

LINK-UP

Keeping Churches in Touch

www.godalmingchurches.org

facebook.com/ChurchesTogetherinGodalmingandDistrict

Message from the Chair

Thank you to everyone who contributed towards the two Churches Together events over Easter, the Good Friday act of worship on the High Street and the Sunrise Service on the Minster Field on Easter Day. This photo taken by Michael Stubbs shows people attaching their prayer ribbons to the cross at the Good Friday service.



Many of our churches will be holding special services or events to mark the Coronation next weekend (or at least, the next weekend as I write!). We're aware that much has changed since Queen Elizabeth's Coronation in 1953: even our response to it as Christian communities seems much lower-key, reflecting how different society is and how the Church's relationship with it has altered.

I recently came across an Anglican church not far away where the then incumbent preached a series of sermons on the symbolism of the Coronation service running up to the date, and held an all-night prayer vigil the day before the event itself. The kind of close interweaving of Crown, Church and Society that was simply assumed in 1953 has gone forever. Nevertheless, King Charles still has a representative role in our modern world, however strange the position of the Monarchy sometimes seems to be, and so it's right that we should take some time to pray for him as part of our desire for the good order and godliness of the world around us. The Lord would not have us do otherwise.

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

Christian Aid Week, 14 to 20 May 2023 - help dreams come true

Christian Aid Week brings people together as one community, helping those living in poverty to transform their own lives.

This Christian Aid Week, you can be one of the hundreds of thousands of CA supporters who give, act and pray – stepping out in love for our global neighbours. Together, we hope to restore justice to our world, and protect the future for our children and grandchildren.

Donations can be made at www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals

News of the Churches and organisations

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

Sunday services at St Peter & St Paul

Sunday 7 May, 10.00am - Coronation Civic Service

Sunday 14 May, 10.00am - Holy Communion

Sunday 21 May, 10.00am - Holy Communion

Sunday 28 May, 10.00am - Godalming Minsterwide Pentecost Communion (St Peter and St Paul, St Mark, Busbridge and Hambledon Churches).

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, with fundamental areas being addressed for specific development include patronage, legalities (consolidation of churches and 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 with interior re-ordering at St Peter and St Paul's Church, and leadership structure, including the creation of a Senior Leadership Team. Significant work this year is already yielding encouraging results.

Octots

Our Toddler Group, Octots, meet on Mondays during term time from 10.00am to 11.30am in the Octagon at St Peter and St Paul's Church. 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 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 9am to 11am. 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 noon 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.

Alpha Course

Alpha Course commences on Thursday 11 May at St Mark's Church, from 7.30pm to 9.15pm. www.parishofgodalming.org.uk

Busbridge&Hambleton Church

Easter events

Easter events and services went well at Busbridge and Hambleton, with outreach children's events being particularly well attended: Messy Easter on Hambleton Common and the Easter Garden Service and Egg Hunt at Busbridge. On Easter Day the church gave thanks for Chris and Maggie Jagger, who have been worshipping and serving at Busbridge Church (and known to most other churches in Godalming) for 50 years, as they move to the Isle of Wight in the near future.

Coronation and Pentecost

Busbridge&Hambleton Church is looking forward to celebrating two occasions with Godalming Parish, with a big church brunch for the coronation on Sunday 7 May, and at Pentecost with a 10 Minsterwide service at St Peter and St Paul's.

Godalming Minster

Work on becoming Godalming Minster continues. A further trial of the Contemporary service at St Peter and St Paul's with children's groups using Moss Lane School took place in March, and we are starting to join activities in the church office.

Bereavement Café

Following the recent Bereavement Journey course led by the Pastoral Care Team, BHC is starting a monthly bereavement café in the Busbridge Old Rectory for anyone who has experienced the loss of a loved one recently or some time ago. It will run on the last Tuesday of each month from 2.30-4.00pm.

