



April 2023

# LINK-UP

*Keeping Churches in Touch*

[www.godalmingchurches.org](http://www.godalmingchurches.org)

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

## Message from the Chair

It's a great honour to be chair of Churches Together for the 2023-24 year. I served as Chair some years ago (possibly as much as a decade, but I can't remember without looking it up) and it strikes me that the issues facing CTIGD have changed little since then.

What are ecumenical organisations for and how can we better serve the town we all belong to as members of Christian communities? Perhaps over the course of the year we can squeeze in some time to think about these things. In the meantime, Holy Week and Easter direct us to meditate on the mystery of the events which brought us salvation, and every one of our communities will provide opportunities to enter into Christ's passion and resurrection – and both are necessary. I do pray that your celebrations will run deep and reach high!

Rev James Rattue, Chair of Churches Together in Godalming and District  
jamesrattue@hotmail.com

## Good Friday 7 April - Witness in the town

Let's join together for a short Service from 11.30am to 12.00pm in the High Street outside Fatface/JD Wetherspoon. The barrier will be in operation from 11.15am to 12.15pm (with help from Godalming Town Council). Little crosses will be handed out to passers-by, and ribbons will be tied to a cross.

The Trinity Trust Team are arranging the drama.

The aim is that each church will have their own morning service and then head to the High Street for 11.30am.

Godalming Baptist Church are kindly providing tea/coffee and hot cross buns after the event at the church in Queen Street.

We do need some help with stewarding and handing out orders of service and crosses, and we would like to use the Churches Together banner if two people were happy to hold it.

If you can help in any way, please get in touch with Michael Stubbs on [michaeleashing@aol.com](mailto:michaeleashing@aol.com).

# News of the Churches and organisations

## St Peter & St Paul's Church and St Mark's Community Church & Centre

### **Easter services**

#### *Palm Sunday, 2 April*

10.00am – Holy Communion at St Peter and St Paul's Church

10:00am – All-age service at St Mark's Church

#### *Maundy Thursday, 6 April*

7.00pm – Holy Communion at St Peter and St Paul's Church

7.00pm – Holy Communion at St Mark's Church

#### *Good Friday, 7 April*

10.00am – Reflective service at St Peter and St Paul's Church

10.00am – Reflective service at St Mark's Church

11.30am – Churches Together Witness in Town

#### *Easter Saturday, 8 April*

8.00pm – Easter Eve Vigil at St Peter and St Paul's Church

#### *Easter Day, 9 April*

6.45am – Churches Together sunrise service in Minster Field

10.00am – Easter Sunday Communion at St Peter and St Paul's Church

10.00am – Easter Sunday Communion at St Mark's Church

### **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.

### **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 [godalming.church.office@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:godalming.church.office@gmail.com).

### **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](mailto: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](mailto:curate.godalming@gmail.com).

### **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](mailto:michaeleashing@aol.com).

[www.parishofgodalming.org.uk](http://www.parishofgodalming.org.uk)

## **Busbridge&Hambleton Church**

### **Easter events**

We begin our Easter services in Hambleton with a procession to the Oak Tree led by the Hambleton llamas, kindly on loan from the Merry Harriers.

There are Holy Week reflections Monday to Wednesday at 8.00pm at Busbridge Church, and Maundy Thursday communion at Hambleton. On the afternoon of Good Friday, the whole church is invited to join the Hot Cross Bun walk from Hambleton Church to Busbridge, finishing with tea and hot cross buns at the old rectory.

For younger children there is Messy Church with an Easter Egg Hunt on Hambleton Common, and the annual Easter Garden Service and Egg hunt at the old Rectory. All the info is on the website [www.bhcGodalming.org/lent-Easter](http://www.bhcGodalming.org/lent-Easter)

### **Simon Taylor's sabbatical - 11 April too 15 July 2023**

Third time lucky! Simon Taylor will be taking a twice-postponed sabbatical this year from Easter to July. (Stipendiary clergy are given a sabbatical every ten years, and Simon's was postponed in 2020 due to Covid, then again in 2022 due to the Minster evaluation.)

He leaves the leadership of the benefice in the capable hands of Simon Willetts, supported by Margot Spencer, the wardens, clergy and staff team. Minster plans will continue to develop.

