



LINK-UP

November 2021

Keeping Churches in Touch

www.godalmingchurches.org

facebook.com/ChurchesTogetherinGodalmingandDistrict

Message from the Chair

I was very pleased to be elected Chair of Churches Together at the AGM on 13 October. I look forward to serving our member churches and the local community over the next year. I would like to thank Angela Gilmour for her energy and enthusiasm as Acting Chair during what has been a difficult time for us all.

We are learning to live with the pandemic, and it is encouraging that our churches are gradually reopening and expanding what they offer in a safe and responsible way. Please remember in your prayers our church leaders and administrators as we start to prepare for the seasons of Advent and Christmas.

Our Publicity Editor, Edouard Le Maistre, is standing down after years of service, and I would like to thank him for his work in this role. Edouard will continue to be involved with Churches Together as a Church Representative for St John's, Farncombe. We are now looking for a new Publicity Editor. If anyone is interested in taking this on, please contact me.

James Toon, Chair of Godalming & District Churches Together

Churches Together prayer breakfasts

This month's Prayer Breakfast will be at St Marks Church, on Saturday 27 November, commencing at 8:30 with breakfast, with the prayer time from about 9:15 until 10:00 at the latest. The prayers will be led by Rev Sheila Samuels. Donations in cash in a basket please. For any queries or offers of venues in 2022, please contact michaeleashing@aol.com.

Urgent: support for Afghan families

We have received the following from Revd Diane Peters, Refugee Support Adviser, Guildford Diocese:

"We are looking for support for Afghan families resettling in this deanery. The first Afghan refugee family is due to arrive in the area in the second week of November. They have two young children.

Tinei at Waverley Council has said: the following are things they need for the family - we are collecting household items, food parcels, toiletries etc. Clothes and toys for a boy aged 2 and a 4-year-old girl. Any household electricals have got to be new for health and safety reasons."

Most families have arrived with very little and would be very grateful for anything your churches could do to help support this family to resettle here in the

Waverley have really stepped up to the mark and are hoping to welcome another nine families – when they have sourced more properties. If there is anything your parishes could do to help support these families, and particularly the family mentioned above, I would be delighted and grateful to hear from you."

Please contact Revd Diane Peters, Refugee Support Adviser, Guildford Diocese:

Diane.Peters@cofeguildford.org.uk, 07889638710

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.
- Other Sundays – 10:00 Holy Communion service.
- Tuesdays – 12:00 short, said Holy Communion service with a Thought for the Day homily.

On Sunday 14 November, the Remembrance Service will take place in the church and afterwards at the War Memorial.

Children's ministry

Sunday Club is an all-age group 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. This month we are meeting on Sunday 21 and Sunday 28 November. For more details please contact Sarah Bryans at godalming.church.office@gmail.com.

Alpha Course

Please continue to pray for the current Alpha Course and its 17 guests, that God would use these evenings to draw us all closer to Him, growing in our spiritual understanding. The course ends later this month. A second course is planned for next year starting on Wednesday 27 April. Five people have already booked for this.

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.

www.parishofgodalming.org.uk

St John's Parish Church, Farncombe

We've resumed a fully sung service on Sunday mornings, and all being well, our choir will reconvene from the middle of November.

We intend to add an online service of Compline to the worship diet this month, too.

After Remembrancetide our thoughts will of course turn to Christmas and how much of our usual services we will be able to provide. We hope to run a short enquirers' course for five weeks from the middle of November entitled 'Treasure in the Field' – whether it's in-person or online will depend on who expresses an interest.

www.farncombe.org.uk

Busbridge&Hambleton Church

Remembrance Services

These take place a Busbridge Church at 10:45 and at Hambleton at 10:30. The annual Memorial Service at Busbridge is on 6 November at 15:00.

Hearing aid clinics restarting

We are delighted that Penny Naylor and the team have restarted hearing aid clinics in the Old Rectory. Hearing aid clinics are on second Fridays of the month from 14:00 to 16:00. 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.

Hambledon Messy Church Now at a new time of 16:00 in Hambledon Village Hall

Hambledon Church is branching out into the community by moving its Messy Church to the tea-time of 16:00 on 3rd Sundays, in the bigger venue of the Village Hall. Families with children aged 0-11 are all welcome for games, craft and a sandwich tea. The first one took place in October, with a harvest theme to activities. The next date is 21 November. Just for December, Messy returns to Hambledon church for Messy Christingle at 16:00 on 12 December but will be back in the village hall on 3rd Sundays from January. All welcome, so please share details with your young families.

www.bhcgodalming.org

Godalming Baptist Church

We are happy to announce that Carole Goffe-Wood is our new CTGD representative and is very much looking forward to being part of the CTGD plans in the future.

