



July 2024

LINK-UP

Keeping Churches in Touch

www.godalmingchurches.org

facebook.com/ChurchesTogetherinGodalmingandDistrict

Message from the Chair

I think myself fortunate to have managed to keep some non-Christian friends over the course of the years who often allow me a different perspective on things from what I'd find otherwise. The other day I was at a birthday picnic for a friend who follows a pagan tradition, and she told me about a disagreement that had broken out in the particular group she interacts with (online, at any rate). A leading figure in this world had caused some controversy by arguing that some of the festivals people observe don't really date back to ancient Celtic times but have essentially been made up in the last few decades. Pagans of all sorts place great importance on human beings' relationship with nature and the 'cycle of the year', so for them this is a hot issue.

On the one hand I could see that in spiritual traditions of all kinds there will always be people who want to systematise and categorise, even among pagans who take especial pride in everyone 'following their own path' rather than having an overarching authority laying down the law about what they should or shouldn't do. On the other, the whole point of religion is giving yourself over to something bigger than yourself, and that means having stable spiritual beliefs and practices which shape and interpret your life, rather than making it up as you go along.

Although modern paganism claims very old antecedents, in its current form it's a pretty young religious tradition, whereas Christianity is very old. Some of our spiritual practices (even in denominations whose origin is relatively recent) represent two thousand years of meditation on, and experience of, the mystery of God's saving work in Christ. But once upon a time we were working things out as well, combining the teachings and memories of Jesus, the first Christian communities were able to pass on with their Jewish heritage and ideas from the Graeco-Roman society which they were growing within. We prayed for the guidance of the Holy Spirit, which is just what we need as we learn from each other now, and discern the difference between what's human and what's genuinely of God.

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

jamesrattue@hotmail.com

Churches Together events

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

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

People news

Having completed his curacy with Godalming Minster, we delighted to announce that Patrick Samuels has agreed to be Vicar of the new Benefice of Horton, Wraybury and Colnbrook in the Buckingham Archdeaconry of Oxford Diocese.

Sheila Samuels, Associate Minister will go to Buckingham with Patrick, leaving her position at St Mark’s Franklyn Road, with her last Sunday being 1 September. The clergy team and Franklyn Road congregation are already making plans for life after Sheila, aiming to ensure services and mission activities continue. Please pray for Patrick and Sheila and their family as they prepare to move, and give thanks for their ministry over the past few years in Godalming.

At the request of the PCC, The Bishop of Guildford has extended John Harkin's existing contract (3 days per week) for up to a year, whilst John and Sue continue to work with the Church of England to find a suitable retirement property. John will continue ministry to the Church Street congregations in addition to supporting ministry in Hambledon. The post of Associate Minister to live in Hambledon will be advertised shortly. Congratulations to David Brockman for being accepted by the Diocese to become a Locally Licensed Minister (LLM).

Repairs to Busbridge Church tower

The urgent repairs to the to the Busbridge Church tower are progressing well, though the costs are considerably higher than expected. We are therefore aiming to raise what we can towards the c £70,000.

Therefore, the PCC is applying for grants, there is an appeal to members of the congregations, local residents and a day of prayer was held on 10 June 2024.

Alpha at Godalming Minster

Alpha brings people who are curious together - all ages and backgrounds, church members, and people of no faith or other faiths. Each week they enjoy each other’s company over a meal, listen to a talk, and discuss their varying reactions. Together they find out about the Christian faith, ask questions, and work out what they think. We are running two courses this year: Wednesday evenings from 25 September to 27 November and Thursday lunchtimes from 26 September to 28 November. To find out more or register for a place go to

godalmingminster.org/alpha

godalmingminster.org

St John’s Parish Church, Farncombe

This year marks the 175th anniversary of the consecration of St John’s. The actual date is 19 July so we will be celebrating around the closest Sunday, 21 July. There will be a special celebration of Evensong with a choir gathered for the purpose at 6.30pm that evening, with refreshments afterwards – we would welcome our friends coming to celebrate with us.

Following a report on our families and children’s work from Andy Saunders, a consultant working with the Diocese of Guildford, we’re looking at ways of linking together the various activities and groups we run in this field, making sure that families are aware of what else is on offer and encouraging them to think about faith more deeply.

www.farncombe.org.uk

Godalming Baptist Church

Coffee Stop, Saturday 6 July

Our monthly Coffee Stop at GBC from 10.00am until 12.00pm. Please do come and enjoy tea/ coffee and delicious homemade cakes. No charge, but donations much appreciated towards the charity 'Step by Step' helping to support young people and prevent homelessness.

Outing to Worthing, Thursday 18 July

On Thursday 18 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.

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

Visit our library

Do call in to our library, open weekday mornings (school term only-subject to bookings) from 9.00am to 12.00pm to browse our varied selection of books.

