



March 2025

# LINK-up

*Keeping Churches in Touch*

[www.godalmingchurches.org](http://www.godalmingchurches.org)

[facebook.com/ChurchesTogetherinGodalmingandDistrict](https://facebook.com/ChurchesTogetherinGodalmingandDistrict)

## Message from the Chair

It hardly needs saying how peculiarly turbulent and uncertain the world seems at this moment, with things we have relied on and taken for granted being questioned and turned upside-down. Leaving aside whatever one might think of the current governments of the United States and Russia, their enthusiastic endorsement by some evangelical churches in the one case and the Russian Orthodox patriarchate in the other feels very uncomfortable.

We have a strange situation in the UK, or at least England does, with the Establishment of the Church of England and Anglican bishops sitting in the House of Lords (as is often pointed out, you have to go to Iran for a parallel to that). Yet the CofE has long since abandoned any attempt to repress its rival Churches and its relationship with the Government isn't always smooth. Nobody expects a close alliance between the state and believers.

Secular authority has its proper sphere of action, St Paul maintains, and some political environments will be easier for Christians to live in than others; some may end up positively hostile. But looking to the secular power to achieve God's purposes is a terrible temptation for Christians: the Kingdom is always somewhere else, and every attempt to bring it about by political action comes to grief.

In this country, through long struggle and not inconsiderable suffering, we have come to a place where religion is not a branch of government. That's beneficial for society at large, and certainly for religion itself.

Rev James Rattue, Chair of Churches Together in Godalming and District  
[jamesrattue@hotmail.com](mailto:jamesrattue@hotmail.com)

## Churches Together news and events

### **Churches Together AGM, Monday 17 March, 7.30pm, St John's Church, Farncombe**

All church members welcome to this open meeting. As well as the annual business there will be a short discussion of the role of 'saints and other holy people' in our church communities.

### **Forthcoming Prayer Breakfasts**

22 March – Cellar Café

26 April – Elstead Barn

24 May – Godalming Baptist Church

28 June – Cellar Café

26 July – Milford Baptist Church

27 September – Godalming United Church

25 October – St John's Parish Church, Farncombe

22 November – Busbridge Church

# News of the Churches and organisations

## Godalming Minster

### **Pancake party**

Godalming Minster hosted a drop in Pancake Party at Brighton Road after school on Shrove Tuesday. It was lovely to see people from the local Busbridge schools and from further afield.

### **Lord for the Years**

Prime Time hosted a wonderful event with Bishop Michael Baughen who was interviewed about his contribution (the music) of the hymn Lord for the Years. You can watch the event on YouTube: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HpoXd9I\\_Dfc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HpoXd9I_Dfc)

### **New website**

We are working on a new website for Godalming Minster, which is scheduled to go live in March.

### **20 mile walk for Ukraine**

They did it! Last weekend Ben Rogers and Natalia Maievska walked the entire River Wey Navigation from Weybridge to Godalming - a lot of it in the rain! [Read the story on BBC Surrey](#)

Ben and Natalia are raising funds for Ukraine Mission, a small group of British volunteers from Guildford who have been delivering aid, equipment, and medicine to medics, rescue teams, and civilians in Ukraine since April 2022.

While Ben and Natalia finished as planned, they had to trudge through a lot of mud along various sections of the towpath which added to the challenge. Thanks to everyone who helped them along the Wey/way!

It's not too late to sponsor them. Here is the link to their fundraising page <https://gofund.me/45b22a19>

### **Godalming Community Gospel Choir Easter concert**

Saturday 29 March, 7.30pm at Godalming Minster, Church Street

Godalming Community Gospel Choir Easter Concert, directed by our newly-appointed amazing Russell Blackman and accompanied by equally amazing Vaughan Lamont. This will be a mix of gospel songs by American and UK artists. Admission: adults £10, children free. Refreshments available. Tickets at [GCGCinformation@gmail.com](mailto:GCGCinformation@gmail.com) or Record Corner, Godalming (cash only) or on the door [www.gcgc.org.uk](http://www.gcgc.org.uk)

### **More notices**

To find out more about what's happening at Godalming Minster, have a look at our notices: <https://godalmingminster.org/notices>

[godalmingminster.org](http://godalmingminster.org)

## St John's Parish Church, Farncombe

### **Enquirers' course**

We concluded a successful enquirers' course in February, something of a new experience for St John's, and aim at building this into our schedule as a regular annual feature.

