



August 2024

LINK-UP

Keeping Churches in Touch

www.godalmingchurches.org

facebook.com/ChurchesTogetherinGodalmingandDistrict

Message from the Chair

Two completely contrasting sets of events are in news reports as I write – the grand festival of human effort and skill that (limited controversies notwithstanding) brings together most of the world's nations, the Olympic Games; and on the other hand, the violent disturbances in British cities that are about anything but unity. Unity is an easy thing to want, but harder to achieve when there are real disagreements that need to be dealt with. Sometimes, depending on the circumstances, it's difficult to know whether it's best to have those arguments out or not: maybe there's wisdom in the old saying about letting sleeping dogs lie, but maybe you have to wake the dogs up if they're getting in the way of you moving forward.

Churches Together, of course, brings together communities and organisations which historically have disagreed with each other. Over the centuries some of those disagreements have even been violent, so at least we've managed to achieve something to that extent! Most of the time, though, I hazard to say that we are not so much 'churches together' as 'churches alongside one another', not usually collaborating on anything that taxes our tolerance too hard: sometimes there's a bit of compromise to settle the arrangements for our ecumenical services through the year, but that's about it.

I've spent my stint as Chair of Churches Together so far trying to find ways for us to explore what it means to be different Christian communities in the belief that helps us move towards the kind of understanding and acceptance I'm sure God wants of us. The discussions we have in our Open Meetings and our breakfast gatherings for prayer are part of that. Thank you for taking the time to read this – every time any one of you comes to one of those events and engages in the small adventure of joining with and listening to Christians you otherwise wouldn't meet, you're helping build the unity the Lord prays for.

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

Churches Together events

Other events

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

90th Anniversary thanksgiving service at Franklyn Road, 8 August at 3.00pm

St Mark's Church is 90 years old this year. The Foundation stone was laid on 8 August 1934. We are holding a Thanksgiving Service on Thursday 8 August at 3.00pm followed by a cream

tea. We would love for people across Godalming to be there to give thanks for the history of St Mark's church and more recently its community centre, and to pray for its future serving the Franklyn Road area. There will be a celebratory cream tea after the service so an idea of numbers would help the congregation plan. RSVP to volunteer@godalmingminster.org or 01483 421267

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

We are looking forward to the Village Show on Saturday 17 August, when we welcome the people of Farncombe parish to share their efforts in the garden, kitchen, allotment, and other handicrafts for the admiration of their friends and neighbours and the excitement of competing for the prizes.

We are continuing to forge our way through practical matters such as fire safety and roof repairs but also thinking about enquirers' courses and thanking God for the wonderful 175th anniversary Evensong on 21 July, which brought so many friends together to celebrate this milestone in the church's history.

www.farncombe.org.uk

Godalming Baptist Church

Coffee Stop, Saturday 14 September

Join us on Saturday 14 September from 10.00am to 12.00pm for coffee/tea and delicious homemade cakes. No charge, but donations much appreciated to Charlie's Promise - helping to prevent knife crime. This charity was set up by the Cosser family, whose son Charlie was tragically killed by knife crime.

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

Visit our library

Our library is for everyone! Do call in weekday mornings (subject to bookings), from 9.00am to 12.00pm term-time only to browse and borrow a book. We have a range of books on life issues

and books to encourage us on our faith journey. The library will be open in August on Friendship Lunch days - Thursday 8 and 22 August.

Book reviews for August and September

Living With Cancer - Walking with God by Isabel and Oliver Vellacoot

This is a remarkable and deeply moving book, a tribute to human love and far more than that - a spiritual journey

Unpopular Culture by Guvna B

Popular culture is full of phrases telling us the best way to live, the right things to buy, the right body shape to have. But what if there is another way? What if we choose to live differently to stand against injustice, to live life for more than just ourselves, to dare to be unpopular.

www.godalmingbaptistchurch.org.uk

Godalming United Church

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

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

Collection for Whitechapel Mission

A big thank you to everyone who contributed clothing, toiletries and non-perishable food items to our annual collection for the Whitechapel Mission to the Homeless in June/July. It was (as usual!) full to bursting by 8 July.