July Book Review

How Can I Feel Closer To God? Author-Chris Morpew

Discover how you can experience more of Jesus' love, joy, peace and freedom as He transforms you from the inside out

Women's ecumenical breakfast, Saturday 21 September

Womens Ecumenical Breakfast at Wetherspoons 9.00am to 11.00am - Speaker Linda Chamberlain. Do come and be encouraged!

Godalming through the ages, Friday 11 October

David Rose returns to GBC to lead a session on Godalming through the ages. Come and hear about former industries, shops, pubs and famous folk with many vintage photographs, 7.30pm to 9.00pm (coffee from 7.00pm)

Living with anxious thoughts, Saturday 19 October

Life Issue '*Living with anxious thoughts*' led by Dr Martin Brunet and Dr Jenna McKeown

To book a place at any of the above please contact Sally Pollard-01483-428646 or e-mail pollard3@hotmail.co.uk

www.godalmingbaptistchurch.org.uk

Godalming United Church

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

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

Annual Collection for the Whitechapel Mission for the Homeless

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

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

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

Godalming Choir Blast

On Saturday 18 June, we were delighted when nineteen of GUC's Music Kids gave lively and tuneful performances at two venues on the Burys as part of Godalming Choir Blast. A real blast - they go from strength to strength!

Messy Church, Saturday 20 July

Saturday 20 July Messy Church - "Wonderful Catch" - family fun for all ages - games, crafts, story, songs, 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' prayer intention for July

Pope Francis' prayer intention for July is that we pray that the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick gives the Lord's strength to those who receive it and to their loved ones, and that it may become for everyone an ever more visible sign of compassion and hope.

Reception Places at St Edmund's Catholic Primary School

Reception Places are available for September 2024 at St Edmund's Catholic Primary School. There are a limited number of places available for Reception and Year 1. For more information or to arrange a visit please contact the school office on 01483 414497 or email: info@stedmunds.surrey.sch.uk

First Holy Communion Information Evening

We are looking ahead to next year, and for those parents wishing to prepare their children for First Holy Communion there is a parents' meeting at St Edmund's Church at 8.00pm on 2 July. Children are usually in Year 4 or above in September. To register and for more info: <https://stedsgod.churchsuite.com/events/cgj76dtko>

Fundraising for Kasanka, our twin parish in Zambia

Pete's Plant Sale in June and our parish cake sale in April were a great success. Organised by our parish Live Simply group, the sales have raised a spectacular £1,760+, and this money will enable the St Francis Community school in Kasanka to instal a secure perimeter fence to protect the school children from intruders.

Celebrating the Gift of people with disabilities

The diocese has arranged an all-day event to value and celebrate creative people who experience disability, with the theme '*Be a Prophet – Go tell everyone!*', on Sunday 7 July, 12.00pm, at Aylesford Priory, The Friars, Aylesford, Kent, ME20 7BY. The day includes creative prayer in the chapels, a workshop, Books Beyond Words activities and a visit the Rosary Way. In the afternoon there will also be time to take part in an Edith Stein retreat, explore Aylesford Priory, enjoy a picnic and participate in art activities. At 4.00pm, Bishop Paul Hendricks celebrates Mass. All are welcome.

Celebrating the Feast of St Joachim & St Anne

To honour the annual day Pope Francis has instituted, there is a thanksgiving Mass with Bishop Richard on 20 July, 3.00pm, at Arundel Cathedral, for all the senior members of our community who do so much to sustain our faith through their lives and witness. To book: <https://abdiocese.churchsuite.com/events/pstnoog>

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 and 21 July); 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 (final session before summer is tbc, please check with parish)
- Live Simply, our parish eco-group meets monthly on Zoom, with the next meeting on Thursday 4 July on zoom, 7.30pm. Joining details from Jo: jolewry@aol.com

- SVP Afternoon Tea on Wednesday 10 July 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

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.

August 6 Day Individually Guided Retreat (IGR)

Date: 4 to 11 August

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 4 August evening from 4.00pm and depart next Sunday 11 August 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'.

Cultivating an Ecological Spirituality

Led by: Jane Mellet

Date: 18 to 20 October

Suggested offering: £180

Join us for this weekend retreat in the beautiful surroundings of the Franciscan Centre Ladywell. During these days we will explore how to cultivate an 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".

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:

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

Feba's next Zoom prayer meeting will take place on Wednesday 3 July, and will focus on an area on the world in need of much prayer. Start time 7.00pm. Go to www.feba.org.uk/prayer

Items for next month's *Link-up*

Please send items for the August 2024 edition of *Link-up* to Matt Farrow:
farrow.matt@gmail.com by **Friday 19 July**, for publication on Friday 26 July.