



LINK-UP

October 2021

Keeping Churches in Touch

www.godalmingchurches.org

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

Message from the Acting Chair

AGM Wednesday 13 October at 18:00

The meeting will take place online and **not** at Busbridge Church as previously advertised. The Zoom link for the meeting is: <https://us05web.zoom.us/j/3479442408>. James Toon, the incoming Chair, will host the meeting.

After four years with CTiG&D, I will be standing down at the AGM, so this message from me is a request for your prayers for the AGM and the new Executive Team. The past year has been challenging and rewarding and I send a really a big thank you to the current Executive and members and also to Matt Farrow for keeping us all "Linked-Up"; Matt Blake our Webmaster; Anne Brook for keeping the Facebook page updated; Councillor Penny Rivers, Andy Poulson and the Trinity Trust Team who have worked so hard and innovatively over the past twelve months to produce:

- Revamp of the website and launch of the Facebook page.
- 300 angels with a message of hope distributed in Godalming and the surrounding villages
- Godalming Shines – Christmas advertising and star in Crown Court
- Service of Hope – live stream and 100 CDs with Carols and Readings
- Christmas visits and gift vouchers for the more vulnerable members of our community.
- United Service in January live streamed from the website & Facebook page
- World Day of Prayer live streamed in partnership with Churches Together in Farnham
- Sitting at Jesus' Feet – live streamed retreat for Holy Week
- Maundy Money – Lenten Alms Giving
- Good Friday Pilgrim Trail in Godalming
- Ascension Thursday Service of Evening Prayer at St Johns in Farncombe
- Pentecost Songs of Praise at Godalming United Church
- Staycation worship service held at St Peter & Paul's due to the rain

Prayer Breakfast Saturday 30 October, 8:30

To be held at the Cellar Camino Café, Godalming (opposite Waitrose). Catherine Lawton, a Deacon with Godalming Baptist Church, will be leading our prayers, and Emma and Mandy have kindly agreed to provide the breakfast. Please do support this lovely start to the weekend. The September Prayer Breakfast had very few attendees which was very disappointing.

Worldwide Day of Prayer, Friday 4 March 2022

Our grateful thanks to the Rev Hannah Moore for allowing this lovely service to take place at St Nicholas Church, Peper Harow. Gillian Martin is the lead on this event, and she has received an overview of the day – the theme this year is England, Scotland and Wales and we will therefore be quite familiar with the hymns. Gillian is in the process of gathering a team together to help with the organisation.

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"
(Corinthians 5.17)

Angela Gilmour, Acting Chair of Godalming & District Churches Together

Churches Together prayer breakfasts

For a number of reasons it's being held on the fifth Saturday this month, not the usual fourth Saturday.

The Prayer Breakfast will be held at The Cellar Camino Café on Saturday 30 October! Breakfast will be provided from 8.30 by the café with the prayer time commencing at 9:15. Mandy and Emma will serve coffee, tea, juice, croissants and cereal, and later join in the prayers. The Cellar has asked that we pay in cash to make life easier via a donation basket. Catherine Lawton will lead the prayers, and we will finish by 10:00 at the latest.

News of the Churches and organisations

Parish of Godalming

We encourage the use of masks and social distancing for the wellbeing of everyone. There will be a designated, socially-distanced zone for those who wish to continue to distance and refrain from singing. All services are safeguarding-compliant.

St Peter & St Paul

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

Future direction of the parish

At the PCC meeting on 27 September, we welcomed the Bishop of Guildford, the Right Reverend Andrew Watson, the Archdeacon of Surrey, the Venerable Paul Davies, and the Area Dean of Godalming and Rector of Busbridge, Rev Simon Taylor, for an important discussion on the future direction of the parish. The bishop has asked our parish and Busbridge to explore the possibility of creating a new United Parish of Godalming. Our PCC agreed to “proceed positively with the motion to continue investigating the proposal to create a single Parish of Godalming.”

We are beginning a process of discussion with all church members at St Peter and St Paul and St Mark's over the coming months to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to share their thoughts and opinions, to ask questions and to consider what this might mean for us all, and for building the Kingdom of God in Godalming.

This is an exciting opportunity to share resources with one another, and to grow and be more effective as individuals, as congregations and as gospel communities, in ministry and mission to Godalming.

We look forward to welcoming Bishop Andrew, who will be leading and preaching at our 10:00am service on 10 October. Members of St Mark's will also be joining us.

Children's ministry

Sunday Club has returned to St Peter & St Paul. This all-age group is for children aged 3 years to 13 years. Our group meets during the 10:00 Holy Communion service. We learn about the Bible with a combination and weekly variation of stories, chat, games, drama and craft. For more details please contact Sarah Bryans at godalming.church.office@gmail.com.

Alpha Course

The Alpha Course, which began on Wednesday 22 September, is now full. But another course is planned for next year, starting on 27 April with four people booked already. Please continue to pray for the current course and its 17 guests, that God would use these evenings, and Saturday 30 October when we meet for the day, to draw us all closer to Him, growing in our spiritual understanding.

