



July 2023

LINK-UP

Keeping Churches in Touch

www.godalmingchurches.org

facebook.com/ChurchesTogetherinGodalmingandDistrict

Message from the Chair

I got home from the Guildford Diocesan Clergy Conference on Thursday 22 June after three days of hearing about all the things I could do if I had the time or energy, and in the evening arrived at Elstead Church for the Archdeacon's Visitation Service at which churchwardens are admitted only to find the Farncombe churchwardens standing outside a locked church. What had happened is that when setting the dates with them I'd consulted a memo from the Diocese I found in my pending emails and failed to notice that it had last year's date on the top. Then today (Friday) I found myself having to cancel the following morning's Prayer Breakfast because I'd forgotten that the proposed date had never been confirmed with the venue. It's enough to make one feel thoroughly discouraged.

These are just silly mistakes; but occasionally a church tries something and even lays the ground quite carefully for it, yet finds it not working at all. Our winter after-school meals project at St John's was one of these. It seemed like a good concept, and lots of community organisations we consulted agreed, but it met with a very limited response. Coincidentally one of the themes at the Clergy Conference was the interaction between churches and their surrounding communities, and this isn't something which is only relevant to Anglican churches. At the next Churches Together Council on the 17th we'll have a chance to hear about Farncombe Parish Church's experience, and it would be fascinating if our brothers and sisters of other church communities could share thoughts and ideas about their own. And I have booked that event in the diary!

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

Churches Together events

Monday 17 July, 7.30pm - Churches Together Council Meeting, St John's Church, Farncombe

Saturday 22 July, 8.30am - Prayer Breakfast, Milford Baptist Church

Sunday 13 August, 10.30am - Ecumenical Open-air Service, Godalming Bandstand

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 2 July, 8.00am - Holy Communion followed by breakfast in the Octagon

Sunday 2 July, 9.30am - Muddy Church at Holloway Hill Recreation Ground, behind the tennis courts, GU7 1QD

Sunday 9 July, 10.00am - Holy Communion

Sunday 16 July, 10.00am - Holy Communion

Sunday 23 July, 10.00am - Holy Communion

Godalming Minster

The Notice of the DRAFT Pastoral Scheme has now been given by the Diocese of Guildford and is available for comment until 24 July. The Pastoral Scheme is the legal document which sets out the organisation of the new Godalming Minster and has been sent to the affected parishes of Godalming, Busbridge, Hambledon and Farncombe. The draft Pastoral Scheme and instructions can be found at <https://parishofgodalming.org.uk/godalming-minster>. There is a notice on the outside noticeboard and a printed copy of the draft Pastoral Scheme is in each of the churches. Notice will also be given in Sunday services between now and 24 July. Please do share this information, so that as many people as possible are made aware.

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 Vickie Nye, our Children and Families Worker email godalmingparishoctots@gmail.com. Summer Social on Monday 17 July at 10.00am in the Rectory Garden.

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 email godalmingparishoctots@gmail.com. Summer Social on Wednesday 19 July in the Rectory Garden.

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. There have recently been many new referrals, which has resulted in a very low stock cupboard. We therefore need to replenish our stock and would be extremely grateful to receive any donations of the items on the list. Your financial donations are also 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.

Alpha Course

Alpha Course running at St Mark's Church on Thursdays from 7.30pm to 9.15pm.

www.parishofgodalming.org.uk

Busbridge&Hambledon Church

New Children's 4-11s Pastor

Busbridge&Hambledon Church is delighted to introduce the new Children's 4-11s Pastor, Marcus Hockley. Marcus has joined the CYF team and will be working alongside Ben Barnes (CYF Director), Juliet Gilbert (0-3s Families worker), and Vicky Nighy at St Peter and St Paul's as we work to revitalise and grow children's and youth ministry across the new parish of Godalming Minster from 2024.

