



November 2022

LINK-UP

Keeping Churches in Touch

www.godalmingchurches.org

facebook.com/ChurchesTogetherinGodalmingandDistrict

Message from the Chair

We were saddened to hear of the death of Edouard Le Maistre in hospital on Saturday 29 October following a long illness. Edouard was a major figure in Churches Together for many years. Young people grew up thinking of him as "The Big Man" because he had the stature of a giant. One abiding memory is of Edouard holding the large wooden cross at the front of the March of Witness that Churches Together used to do on Good Friday. His death was like the toppling of a mighty oak. The funeral arrangements have not yet been made.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Edouard's widow Jenny at this time. We observed a minute's silence in memory of Edouard at the Churches Together Council meeting on 26 October. Those present signed a card of condolences for Jenny.

At the Council meeting we also learned more about the Godalming Minster project from Canon John Harkin and Rev Simon Taylor. The Minster will go live on 1 January 2024, subject to formal approval by the Church of England. Work is in hand to manage the transition.

Churches Together will be represented at the annual Remembrance Sunday service on Sunday 13 November.

The monthly Prayer Breakfast will take place at 8.30am on Saturday 26 November. Venue to be announced.

James Toon, Chair of Churches Together in Godalming and District

07803 812094

james.toon@mac.com

Christmas Together in Godalming

Saturday 10 December is our Christmas Together day. It will also include the Churches Together logo on publicity material, posters, banners etc. It takes place two weeks after the Switching on of the Lights event, from 3.30pm to approximately 6.00pm.

It will be different from previous years. The activity centres around Crown Court, the arch and the Wilfred Noyce Centre. As previous years the Churches Together star will be under the arch.

Initial times planned at present –

3.30pm: We will gather in Crown Court area before moving to Wilfred Noyce Centre.

4.15pm: The event will take place in the Wilfred Noyce Centre, consisting of carols, readings and a Nativity from scratch led by the Trinity Trust Team. Schools will be asked to encourage pupils to come in costume.

Look out for firmer details nearer the time as they may change.

We will need help on the day. If you can help, please contact Michael Stubbs at michaeleashing@aol.com.

News of the Churches and organisations

Parish of Godalming

St Peter & St Paul

Sunday 6 November – 8.00am Holy Communion, followed by a light breakfast in the Octagon for those attending the service

Sunday 6 November – 9.30am PLEASE NOTE THE EARLIER TIME 9.30am AND NOT 10.00am - Contemporary Service shared with the congregations from Busbridge and St Peter and St Paul with the Baptism of Edward

Sunday 13 November – 10.00am Remembrance Sunday Service in church followed by an Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial

Sunday 20 November – 10.00am Holy Communion Service

Sunday 27 November – 10.00am Holy Communion Service

Sunday 27 November - 6.30pm Advent Carol Service

Service of Said Holy Communion with a Thought for the Day every Tuesday at 12.00pm.

Godalming Minster

The parishes of St Peter and St Paul's Church with St Mark's Church, Busbridge and Hambledon have voted in favour of uniting to become one parish known as Godalming Minster. Voting took place at three separate meetings for members on the electoral rolls at Godalming on 2 October, and at Hambledon and Busbridge on 16 October. The vote for the Minster will enable the growth of Christian mission across the Godalming area, maintain and develop diverse styles of worship, provide better support for the clergy and provide a coherent strategy across the four churches of St Peter and St Paul's with St Mark's, Busbridge and Hambledon. More information can be found on our website: <https://parishofgodalming.org.uk/latest-news-updates/>.

Work on the transition now starts, beginning with a preliminary Contemporary Service with children's groups in the Octagon at St Peter and St Paul's Church on 6 November at 9.30am. A shared Christmas Eve Family Service will also take place in St Peter and St Paul's Church on 24 December in the afternoon.

Octots

Our Toddler Group, Octots, meets on Mondays during term time from 10.00am to 11.30am in the Octagon. There are lots of play-based activities for children to use independently and with their adult (slides, ride-ons, role play, puzzles, books and resources to explore). Hot drinks are served by our dedicated volunteers. We finish the session with songs and rhymes. The group is currently full, with many waiting for a space. If you would like to be added to the waiting list, please email the Church Office at godalming.church.office@gmail.com.

