



March 2023

LINK-UP

Keeping Churches in Touch

www.godalmingchurches.org

facebook.com/ChurchesTogetherinGodalmingandDistrict

Message from the Chair

Our AGM takes place at 8.00pm on Wednesday 1 March at St Mark's, Godalming. Please join us if you can for this important event in our annual programme. We have a guest speaker – Grace Keal, Ecumenical Coordinator for Churches Together in Surrey, who will be talking about her role. I am very pleased that Grace is able to join us.

Also in March: the World Day of Prayer at Godalming United Church at 10.30am on Friday 3 March (details below), the monthly contemplative prayer group at St John's, Farncombe at 8.00pm on Tuesday 14 March, and the monthly prayer breakfast at Godalming United Church at 8.30am on Saturday 25 March.

It's unusual to draw attention to an event that's nine months away, but the Christmas Day Lunch will be the first that many of us can remember without Maureen Jones as cook. Maureen has given so much to this event for so long and we will really miss her. We now need to find a replacement. The role of cook is one of the few indispensable roles at this event. If no one comes forward, there will be no lunch!

I am standing down as Chair of Churches Together at the AGM. Thank you all very much for your support and encouragement over the past year.

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

Good Friday 7 April - Witness in the town

There will be a short service from 11.30am to 12.00pm in the High Street outside FatFace / JD Wetherspoon. The Town Council will arrange for the road to be closed between 11.15am and 12.15pm. Wooden crosses will be handed out to onlookers, and ribbons will be tied to a cross.

The aim is that churches would have their own morning services and then head to the area in the High Street outside FatFace / JD Wetherspoon for 11.30am.

Godalming Baptist Church are kindly providing coffee and hot cross buns after the event.

World Day of Prayer

The service this year will take place on Friday 3 March at 10.30am in Godalming United Church with a service planned by the women of Taiwan. Members of six churches are taking part. Adam Payne, Minister of GUC, and Hannah Moore, Rector of Elstead, Thursley, Shackleford and Peperharow churches will be joint leaders. There will be refreshments in the church following the service.

News of the Churches and organisations

St Peter & St Paul's Church

Sunday Services

Sunday 5 March, 9.30am - Muddy Church at Hambledon Cricket Green

Sunday 12 March, 10.00am - Holy Communion

Sunday 19 March, 10.00am - Holy Communion

Sunday 26 March, 10.00am - Holy Communion

Weekly Communion Service

Every Tuesday at 12.00pm in St Peter and St Paul's Church, we offer a short, said Communion Service with a Thought for the Day homily. This provides an opportunity to sit quietly and engage with God amongst the busyness of the week. All are very welcome.

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.

Lent Lunches

Lent Lunches in the Octagon at St Peter and St Paul's Church at 12.30pm, following the midweek Communion Service:

Tuesday 7 March

Tuesday 14 March

Tuesday 21 March

Tuesday 28 March.

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. If you would like to be added to the waiting list, please email the Church Office 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

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 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 at sheila.samuels@bhcgodalming.org.

The 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.

Volunteers are needed please either to help set up at noon, serve between 12.30pm and 2.30pm, provide a cake, or clear away from 3.00pm, each on a monthly basis. If you would like to help, please email Michael Stubbs at michaeleashing@aol.com.

www.parishofgodalming.org.uk

Busbridge&Hambleton Church

Work is continuing in the background to join the parishes of Godalming, Busbridge and Hambleton to become Godalming Minster in 2024, but for the moment it's worship as usual!

We give thanks for some new faces at both Busbridge and Hambleton Churches in recent months and are encouraging more church members to join mid-week home groups in 2023 and beyond.

Unplugged youth service

The Unplugged youth service is being folded into the 6.00pm evening service on the first Sundays of the month, from 5 March. The congregation is now led by ordinand Sarah Rowden.

Easter with Busbridge&Hambleton Church

Details of what's happening during Lent and Easter can be found on the website at www.bhcgodalming.org/lent-easter-2023

www.bhcgodalming.org

Godalming Baptist Church

Ladies' breakfast at the Jack Phillips, Saturday 18 March

You are warmly invited to join us for a ladies' breakfast at the Jack Phillips (JD Wetherspoon) from 9.00am to 11.00am. It is so good to join with ladies from other churches too and enjoy breakfast together - a full English or, for those with more delicate stomachs, tea and toast! Breakfast is followed by our inspiring Speaker, Revd Sheila Samuels. Please contact Sally on 01483 428646 or pollard3@hotmail.co.uk by Sunday 12 March as numbers have to be given in advance to the venue. Do come and bring a friend!