### **Lent**

Lent will include a series of sessions looking at equipping laypeople to maintain the spiritual life of the church in a more active way in circumstances where no clergy are available.

### **Fire safety improvements**

We continue with our fire safety improvements and are pleased and relieved to have received a

grant to support installing emergency lighting, which would have been a tough target to meet otherwise. Now we just await diocesan permission to proceed!

[www.farncombe.org.uk](http://www.farncombe.org.uk)

## Godalming Baptist Church

### **New Associate Minister**

We have welcomed Jack, Our Associate Minister, Candace and their two boys to GBC. We pray they will settle quickly with us, and we wish them much happiness and many blessings with us all.

### **Coffee Stop, Saturday 8 March and Saturday 29 March**

There are two Coffee Stops in March. Please do join us for tea, coffee and delicious homemade cakes from 10.00am till 12.00pm

On Saturday 8 March, all donations gratefully received will go towards the vital work of Christians Against Poverty (CAP).

On Saturday 29 March, donations will be for the work of Pilgrim Friends Society.

### **Life issue session: Supporting those with cancer, Saturday 15 March**

On Saturday 15 March, Daphne Bleach will lead our life issue session on Supporting those with cancer. Please do join us for what promises to be such a helpful and informative morning. Daphne has a wealth of experience in her nursing career and shares with great empathy and compassion. This session is suitable for everyone as there is minimal faith input.

Daphne will focus on topics such as what to say and what not to say when someone is diagnosed with cancer, moving on when treatment is finished, what help and support is available and other issues. To book a place, please contact Sally Pollard on 01483 428646 or [pollard3@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:pollard3@hotmail.co.uk). Cost £7 per person.

### **Live showing of the Wintershall Passion Play, Good Friday, 18 April**

Please come and join Godalming Baptist church on Good Friday at 12.00pm for hot cross buns and live showing of the Wintershall Passion Play at Trafalgar square on a projected screen. All welcome.

### **The challenge of ageing - The Saga years led by Revd Peter Jackson, Saturday 26 April**

Please note change of Speaker and topic. Peter is a great speaker, and this promises to be such a worthwhile morning. Peter will focus on different issues of ageing such as: is ageism a factor in our society? What kind of issues do people face as they get older? How can we live well as we live longer? What sort of questions do older people have? To book a place please see details above. There is no charge, but donations much appreciated towards Age UK.

[www.godalmingbaptistchurch.org.uk](http://www.godalmingbaptistchurch.org.uk)

## Godalming United Church

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

Service recordings: [www.guc.org.uk](http://www.guc.org.uk), <https://bit.ly/GUCYouTube>.

### **Spring Bible Studies with Adam "Women of the Bible"**

Tuesdays at 10.00am, repeated Wednesdays (same week) at 7.00pm. Week 1: 4 and 5 March; Week 2: 18 and 19 March; Week 3: 1 and 2 April

### **Messy Church, Saturday 29 March, 3.00pm to 5.00pm**

Family fun for all ages. Bible-themed activities based around the Easter story: crafts, games, church trail, storytime and songs, party tea. [messy.church@guc.org.uk](mailto:messy.church@guc.org.uk)

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

### **Pope Francis' prayer intention for March**

Pope Francis' prayer intention for March is for families in crisis - we pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences.

### **Ash Wednesday, 5 March**

10.00am Mass with Distribution of Ashes at St Joseph's Milford; and 2.15pm to 3.00pm Liturgy of the Word and Distribution of Ashes at St Edmund's School, The Drive, Godalming.

### **Stations of the Cross**

Stations of the Cross are at 6.30pm on Friday evenings at St Joseph's, Milford. Each Lenten Friday at 7.30pm there is Adoration, Stations of the Cross and Mass in Polish, with the Polish community.

### **CAFOD's Lent Fast Day**

CAFOD's Lent Fast Day is on Friday 14 March, with talks at Mass the previous weekend and donation envelopes distributed at all Masses.

### **Lent Groups**

Small groups are meeting on Tuesdays at 2.30pm in Elstead and Friday afternoons at 1.30pm at Ladywell (see our website calendar for times and venues). The course material for the five weeks is 'We dare to hope' which offers scripture-based reflections, personal testimonies, and practical ways to live out hope in daily life. Evening group options are also available in neighbouring parishes. All are welcome, even if you can only make a few sessions. Please email the parish office if you'd like more information.

