



October 2023

LINK-UP

Keeping Churches in Touch

www.godalmingchurches.org

facebook.com/ChurchesTogetherinGodalmingandDistrict

Message from the Chair

Friends – There is not space here to tell many stories about the famous Victorian nutcase and Vicar of Morwenstow, Robert Stephen Hawker, except to remark that if half the things reported about him are true we can marvel that he managed to stay in his parish for as long as he did unbothered by the Church authorities. Presumably 19th-century Cornish people just tapped the sides of their noses and said that was what saints were like. I only mention him because he originated the modern form of the Harvest Festival and it's thanks to him that we welcome many people to our churches for special seasonal services this time of the year.

Very few of us has much connection with the original meaning of Harvest, the actual business of producing and gathering food, and some churches therefore focus on other aspects of our lives – the kinds of work that people in our congregations and communities tend to do. We offer some of what we have as a thanksgiving to God, whatever that happens to be – it doesn't have to be marrows and sheaves of wheat anymore.

As individual churches, and as Churches Together, part of our thank-offering to God has been our service to our community, including the annual Christmas Lunch held at the Baptist Church. For many years Maureen Jones has organised the food preparation and kitchen work on the day (in fact most of it gets done on Christmas Eve), but now we're trying to find someone else to fill that role. A couple of weeks ago I spoke to Maureen and now have a good idea of what happens, even to the quantities of food that need to be bought, and Maureen would be glad to answer any questions. It would be ideal for the cook to have a level 2 Food Hygiene Certificate (it can be done online) but at least someone present needs one.

It would be a great shame for this event to stop after so long. Can I encourage everyone to consider the situation prayerfully – and, if you have any brainwaves about what we might do instead to serve members of our community who would otherwise be alone on Christmas Day, perhaps that will be the Spirit speaking to us.

Rev James Rattue, Chair of Churches Together in Godalming and District

jamesrattue@hotmail.com

News of the Churches and organisations

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

Services at St Peter & St Paul

Sunday 1 October, 8.00am - Holy Communion followed by breakfast in the Octagon

Sunday 1 October, 10.00am - Muddy Church will be joining Hambledon Church for its inaugural Pet Service. Bring your pet along - as long as it's safe for them and others!

Tuesday 3 October, 7.30pm to 8.30pm - Parish Prayer meeting via Zoom. Please contact Canon John for the Zoom link canonjohngodalming@btinternet.com

Sunday 8 October, 10.00am - Harvest Festival Thanksgiving Holy Communion Service

Sunday 15 October, 10.00am - Holy Communion

Sunday 22 October, 10.00am - Holy Communion

Sunday 29 October, 10.00am - Holy Communion

Godalming Minster

The Minster Senior Leadership Team continues to meet approximately every two weeks, with current discussion focussed on convolving work on Minster branding with a new vision statement and memorable strapline. This will then move towards the development of a broad implementation plan and communication strategy. Our Parish Needs Plan has been developed with concrete objectives and action plans for three primary strategies to enable the delivery of Christian mission into greater Godalming:

- Intentional Discipleship
- Growing Younger
- Mission and Evangelism through community engagement.

The existing audio/visual system in St Peter and St Paul's Church is being replaced with the latest state of the art equipment and screens. Some re-ordering of the church interior, including the temporary removal of some of pews at the front and at the back of the nave, in addition to re-positioning some of the front side pews will take place during October. The aim is to complete the work before the end of 2023.

Please refer to our website for more information <https://parishofgodalming.org.uk/godalming-minster>

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 Vickie Nye, our Children and Families Worker email godalmingparishoctots@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. If you would like to be added to the waiting list, please email Vickie email godalmingparishoctots@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, 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

Thank you to everyone who supports the Foodbank. The list is updated each month on our website <https://parishofgodalming.org.uk/st-marks-food-bank>

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.

Bible Course

An eight-session course helping you explore the BIG story. "Whether you're well versed in Scripture or just starting out on the journey, The Bible Course offers a superb overview of the world's best-selling book." With video led teaching, group discussion, and time for reflection. Refreshments from 7.30pm. Course book £5. The Bible Course commenced on Thursday 7 September 7.30pm to 8.30pm/9.00pm and runs every Thursday until 26 October at St Mark's Church. The course is led by Keith Harper LLM (Licensed Lay Minister) and Reverend Sheila Samuels.

www.parishofgodalming.org.uk

St John's Parish Church, Farncombe

We look forward to our two usual special events at the start and end of October. The month begins with the Harvest Festival on Sunday 1st; as in past years our gifts will go to support the Community Store at Broadwater. On the last Sunday in the month, we welcome everyone whose loved ones' funeral services we've taken over the last three years for the annual Memorial Service. We pursue the church Development Plan settled in May, but some elements are proving surprisingly difficult even though they seemed quite modest! We carry on thinking and re-evaluating and listening to God's will as best we can.

www.farncombe.org.uk

Godalming Baptist Church

Coffee Stop, Saturday 7 October, 10.00am to 12.00pm

You are warmly invited to join us at Godalming Baptist Church for our monthly Coffee Stop on Saturday 7 October from 10.00am to 12.00pm. Do come and enjoy tea, coffee and delicious cakes and biscuits. There is no charge, but donations towards the work of The Cellar Camino Café would be very much appreciated.

