



February 2023

LINK-UP

Keeping Churches in Touch

www.godalmingchurches.org

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

Message from the Chair

We held our annual United Service on Sunday 22 January at St John's Farncombe. This brought together the congregations of several of our member churches. St John's was full for this joyful celebration of our common purpose and commitment. Many thanks to Rev James Rattue for organising the service.

The Season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, this year Wednesday 22 February. This is a time of reflection and self-examination as we prepare for Easter. Churches Together are not organising ecumenical Lent groups, but a range of Lent books have been published and these are well worth a look. There is quite a wide selection on the Church House Bookshop website at <https://chbookshop.hymnsam.co.uk/features/lent-books-2023>.

The Churches Together programme includes a number of special events, but our regular monthly activities are just as important. The Contemplative Prayer Group is at 8.00pm on Tuesday 14 February, and the Prayer Breakfast is at 8.30am on Saturday 25 February, both at St John's Farncombe. In a less obvious way, activities like these are also "a marker in the rhythm of life", as was said of Sundays during the passage of the Shops Act 1984 which regulated Sunday trading.

We would welcome your prayers for the Council of Churches Together AGM, which takes place at 7.30pm on Wednesday 1 March (venue to be arranged). This marks the end of my term of office as Chair. Subject to agreement by the Council, the current Vice Chair, Rev James Rattue, will take over. We are looking for someone to join the Executive Committee as the new Vice Chair. Preferably a lay person, as traditionally the role has alternated between the clergy and the laity. If you feel called to this role – and I have found it a rewarding experience over the past year – then please contact me before the AGM.

James Toon, Chair of Churches Together in Godalming and District
07803 812094
james.toon@mac.com

Good Friday 7 April - Witness in the town

During Holy week, Trinity Trust Team will put flowers, tags and flyers along the High Street. On Good Friday the Town Council will arrange for the High Street to be closed from 11.15am to 12.15pm.

The aim is that Churches would have their own morning services and then head to the area in the High Street outside FatFace/Wetherspoon for 11.30am. There will be a short service to be arranged by Trinity Trust Team from 11.30am to 12.00pm. Wooden crosses will be handed out to onlookers, and ribbons will be tied to a cross.

News of the Churches and organisations

St Peter & St Paul's Church

Services

- Sunday 5 February, 9.30am Muddy Church at Tuesley Minster, Ladywell Shrine
- Sunday 12 February, 10.00am Holy Communion
- Sunday 19 February, 10.00am Holy Communion
- Sunday 26 February, 10.00am Holy Communion

Godalming Minster

Strategic planning continues, building on the experiences of the past 12 months, including a Parish Strategy Day led by a specialist Diocesan team in November 2022. Fundamental areas being addressed for specific development include patronage, legalities (charity requirements, Parochial Church Council, Minster requirements, Synod etc), HR matters (Transfer of Undertakings, Protection of Employment, equality of pay and seniority), change management, buildings and leadership structure. Significant early work this year is already yielding encouraging results.

Associate Minister

Reverend Sheila Samuels began her new appointment as Associate Minister (Missioner) on Wednesday 11 January 2023, following her licensing by the Venerable Paul Davies, Archdeacon of Surrey. Sheila's ministry focuses on mission and evangelism, with exciting potential for the future at Ockford Ridge and Aaron's Hill, as well as across the new Godalming Minster Parish.

Octots

Our toddler group, Octots, meet 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. 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.

St Mark's Community Church & Centre

St Mark's Church Services

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 is 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.

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 email curate.godalming@gmail.com.

Warm Hub

St Mark's Church and Community Centre will be a Warm Hub from 12.30pm to 4.00pm every Tuesday, with lunch from 12.30pm to 2.15pm. Drinks and cakes will be served until 3.15pm. There is no need to book: all are welcome. Includes free wi-fi, board games and quizzes.

www.parishofgodalming.org.uk

Busbridge&Hambleton Church

Busbridge&Hambleton are readvertising for a Worship Pastor, and still urgently seek at 4-11s Children's worker. Please share the links to the vacancies page with anyone you think might be interested or able to help. The roles are also on New Wine jobs, and the diocese vacancies page.

Alpha course

Alpha starts on 26 January at St Mark's.

Nexus women's group

Nexus (women's group, with events open to gents too) and Prime Time (for over 50s) have published their programmes for 2023. All events and can be found on www.bhcgodalming.org/nexus and www.bhcgodalming.org/prime-time.