### **CAFOD's BIG Lent Walk**

CAFOD's BIG Lent Walk starts on 5 March! Our parish has formed a team for the BIG Lent Walk with each person committing to walk 5km a day for the 40 days of Lent and we're hoping to raise £1,500 for CAFOD through sponsorship. Please join us - you can walk on your own, as a family or a group, just email Jo to sign up: [jolewry@aol.com](mailto:jolewry@aol.com) and share this link for sponsorship: <https://parishes.walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/st-edmund-godalming2024>. Our aim is to walk the distance from Godalming to Marsabit in Northern Kenya, which is approximately 10,000 km.

### **Theological Café**

The next evening with Fr Jonathan will take place from 7.30pm to 9.30pm on Wednesday 19 March at 19 Croft Road, on the theme: 'what's all this about indulgences?'. All are welcome and refreshments are provided.

### **Week of Guided Prayer, 23 to 28 March, at the Franciscan Centre Ladywell**

This is a great opportunity to "put out into the deep" in the adventure of faith and life, and is the equivalent of a making a retreat but in daily life. The commitment is to half an hour of prayer each day and a meeting with a gentle spiritual guide in the lovely setting of Ladywell. All are welcome to participate, and to give it a go. All that is needed is a desire to grow in prayer. If you're interested please contact the parish office or register at: <https://stedsgod.churchsuite.com/events/9qmvqy6d>

### **Mothering Sunday, 30 March**

As a mark of appreciation, flowers are given to all our Mums at Mass!

### **Wintershall Stations of the Cross**

Wintershall Stations of the Cross are on Friday 7 March at 8.00am; all welcome. <https://www.wintershall.org.uk/stations-cross>

### **SVP Afternoon Tea**

This month the tea is on Wednesday 12 March at 2.30pm at the United Reformed Church, Elstead (phone 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 2 and 16 March); 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 homepage of our website: [www.stedsgod.com](http://www.stedsgod.com)

St Edmund's church remains open every day usually between 10.00am and 4.00pm. (19 Croft Road, Godalming GU7 1DB).

### **Parish gatherings**

We offer a warm welcome to newcomers at our regular parish gatherings:

- *Bumps & Babes* on Monday mornings at St John's Farncombe from 10.30am to 12.00pm. The group welcomes all mums to be, as well as mums (& grandparents!) with newborns, toddlers and pre-school children.
- *Prayer Group* on Monday evenings (phone Richard for details on 01252 702230), starting at 5.00pm.
- *Live Simply group* Our parish eco-group meets monthly online; the next meeting is on Thursday 6 March, 8.00pm. Joining details: [jolewry@aol.com](mailto:jolewry@aol.com)
- *SVP group* Our parish SVP group meets in person monthly. The next meeting is on Thursday 26 March at 7.30pm. Joining details: 07379 108009.
- *Bereavement group* This group offers support and meets monthly, usually on Fridays at 10.30am. More information: [bereavementatsteds@gmail.com](mailto:bereavementatsteds@gmail.com)
- *EdsKnitters* This group knits for charities. If you can knit hats, gloves, scarves or blankets for adults and/or baby clothes please get in touch.

[www.stedsgod.com](http://www.stedsgod.com)

### **The Franciscan Centre Ladywell**

Any enquiries or to book your place please email us at [franciscancentre@ladywell.org.uk](mailto:franciscancentre@ladywell.org.uk)

Our website is: <https://franciscancentre.org.uk> and our phone number is 01483 675575.

### **Days of Reflection**

We have two days of Reflection monthly. They will be held on the second Saturday and fourth Tuesday of each month from 9.30am to 4.00pm. The next dates are Saturday 8 March and Tuesday 25 March, 9.30am to 4.00pm.

These retreat days welcome all who seek renewal, inspiration, and fellowship in a warm and inviting atmosphere. You can look forward to a comforting mix of input, prayer, conversation, and personal space for reflection.

A delicious, homemade lunch, lovingly prepared with Franciscan hospitality, will be provided. The cost for each retreat is £25.

We warmly welcome everyone to join us in this journey of reflection and discovery. For more information, please feel free to reach out to us at [franciscancentre@ladywell.org.uk](mailto:franciscancentre@ladywell.org.uk) or telephone 01483 675575.

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.

