age Service.
- Other Sundays – 10:00 Holy Communion Service.

Our children's ministry is operating at the 10:00 services. Currently this is for children aged 5 or above. The last session will be on 11 July and then we take a break for the summer.

Our men's fellowship – the Parish Men's Group – will next meet on 26 July at the Star pub in Church Street in Godalming for a drink and a chat.

St Mark's

- First Sunday of the month – 10:00 All Age Service.
- Second and Fourth Sunday – 10:00 Holy Communion Service.
- Third Sunday – 10:00 Morning Worship

St Mark's, with the support of neighbouring churches, is carrying out a community survey to find out about social and spiritual needs in the community. If anyone would like more information about the survey or would like to join us in dropping off questionnaires and collecting them, they should contact Sheila Samuels, Pioneer Curate at Ockford Ridge, on curate.godalming@gmail.com. We have a timetable covering over two weeks when people could join in. Training and preparation is provided before every session. Sheila is encouraging people to step out in faith in this missional opportunity and see God at home and work outside the Church.

www.parishofgodalming.org.uk

St John's Parish Church, Farncombe

We wish a very fond farewell to our curate Maggie Stirling Troy, who after eight years at St John's leaves us to move with her family to Devon. So many people around Farncombe and further have benefited from her ministry, including the staff and inmates of HMP Send where she has served on the chaplaincy team. She will leave good memories and profound thanks.

www.farncombe.org.uk

Godalming Baptist Church

Sunday services

GBC continues to be open for Sunday services. These start at 10:00 and must be booked beforehand due to COVID guidelines. The services are also live streamed on our YouTube channel for those not able to attend.

We are running the following groups:

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. 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 is looking at the Beatitudes with Attitude the Bee who has attitude! Just a 10-minute story time and then singing time. 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.

Sing for Fun!

This is a singing group for those with dementia and their families and carers. It takes place in our church on Tuesdays from 14:00 to 15:00. Call Janice on 01730 894232 or Janet on 01483 414019 for more details!

Other groups may gradually be able to resume when Covid restrictions hopefully allow.

Fellowship News

We have welcomed the Rev Peter Jackson as our Moderator whilst we seek the Lord's guidance for a new Pastor.

We send our warmest wishes and love to dear Revd Maggie Stirling as she moves with her family to Devon. It has been such a blessing to have Maggie join us at Life Issue events, be our speaker at the Friendship Lunch, and support joint school assemblies with Catherine. Her ministry amongst us has been so appreciated, and we wish her and her family much happiness and many blessings as they begin a new chapter in their lives.

www.godalmingbaptistchurch.org.uk

Godalming United Church

Services

Following easing of restrictions across the summer, we have been able to increase permitted attendance by pushing the chairs nearer to the walls and arranging for bubbles of up to six sitting together. Seating for socially-distanced ones and twos is also available. Masks are worn, we still – at the time of writing - can't sing indoors, and spaced entry is via the foyer.

We are continuing to live-stream morning services at <https://guc.online.church>, and printed copies of the service are available to those who cannot join us wither in-person or online.

Recordings (audio and video) are available through our website (www.guc.org.uk) or our YouTube channel (<https://bit.ly/GUCYouTube>) after the services.

Whitechapel Appeal

The Whitechapel Appeal for clothing and non-perishable foodstuffs for the Mission for the Homeless in the East End was, as ever, massively supported - by not only church members but the wider community. Thank you everyone.

Community groups

A number of community groups who use our premises during the week resumed their sessions during the summer term. And from September most church groups will resume following whatever COVID restrictions are in operation eg Pantomime rehearsals, Music Kids, Tuesday Fellowship.

www.guc.org.uk

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

Walking the Parables of Jesus at Wintershall

30 members of our Parish joined a Pilgrimage to Walk the Parables of Jesus at Wintershall on 29th June. We were blest with a dry day and a chance to experience the beauty of the Wintershall Estate and to reflect and share our thoughts through a guided tableau. We all agreed the day exceeded our expectations. For future events visit www.wintershall.org.uk

The livesimply Parish Group

The livesimply Parish Group are planning their response to the Big Green Week and the call of Pope Francis to celebrate "The Season of Creation" from 1 September (World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation) to 4 October (the feast of Saint Francis of Assisi) each year. This ecumenical season is dedicated to prayer and action for the protection of creation. It is a time to renew our relationships with God our Creator, and with all creation, as we join together in prayer. <https://cafod.org.uk/Pray/Season-of-Creation>

The group met via Zoom with Jeremy Hunt MP for South-West Surrey and he has promised to press hard for the UK to live up to their international obligations re the commitment to aid 0.7% to Overseas Aid.

Sycamore and Praying with the Scriptures

"The Sycamore" and "the Praying with the Scriptures" weekly groups will take a break for the month of July and August, and resume again in September - all welcome.

Bumps & Babes

Mother and Toddler Group also plan to start up again in September – all welcome.

Baby Loss Matters Week 24 -31 October

There will be a Memorial set up in St Edmunds Parish throughout the month of October, and a special

Service for all who have been affected by “Baby Loss” to which everyone is welcome. I will update you on the date of the service over the coming months.

Admin Assistant for Guildford Parish

Part-time position (20 hours/week) to work within the Children, Youth and Families team on 1-year fixed-term contract. Apply by 12/7. More information: www.CPG.church/jobs
<https://stedsgod.com>

Trinity Trust Team

We are delighted to be able to run our activities programme this summer, the first since 2019, a wonderful way to conclude this challenging, unprecedented academic year. No sooner will we have swept out the minibus and handed back the keys will our thoughts turn to September and, God willing, a full return to our schools-work.

Flexible full and part time opportunities within the team:

We would love to invite those who have a passion for and experience with working alongside young people to consider full and part time opportunities we have within our youth ministry team, ranging from leading Christian Union in schools, Christian faith exploration programmes, youth services and worship events in local churches, community outreach and engagement through our youth café and detached work, all within a supportive and nurturing team environment. If you, or anyone you know, might have the skills and experience to partner with TTT as we take the love of Christ to young people, meeting them at their point of need, please check out our website for more details.

Please pray for:

- Families to enjoy the freedom that post lockdown conditions allow whilst remaining safe and making sensible decisions regarding holiday travel and activities
- For wisdom regarding recruiting new team members, and for an open and creative approach to reflect the post lockdown landscape of professionals re-assessing work/life relationships
- 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.

Feba

Feba prayer group will meet in person at 42 Minster Road, Godalming, on Monday 26 July from 10:30 to 11:30. Please join us as we pray for this exciting media organisation with partners in many of the world's newsworthy places. Best bring a face covering! Details from jimdogshome@aol.com

Items for next month's Link-up

Please send items for the August 2021 edition of *Link-up* to Matt Farrow: farrow.matt@gmail.com by Friday 6 August, for publication on Friday 13 August.