The Rock

The Rock' Children's Church for 5-11yrs continues to meet weekly with fun planned children's sessions whilst parents are in church. 10:00 Sunday mornings. All welcome!

Games afternoon

Games afternoon takes place every month on a Friday 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!

Friendship lunch

Friendship lunch takes place on Thursdays. 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!

Short mat bowls club

Our short mat bowls club continues every Friday afternoon and evening, and is a fun-filled occasion for everyone! Please contact Geoff Young for more information on geoffyoung43@btinternet.com.

www.godalmingbaptistchurch.org.uk

Godalming United Church

We are continuing to live-stream services at <https://guc.online.church>, with printed copies of the service available to those who cannot join us either in person or online. Recordings are available through our website (www.guc.org.uk) after the services.

Harvest Festival

Our Harvest Festival at the beginning of October was the appropriate occasion for dedicating our new audio-visual-IT equipment to the memory of Rev'd Norman Edsall who died in January. Norman helped to steer us through the interregnum following Paul Hulme's retirement, did much to encourage new members, and was instrumental in the recruitment of Adam as our Minister.

Eco-Church Scheme

GUC has now joined the "Eco-Church Scheme" which encourages churches to demonstrate that the Gospel is Good News for God's Earth, and helps identify opportunities for greater sustainability across five categories: worship and teaching, buildings, land, community & global engagement, and lifestyle. See <https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk>.

Weekday groups

Weekday groups have now almost returned to "normal": a newcomer on the scene is a Beavers' group early on Monday evenings.

Looking ahead - Adam's new Bible Study sessions, "Faith during Tough Times" start on 1 November - Mondays 11:00 and Wednesdays 19:00.

www.guc.org.uk

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

Our services

Our Services are Saturday 18:00 at St Edmund's, Sunday 8:45 at St John's, Farncombe (with children's liturgy) and Sunday 10:30 at St Joseph's, Milford. Weekday/weekend Mass times are on the Calendar on our website: <https://stedsgod.com>

We are steadily resuming our usual routines: Children's liturgy at 8:45 Mass; Bumps and Babes on Mondays at 10:30am-12:00 at St John's, Farncombe; Afternoon teas for our older folks on the second Wednesday of the month at URC in Elstead (booking required - 01252 702156); and our weekly Parish Prayer Group at 20:00 on Monday evenings (01252 702230). Our annual Parish Quiz in aid of CAFOD is going ahead this year on Friday 12 November and is fully booked.

Prayer vigil for the COP26 climate talks

On 4 November at 19:30 at St Joseph's, Milford. This takes place during the UN climate conference; we are also handing out prayer cards at church for us all to pray at home.

Blessing of graves

During November we pray especially for the souls of the faithful departed, and Fr Jonathan will be blessing graves in the cemeteries at Milford, Eashing and Nightingale Road.

Sycamore

Three small groups are meeting each week to watch five of the Sycamore films about the Sacraments, followed by a shared discussion. To join a group please find contact details on our newsletter on our website; to watch the Sycamore films at home: <https://www.sycamore.fm>

Wintershall Nativity 16 to 20 December

This year the play has more scenes outside and capacity in the theatre has been reduced, although there is plenty of room for all at the Inn this Christmas! Performances are selling out fast, and you can book online www.wintershall.org.uk or 01483 892167.

Christmas prison outreach

In solidarity with prisoners, our *LiveSimply* group is fundraising for a Christmas day gift for each of the 210 women prisoners at HMP Send so they can feel loved and remembered on a day when it is particularly hard to be separated from their family. A suggested contribution of £5-£10 per household can be donated by online bank transfer (with 'PrisonGift' as your reference) to: RCD AB Godalming, sort code 40-05-20, account number 41077481.

<https://stedsgod.com>

Feba

We shall endeavour to meet on occasional Mondays for prayer for this media organisation with partners in many of the world's most difficult regions. However, Feba have an open prayer meeting on Zoom at 19:00 on a Wednesday, the next one being on 10 November. For this opportunity to liaise directly with Feba missionaries, please contact Shelagh on jimdogshome@aol.com. She can provide a link to the Zoom meeting or advise on access by phone.

Items for next month's Link-up

Please send items for the December 2021 edition of *Link-up* to Matt Farrow: farrow.matt@gmail.com by Monday 22 November, for publication on Monday 29 November.