



November 2023

LINK-UP

Keeping Churches in Touch

www.godalmingchurches.org

facebook.com/ChurchesTogetherinGodalmingandDistrict

Message from the Chair

The terrible events in what we refer to as 'the Holy Land' aren't an accident. They come from decades and arguably centuries of bad decisions and misjudgements, not least by we British who, with all our colonial self-confidence, assumed we were best fitted to manage the situation and everyone involved in it.

I'm not going to venture into that matter, but as we all strive to imagine ways out of the violence and pray for better outcomes, there are lessons for other circumstances of conflict too, including those between and maybe within churches. I think perhaps the very first point to come to terms with is that the people who oppose you aren't going to disappear.

This a purely pragmatic and practical consideration: you can't wipe them away, you're going to have to work out a way of living with them somehow. Perhaps in the future they might be in a stronger position than you, so you'd better.

The second step is to decide that you're not going to try to trump your enemy's pain with your own: instead you'll refrain from claiming that it's more important, more valid, or deserving of more sympathy. Thirdly – and this is a step that only people coming from a faith tradition can take – you recognise that absolute, complete justice, like absolute knowledge, only lies beyond this world in the hands of God. Everything that happens to us is secondary. These shifts in the way we think read simply on paper, but are desperately hard to put into practice. Yet as we carry out our Acts of Remembrance over the coming days, perhaps we can bear in mind what moves us on from merely remembering, and towards making things better.

Don't forget the Open Meeting which this time takes place at St Mark's Ockford Ridge at 8.00pm on Wednesday 15 November. We'll be talking about the Minster arrangements and some parallel structures in other parts of the Church.

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 5 November, 8.00am - Holy Communion followed by breakfast in the Octagon

Sunday 5 November, 9.30am – Muddy Church at Holloway Hill Recreation Ground, behind the tennis courts GU7 1QD

Tuesday 7 November, 7.30pm to 8.30pm - Parish Prayer meeting via Zoom. Please contact Canon John for the Zoom link canonjohngodalming@btinternet.com

Sunday 12 November, 10.00am – Remembrance Sunday Service in church followed by an Act of Remembrance and the Laying of Wreaths at the War Memorial

Sunday 19 November, 10.00am - Holy Communion with Baptism

Sunday 26 November, 10.00am - Holy Communion with Baptisms

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 was carried out during October. All works will be completed 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.

www.parishofgodalming.org.uk

St John's Parish Church, Farncombe

Confirmation service, Sunday 5 November

On the evening of 5 November, we have the great privilege at St John's of hosting the Confirmation service for the churches of the Godalming Anglican Deanery, plus guests from some other churches. Bishop Peter Hancock will be presiding. It's always an enormous pleasure to be able to welcome people who are taking this step and to share the celebration with their congregations and families, and we look forward to exercising that hospitality.

Prayer breakfast, Saturday 25 November

November's Churches Together prayer breakfast will take place St Johns, Farncombe on Saturday 25 November, from 8.30am to 10.00am.

Godalming Community Gospel Choir, Saturday 9 December, 7.30pm

Godalming Community Gospel Choir (GCGC) with Vaughan Lamont and band present their new Christmas repertoire under the exciting new direction of Kathy McLeish. This will be a mix of gospel songs by American and UK artists. Come join us for an uplifting evening to celebrate the Advent season. Admission: adults £10; children free. Refreshments available. Tickets at GCGCinformation@gmail.com or Record Corner, Godalming (cash only) or on the door.

Gents toilets

On a more basic note we are very glad that the works on our gents' toilets are finally finished. What looked like a fairly simple task that might take a couple of weeks has expanded to fill an entire year!

www.farncombe.org.uk

Godalming Baptist Church

God is with us always

It was so good to have ladies join us at our recent breakfast at The Jack Phillips from GUC, St Edmunds RC, St Peter & St Paul's, St John's Farncombe and Binscombe Evangelical Church! Linda Chamberlain gave an inspiring Testimony, and her message of 'God is with us always' encouraged and lifted our spirits!