National Methodist Youth Brass Band weekend away

From 14 to 18 June, Keith (flugelhorn), Julie (cornet), Eloise (tenor horn) and, for the first time, Esther (baritone horn) joined in the National Methodist Youth Brass Band weekend away at Oxford. Practices on Friday evening and Saturday morning were followed by time exploring Oxford - truly a beautiful city, especially when viewed in sunshine while punting on the river (only one member fell in!). The theme for the epilogues and for the Sunday service was "The Kingdom of God is" especially appropriate in the run-up to the general election. A weekend of fun, faith and fellowship. This year's Youth Band tour takes place in the Lake District in August.

Minister on holiday

Across August our Minister Adam will be having a short family holiday back in the USA after an absence of two years - we look forward to hearing how he finds his homeland. And as a contrast at the end of August he leads a Circuit pilgrimage to Iona.

Looking Ahead

Sunday 11 August - No church service - GUC will be supporting the annual Staycation service at the Burys bandstand.

Saturday 7 September 2.30pm to 4.00pm - Cream tea on the patio in support of GUC's Gambia Ophthalmic project. Just £15 pays for a sight-saving cataract operation.

For more information and other future 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' prayer intention for August

Pope Francis' prayer intention for August is that we pray that political leaders be at the service of their own people, working for integral human development and the common good, taking care of those who have lost their jobs and giving priority to the poor.

Feast of the Assumption

In August, our parish enjoys the annual get together for this feast (which is celebrated as a Holy Day of Obligation on Thursday 15 August) on Sunday 18 August in the grounds of the Old Farmhouse, Elstead, kindly hosted by parishioner Richard Grey. The Outdoor Mass is at 10.30am, followed by a picnic, and hopefully we will be blessed with good weather. All are welcome, more info from godalming@abdiocese.org.uk

Lourdes Pilgrimage

This month we keep our diocesan pilgrimage to the shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes in our prayers. This year is the 50th anniversary of the pilgrimage, which can be described as 'love in action' and a profound experience of renewed faith for both pilgrims and helpers: the sick, disabled, frail and elderly. Several of our parishioners are joining the pilgrimage as helpers, along with many others from our diocese. More info at:

<https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/lourdes/home>

EdsKnitters

Our parish knitting group supports a range of charities: therapists use our knitted puppet families for work with vulnerable children in educational settings; the Stella Maris charity distribute our knitted balaclavas, gloves and scarves to fishers and seafarers; and at the Royal Surrey hospital our knits for newborns go to the neo natal unit and twiddlemuffs and blankets to the dementia ward. The group provides patterns and welcomes new members. More info from godalming@abdiocese.org.uk

The parish website: www.stedsgod.com gives more information on our parish activities.

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, (and with coffee after Mass on 4 and 18 August); 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:

- Live Simply, our parish eco-group meets monthly, with the next meeting on Sunday 25 August at 3.00pm. Joining details from Jo: jolewry@aol.com
- SVP Afternoon Tea on Wednesday 14 August 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

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'.

September 6 Day Individually Guided Retreat (IGR)

Date: 22 to 29 September

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 22 September evening from 4.00pm and depart next Sunday 29 September morning after breakfast and Mass.

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 Meeting for Worship

Our next midweek meeting for worship will be held on Wednesday 14 August 2024 at 1.00pm. This will last for 30 minutes, with a time for sharing afterwards. All are welcome.

www.quaker.org.uk/meetings/godalming

Trinity Trust Team

It's been another packed term full of regular groups and activities, Year 6 Moving On workshops, the Year 7 Intake and the eagerly anticipated Summer Activities Programme (22 to 26 July).

We have been encouraged by the partnerships that have been strengthened this past term, with the team at Godalming Minster, Milford Baptist Church, Godalming Baptist Church and Godalming United Church, and we look forward to drawing youth together from across the town for prayer, praise and worship this autumn.

We continue to reflect on what a privilege it is to take the love of Christ out to so many children and young people, and are so grateful to all those who support our ministries in different ways.

Please pray for:

- The team to enjoy rest and refreshment after such a busy school year
- continued opportunities to prosper the gospel in schools and communities
- new/existing partnerships within local churches to flourish
- local young people to want to know Jesus and be transformed by him
- 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 at the end of yet another school year!

Items for next month's *Link-up*

Please send items for the September 2024 edition of *Link-up* to Matt Farrow:

farrow.matt@gmail.com by **Friday 16 August**, for publication on Friday 23 August.