Life Issue: Meeting disaster head-on with hope, Saturday 25 March

10.00am to 12.00pm (coffee from 9.30am) at GBC led by Chris and Denise Arthey. The Artheys faced devastating injuries after a head-on crash. Do come and hear their honest reflections on how they re-built their lives, bringing hope and help in the individual bumps we may face on our life journey. To book a place please contact Sally (contact details above) by

Friday 17 March at the latest. Do come and bring a friend!

Visit our library

We would be delighted if you would like to call in and borrow a book from our library. Reception is open Monday to Friday mornings from 9.00am to 12.00pm, and the library is open then, subject to bookings. Do ring Reception if you prefer to check – 01483 414544.

Ladies' away day at Ladywell Retreat Centre, Saturday 13 May

Led by Canon Revd Hazel Whitehead, who will lead us on the subject of 'The Psalms - Why?' You are warmly invited to join us in the beautiful surroundings of Ladywell to enjoy delicious food and the opportunity to come away from the demands of life. Please contact Sally (as above) by 7 April at the latest.

Help needed for Friendship Lunch

Urgent help is needed at Friendship Lunch. Have you a heart to reach out to the community? We are in urgent need of help on Thursdays on a monthly basis from 9.00am to set up tables and chairs and lay up and serve lunch. If you feel you could help, please contact Sally Pollard as above – thank you!

Alpha for friends with Learning difficulties

What does it mean to know Jesus? Come and join us for a cuppa and find out at Godalming Baptist church from Tuesday 18 April until 11 July. Time: 3.00pm to 4.30pm. Contact: catherine@lawtonfamily.net 07973 927233. We would love to have you join us. Clarissa, Naomi, Catherine and Jackie.

Save The Date!

Thursday 20 April - Coach outing for the community - details to follow.

www.godalmingbaptistchurch.org.uk

Godalming United Church

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

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

Pantomime

Our annual pantomime – this year Cinderella – played to capacity audiences across four performances. It was a joy to see and hear so many children having so much fun – both on- and off-stage. A huge Thank You to Barbara Keene and her team.

Remembering Pearl Davies

With sadness we report the death of Pearl Davies – a last link with the Salvation Army Hall in Mint Street where her husband John was Captain for many years. We remember with affection her lively tambourine accompaniment to our hymn-singing.

40 years of involvement with The Gambia

This year we celebrate 40 years of church involvement with The Gambia – thanks to the tireless commitment of Ryan and Sylvia Kelley. Our 64th shipping container was sent in December! The Kelleys visited for the first time in 3 years, and can report much progress over the decades, eg better infrastructure and free education for all up to Year 12. However, tourism was hit by Covid (though the percentages of cases and deaths were lower than in Europe) and WHO has ceased funding school lunches – because of greater need elsewhere. The Chair of the Methodist Medical Board, when asked his priorities, said simply "Malnutrition".

Day of Prayer, Friday 3 March, 10.30am

Godalming United Church will host the town's annual Day of Prayer (formerly Women's Day of Prayer). Attenders might consider staying on for Friday Lunch – ring 01483 273291.

Messy Church, Saturday 25 March, 3.00pm to 5.00pm

Messy Church – Easter Trail and family fun for all ages – crafts, worship time and party tea.
messy.church@guc.org.uk

Lent Appeal

Our Lent Appeal this year is for humanitarian relief in Ukraine via Médecins Sans Frontières.

Warm Space

We are open as a Warm Space on Fridays from 12.00pm to 3.00pm. Free hot drinks and biscuits are provided. Very reasonably priced lunches are available from 12.00pm to 1.30pm.

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

www.guc.org.uk

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

Pope Francis' intention for March

Pope Francis' intention for March is for victims of abuse: we pray for those who have suffered harm from members of the Church; may they find within the Church herself a concrete response to their pain and suffering.

Family Fast Day

During Lent we start with our Family Fast Day on Friday 3 March, with donations to CAFOD to help fight global poverty. <https://cafod.org.uk/?form=LentAppeal2023>

Stations of the Cross

Stations of the Cross are every Friday evening at 7.00pm at St Joseph's Milford during Lent.

