



June 2024

LINK-UP

Keeping Churches in Touch

www.godalmingchurches.org

facebook.com/ChurchesTogetherinGodalmingandDistrict

Message from the Chair

Hopefully Churches Together will be able to host a Godalming hustings events with our local general election candidates towards the end of this month, as we have on previous occasions. It will depend how many of the candidates are able to make it!

Like any other group of voters, Christians hold a variety of different political views and don't form a separate body of opinion with the same outlook. I expect all of our Christian communities pray for our elected representatives because we recognise the hard (and arguably in some ways impossible) task they have to perform, balancing different considerations and practicalities to determine public policy. But in a secular society we don't expect that they will necessarily represent us rather than any other social group. Although the Church of England still has a privileged place within the constitution, it exercises it with a very light touch, and in reality – as opposed to symbolism – Britain's public life is a long way from any direct connection with Christian thinking, in so far as it ever was.

That doesn't mean that God is unconcerned with our public life, with the common decisions we take together about how our society should be run – about the way it distributes its resources and the priorities it sets. As Christian voters we have a responsibility to consider deeply how what we believe is reflected in the organisation, law, and moral life of our society. We all have only one vote to cast, for one individual, and that means that vote will almost certainly represent a compromise between perhaps conflicting hopes and priorities: but it should be a compromise with prayer behind it.

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

Churches Together events

General Elections Hustings

Churches Together hopes to host a hustings event with the general election candidates for Godalming & Ash from 3.00pm on Sunday 30 June at Godalming Baptist Church. Questions for the candidates should be submitted in advance to jamesrattue@hotmail.com.

Open Meeting

The next Churches Together Open Meeting will be at Busbridge Church Old Rectory from 12.15pm on Tuesday 2 July. You can bring your own food to consume or share, or buy lunch from the Yew Tree Café, though it's best to put your order to the café in advance: call 07871 943032.

Other events

22 June, 8.30am – Prayer Breakfast, Yew Tree Café, Busbridge Church

27 July, 8.30am – Prayer Breakfast, Milford Baptist Church

11 August - Staycation Open-air Service, Godalming Bandstand

26 October, 8.30am – Prayer Breakfast, St John’s Farncombe

23 November, 8.30am – Prayer Breakfast, The Cellar Café

News of the Churches and organisations

Godalming Minster

Start the Week (an alternative)

For the last four years, there has been a small group of people meeting on Zoom on a Monday morning to reflect on scripture together. We have worked our way through the gospel of Luke and have now started on Acts. We listen to some music, read a short passage and then quietly listen to what God is saying to us through his word. It has been a rich way of starting the week.

This is not a closed or specialist group, and if you would like to join us, you are very welcome. Come and try it out! The time is Mondays (not bank holidays, and not always during school holidays), 8.45am to 9.30am. If you would like to know more, contact Gertrud Sollars (gertrud.sollars@btinternet.com) or Shan Hallam (hallamshan7@gmail.com), or you can find out the Zoom meeting ID and password from Godalming Minster office (office@godalmingminster.org).

godalmingminster.org

St John’s Parish Church, Farncombe

We were very pleased with the outcome of the Spring Fair on Saturday 11 May, both in terms of the money we raised, the number of local groups that took part, and the visitors we welcomed over the course of the day.

Our next big community event is the Village Show in August, so we pray that goes as well. This year marks the 175th anniversary of St John’s and we plan a few special events around the weekend of 19 July – the Sunday closest to the date the church was consecrated in 1849 – and the autumn.

www.farncombe.org.uk

Godalming Baptist Church

Women in the Bible

We had an uplifting day at Ladywell in May focussing on 'Women in the Bible' led by Canon Revd Hazel Whitehead. It was so good to have women gather from many different denominations: Catholic, Church of England, Baptist, Methodist, United Reformed and Quakers and to have Jenny Leforte lead our worship times so beautifully. The beautiful surroundings at Ladywell, a delicious lunch and uniting together made it such a meaningful and thought-provoking day. We hope to have another day at ladywell next year.

Coffee Stop, Saturday 8 June

On Saturday 8 June we are holding Coffee Stop - our monthly coffee/tea and homemade cakes morning in aid of different charities each month. There is no charge, but donations much appreciated for The Farncombe Community Cafe - our charity for June. Do call in from 10.00am till 12.00pm and bring a friend! A warm welcome awaits!