Godalming Minster

Work continues in the background on the transition to become Godalming Minster on 1 January 2024, and the introduction of joint activities and changes planned for post-Easter 2023.

www.bhcgodalming.org

St John's Parish Church, Farncombe

It was a great privilege to be able to host the United Service on Sunday 22 January: thank you to everyone who took part in any way. On 28 January, we will be taking our Forest Church to Broadwater Park for something a little different (meet at 3.00pm at the entrance to the park as you go past the tennis courts), and do remember that the Contemplative Prayer Group on the second Tuesday evening each month is open to all, so the next one will be on St Valentine's Day!

www.farncombe.org.uk

St Nicholas Compton

Are you looking to make a difference in our local community? St Nicholas Compton is recruiting a new Administrator to support our wonderful village church. £13 per hour, 8 hours per week, working mostly from home, with timings to suit you (term time only if required). Interesting, flexible role with a fantastic boss! Please contact Rev Sally Buddle at stnicholascompton.rector@gmail.com or on 07778 681664.

Godalming Baptist Church

Open the book

We are looking for volunteers who would be willing to give up one hour per month on a Monday afternoon to perform with a small group as a character in a Bible story in an assembly for a local infant school. Words and clothes are provided. Please speak to Catherine Lawton catherine@lawtonfamily.net, 07973 927233.

Visit our library

Just a reminder that we have a library at GBC full of exciting, encouraging and so helpful titles! Reception is open on weekday mornings and (subject to lettings) you are welcome to come in and browse in the library and borrow a book.

Games afternoon

We also have a monthly games afternoon – the next being held on Friday 3 February from 2.00pm to 4.00pm at GBC – with an assortment of light-hearted boardgames to choose from – Quiddler, Scrabble, Uno, Bingo, card games and more! A warm welcome awaits. Do come and bring a friend.

Art Space

Also we have a monthly Art Space on Saturday 4 February from 9.30am until 12.00pm. Do join us for this really lovely morning and bring your own art, needlework, knitting or drawing/colouring.

Life issue: Self-harm

The next Life issue session will focus on self-harm on Saturday 25 February from 10.00am to 12.30pm (coffee from 9.30am) led by Suzette Jones. Please do come along to this vital session focussing on what are the signs of self-harm, how do we react, where can help be found and more. To book a place please contact Sally Pollard on 01483 428646 or email pollard3@hotmail.co.uk by Friday 10 February.

www.godalmingbaptistchurch.org.uk

Godalming United Church

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

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

Improved projection and display system

Anyone attending a service or watching online will have been struck by our improved projection and display system, installed in December. The tired projector has been replaced, and a modern screen (like a giant TV screen) takes the place of images-on-the-wall. The bright, crisp words and illustrations are a huge improvement!

Annual Covenant Service

On 15 January, we held our annual Covenant Service – a tradition in the Methodist Church instituted by John Wesley in 1755. It is a renewal of our commitment to Christ and an opportunity to open ourselves more fully to God. And a great way to start the New Year.

Cinderella Pantomime – Saturday 4 and Sunday 5 February

Always a great coming-together of the organisations and generations within the church community. Four performances; advance booking strongly recommended – contact frymaile@gmail.com.

For more information and other future events, please visit www.guc.org.uk for a constantly updated rolling calendar.

Warm space

We are open as a warm space on Fridays from 12.00 to 3.00pm, with free hot drinks and biscuits. Very reasonably priced lunches available from 12.00 to 1.30pm.

www.guc.org.uk

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

Pope Francis' intention for February is for parishes. We pray that parishes, placing communion at the centre, may increasingly become communities of faith, fraternity and welcome towards those most in need.

Movie night on Thursday 9 February at 7.00pm at Franciscan Centre at Ladywell

The Live Simply group will be screening 'The Letter'. Described as a 'Message for our Earth', 'The Letter' is a powerful and moving film about the climate crisis, which features Pope Francis and tells the story of four 'champions' who each receive an invitation from the Pope to come to Rome to talk with him about the climate crisis. Everyone is invited, parishioners and non-parishioners. Refreshments are from 7.00pm to 7.20pm, the film starts at 7.30pm, and there will be time for discussion afterwards. You can reserve your place by clicking onto the link on the website calendar for 9 February <https://stedsgod.com> or email godalming@abdiocese.org.uk.