Royalty in Surrey, Friday 17 November

On Friday 17 November, David Rose returns to GBC to lead a fascinating evening on 'Royalty in Surrey'. Discover through the centuries the visits that Royalty have made to Surrey from many years ago up to present times, covering events such as Royalty at The Races at Epsom, the Duke and Duchess' home at Bagshot, The late Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip's visit to Guildford Cathedral, Charles III's visit to the Veterinary Labs at New Haw this year and more! To book a place, cost £5 per person, please contact Sally Pollard on 01483-428646 or pollard3@hotmail.co.uk

Friendship Lunch and community outing to Winchester Christmas Market

On Thursday 23 November, you are warmly invited to join us for a wonderful opportunity to visit Winchester Christmas Market, set in the grounds of the medieval Cathedral with over 100 chalets, renowned for being one of the best Christmas Markets in Europe! Enjoy being in the heart of Winchester with its numerous shops, cafés, museum and majestic Cathedral - so much to see and do! To book a place please call in for a booking form at GBC - mornings only from 9.00am to 12.00pm or telephone 01483 414544 or Sally as above.

Christmas Advent wreath demonstration, Friday 1 December

Come and watch a delightful demonstration of creating an Advent wreath and the meaning of it.

Christmas tabletop decoration workshop, Friday 15 December

Come and create a very special tabletop Christmas decoration ready for Christmas Day! Details to follow next month!

www.godalmingbaptistchurch.org.uk

Godalming United Church

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

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

Gambia Charitable Link

Earlier in the summer a 40ft shipping container was loaded at Guildford Safestore with upcycled treasures for educational and medical use – including Tom Grillo's donation of office furniture (already earmarked for use in the Education department!), a dental chair from Southampton, 315 pairs of children's shoes from a Kent-based charity, 60 bags of children's clothing, 105 boxes of books and stationery...

And at the beginning of September our Cream Tea raised over £400 for the ongoing Gambia Ophthalmic Appeal funding cataracts at £15 a procedure.

Pantomime 20th Anniversary

September's celebration get-together was attended by over 75 performers, helpers and supporters past and present. A great chance to reminisce and relive golden moments with video clips and light refreshments. And of course a huge tribute to Barbara and Malcolm Keene who have steered this project from small beginnings to the important community and church outreach event that it is today. Preparations for next February's panto are already under way.

Harvest Festival, Sunday 15 October, 10:30 Harvest Festival

Gifts of non-perishable foodstuffs are welcome and will be donated to St Mark's Foodbank. Followed by Bring-and-Share Lunch – contact mcwest@btinternet.com, 01483 273291.
www.guc.org.uk

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

Pope Francis' intention for October

We pray for the Church, that she may adopt listening and dialogue as a lifestyle at every level and allow herself to be guided by the Holy Spirit towards the peripheries of the world.

Mass and Lunch for Centenary of Consecration of St Edmund's Church

At 10.30am on Sunday 8 October Bishop Richard Moth will preside at Mass at St Edmund's Church to mark the centenary of its consecration. The whole parish will gather to give thanks to God for how he has brought us together as living stones. The celebration will be followed by lunch in the Main Hall at Godalming College. As an FYI – St Edmund's Church was built in 1905, and the consecration took place in 1923. See below for a change in parish Mass times on the weekend of 7/8 October.

Screening of 'The Letter' during the Season of Creation

This liturgical season ends on 4 October, the Feast Day of St Francis, and our parish Live Simply group has arranged a screening of the Pope's powerful climate crisis film, 'The Letter', on this date at 7.00pm at Colette's home on Braemar Close. Please email her to reserve your seat (first come, first served!): wyngrif@tiscali.co.uk

CAFOD Harvest Fast Day

This will take place on Friday 5 October, and there are Appeal talks at Masses on the weekend of 30 September/1 October.

Parish Quiz Night

This annual fundraising event in aid of CAFOD takes place at St John's on Saturday 14 October at 7.00pm – and is already a sell out! We have a reserve list and please email Jo if you would like to add your name to it: jolewry@aol.com

Mass with Anointing of the Sick

This will be celebrated on Sunday 15 October at 2.00pm at Ladywell Convent, and all are welcome, and invited to Afternoon Tea in the refectory afterwards. The sacrament of the sick is

available for all whose health is 'seriously impaired by old age or sickness in mind or body'. If you are unsure about whether this sacrament is appropriate, please speak with Fr Jonathan. To sign up – select the date on the parish calendar at www.stedsgod.com so we know how many to cater for, and if you need a lift or more, information please contact Godalming SVP on 07379 108009.

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 1st and 15th October); and at St Joseph's Milford at 10.30am. NB on Saturday 7 October the 6pm Vigil Mass will be at St Joseph's, and there will be no 8.45am Mass at St John's on Sunday 8 October. The 10.30am Sunday Mass on 8 October will be at St Edmund's, Godalming to celebrate the centenary of the consecration, with Bishop Richard.