Loneliness, Saturday 22 June

Led by Revd Peter Jackson. Loneliness is a huge issue in our society today. Peter will focus on such questions as Why do we feel lonely? What are the causes and symptoms of loneliness? Are there ways we can deal with loneliness both for ourselves and for others? Do come to this worthwhile morning. There is no charge but all donations much appreciated towards the work

of Silverline. To book a place please contact Sally Pollard on 01483 428646 or pollard3@hotmail.co.uk

Relentless Love, 19 July, 7.00pm

Manna Theatre Company presents a passionate retelling of the life of Christ. Experience what it meant to the people that encountered Jesus on Earth. Follow the smelly fisherman Peter, Mary from Magdala, the women at the well, and a little boy with a stubborn cow as they all experience His love and power to set them free. Watch as we see before our eyes how His life, death and resurrection changed us all for ever. Entry is free. Find out more at: www.mannatheatrecompany.uk/event-details-registration/relentless-love-godalming

Outing to Worthing, Thursday 28 July

On Thursday 28 July there is our Friendship Lunch, Church and Community Outing to the lovely seaside town of Worthing with its shops, seafront, gardens and pier. Please do call in to Reception on Monday to Friday mornings, term-time only, to pick up a booking form or contact Peter and Christine Knottley on 01483 428073 or Sally on 01483 428646 or pollard3@hotmail.co.uk. It promises to be a lovely day out with scenic views on the journey.

www.godalmingbaptistchurch.org.uk

Godalming United Church

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

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

Church Anniversary and Lunch, 9 June

BBQ with strawberries and cream. Book lunch at frymaile@gmail.com.

Annual Collection for the Whitechapel Mission for the Homeless

Godalming United Church – trailer in car park. Collection times below.

Friday 28 June	12.00pm to 1.30 pm	Friday 5 July	12.00pm to 1.30 pm
Saturday 29 June	10.30am to 12.00pm	Saturday 6 July	10.30am to 12.00pm
Sunday 30 June	11.30am to 12.30pm	Saturday 6 July	2.00pm to 3.00pm
Tuesday 2 July	2.00pm to 3.00pm	Sunday 7 July	11.30am to 12.30pm
Wednesday 3 July	6.00pm to 7.00pm	Monday 8 July	7.00pm to 8.00pm

Items highlighted in *italics* are needed the most urgently:

Breakfast foods

Cornflakes, Weetabix, Nutella, Chopped tomatoes, Brown Sauce, Sugar, Honey, Salt, Plum tomatoes, Biscuits, Baked Beans, Instant Hot Chocolate, Coffee, Squash, Salt, Black Ground Pepper, Peanut Butter, Chocolate Spread, Porridge, Tinned Fruit, Ketchup, Bottled water

Men's clothing

Underpants, boxers, jeans 28-36", trousers 28-34", men's trainers, men's shoes, small rucksacks, winter jackets, winter coats, baseball caps, t-shirts, woollen scarves, woollen gloves, woollen hats, jumpers, socks, blankets, hand towels, bath towels

Toiletries

Toothbrushes, toothpaste, roll-on deodorant, razors, shaving foam, shower gel, spray deodorant, body lotion, body wash, shampoo, moisturiser, hand cream

The Whitechapel Mission has helped the homeless in London since 1876. Today, it is recognized

as one of London's most effective homeless charities. The cost-of-living crisis sadly means that the need continues to grow.

The charity provides showers, breakfast, lunches, training, advice and dignity to all who walk through its doors every day of the year. Clients are mainly men, although there are also services for homeless women.

The aim of the charity is to transform lives from homelessness to hope by helping clients reconnect to family, commit to sobriety, find a job and place to live and to be able to plan for the future. Entirely dependent on public support, the Whitechapel Mission always needs donations. Visit www.whitechapel.org.uk for more information. Any queries. phone Ryan 01483 423261

www.guc.org.uk

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

Pope Francis' prayer intention for June

Pope Francis' prayer intention for June is for those fleeing their own countries. Let us pray that migrants fleeing from war or hunger, forced to undertake journeys fraught with danger and violence, may find welcome and new living opportunities in their host countries.

During June we celebrate: Corpus Christi on 2 June; The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus on 7 June; The Immaculate Heart of Mary on 8 June; the Nativity of St John the Baptist on 24 June; and SS Peter and Paul on 30 June.