Baby Group

The Baby Group (newborn to crawlers) is a popular group meeting at St Peter & St Paul's Church on Wednesday mornings from 10.00am to 11.00am during term time. The group is led by Vickie Nye, our Children and Families Worker. We hope to welcome and support some new families, and there is space for up to eight families. For more details, please contact Vickie via the Church Office at godalming.church.office@gmail.com.

Epsom Male Voice Choir Concert

An evening of beautiful choral music including popular classics, folk tunes and songs from musicals, at St Peter and St Paul's Church on Saturday 12 November. The concert commences at 7.30pm, and all money raised will help maintain our beautiful but ancient church. During the interval, free wine and soft drinks will be available.

Tickets are available in advance only and cost £15 (or £12.50 for members of The Friends of St Peter & St Paul).

To purchase tickets please email fosp@btinternet.com or telephone 01483 417269.

St Mark's

All Sunday services start at 10.00am. There is a balance of services each month, including an All-age service on the first Sunday, and Holy Communion and different Bible-based acts of worship on the other Sundays. The services are set in a small, informal and friendly setting, including prayer, music and activities with something for everyone.

Smart Tots

This church-led activity is for parents and toddlers at St Mark's. The group meets on Wednesdays, running from 9.00am to 11.00am. The aim is to offer a welcoming space for toddlers and parents to socialise, meet new people and make friends.

Foodbank

The Foodbank list is updated each month on the website. Your financial donations are important to us and if you would like to donate, please contact Karen, our Community Centre Co-ordinator who will provide the bank details. Email stmarkscentre@googlemail.com. Heartfelt thanks for the overwhelming generosity of churches, schools and others for the Harvest Festival collections; it has been a fantastic and very much appreciated response.

We need volunteers to help out on a Monday afternoon from 12.00pm until 2.30pm. Helpers provide a warm welcome and hospitality to people needing to use the foodbank. Helpers also help with stocking shelves and packing parcels. If you would like more information, then please contact Reverend Sheila Samuels at curate.godalming@gmail.com.

The Churches Together Christmas Lunch

Whilst it may seem rather early to be thinking about Christmas, the Churches Together Christmas Lunch takes some planning in advance. We need someone to coordinate the volunteers. It is an enjoyable event to be part of, and the arrangements are tried and tested. Please let Sarah Higgins know if you are interested or want to know more, at sarahhiggins478@gmail.com.

www.parishofgodalming.org.uk

St John's Parish Church, Farncombe

We were delighted to be able to host a quiet Healing Service on behalf of Churches Together on St Luke's Day, 18 October. Feedback has been very positive so we will try and run something similar next year. By the time *Link-up* is distributed we will have held our second Forest Church, so do look out for the Winter one, which will happen in early 2023.

Other events which may be of interest to friends from other congregations are the contemplative prayer Julian Meeting on 8 November, our next Messy Church on 12 November, and the Advent Service of Light on 27 November. Details of all are on the website.

www.farncombe.org.uk

Busbridge&Hambleton Church

For details of the Godalming Minster project, see the entry under St Peter & St Paul.

This winter, Busbridge Church has been registered with the Warm Welcome initiative (www.warmwelcome.uk) and will provide a warm hub, open to all, with free refreshments for specific times and events. For example, World Cup England matches will be shown on the big screen, starting 21 November. Several Prime Time events for older people and the Hambleton Coffee mornings also meet the criteria, and we are looking forward to welcoming those who would benefit this winter.

www.bhcgodalming.org

Godalming Baptist Church

We have several events coming up in November that folk may be interested in. Do come and bring a friend!

Friday 4 November – Film Night

'90 Minutes in Heaven' 7.00pm to 9.00pm. No charge, but donations appreciated towards the Foodbank and Ukraine. Please contact Catherine Lawton at catherine@lawtonfamily.net or Sally Pollard at pollard3@hotmail.co.uk, 01483 428646 if you are coming.