Coffee Stop, Saturday 4 November

It would be lovely to see folk at our Saturday morning Coffee Stop on Saturday 4 November. Please do call in for coffee, tea, cake and biscuits any time between 10.00am and 12.00pm. There is no charge, but all donations would be gratefully received for The Meath.

Royalty in Surrey, Friday 17 November

On Friday 17 November from 7.30pm to 9.00pm (coffee from 7.00pm) we are delighted that David Rose is returning to GBC to lead a fascinating illustrated talk on 'Royalty In Surrey' through the centuries. David is a great speaker, and it promises to be such a worthwhile evening. To book a place, cost £5, please contact Sally Pollard on 01483 428646 or pollard3@hotmail.co.uk by Friday 10 November.

Outing to Winchester, Thursday 23 November

Friendship Lunch, GBC and Community Outing to Winchester Christmas Market, one of the best in Europe with over 100 chalet-style stalls! Winchester also offers so much to see - the Cathedral, museums, shops etc. Please call in for a booking form to GBC Reception open every weekday morning 9.00am to 12.00pm.

Advent wreath demonstration, Friday 1 December

6.30pm for 7.00pm start. Come and enjoy a special evening learning about the history, cultural and religious significance of the Advent wreath while watching a demonstration. No charge but donations appreciated towards the Shining Lights group and The Leprosy Mission. Please contact Maureen Jones to book a place: 01483 424515 or maureen.jones30@gmail.com

Coffee Stop, Saturday 2 September

From 10.00am until 12.00pm. Please do call in for coffee and mince pies. No charge but donations very much appreciated towards the vital work of the Shooting Star Hospice. Please do come and bring a friend!

Christmas table centre workshop, Friday 15 December

10.00am for 10.30am. Come and learn from an experienced floristry tutor how to make your very own Christmas table centre. All materials will be supplied, and full instructions will be given in a friendly, informal atmosphere. Cost £25. To book a place please contact Clarissa Harris on 07957 569732 or clarissaharris27@gmail.com.

Christmas Eve celebration

Finally on Christmas Eve at 10.00pm GBC are joining with Conservatoire Concerts for a beautiful evening of music, singing and reading in preparation for Christmas. Please see attached poster for more details.

www.godalmingbaptistchurch.org.uk

Godalming United Church

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

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

Looking Back

On Sunday 15 October we celebrated our Harvest Festival on a glorious crisp autumn morning – with gifts of non-perishable foodstuffs for the St Mark's foodbank, followed by a delicious Bring-and-Share Lunch.

We were delighted that the older children at St Hilary's School gifted us a splendid mountain of school stationery for our charitable link with Kola Kundi school in Gambia as part of their Harvest Assembly. We are very grateful for this continuing link – recent photos show children there wearing hand-me-down items of St Hilary's school uniform!

Looking Ahead

- Sunday 12 November - No 10.30am service at GUC as we will be supporting the town Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial on the Burys.
- Saturday 2 December – Christingle Party 6.30pm. Bring along some festive food if you want (but not mince pies!) and have fun making Christingles with informal Christmas music-making.
- Sunday 3 December, 10.30am - Annual Gift Service with Christingles. An advent service with the opportunity to bring gifts to our Christmas tree for the less fortunate in our community – toys and gift vouchers please (to be distributed by the Cellar Camino Café)
- Saturday 9 December, 3.00pm to 5.00pm - Messy Church – Nativity-based activities for all the family. messy.church@guc.org.uk, 01483 414778
- Saturday 9 December, 7.00pm - Godalming Band Christmas Concert. Tickets 01483 355129 or www.godalmingband.org.uk

For other 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 November

We pray for the Pope as he fulfils his mission, may he continue to accompany the flock entrusted to him, with the help of the Holy Spirit.

All Saints

1 November is a Holy Day of Obligation, and Mass will be celebrated at 7.30pm at St Edmund's

on 31 October; 10.00am at St Joseph's (join us for coffee and cake at Squires after the 10.00am Mass; 2.15pm at St Edmund's School; 6.30pm at Our Lady of Lourdes, Haslemere.