The Bereavement Café offers a safe space for anyone who has been bereaved, where:

- you can feel safe to talk about how the pain of bereavement is affecting you
- you will meet others who have experienced their own loss
- there is a team willing to offer support by listening
- you will find mutual support and encouragement
- there is a cup of tea or coffee and a slice of cake waiting for you
- you are welcome whether your loss is recent or some considerable time ago

The Bereavement Café does not provide counselling, but signposting can be offered if appropriate.

There is no charge or need to register to attend the Bereavement Café, you are welcome to show up.

If you would like to chat to someone about The Bereavement Café, please contact:

Shân Hallam pastoral@bhcgodalming.org or 01483 421267

www.bhcgodalming.org/pastoral-care

Rev Simon Taylor on sabbatical

Rev Simon Taylor is now on sabbatical until 15 July, and has delegated responsibilities to Rev Simon Willetts, supported by Rev Margot Spencer while he is away who will keep worship and mission running as usual! Simon Willetts has also taken on the role of Worship Pastor, and Hilary Pettman has taken over leadership of Small/Home Groups.

www.bhcgodalming.org

St John's Parish Church, Farncombe

We are hoping to mark the Coronation of King Charles III with a special communion service on Friday 6 May at 1.30pm, followed by afternoon tea in the church garden. Everyone is welcome to either or both!

The Coronation has meant the church Spring Fair has moved for this year to Saturday 20 May. Last year we held this popular community event in and around the church building for the first time, and it worked very well, so we're hoping that 2023's Fair will repeat the success.

www.farncombe.org.uk

Godalming Baptist Church

Managing Anger and Conflict, Saturday 24 June, 10.00am to 12.30pm (coffee from 9.30am)

Led by Revd Peter Jackson.

Peter will address many questions such as:

- How do issues of unresolved anger affect us?
- How do we manage anger and resolve it?
- What sort of things bring us into conflict with others?
- What are some of the negative and constructive ways of dealing with conflict?

There is no charge for the morning, but donations towards the work of Emerge, supporting young people with mental health needs, would be much appreciated. To book a place please contact Sally Pollard on 01483 428646 or pollard3@hotmail.co.uk

Book review: Nine minutes past midnight, by Dr Ernest F. Crocker

Doctor Crocker, called out to a medical emergency, became aware that God was working alongside him. In this life-changing story, we hear what led him to talk with many other doctors about their experiences of a "silent partner". Together their testimonies create this inspirational account of how God interacts and intervenes in the world of medicine today.

The Library at GBC is open Monday to Friday from 9.00am to 12.00pm (subject to lettings). Please do call in and browse and choose a book. We have a great selection of books to encourage, equip and challenge you in your faith and also Life Issue books also.

www.godalmingbaptistchurch.org.uk

Godalming United Church

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

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

Messy Church, Saturday 13 May, 3.00pm to 5.00pm

"Dare to be a Daniel" Family fun for all ages – crafts, church trail, worship time and party tea.

messy.church@guc.org.uk

Bring and Share Coronation Lunch, Sunday 14 May, 12.15pm

After morning service with "in house" entertainments to follow.

www.guc.org.uk

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

Pope Francis' intention for May

Pope Francis' intention for May is for church movements and groups: we pray that church movements and groups may rediscover their mission of evangelisation each day, placing their own charisms at the service of needs in the world.

Parish Summer Alpha

This course will run on Sunday evenings from 7.00pm to 9.00pm, from 30 April, and is for everyone - and an ideal tonic to renew and to inspire you, especially if you feel your faith has waned because of recent world events. All are invited, and if you know of anyone who might like to come too, please invite them, or offer to come along with them - as the greatest gift we can give a fellow human is faith, a gift which can last for eternity. For more info: Nicki & Alan: alio@btinternet.com

Parish Small Communities

This is a new initiative which we are launching in our parish during May, strengthening the ways in which we welcome and support one another and provide a family for all, nourishing each other with our friendship and our sense of belonging, as a family in Christ.