Mothers' Union

All are very welcome to support and celebrate the Mothers' Union at a Special Commissioning Service to be held in the church on Sunday 31 October at 14:30. For more information, contact Gillian Martin on 01483 429640.

The Friends of St Peter & St Paul

The Friends of St Peter and St Paul invite you to 'A Sparkling Concert' with the Hart Male Voice Choir on Saturday 20 November starting at 19:00 in the church. Tickets at £10 include fizz and cheesy nibbles during

the interval. It will be an evening of varied traditional male voice choir songs, songs from the shows, operatic pieces, folk songs and classic hymns. Contact Liz Coult on 01483 417269 for tickets.

St Mark's

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

Community Survey

St Mark's Church, supported by volunteers from Busbridge Church, carried out a Community Survey to find out the social needs of the local community, and enquire about people's beliefs and their link, if any, to St Mark's. This involved dropping off surveys and returning to collect them, enabling us to have conversations at the doorstep. We had a good response rate, which will help St Mark's to get a picture of the needs of the local community and how we can respond. Early survey results show a need for support for children and young people, and seniors and those isolated at home. It was encouraging that several residents volunteered to support any upcoming activities. The next step is to inform the community of our findings, respond to community needs, and, where relevant, inform the Council of needs. This way St Mark's can facilitate a co-ordinated response.

www.parishofgodalming.org.uk

St John's Parish Church, Farncombe

We have been concentrating on restarting some of our longstanding activities recently. Last month saw the first Messy Church (September 11th), Infants School Church Club (15th) and Toddler Group (17th) since the pandemic began.

For our Harvest celebration on 3 October we're resuming a non-eucharistic service on the first Sunday each month with Sunday Space – worship which is intended to be simple, short, with not too much liturgy and plenty of scope for music, reflection and prayer. We'll see how that works.

We are finding it hard to resource 'normal' Sunday mornings, and at the moment can only manage to serve refreshments two Sundays a month. Our serving team is also minimal. We're going to have to build back gradually.

www.farncombe.org.uk

Busbridge&Hambleton Church

We are seeking a 4-10s Children's Worker Assistant

Could God be calling you to work with children and families? We'd love to hear from you if this could be for you. The position is temporary, 12 hours per week, and can be arranged to fit in with your other commitments. The role and person specification is on our website. If you are interested, Anto would like to hear from you: anto.ficatier@bhcgodalming.org.

Hearing aid clinics restarting

We are delighted that Penny Naylor and the team restarting Hearing Aid Clinics in the Old Rectory. The first Hearing Aid Clinic for nearly 2 years will be on Friday 8 October from 2-4PM, and thereafter every month on 2nd Fridays. This is a blessing. Please pray for the team and everyone they serve in the coming months. We hope to offer tea and cake as part of the service again in the new year. Open to all with NHS hearing aids.

Alpha

Alpha online Alpha online led by our LLMs Clare and Keith kicked off on Tuesday 5 October. New attendees are still welcome to attend 19:30 to 21:00 Tuesdays. e: Keith via alpha@bhcgodalming.org and see the Alpha info under What's On on the web site.

www.bhcgodalming.org

Godalming Baptist Church

Slowly (with risk assessments) we are beginning to start events at GBC.

The Rock

The Rock' Children's Church for 5-11yrs started back on 19 September with a welcome party and will continue to meet weekly with fun planned children's sessions whilst parents are in church. 10:00 Sunday mornings. All welcome!

Games afternoon

Games afternoon is resuming with COVID safety measures in place on Friday 1 October from 14:00 to 16:00. We have a variety of boardgames: Quiddler, Uno, Scrabble, chess, draughts, Rummikub, bingo, card games and more! It is a light-hearted afternoon with tea and biscuits too. Contact Sally Pollard on 01483-428646 or via pollard3@hotmail.co.uk for more details and if you would like to come. A warm welcome awaits!

Library

Our library is opening again, with COVID safety measures in place. New titles include *Simply Church*, *God in Lockdown* and a great variety of authors, eg Jeff Lucas, Philip Yancey, J. John, Tom Wright and more are all available. All are welcome to call in and borrow a book. There are books to challenge, equip, refresh and encourage you! Reception is open weekdays from 9:00 to 12:00.

Friendship lunch

Friendship lunch is resuming in October on Thursdays, initially on a monthly basis for our attendees in order to reduce numbers, with safety measures in place. We are so grateful to various clergy and others who are willing to come and share a thought with folk from our community. If you are able to share in this way, please contact Sally on 01483-428646 or via pollard3@hotmail.co.uk. We would love to hear about any charitable events, a hobby, testimony or life experience that you are able to share. You are welcome to stay for lunch too!

www.godalmingbaptistchurch.org.uk

Godalming United Church

3 October saw our Harvest Festival and New Members' Welcome – a "harvest of souls! A celebratory cake was enjoyed at coffee time, and harvest gifts have been despatched to the Salvation Army in Guildford.

Rehearsals for our annual Pantomime in February are now well under way.

Our link with The Gambia is still very active. At the time of writing we are hoping to get a container packed and dispatched on 8 October – goods include school equipment, stationery and furniture, and the annual stock of medical supplies for the Methodist Clinics.