As well as Sunday groups at Busbridge, you can find Marcus at the new after school Youth Café for years 4-6 at St Mark's Church and Community Centre on Wednesdays. There are some details about Marcus under Who's Who on the website: www.bhcgodalming.org/marcus-hockley

Bereavement Café

There has been positive feedback to the new Bereavement Café, which takes place on the last Tuesday of the month (next taking place 25 July) from 2.30pm to 4.00pm in the Busbridge Old Rectory. The Bereavement Café is hosted by the Pastoral Care Team and offers a safe space for anyone who has been bereaved recently or some time ago. See www.bhcgodalming.org/the-bereavement-caf

www.bhcgodalming.org

St John's Parish Church, Farncombe

Our second Spring Fair held in and around the church – this year on 20 May to avoid all the other festivities going on! – was a splendid success helped by weather that was nice enough to bring people out but not so nice they went to the beach instead. We donated a proportion of our earnings to the Community Store.

The next major community event we will stage will be the Village Show on 19 August, but before then we are pleased to host the Mayor of Waverley's Civic Service on 2 July. Of course, Cllr Penny Rivers is well known to everybody, and we look forward to welcoming many friends to celebrate with her.

www.farncombe.org.uk

Godalming Baptist Church

Friendship lunch and community coach outing to Kew Gardens, Wednesday 19 July

We will assemble at Godalming Baptist Church at 9.45am for departure at 10.00am. We will drive via the A3 and London Suburbs, arriving at Kew Gardens Elizabeth Gate at approximately 11.30am, depending on traffic.

We will have a group entry ticket, included in the price, which will give us a reduced admission charge.

Within the gardens, there are many places to visit within a short level walk eg. Kew Palace, Princess of Wales Conservatory, Palm House and formal gardens. Slightly further away is the Temperate House, Great Pagoda and lakes. For the more energetic there are over 320 acres that can be explored with numerous lakes and woodland walks.

There are lots of Restaurants and cafés on site, or you can take your own picnic. Plus lots of toilets and seats.

A map of Kew Gardens will be available when you book.

We will leave Kew Gardens at 4.30pm, and should (depending on traffic) arrive back at the church by 6.00pm.

Cost £35.00 per person to include coach, gratuities, and entrance fee to garden. Food extra.

Contact Church Reception for a booking form on 01483 414544 or call in Monday to Friday 9.00am to 12.00pm during term time

Advance dates for your diaries

Saturday 23 September - Life Issue 'Anxiety, Fear and Panic' led by Dr Martin Brunet at GBC 10.00am to 12.30pm (coffee from 9.30am)

Saturday 30 September - Ladies Breakfast at Jack Phillips, Godalming 9.00am to 11.00am .Do join us for breakfast followed by our speaker - Linda Chamberlain.

Book Review for July

Love Like That by Dr Les Parrott - Be inspired to discover how we can all be more loving towards our family, friends, co-workers and strangers in this practical and inspiring book.

Do call into GBC Library and borrow a book from a wide selection to encourage and inspire you plus many books on life issues - weekdays during term-time from 9.00am to 12.00pm.

Board games needed

Our Ukrainian folk who meet at the church for English lessons are in great need of boardgames to play with their children. If you have any unwanted boardgames in good condition, please do drop them into reception - timings of openings as above-thank you so much!

Lunchtime concert

We were very blessed to have a wonderful pianist (arranged by Suzanne from the Conservatoire Concerts) who performed a brilliant recital for Friendship Lunch folk and many regular attendees from the evening concerts. Hoping there will be a further opportunity to enjoy concerts during the day, especially for those folk not able to come to the evening concerts. Suzanne is in great need of folk to help serve refreshments at the evening concerts. Please do contact Suzanne if you are able to help - a rota would be great! Thank you.

www.godalmingbaptistchurch.org.uk

Godalming United Church

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

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

This year the lawn behind our church – enjoyed alike by townsfolk, walkers and congregation - was allowed to grow freely through No-Mow-May as part of the nationwide ECO-Church A Rocha project. David and Marion Baillie found 25 species of wild flowers – this year having a chance to bloom and set seed for another year.

Annual Collection for the Whitechapel Mission for the Homeless, Friday 30 June to Thurs 10 July

Bring your contributions to the trailer in the church car park. Urgently needed – non-perishable breakfast foods, men's clothing, toiletries, blankets, small rucksacks.