Thursday 10 November – Friendship Lunch, Church and Community Outing

Friendship Lunch, Church and Community Outing to Haskins Garden Centre for some Christmas shopping and then on to Worthing for some bracing sea air or more shopping! Please call in to GBC reception from 9.00am to 12.00pm for a flyer and booking form for yourself and friends and neighbours. Please contact Sally Pollard at pollard3@hotmail.co.uk.

Saturday 12 November – Come and be colourful

Thank you for all your support for Life Issue events this year. We have one more event: 'Come and be colourful' on Saturday 12 November from 10.00am to 12.00pm (coffee from 9.30am). Please do join us for a fascinating morning looking at the type of personality we are and how we relate to others. To book a place at £5 per person, please contact Sally Pollard on 01483 428646 or email pollard3@hotmail.co.uk

Saturday 19 November – Women's breakfast at the Jack Phillips

9.00am to 11.00am with speaker Revd Sheila Samuels. Please contact Sally as above by Saturday 12 November if you would like to come as numbers have to be given in advance.

Friday 25 November – Christmas wreath demonstration

On Friday 25 November from 7.00pm to 9.00pm there will be a Christmas wreath demonstration at Godalming Baptist Church, led by Clarissa Harris. Do join us for a fascinating evening of creativity and learning the origins of the Christmas wreath. There is no charge but donations would be very much appreciated towards the activities of 'Shining Lights', a group for vulnerable adults at GBC.

www.godalmingbaptistchurch.org.uk

Godalming United Church

Online services: <https://guc.online.church>.

Service recordings: www.guc.org.uk, <https://bit.ly/GUCYouTube>.

Adam's popular twice-weekly Bible study – "Introduction to Christianity" (a course for everyone from new Christians to "seasoned veterans") – concluded, and we are eagerly awaiting his next.

Harvest Festival on Sunday 2 October with bring-and share lunch was a truly joyful occasion – the first for three years.

On Saturday 15 October, we hosted the annual Circuit Mission Day for the Wey Valley Circuit, led by Tom Lewis, a pioneer Community Chaplain from Chilmington on the outskirts of Ashford, Kent. He has visited all of the 200+ new homes on the estate, has active links with two local primary schools (being a governor of one), leads worship, has introduced Messy Church and helps run an ecumenical youth group. An inspirational speaker – and a great coming-together with our brothers and sisters from the wider Methodist Circuit.

On 29 October another shipping container heads off for The Gambia, loaded with furniture, medical supplies and school equipment. A special thanks to the pupils of St Hilary's School who collected a stunning array of school stationery as part of their harvest celebrations. Ryan and Sylvia Kelley – masterminds of this charitable work – are visiting The Gambia in November – the first time in three years!

On Friday 11 November the Three Choirs Gospel Concert (The Wey Community Gospel Choir, Joyful Chorus and the Godalming Community Gospel Choir) will take place at Godalming United Church at 7.30pm. Tickets can be purchased in person at Record Corner or on the door.

There will be no morning service at GUC on Remembrance Sunday, 13 November. We will be supporting the Town Service of Remembrance at the War Memorial on the Burys.

www.guc.org.uk

Roman Catholic Parish of St Edmund, King & Martyr, Godalming with St Joseph's Milford

Pope Francis' intention for November

Pope Francis' intention for November is that we pray for children who are suffering, especially those who are homeless, orphans, and victims of war; may they be guaranteed access to education and the opportunity to experience family affection.

Fr Michael Perry RIP

We heard with sadness the news of the death of our much-loved former parish priest Fr Michael Perry, who served us with great dedication for 22 years from 1994 to 2016. Fr Michael was well known for his devotion to our parish, his kindness and his sense of humour. He died peacefully on 1 October in the 61st year of his priesthood. Your prayers are asked for the repose of his soul.

Feast of All Souls

Mass is celebrated jointly with the Polish community, and in English and Polish, at St Joseph's Milford, at 9.30am on Tuesday 2 November, the Feast of All Souls. Thereafter, Fr Jonathan will be blessing the graves of deceased parishioners at Eashing Cemetery and Elstead Cemetery at 10.20am and 11.15am.