On Saturday 16 October, we welcome Godalming Band bouncing back with an Autumn Concert at 19:00. Tickets £6, £3 for under 16s, available through 01483 355129 or godalmingband.org.uk.

www.guc.org.uk

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

CAFOD Family Fast Day, Friday 1 October

Funds raised will go to support CAFOD partners help people all over the world to adapt to climate change and protect our common home.

Arrangements for Mass

As we slowly return to normal, we are still asking participants to book for Mass via the website and to wear a face-covering. We have started to sing again which is lovely.

- Saturday 18:00 - St Edmund's.
- Sunday 8:45 - St John's (with children's liturgy)
- Sunday 10:30 - St Joseph's

Bumps and babes

Monday mornings at St John's Centre, Farncombe. All young families are welcome. More information from Eileen eileen.hudson@gmail.com

Sycamore

From 18 October we will be running a series of Sycamore films looking at the Sacraments followed by a shared discussion. In addition to a Tuesday evening Zoom option, we will be hosting small house groups to share the films, discussion, fellowship and hospitality – rather like the Alpha model. To sign up please go to <https://tinyurl.com/32m8c7m4>. For more information about Sycamore visit their website: <https://www.sycamore.fm/>

Wintershall Stations of the Cross

These are on the first Friday of every month at 7am. All are welcome to join us.

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.

livesimply

The *livesimply* Parish Group's litter pick in response to "the Great Big Green Week" was both enjoyable and successful, with volunteers from Milford, Farncombe and Godalming collecting several bags of litter. Here are a few tips to help:

Reduce, Reuse & Recycle

Re-use and refill your plastic containers at the Yard Market. All your household needs are provided for here – laundry powder, washing up liquid, cream cleaner, loo cleaner, hair shampoo, body wash, hand wash, and much else.

Re-use and refill your store cupboard containers at the Godalming Deli and Secrett's Food Shop. Bring along your containers for dry goods - such as herbs, spices, pasta, lentils - and you are charged by weight for the refill. It often works out cheaper too.

Revive shop at Witley Recycling Centre – has re-opened the shop sells pre-owned items for the home and garden, reducing waste and donates 10% of revenue to supporting local charities, as well as offsetting the running costs of the community recycling centres.

Up-cycle old and worn out furniture. Visit Changing Perceptions on Godalming High Street to see how they transform bits of old furniture, prevent stuff from going to landfill, and raise funds for the Meath charity.

Offer your unwanted items to others on Freecycle <https://www.freecycle.org/> or Freegle <https://www.ilovefreegle.org/>

Rinse clean items before recycling – this is really important as dirty items may contaminate the recycling collection and result in it being sent to landfill instead. For example, a greasy pizza box goes into the black bin and not into the recycling.

Keep lids on bottles and remove labels where possible before recycling.

Recycling Lateral Flow Devices/LFD test kits – and PPE – these items necessarily end up at landfill. However, we can do our bit to reduce the amount that goes into the black bin from our home kits by segregating any recyclable material, such as the cardboard packaging, tube holder and paper instruction booklet.

Recycling coffee pods. Sainsbury's has just announced a partnership with coffee pod manufacturer Dualit and On-Pack Recycling Label Ltd to produce aluminium pods that can be recycled at home if empty of coffee grinds. Their own brand pods will now be labelled as recyclable and with a reminder that they need to be rinsed clean before going into the recycling bin. Other aluminium pods are also most likely recyclable.

Recycle crisp packets and oral care products at the Borough Hall where there are bins just inside the door of the building.

<https://stedsgod.com>

Trinity Trust Team

The team is not quite back to full in-person capacity but delighted to be running most of our regular weekly groups, including the Wowza after school club at Godalming Junior School, Loseley Fields Youth Café, the FUSE midweek group at Godalming Baptist Church and with a return to secondary school Christian Unions imminent.

TTT will also be running the Fusion children's group at Godalming Baptist Church after half term in partnership with the children's team. Our Friday outreach at Aaron's Hill has remained popular, with 20 or more young people joining in with sports activities on a weekly basis (we have been blessed with lovely sunny Friday evenings to date)! Matt Blake has been hard at work upgrading our website, and the new version will be live by mid-October, so do take a look.

Flexible full and part time opportunities within the team

We still have opportunities to join the team, so 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 through our church, schools and communities do get in touch with Andy Poulson our Team Director: andytrinitytrustteam@hotmail.co.uk

Please pray for:

- Smooth transition back into our schools' ministries after over 18 months and for the steady return to our weekly groups and programmes as young people re-adjust to a more regular school/home life balance
- 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.

www.trinitytrustteam.co.uk

Feba

Feba prayer meetings will continue to be held at 42 Minster Road, Godalming, on occasional Mondays at 10:30. The next one will be on 11 October. There is also an opportunity to pray for the work of this exciting international Christian media organisation on the first Wednesday of each month at 19:00. Please contact jimdogshome@aol.com.

Items for next month's Link-up

Please send items for the November 2021 edition of *Link-up* to Matt Farrow: farrow.matt@gmail.com by Friday 5 November, for publication on Friday 12 November.