Sunday 2 July	11.30am to 12.30pm
Tuesday 4 July	2.00pm to 3.00pm
Wednesday 5 July	6.00pm to 7.00pm
Friday 7 July	12.00pm to 1.30pm
Saturday 8 July	10.30am to 12.00pm and 2.00pm to 3.00pm
Sunday 9 July	11.30am to 12.30pm
Monday 10 July	7.00pm to 8.00pm

Messy Church, 15 Saturday July, 3.00pm to 5.00pm

Family fun for all ages on a Biblical theme – crafts, church trail, worship time and party tea.

messy.church@guc.org.uk

www.guc.org.uk

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

Pope Francis' intention for July

Pope Francis' intention for July is for a Eucharistic life; we pray that all may place the celebration of the Eucharist at the heart of their lives, transforming human relationships in a very deep way and opening to the encounter with God and all their brothers and sisters.

Confirmation for our Year 10+ students

We look forward to a celebratory day for 17 of our young people and their families as they attend their Confirmation at Arundel Cathedral with Bishop Richard on Saturday 15 July. This group have journeyed together – aided by pizza with prayer! – with Fr Jonathan and our youth helpers, and it has been a very blessed time.

Parish Small Communities

The parish is setting up parish family groups - a simple, fun and supportive way of living out our Christian lives which can fit well even into a busy life. Groups are currently being formed and the launch is set for 13 August with an outdoor Mass and picnic.

St Edmund's Primary School

St Edmund's Primary School is likely to have vacancies in Reception for September 2023 as it is a small birth year. Anyone who would like a good Catholic education for their children is encouraged to apply.

150 years Anniversary of Arundel Cathedral

Arundel Cathedral celebrates its 150th anniversary on 1 July, with a range of special concerts and events planned to mark the historic occasion. The anniversary weekend will be commemorated by the celebration of Vespers and Mass attended by representatives from diocesan parishes and primary and secondary schools, with a range of dignitaries including Catholic Bishops from across England and Wales, the High Sheriffs of East and West Sussex and the Lord Lieutenant of West Sussex.

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 2 July and 16 July); 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 events and activities

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

- Bumps & Babes on Mondays at 10.30am at St John's, Farncombe
- Children's Liturgy on Sundays at St John's Farncombe at 8.45am Mass
- Live Simply Our parish eco-group meets monthly on Zoom. Joining details from Jo: jolewry@aol.com
- SVP Afternoon Tea on Wednesday 12 July at 2.30pm at the United Reformed Church, Elstead (more info from Jane: 07990 717067)
- Prayer Group on Monday evenings at later time of 7.30pm (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).

www.stedsgod.com

The Franciscan Centre Ladywell

Growing in God's Life – Exploring four recurring movements within spiritual development, 30 June to 2 July 2023

Speaker: Christopher Chapman, Suggested offering: £170

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.

Knowing our Place: from Stardust to Sand, 17 to 20 August 2023

Speaker: Sr Colette Kane OP

Suggested offering: £255

The theory of evolution has been proven by science but offers a different explanation of how we came to be than the Book of Genesis in the Bible. How do I incorporate scientific facts with my story of faith? What does evolution tell me about God, creation, nature, and my place in it all? How can I celebrate being Christian in an evolving universe? Spend time in nature, feeling the gentle presence of God and nourishing your soul, becoming aware of your place in the universe story and learning how much a part of nature you truly are.

Our programme of events offers participants the opportunity to experience the Beauty, Goodness and Generosity of God in a reflective hospitable Franciscan environment, through retreats, quiet days and workshops. There is also the opportunity for Spiritual Direction from our Spiritual Directors.

We offer a place that allows for a deepening of your relationship with God, a place of welcome and safety as you navigate closer to your Creator. Take quiet time away from the haste of everyday life, either on a retreat or by engaging in the programmes and workshops we offer. The Franciscan Centre Ladywell is open for anyone seeking some space and quiet time.

Any enquiries or to book your place please email us at 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.

www.quaker.org.uk/meetings/godalming

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 5 July at 7.00pm.

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

Godalming Julian Meeting

We are a small ecumenical group meeting at 8.00pm on the second Tuesday of each month for silent prayer – also known as contemplative prayer, Christian meditation, or simply waiting on God in the silence. Our next meeting is on Tuesday 11 July at Galway, The Avenue, Godalming GU7 1PE. For more details contact James Toon at james.toon@mac.com. We are part of a national network of Julian Meetings – see their website at <https://thejulianmeetings.net>.

Items for next month's *Link-up*

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

farrow.matt@gmail.com by **Friday 14 July**, for publication on Friday 21 July.