Week of Guided Prayer 16 to 21 June, Franciscan Centre, Ladywell Convent

This is an opportunity to make a 'Retreat in Daily Life', committing to half an hour of prayer each day, as well as coming to Ladywell daily to talk about your prayer experience with a trained Spiritual Director. The 30-minute one-to-one sessions run from Monday to Friday, at a time convenient to you. There are a few spaces left so if you would like to register, or for more information, please click on the link: <https://stedsgod.churchsuite.com/events/wwcf6kzd>

Bereavement Mass + Coffee on Wednesday 5 June

All are welcome to this special Mass at Ladywell Convent at 10.00am, especially those who have lost a loved one recently or some time ago, and who are experiencing grief, and would like to take time to reflect, pray and chat with others. Mass is in the main Chapel, and afterwards we will gather for refreshments. The parish bereavement group can be contacted by email: bereavementatsteds@gmail.com Please get in touch if you would like to find out about bereavement support.

Live Simply 'Green Evening' Shared Supper and Talks

Saturday 29 June, 7.30-9.30pm, in the church room at St John's, Farncombe, GU7 3EJ. Parishioner Trevor Fry will be speaking about his sustainability work in the Pacific and Sr Shirley Aeria FMDM from Ladywell will share her insights on Pope Francis' Encyclical 'Laudato Si' on Care for Our Common Home. Please join us for this inspiring 'green evening'; you can sign-up at: <https://stedsgod.churchsuite.com/events/dkrlch35> For more info: jolewry@aol.com

General Election 2024

SVP and CAFOD are working together in the run up to the General Election. As Christians we know that tackling poverty and injustice are among the most important issues politicians should act on. St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) and CAFOD have produced resources for Catholics for the General Election, with suggested questions to ask candidates. Please see cafod.org.uk/encounter or svp.org.uk/encounter for more information. Our Livesimply group will be looking at these questions and how to engage with the candidates for Godalming and

Ash at their next meeting on Thursday 6 June at 7.30pm on Zoom. Everyone is invited to join us so please contact Jo on jolewry@aol.com for the Zoom link.

Day for Life – 16 June

The Church teaches that life is to be nurtured from conception to natural death, and this year the theme for the Day for Life is 'The Lord is my Shepherd – Compassion and Hope at the End of Life'. A debate on end-of-life issues has been in the headlines in recent months with calls for assisted suicide being expressed, especially by celebrities, a view that opposes the Catholic view that life is a gift and that we are called to care for others at the end of their lives. The Day for Life is an opportunity to pray and reflect on life as a gift and the importance of care at the end of life.

Wintershall Life of Christ 18th-22nd June

10.00am to 3.30pm, Wintershall GU5 0LR (Cost: £15-30). The Life of Christ is a play like no other, a great day out, and not to be missed! (NB Tickets are sold out for 19 and 20 June performances) <https://www.wintershall.org.uk/life-christ-2024>

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 16 June); 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 the home page of 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 (no sessions on Bank Holiday Mondays)
- Live Simply Our parish eco-group meets monthly on Zoom, with the next meeting on Thursday 6 June on zoom, 7.30pm. Joining details from Jo: jolewry@aol.com
- SVP Afternoon Tea on Wednesday 12 June at 2.30pm at the United Reformed Church, Elstead (phone 07379 108009).
- Prayer Group on Monday evenings (phone Richard for details on 01252 702230), starting at 7.30pm.
- 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

Reflections in the Mirror – A Journey with St. Clare of Assisi

Led by: Brain Purfield

Date: 14 to 16 June

Suggested offering: £180

How can the fidelity of Clare and Agnes to their particular vocation inspire us today? We shall explore the four letters Clare writes to Agnes. By weaving together history and spirituality, participants will be invited into the God-centred world of Clare. By sifting out the key elements of Clare's spirituality through her letters to Agnes, we shall explore her legacy for us today. A woman of profound courage, with much to teach us as we navigate our own journeys to God.

Brian Purfield is a team member at the London Jesuit Centre and has worked alongside the Jesuits since 2001. Prior to that he taught at the International Franciscan Study Centre in Canterbury. He studied theology at the Gregorian University, Rome and at St. Bonaventure's University, New York. His particular interest is in deepening a knowledge and love of the Scriptures for people, young and old, at a level that they can understand and seek to apply to their daily lives.

Ecofluency Experience

Led by: Saskia von Diest

Date: 20 to 23 June

Suggested offering: £395

Explore your ability to commune and communicate with all of Nature, in this residential experience and workshop. Dr Saskia von Diest is offering an Ecofluency experience within the tranquil setting of the Ladywell Convent, a space that is ideal for deep contemplation and welcoming of all faiths, belief systems and spiritual traditions, with the only proviso being an open mind and open heart. This experience is for anybody interested in communing and communicating with Nature, including those who practice it already, though no previous experience is required.