Weekday Masses

The dates, times and venues of these vary so please check 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 10.30pm 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 11 October at 2.30pm at the United Reformed Church, Elstead (phone 07379 108009).
- Prayer Group on Monday evenings (phone Richard for details 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

"For we know that things can change" – Responding to the Ecological Crisis

Led by: Jane Mellett

Date: 20 to 22 October

Suggested offering: £180 (residential), £90 (non-residential)

Join us for this weekend retreat in the beautiful surroundings of the Franciscan Centre Ladywell. During these days we will explore what role faith communities have to play in addressing the ecological crisis. We will specifically focus on ecological spirituality. These days will be a mix of input with plenty of time for reflection, time in nature and experiencing various contemplative practices which can help us to cultivate an ecological spirituality, nourish and sustain oneself amid ecological breakdown/discerning a way forward.

Jane holds a Masters in Theology from Maynooth University. She works as the Laudato Si' Officer in Trócaire and with the Laudato Si' Movement. Her role involves sharing the wisdom of Pope Francis' encyclical, On Care for Our Common Home, with grassroots faith communities. How can faith groups engage in climate actions and respond to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor? Laudato Si' gives us the blueprint. Jane is a qualified spiritual director. She is co-author of two books, "The Deep End – A Journey with the Sunday Gospels in the Year of Luke" and "The Deep End – A Journey with the Sunday Gospels in the Year of Matthew".

Meeting God within Times of Uncertainty

Led by: Christopher Chapman

Date: 10 to 12 November

Suggested offering: £170

In Jesus, God enters the reality of our lives. Rather than meet us where we thought we would be, or where we would like to be, God meets us where we are. We come to find rest, not in managing our lives but through the growth of faith, hope and love.

Drawing from the riches of the Christian spiritual tradition, the Bible, artwork, and poetry, we will explore how we can cooperate with the Holy Spirit at work in our own human spirit. There are difficulties to face, yet God meets them alongside us, and is always at work for our growth.

Christopher Chapman is an experienced retreat leader and spiritual director. He is the author of 'Seeing in the Dark, Earthed in God' and 'Send My Roots Rain'. He is a regular guest director at St. Beuno's Jesuit Spirituality Centre and teaches spirituality at St. Augustine's College of Theology.

Advent Retreat

Led by: Fr. Caoimhín Ó Laoide OFM

Date: 1 to 3 December

Suggested offering: £170

2023 marks the 800th anniversary of the first nativity scene reenacted by St. Francis at Greccio (Italy). While the Franciscan tradition focuses strongly on the birth of Jesus at Bethlehem, the sweep of Advent also brings us from that birth to the expectation of Christ's second coming at the end of time. Come join us at the Franciscan Centre as Fr Caoimhín Ó Laoide OFM leads us in reflection to welcome the Lord during this Advent season.

Fr. Caoimhín Ó Laoide is a Franciscan friar with international experience who has worked in retreat ministry, formation, and in leadership as Provincial and member of the OFM General Council. Fr. Caoimhín Ó Laoide is part of the Franciscan Centre Team based in Ladywell.

Loving the Dust We Are: Exploring Franciscan Ecospirituality

Led by: Fr. Daniel Horan OFM

Date: Sunday 10 December

Time: 9.30am to 5.00pm

Suggested offering: £35 includes lunch

In an age of climate emergency, we are increasingly aware of the threats to the human and more-than-human world. So much of the Christian spiritual tradition has focused not only on human interiority but also human exclusivity in relationship to the divine, reinforcing a distorted image of humanity as over and against and separated from the rest of creation. This day of reflection invites participants to revisit their own sense of creation and our individual and collective place in God's community of creation. Drawing on the profound but often misunderstood Franciscan spiritual tradition, Franciscan friar Prof Daniel Horan will suggest ways that we can renew our sense of cosmic creatureliness while deepening our appreciation for nonhuman creaturely agency, arguing for a Christian spirituality that encourages us to "love the dust we are" and work for justice for all God's creatures.

Fr. Daniel P. Horan, OFM, PhD is Professor of Philosophy, Religious Studies and Theology and Director of the Centre for Spirituality at Saint Mary's College in Notre Dame, Indiana. He is also Affiliated Professor of Spirituality at the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, Texas. A columnist for the National Catholic Reporter, he is the author or editor of more than fourteen books. His academic research, writing, and teaching focuses on medieval and contemporary spirituality, theological anthropology, Christology, antiracism and LGBTQ issues, and theologies of creation. Prof. Horan regularly lectures around the United States and abroad; and serves on several university, academic, and publication editorial boards. He is recipient of numerous awards for his writing and service and is co-host of The Francis Effect Podcast.

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

Although we enjoy the freedom to worship God in the way we want, there are many parts of the world where this is not the case. Feba Radio produces programmes on radio and internet and podcasts which can be heard in these places. Join us on Zoom on Wednesday 4 October at 7.00pm to learn more about Feba's work and to pray.

www.feba.org.uk/prayer

Items for next month's *Link-up*

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

farrow.matt@gmail.com by **Friday 20 October**, for publication on Friday 27 October.