### **Lent Retreat**

21 March, 4.00pm (check in) to 23 March, 2.00pm  
Residential offering £190, Day visitors £90

*The Spirit drove Jesus into the wilderness' Mark 1:12*

During lent, we are invited to shed what is superfluous and enter into the desert with Christ.

Join us at the Franciscan Centre Ladywell to prepare for Easter with a time of prayer, reflection, input and sharing.

Lent is a time of stepping out of the ordinary, looking within, noticing how God is at work in our lives and listening for the invitation for greater depth.

What is it that God is inviting me to? How do I want to respond?

What do I need in my life in order to find the courage to walk with Jesus to his cross and mine.

### **Understanding Scripture – Jesus' Journey to God – The Passion in Luke**

Friday 28 March, 4.00pm (check in) to Sunday 30 March, 2.00pm  
Residential offering £190, Day visitors £90

A weekend Scripture Course and Retreat with Brian Purfield

The four gospel passion narratives have created in the imagination of most Christians a kind of composite account of the events of Jesus' last meal, arrest, trials, and crucifixion and it may be hard to focus on one account without "interference" from the other three. On this weekend we will focus on Luke's account and his distinct perspective on Jesus' Passion. There will be space for prayer, reflection and conversation as we prepare to listen to Luke's Passion proclaimed on Palm Sunday.

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.

### **Easter Triduum Retreat**

17 April, 3.00pm to 20 April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2.00pm  
Residential offering £270

Come join us at the Franciscan Centre Ladywell for our Easter Triduum: Holy Thursday Evening to Easter Sunday.

Join our community as we celebrate the Easter Triduum, as we recall and journey with Jesus in his last days, from his final meal with His disciples to His resurrection from the tomb.

Experience the liturgies as part of a community and take time and space in our beautiful centre to reflect more deeply on these profound events.

Be alongside the Franciscan family, as we celebrate Easter in our unique way with daily prayer, reflections, liturgies and celebration.

<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](http://www.quaker.org.uk/meetings/godalming)

## Milford Baptist Church

### Holiday club, 7, 8 and 9 April, 9.45am to 12.30pm

Deep sea divers – for children from reception to year 6. Parents and carers are invited on Wednesday at 12.15pm to join our finale, followed by a free lunch buffet. For more information, visit [www.milfordbaptistchurch.org.uk](http://www.milfordbaptistchurch.org.uk) or email [mbckidsevents@gmail.com](mailto:mbckidsevents@gmail.com)

## Trinity Trust Team

Despite such a small team (Andy F/T, Annette P/T, Isaac one evening a week + volunteers) we not only continue to deliver all our regular weekly groups and activities but have increased our school assemblies (in Chandler) as well as adding the Easter RE Day there in addition to the Godalming Junior School RE Day we have been leading for many years.

What a blessing to be welcomed into so many of our local schools, and what a privilege to be able to share with so many children and staff why Jesus died for us and what his resurrection means for believers.

We are still looking to add resource into the team and remain open minded as to how we do this. Ideally, we seek those with a passion for working alongside young people (whether in a leadership or supporting roles) in a paid or voluntary capacity with the following in mind:

- Wowza (after school club at Godalming Junior School, one hour Monday term time)
- Fusion children's group midweek at Godalming Baptist Church (1.5 hrs Wed, term time)
- FUSE discipleship group midweek at Godalming Baptist Church (2 hrs Wed, term time)

If you, or someone you know might be interested in volunteering or paid opportunities with TTT please contact Andy Poulson on [andy@trinitytrustteam.co.uk](mailto:andy@trinitytrustteam.co.uk) or check out our website.

Please pray for:

- continued open doors to prosper the gospel in local schools
- the right team resources to support our various ministries
- new/existing partnerships within local churches to flourish
- local young people to want to know Jesus and be transformed by him

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 as ever.

[www.trinitytrustteam.co.uk](http://www.trinitytrustteam.co.uk)

## Feba

Please join us on zoom to pray for Feba, a media organisation with partners in many of the world's newsworthy spots, where they broadcast hope. 7.00pm on Wednesday 5 March, via [www.feba.org.uk/prayer](http://www.feba.org.uk/prayer) Current prayer request are also on this website.

## Items for next month's *Link-up*

Please send items for the April 2025 edition of *Link-up* to Matt Farrow: [farrow.matt@gmail.com](mailto:farrow.matt@gmail.com) by **Friday 21 March**, for publication on Friday 28 March.