Lent Groups

All are invited to join us at our Lent groups on Wednesdays during March, from 8.00pm at the Franciscan Centre at Ladywell. We will be following the CaFE course 'Belong and Believe' which draws on the immense wisdom and inspiration from our Celtic spiritual heritage to help us to find renewed faith and vision together.

Big Lent Walk

We have also launched 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 email Jo: jolewry@aol.com. We are raising funds to combat global poverty and welcome sponsorship: <https://cafod.enthuse.com/pf/stedmundbigwalk>.

Climate Crisis film 'The Letter' for church groups

Everyone who came to our film screening in February agreed that the film should be watched as widely as possible - in families, schools and parishes - as it's powerful and moving, and a great starting point for discussion and action on how to care for the future of our planet. Most importantly it touches people's hearts and brings home 'the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.'

The film is described as a 'Message for our Earth', and explores indigenous rights, climate migration, and youth leadership in the context of climate action. It has been produced by Oscar-winning producers 'Off the Fence' with the Laudate Si Movement, and directed by the Emmy and BAFTA-winning documentary film producer Nicolas Brown. The film is ecumenical in approach, the photography is amazing, and it's free to watch: <https://www.theletterfilm.org>. If you would like advice about arranging a screening for your church group please contact jolewry@aol.com.

Feast of St Joseph

During March we celebrate the Feast of St Joseph on Monday 20 March. As he is the patron of our church in Milford, we celebrate with a gathering for coffee and cake after 9.30am Mass at Squires.

Weekend Masses

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 March and 19 March); 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.

Parish gatherings

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

- Bumps & Babes on Mondays at 10.30 at St John's, Farncombe.
- Live Simply – Our parish group meets monthly and the next meeting is on Thursday 2 March on Zoom. Joining details from Jo: jolewry@aol.com.
- SVP Afternoon Tea on Wednesday 8 March 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 March.
- Prayer Group on Monday evenings at earlier time of 5.00pm (phone Richard on 01252 702230).

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

Set in the heart of beautiful Surrey, we offer retreats, quiet days, spiritual direction and programmes, both residential and non-residential.

'Come away and rest for a while' (Mark 6.31)

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

This retreat will enable us to reflect on how we see life – ourselves, other people, and the world around us. It 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.

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

Re-imagining the World: The Vision of Saint Francis and Pope Francis, Wednesday 26 to Sunday 30 April 2023

Arrival supper: 6.00pm, Opening session: 7.00pm

A programme with Br William Short OFM

Pope Francis has often referred to Saint Francis of Assisi as the inspiration for his vision for the Church and global society. How can the Saint and the Pope encourage our care for the Earth, for brothers and sisters in need, and striving for a just peace in today's world?

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.

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.

www.quaker.org.uk/meetings/godalming

Trinity Trust Team

Andy, Isaac and Annette continue to deliver a full range of FREE in-person groups. Just a reminder that the following are available weekly for local young people:

- Wowza after school club for children at Godalming Junior school (Monday).
- Loseley Fields Youth Café, Monday 6.30pm to 8.00pm (for school years 7+).
- Fusion children's group for school years 3-6 at Godalming Baptist church on Wednesday evenings (open to all, runs from 6.00pm to 7.00pm).
- Fuse youth / discipleship group for school years 7-13 also at GBC on Wednesday evenings (and open to all, runs from 7.30pm to 9.00pm).
- Christian Union on Thursday lunchtimes at Broadwater and Rodborough schools.
- Friday Club at St Marks's Church from 6.00pm to 7.00pm (open to all school years 7+) then outdoors from after Easter to the summer holidays.

To sign up to our groups or for more info please go to www.trinitytrustteam.co.uk.

Whilst Matt Blake has officially left the team after continuing to work remotely from the Isle of Wight, he will still be supporting our website, so we're delighted to still have this contact with Matt. Could we be supporting your church-based children's and youth ministries? If so, do get in touch with us.

Please pray for:

- Continued opportunities to prosper the gospel in schools and communities in the coming school year and for new partnerships within local churches.
- The right individuals to come forward to seek to join the team and wisdom and discernment when recruiting new team members.
- 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. Our thanks and blessings to you all. Andy & the team.

Feba

Feba prayers on zoom on Wed 1 March at 7.00pm. Please join us in prayer for this media mission organisation with partners in many places where people are suffering. To join, visit 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 April 2023 edition of *Link-up* to Matt Farrow: farrow.matt@gmail.com by **Friday 17 March**, for publication on Friday 24 March.