All Souls

2 November is a particular day of prayer for the Faithful Departed. Mass will be celebrated at 9.30am at St Joseph's, followed by blessing of graves at Milford Cemetery at 10.30am. The blessing of graves at Eashing Cemetery will take place on Sunday 5 November at 12.00pm.

Invited Mission returns

This Advent we are hosting a series of sessions to help everyone prepare for Christmas. The theme is the 'Incarnation', and we will be reflecting on the Sunday readings and the Christmas message. Each session features a film followed by discussion.

There are several options for taking part: you can join us at the Franciscan Centre, Ladywell, on Thursday evenings (30 October, 7, 14 and 21 November); or a home group on Tuesday evenings (27 October, 5, 12, and 19 November); or you can register to join the 'live' Thursday sessions online from home www.abdiocese.org.uk/invited.

Invited is accessible to everyone no matter where you are in your faith journey, so we look forward to welcoming you because in the Kingdom of God, we are all Invited! The sign up is via the calendar on our website or the parish office.

Laudate Deum

Pope Francis has just published an update to his Laudate Si' encyclical on the climate crisis. It's a relatively short read and a highly important reminder to us that we are at our planet's tipping point to respond to the climate crisis. You can read it online at:

www.vatican.va/content/vatican/en.html

Wintershall Stations of the Cross

Fr Anthony Meredith will be leading these on Friday 3 November at 7.00am, followed by hot cross buns and tea/coffee. www.wintershall.org.uk/stations-cross

Lectio Divina

Lectio Divina with Bishop Richard Moth on 4 November at St Pius X Church, Merrow, on 'The Lord Jesus speaks to us through the Scriptures', an afternoon unpacking the riches of the Bible, as Bishop Richard shares his decades of experience with lectio divina. Also includes prayer time to listen to the Lord's voice in prayer. 2.00pm, concludes with Mass at 5.30pm.

Clothing for Gatwick Detainees Welfare Group

Good quality second-hand clothes are needed for men held in detention; some arrive with only the clothes they are wearing and in some cases these clothes are wet. Items needed are jeans, T-shirts, jogging bottoms, coats, jumpers, belts (in all sizes); and trainers (sizes 6 to 13). The Live Simply group will arrange delivery to GDWG and items can be dropped off to the parish office or at church. NB No women's clothes are needed as this is a men's only facility.

Weekend Masses

Weekend Masses are celebrated at St Edmund's Godalming (6pm 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 and 19 November); and at St Joseph's Milford at 10.30am.

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 10.30am 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 8 November 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 10.00am and 5.00pm. (19 Croft Road, Godalming GU7 1DB).

www.stedsgod.com

The Franciscan Centre Ladywell

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 1 November at 7.00pm to learn more about Feba's work and to pray.

www.feba.org.uk/prayer

Trinity Trust Team

Well that half term flew by! Great to have all groups and programmes running and to have welcomed Ola to the team, a real answer to prayer. Some of you will have met Ola and I as we have visited local churches and if you do see him make sure to say hi, he is incredibly warm and approachable. Ola has spent the first two months in temporary accommodation, and we still have the following advert running in some local church bulletins:

Wanted: self-contained flat or annexe for Ola from TTT from 10 November. Quiet, respectful, and tidy tenant prepared to pay rent in return for own private space. If you have, or know of such accommodation in the Godalming area, please contact Andy on:

andy@trinitytrustteam.co.uk

As a team we will return from the half term break to turn our attention to a Light Party with children's groups then the planning for Christmas RE Days, assemblies, and events, as the seasonal cycle continues to turn. What a privilege it is for Andy, Ola, Annette, and Isaac to be able to place Jesus' name on high in our local schools, churches and communities.

Please pray for:

- The right accommodation for Ola as he puts roots down in the Godalming area and seeks to become part of the community here
- Continued opportunities to prosper the gospel in schools and communities in the coming

school year and for new partnerships within local churches

- 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

Items for next month's *Link-up*

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

farrow.matt@gmail.com by **Friday 17 November**, for publication on Friday 24 November.