[www.bhcgodalming.org](http://www.bhcgodalming.org)

## **Godalming Baptist Church**

### **GBC Friendship Lunch and Community outing to Southsea and Gunwharf Quays**

You are warmly invited to join us for a spring outing on Thursday 20 April. It promises to be a lovely day out! Booking forms are available in reception at Godalming Baptist Church. Please contact Peter and Christine Knottley or Sally Pollard for more details. Do come and bring a friend, neighbour or family member!

### **Life Issue: Having wise conversations when church and culture clash**

Saturday 22 April 9.30am to 1.00pm at GBC led by Andy Peck. Please do consider joining us for this so helpful, informative and thought-provoking session - so needed at this time in our society. Please see the attachment and contact Sally Pollard for more details or to book a place, email [pollard3@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:pollard3@hotmail.co.uk) or 01483 428646.

### **Ladywell Retreat Centre away day, Saturday 13 May**

Ladies, please contact Sally Pollard ASAP if you would like to join us in the beautiful surroundings of Ladywell retreat Centre on Saturday 13 May. Revd Canon Hazel Whitehead will lead the day focussing on 'The Psalms...Why?'. Please see the attachment for more details. This is a wonderful opportunity to step away from the demands of life and to be still and reflect on our faith together. Do come and bring a friend!

### **Library Book Review for April: The 10 Second Rule by Clare De Graff.**

'Within the next 10 seconds do the next thing you're reasonably sure that Jesus wants you to do and you could change a life forever! Following Jesus made simple'. Do call in, browse and borrow a book from the GBC Library. Reception is open Monday to Friday mornings during term time.

[www.godalmingbaptistchurch.org.uk](http://www.godalmingbaptistchurch.org.uk)

### **Godalming United Church**

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

Service recordings: [www.guc.org.uk](http://www.guc.org.uk), <https://bit.ly/GUCYouTube>.

### **Bible Study "A Search for Peace" with our Minister, Adam Payne**

Monday 27 March and 3 April, 11.00am to 12.00pm, repeated Wednesday 29 March and 5 April, 7.00pm to 8.00pm.

### **Maundy Thursday, 6 April, 7.00pm - Holy Communion**

Celebrated in our Upper Room overlooking the Lammas Lands

[www.guc.org.uk](http://www.guc.org.uk)

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

#### **Pope Francis' intention for April**

Pope Francis' intention for April is for a culture of peace and non-violence. We pray for the spread of peace and non-violence, by decreasing the use of weapons by States and citizens.

#### **Holy Week**

- Penitential Service at St Joseph's, Milford on Tuesday 4 April at 7.30pm with visiting confessors.
- Maundy Thursday, 8.00pm - Mass of the Lord's Supper at St Joseph's
- Good Friday, 7.00am - Stations of the Cross led by Fr Jonathan How at Wintershall
- Good Friday, 10.30am - Children's Stations of the Cross at St Edmund's
- Good Friday, 3.00pm - Solemn Liturgy at St Joseph's
- Holy Saturday, 11.00am - Blessing of Easter Baskets at St Edmund's
- Holy Saturday, 8.30pm - Easter Vigil at St Joseph's
- Easter Sunday, 6.45am - Dawn Service at Minster Field, followed by coffee at Ladywell Convent
- Easter Sunday, 8.45am - Mass at St John's and 10.30am Mass at St Joseph's

#### **Fundraising for Kasanka**

Our annual cake and plant sales (in April and May) raise funds for essential projects at the St Francis Community School in Kasanka, Zambia, which is supported by the FMDM Missionary Sisters at Ladywell Convent. Our Cake Sale is on 15 and 16 April, and takes place after all Masses; if you are able to help with baking please let Mary know (01483 428031).

#### **Pete's Plant Sale**

If you are a keen gardener please think about growing, sowing or dividing plants, as we'll need lots to sell, and contact Jo on 07920 180495 if you can help in any way. The sale is over the weekend of 21/22 May in the car park at St Joseph's Church, Milford.