First Holy Communion

We look forward to celebrating with the thirty children who are blessed to receive the gift of the eucharist for the first time at Mass on Sunday 7th May and Sunday 14th May. The whole parish and their families share in the joy of this special occasion.

Celebration Picnic 'Share the Love' in memory of Maria Chacaltana

This takes place on Saturday 13 May at The Old Farmhouse, Elstead, and in aid of the Shooting Star Children's Hospice. Events start at 12.30pm with Mass, followed by family picnics and activities to 4.00pm.

Pete's Plant Sale

Our annual plant sale takes place over the weekend of 21/22 May in the car park at St Joseph's Church, Milford. There are lots of plants to choose from and many bargains! All funds raised go towards our parish-linked mission, the St Francis school and community in Kasanka, Zambia, for an irrigation system on the farm which will increase produce and better feed the school children.

Pizza and Prayer

For young people from Years 10+ on alternate Sunday evenings offering a bit of space and spirituality, especially at this time when many are preparing for exams. At St Edmund's church and parish room from 6.30pm.

Weekend Masses

Weekend Masses are celebrated at St Edmund's Godalming (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 7 May and 21 May); 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 10.30am at St John's, Farncombe
- Live Simply - our parish eco-group meets monthly on Zoom. Joining details from Jo: jolewry@aol.com
- SVP Afternoon Tea on Wednesday 10 May 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 7 May.
- 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 10am and 5pm. (19 Croft Road, Godalming GU7 1DB).

www.stedsgod.com

The Franciscan Centre Ladywell

New Light from Old Stories, Friday 9 to Sunday 11 June 2023

A Weekend Workshop with Brian Purfield

Sometimes the Old Testament can be difficult to read and understand. The Old Testament, far from being merely a prelude to the New Testament, is full of spiritual insights that can be illumine Christian life today. The biblical authors expressed their faith by telling stories about their ancestors, their heroes and their prophets. Millennia later these stories have lost none of their power. We will revisit some of the familiar (and perhaps not so familiar) stories and ask: what do these narratives have to say to us today? There will be time to pray, reflect and share insights gained.

Suggested offering: £160. Bursaries available.

Growing in God's Life, Friday 30 June to Sunday 2 July 2023

A weekend of reflection with Christopher Chapman

In the Bible spiritual growth is likened to the natural development processes of plants, and the part played by gardeners, whether human or divine. Growing in God's Life will explore four recurring movements of this growth: Becoming rooted, Emerging, Struggling and Bearing fruit.

Jesus, the teller of parables, invites us to hold the mystery of creation in mind and heart, like seed in the hand of a Sower.

Christopher Chapman will be leading a weekend of reflection. He is the author of 'Seeing in the Dark, Earthed in God' and 'Send My Roots Rain'.

Suggested offering: £160. Bursaries available.

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

<https://franciscancentre.org.uk>

Godalming Quakers

Sunday 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.

Midweek Meeting for Worship

Our next midweek Meeting for Worship will take place at the Meeting House on Wednesday 3 May at 18:30. All are welcome.

www.quaker.org.uk/meetings/godalming

Trinity Trust Team

After a busy (and blessed) pre-Easter schedule, our thoughts now turn to the summer term and in particular the Year 6 Moving On workshops we deliver to our local junior and primary schools, and then that bit further on the horizon the annual Summer Activities Programme. These programmes will be led by Andy, Isaac and Annette, but we are still looking for additional team members.

As documented in the last report, one obstacle we face in recruiting (as well as an extremely tough market) is the cost of accommodation in this area for anyone re-locating. If there is anyone within our local church families who has accommodation suitable to rent to a youth worker (for example a self-contained annexe or room with en-suite bathroom) please do get in touch with our Chairman, Michael Stubbs, 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

Feba

You are invited to join us as we pray for with work of Feba, a media organisation with partners in most of the world's trouble spots, on Wednesday 3 May 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 June 2023 edition of *Link-up* to Matt Farrow: farrow.matt@gmail.com by **Friday 19 May**, for publication on Friday 26 May.