Lent

We mark the start of Lent with Ash Wednesday Mass on 22 February, and we will have speakers from CAFOD at all Masses for the weekend of 25/26 February, in preparation for our Lent Fast Day on Friday 3 March. We are also launching our 'Big Lent Walk' with a parish team of walkers committing to 5K per day for the 40 days of Lent. If you would like to join our team please email Jo: jolewry@aol.com. We are raising funds to combat poverty in Bangladesh and welcome your sponsorship: <https://cafod.enthuse.com/pf/stedmundbigwalk>.

For Lent groups we will follow the CaFE course 'Belong and Believe' and all are invited to join us at the Franciscan Centre on Wednesday evenings during March.

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 5 February and 19 February); 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:

- 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 2 February on Zoom. Joining details from Jo: jolewry@aol.com
- SVP Afternoon Tea on Wednesday 8 February 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 5 February
- Prayer Group on Monday evenings at earlier time of 5.00pm (phone Richard on 01252 703830).

St Edmund's church remains open every day for private prayer, usually between 10.00am and 4.00pm. (19 Croft Road, Godalming GU7 1DB).

<https://stedsgod.com>

The Franciscan Centre Ladywell

All Praise Be Yours...

Day Event on Saturday 18 February 2023, Arrival: 9.30am Opening session: 10.00am or weekend stay Saturday 18 to Sunday 19 February 2023, Arrival: from 9.00am Opening session: 10.00am.

Join Br Adrian Peelo OFM for a time of prayer and reflection.

Though Clare and Francis lived over 800 years ago, their spirituality remains fresh and vibrant, contemplative, and joyful. These mystic friends have much to teach us about a God who comes near to us in Jesus, and in the beauty and diversity of creation. Come and walk the Franciscan path of prayer with the saints of Assisi.

Suggested offering for the Day event on Saturday, lunch and supper included: £35. Bursaries available.

Suggested offering for the Weekend stay: Residential £95. Non-residential £55. Bursaries available.

For more information and to book, please contact Victoria Brown, our Franciscan Centre administrator.

Call: 01483 675575, email: franciscancentre@ladywell.org.uk.

Learning to see with the Eyes of Love, Wednesday 8 to Sunday 12 March 2023

Arrival supper: 6.00pm, Opening session: 7.00pm

A time of reflection with Br Paul Rout OFM

Reflect on how we see life – ourselves, other people, and the world around us. Paul will suggest ways in which we might learn to see life more as God sees it, that is, through the eyes of love, so allowing us to become more and more what we were created to be, namely, made in the image of God. Our guides for this journey will be the spiritual experiences and writings of the great 13th Century Franciscan saints, Francis and Clare of Assisi, St Bonaventure, the religious and poetical genius of Dante Alighieri, and the living testimony of our present Pope, Pope Francis. Suggested offering: £320. Bursaries available.

For more information and to book, please contact Victoria Brown, our Franciscan Centre administrator on 01483 675575, franciscancentre@ladywell.org.uk.

Quiet Days and Spiritual Direction at The Franciscan Centre, Ladywell

Apart from published events, The Franciscan Centre Ladywell is open for anyone seeking some space and quiet time. For anyone wishing to explore their faith journey, Spiritual Direction is also available from our Spiritual Directors. Spiritual Direction carries no expectations, just an interest in sharing, listening and reflecting with you.

To find out more information about Quiet Days, Spiritual Direction, and other events at the Franciscan Centre, please contact us via telephone on 01483 675575 or email at franciscancentre@ladywell.org.uk.

<https://franciscancentre.org.uk>

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.

We are again embarking on a series of midweek Meetings for Worship at the Godalming Quaker Meeting House. The next one is due to be held on the evening of Wednesday 25 January from 6.30pm to 7.00pm, followed by a short time of reflection and sharing. All are welcome.

www.quaker.org.uk/meetings/godalming

Feba

The next Prayer Meeting for Feba, a media organisation with partners in most of the world's newsworthy spots, will be held on Zoom on Wednesday 1 February 2023, beginning at 7.00pm.

www.feba.org.uk/blog/you-are-invited-to-pray-with-the-feba-family

Items for next month's *Link-up*

Please send items for the March 2023 edition of *Link-up* to Matt Farrow:

farrow.matt@gmail.com by **Friday 17 February**, for publication on Friday 24 February.