Welcoming Fr Rajesh Minz

We welcome Fr Rajesh Minz to our parish on the weekend of 12-13 November, to celebrate weekend Mass with us whilst Fr Jonathan celebrates Masses in the Haslemere, Chiddingfold and Hindhead parish.

Remembrance Sunday

There will be a minute's silence during Mass. Deacon Jeremy Oliver will represent the parish at the Remembrance Sunday Parade and laying of the wreaths.

The Feast of St Edmund, King & Martyr

The Feast of St Edmund, King & Martyr, to whom our parish is dedicated, is celebrated on 20 November and with our annual St Edmund's Quiz Night in aid of CAFOD, on Saturday 19 November at 7.00pm at St John's Farncombe church room. Tickets are £10, which includes a jacket potato supper, and teams are a maximum of 8 people. Contact Jo for more details and tickets at jolewry@aol.com.

Weekly Holy Hour

Every Wednesday Deacon Jeremy leads a holy hour, which offers an opportunity for some spiritual and prayerful nourishment, and includes benediction, holy rosary, reflection and silent prayer. At St Joseph's, Milford, 6.00pm to 7.00pm.

Sycamore Shorts

A new group for parents on Friday mornings, 8.55am to 9.30am, at St Edmund's primary school. A 'drop in at drop off' and a chance to explore an aspect of faith, chat over coffee and pray for the children, with Fr Jonathan.

Pizza and Prayer

Pizza and Prayer on Sunday evenings with Fr Jonathan. For young people in Yr9+, at St Edmund's, 6.30pm to 8.00pm. Check parish calendar for dates.

Mass times and regular parish events and activities

Weekend Masses are celebrated at St Edmund's (6.00pm Vigil Mass) on Saturday evenings; and on Sundays at St John's Farncombe at 8.45am, with Children's Liturgy (and with coffee after Mass on 6 and 20 November); and St Joseph's Milford at 10.30am.

Weekday Masses: the dates, times and venues of these vary and can be found on the calendar on our website: www.stedsgod.com.

We offer a warm welcome to newcomers at our regular parish gatherings during November:

- Bumps & Babes on Mondays at 10.30am at St John's, Farncombe
- Live Simply: Our parish group meets monthly and the next meeting is on Thursday 4 November on Zoom. Joining details from Jo at jolewry@aol.com
- SVP Afternoon Tea on Wednesday 9 November at 2.30pm at the United Reformed Church, Elstead (to book phone Janet on 07990 717067)
- Fairtrade Sale at St John's after 8.45am Mass on Sunday 6 November
- Prayer Group on Monday evenings at 19.45pm (phone Richard on 01252 703830).

If you would like help with getting to Mass or attending parish events, please get in touch with Alan on 01483 420859.

Franciscan Centre, Ladywell Convent

For more information about one-day retreats, private retreats, short overnight retreats, or residential, directed and preached retreats please contact the Franciscan Centre on 01483 675575. franciscancentre.org.uk/retreats

<https://stedsgod.com>

Godalming Quakers

The regular weekly worship session continues to be held on Sunday mornings, starting at 10.30am at the Quaker Meeting House in Mill Lane, and all are welcome. If fine weather, then this is sometimes held outdoors in the walled garden.

www.quaker.org.uk/meetings/godalming

St Peter's Church, Hascombe

We were pleased to see our two Confirmation candidates confirmed at St Nicolas, Cranleigh on 16 October by the Bishop of Guildford. On 6 November, we will be celebrating a service *A time to remember* at 4.00pm. We will have our Remembrance Sunday on 13 November, with the retired former Bishop of Bath & Wells, the Right Reverend Peter Hancock leading the service.

Our traditional Evensong in November will be at 6.00pm on 20 November, with choosing of the hymns by the congregation if they arrive early enough.

Items for next month's Link-up

Please send items for the December 2022 edition of *Link-up* to Matt Farrow: farrow.matt@gmail.com by **Friday 18 November**, for publication on Friday 25 November.