#### **Parish Small Communities**

This is a new initiative which we are launching in our parish at the end of April, with a working group to help plan and guide us. We come together at Church to be spiritually nourished through the glorious gift of the Eucharist, and in our small communities we will have the opportunity to nourish each other with our friendship and our sense of belonging, as a family in Christ.

## **50 years at St John's**

We are delighted to note the 50th anniversary of the first Sunday Mass at St John's, Farncombe. We are grateful to all who have supported this Mass and for the ecumenical spirit it has fostered, and for the welcome from the community at St John's.

## **Love the Stranger**

Please write to Jeremy Hunt MP if you have concerns about the proposed illegal refugee bill, which seeks to make provision for the removal from the UK of persons who have entered or arrived in breach of immigration control. Bishop Paul McAleenan, the Lead Bishop for Migrants and Refugees has commented on behalf of the Catholic Bishops' Conference:

'Everyone who makes a dangerous journey across the Channel to build a better life here has a name, a face, and a story. People are driven from their homes by poverty, conflict, persecution, natural disasters, or other factors that prevent their flourishing. Many have links to the UK or family members already living here. Yet, far too often, there are no safe routes open to them. While we all wish to end dangerous Channel crossings, this new legislation treats migrants and refugees as a problem to be solved rather than brothers and sisters towards whom we have responsibilities. Establishing more safe routes, and genuinely understanding people's individual circumstances are essential to meeting these. As Christians we call for the human person made in the image and likeness of God, to be put at the heart of public policy.'

## **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 2 April and 16 April); and St Joseph's Milford at 10.30am.

## **Weekday Masses**

Weekday Masses the dates, times and venues of these vary and can be found on the calendar on our website: [www.stedsgod.com](http://www.stedsgod.com)

## **Parish gatherings**

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 eco-group meets monthly on Zoom. Joining details from Jo: [jolewry@aol.com](mailto:jolewry@aol.com)
- SVP Afternoon Tea on Wednesday 12 April 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 2 April.
- 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 5.00pm. (19 Croft Road, Godalming GU7 1DB).

<https://stedsgod.com>

## **The Franciscan Centre Ladywell**

### **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](mailto: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](mailto:franciscancentre@ladywell.org.uk)

<https://franciscancentre.org.uk>

## **Godalming Quakers**

### **Meetings for Worship**

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.

### **Reporting from the West Bank**

Our Clerk, Debby, is nearing the end of a three-month stay in the West Bank as an Ecumenical Accompanier with the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI).

You can read an eye-witness account of her visit at: [www.eyewitnessblogs.com/losing-livelihoods-to-settlers](http://www.eyewitnessblogs.com/losing-livelihoods-to-settlers). For more information on the programme, visit: <https://eappi.org/en>

[www.quaker.org.uk/meetings/godalming](http://www.quaker.org.uk/meetings/godalming)

## **Trinity Trust Team**

What a joy to again be able to take Easter themed assemblies into local junior and primary schools. Having more time with the younger children than in secondary schools (where time is extremely limited so we tend to show an impactful media clip with short explanation of the Gospel) we have adapted the lovely children's fable 'The Three Trees' a story about dreams and aspirations and how God might fulfil these in ways we might not have expected.

A blessing also to be able to perform this in Godalming in our 'Witness on the High Street' on Good Friday so let's pray that passers-by stop in their tracks to listen to what Jesus did on the cross for us.

We are still looking for Team Youth Workers, and one obstacle we face (as well as an extremely tough market) is the cost of accommodation in this area. If anyone out there has a self-contained annexe they would consider renting please do get in touch with our Chairman, Michael Stubbs ([michael@trinitytrust.co.uk](mailto:michael@trinitytrust.co.uk))

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.

[www.trinitytrustteam.co.uk](http://www.trinitytrustteam.co.uk)

## **Feba**

Help persecuted Christians in the 10/40 window receive Good News and encouragement by praying for Feba on zoom at 7.00pm on Wednesday 5 April.

[www.feba.org.uk/blog/you-are-invited-to-pray-with-the-feba-family](http://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 May 2023 edition of *Link-up* to Matt Farrow: [farrow.matt@gmail.com](mailto:farrow.matt@gmail.com) by **Friday 14 April**, for publication on Friday 21 April.