In 2021, Saskia founded Ecofluency, an organisation that offers consulting, facilitation, teaching and coaching in Nature communication, and promotes other human voices in this field. With 14 years of experience in teaching and facilitating through various forms and in many countries, her passion is creating opportunities for others to have their own experience of communicating with non-human Nature, and develop that for individual and collective evolution. In 2021, Saskia founded Ecofluency, an organisation that offers consulting, facilitation, teaching and coaching in Nature communication, and promotes other human voices in this field. With 14 years of experience in teaching and facilitating through various forms and in many countries, her passion is creating opportunities for others to have their own experience of communicating with non-human Nature, and develop that for individual and collective evolution.

June 6 Day Individually Guided Retreat (IGR)

Date: 23 to 30 June

Suggested offering: £520

Step away from the noise and haste of your everyday life and into the quiet beauty of the Franciscan Centre Ladywell in the heart of Surrey. Set on expansive grounds which are peaceful and beautiful, with wonderful walks and a stunning woodland to explore, find God in the sacred book of nature and in the peaceful, prayerfulness of our wonderful house.

Each day you will be accompanied by a trained spiritual director, who will listen attentively and offer suggestions for allowing you to go deeper into your relationship with God.

Arrival Sunday 23 June evening from 4.00pm and depart next Sunday, 30 June, morning after breakfast and Mass.

July 6 Day Individually Guided Retreat (IGR)

Date: 18 to 25 July

Suggested offering: £520

Step away from the noise and haste of your everyday life and into the quiet beauty of the Franciscan Centre Ladywell in the heart of Surrey. Set on expansive grounds which are peaceful and beautiful, with wonderful walks and a stunning woodland to explore, find God in the sacred book of nature and in the peaceful, prayerfulness of our wonderful house.

Each day you will be accompanied by a trained spiritual director, who will listen attentively and offer suggestions for allowing you to go deeper into your relationship with God.

Arrival Thursday 18 July evening from 4.00pm and depart next Thursday 25 July morning after breakfast and Mass.

Exploring Spirituality in the context of evolving universe, an endangered earth, in the Christian tradition

Led by: Sr Collette Kane OP

Date: 22 to 25 August

Suggested offering: £255

This program touches on the following areas:

- Becoming familiar with our evolution over 14 billion years as discovered by contemporary science.
- Exploring its implications for understanding our place in the universe as Christians.
- Exploring the theological implications of this new cosmology.
- Listening to the wisdom of the mystics.
- Reflecting on themes from the Celtic Tradition.
- Examining our images of God.
- Critiquing our present world order and exploring possibilities for a sustainable lifestyle.

Through input, prayer, discussion, and reflection, engage more deeply in our place within the natural world as created by a loving God. Spend time in nature and see God's fingerprints.

Sr Colette Kane OP, a Dominican Sister, is the Director of Programs at An Tairseach, Organic Farm and Ecology Centre in Wicklow Town in Ireland since 2014. Sr Colette also delivers lectures on the ten-week bi-annual course entitled 'Exploring Spirituality in the context of: an Expanding Universe, an Endangered Earth, and the Christian Tradition'.

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.

Midweek Meetings for Worship

In addition to our Sunday Meetings, we will also be holding midweek Meetings for Worship on the following Thursdays:

6 June, 6.30pm

4 July, 1.00pm

www.quaker.org.uk/meetings/godalming

Godalming Community Gospel Choir

Don't miss two exceptional, exciting local Gospel choirs, Godalming's own GCGC and the Wey, based in Guildford, each sharing their individual programme and also collaborating together in a joint performance of both traditional and modern gospel music. Join them at Guildford United Reformed Church, Portsmouth Road Guildford at 7.30pm. on Saturday 6 July for this unique event. Tickets available via Eventbrite, Record Corner, Godalming and on the door. £10 per person. Wine and soft drinks available in the interval.

For more information, visit www.gcgc.org.uk and www.theweycommunitygospelchoir.co.uk

Feba

You have an opportunity to pray on Zoom for Christians in the world's most significant trouble spots. Past prayers have been answered. Join us at www.feba.org.uk/prayer on Wednesday 5 June, just before 7.00pm for an hour.

Items for next month's *Link-up*

Please send items for the July 2024 edition of *Link-up* to Matt Farrow: farrow.matt@gmail.com by **Friday 21 June**, for publication on Friday 28 June.