



February 2022

LINK-UP

Keeping Churches in Touch

www.godalmingchurches.org

facebook.com/ChurchesTogetherinGodalmingandDistrict

Message from the Chair

It was encouraging to see so many people at the United Service held at St John's, Farncombe, on Sunday 23 January. This was a lovely service and it generated a real sense of togetherness in our Christian journey. The service was live-streamed and, for those who did not see it, the recording is available at https://youtu.be/bav_4qgZ4zo.

The Council of Churches Together will meet on Wednesday 23 February. Among other things we will be considering our draft programme for the year. I would like to draw your attention to some of the events coming up in the near future:

- Friday 4 March – World Day of Prayer at St Nicholas, Peper Harow, at 10:30. Planning is well advanced and we are hoping for a wide representation from our member churches.
- Friday 15 April (Good Friday) – The Trinity Trust Team are organising a short worship event, including drama, scripture and some worship songs, to take place in Godalming High Street at 11:30. The idea is that those attending Good Friday services of reflection earlier in the day would then congregate in the High Street for this event.
- Sunday 17 April (Easter Sunday) – Start the day well with the annual Sunrise Service at Minster Field at 6:45, followed by coffee with the Sisters of Ladywell Convent.

Michael Stubbs has stepped down as Co-ordinator of the monthly Prayer Breakfasts, and our thanks go to him for his work in organising these. Rev James Rattue is taking this forward as we plan the Prayer Breakfasts for 2022. He would welcome offers to host and lead the events. The next Prayer Breakfast is scheduled for Saturday 26 February at 8:30am (venue to be announced).

James Toon, Chair of Churches Together in Godalming and District

Naturally Supernatural Conference 2022

There is a spring 'Naturally Supernatural Conference 2022' being put on this year because of the volume of demand. It is on Wednesday 11 to Saturday 14 May at Soul Survivor Watford. The conference is all about spending time in God's presence, with extended times of worship and ministry. Participants will be studying God's word and hearing from some great teachers as we explore what it means to live biblical, naturally supernatural lives today. It's only £76 as well. If you are interested in going, either book directly at <https://naturallysupernatural.co.uk> or chat with Julia Stubbs eashingstubbs@aol.com if you want to know a bit more.

News of the Churches and organisations

Parish of Godalming

Although the legal limits on the number of people allowed to meet indoors and outdoors, in addition to the 1 metre+ social distancing rule, have been removed, and face coverings are no longer mandatory, it is noted in the National Church guidance that face coverings may be recommended in enclosed or crowded places.

Everyone coming to church services where there are other people present is encouraged to continue following our existing practice of wearing a face covering whilst in the building. We shall also continue to receive Holy Communion in one kind, with only the Priest receiving bread and wine. The distribution will continue to be given from the Ciborium, which is covered until the actual distribution, and the Priest will wear a face covering.

Let us continue by prayer and practical example to play our part in safeguarding one another. All services are safeguarding-compliant.

St Peter & St Paul

- Sunday 6 February: 8:00 Holy Communion Service (BCP); 10:00 All Age Service with Baptisms
- Sunday 13 February: 10:00 Holy Communion Service
- Sunday 20 February: 10:00 Holy Communion Service
- Sunday 27 February: 10:00 Holy Communion Service

Every Tuesday at 12:00 we offer a short, said Holy Communion service with a Thought for the Day homily.

A Vision for Godalming

Please continue to pray about the future vision for our parish. Following the PCC meeting on 10 January 2022, we have set up a number of small groups to facilitate the discussions about the most effective method of working with Busbridge & Hambledon. The issues to be considered include Finance; Property; The 0–18 Age Group; Clergy; Services/Music; and Operations/Administration. Everyone in our churches will be encouraged to share their questions or comments with the small groups so that any future vision will be shared and owned by us all.

Children's ministry

Sunday Club is an all-age group for children aged 3 years to 13 years. Our group meets during the 10:00 Holy Communion service in term time. We learn about the Bible with a combination and weekly variation of stories, chat, games, drama and craft. We finish each week in time to join our families in church as the children come up for a blessing during the sharing of communion. In order to keep us all safe, we will be wearing masks and keeping the room ventilated, and we therefore encourage the children to dress warmly during these colder months. For more details of our activities please contact Sarah Bryans at godalming.church.office@gmail.com.

New Baby Group

A new baby group (newborn to crawlers) has started at St Peter and St Paul's and is running on Wednesday mornings from 10:00 to 11:00 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 will be space for up to eight families. For more details please contact Vickie at godalmingparishoctots@gmail.com.

Alpha Course

We thank God that the Alpha evenings went well and pray they are helping all of us in the group to continue to grow in our Christian understanding and to develop spiritually. We have been blessed by a number of our church members who have been or are due to prepare meals for those attending: thank you all very much. The next Alpha Course will start on Wednesday

27 April 2022, and we already have six people booked. Do please contact Canon John Harkin or Sue Harkin if you would like to join the next course, or to offer catering assistance.

St Mark's

All services start at 10:00. 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 a new church-led activity for parents and toddlers at St Mark's. The group meets on Wednesdays, running from 9:00 to 11:00. The aim is to offer a welcoming space for toddlers and parents to socialise and meet new people and make friends. If you would like to support the group by helping with refreshments or welcoming parents then please contact Rev Sheila Samuels at curate.godalming@gmail.com.

Foodbank

The Foodbank requirement list is updated on a monthly basis on the website. Your Foodbank donations are important, and any items you wish to donate should be taken to St Mark's Church and Community Centre. If you would like to donate to the Foodbank by bank transfer, please contact Karen Milton, our Community Centre Co-ordinator, at stmarkscentre@googlemail.com, who will provide the bank details.

We need volunteers to help out on a Monday afternoon from 12:00 until 14:30. Helpers provide a warm welcome and hospitality to people needing to use the foodbank. Helpers also help with stocking shelves and packing parcels. If you would like more information then please contact Rev Sheila Samuels.

www.parishofgodalming.org.uk

St John s Parish Church, Farncombe

We were very glad to be able to welcome our friends from other congregations to the United Service on Sunday 23 January, another step in a positive direction towards restoring our common endeavour as followers of Jesus Christ. Can I commend to everyone our monthly online celebration of Compline at 19:30 on the second Sunday each month? The next is on 13 February, and all the information is on the website at farncombe.org.uk/events.

Farncombe & Godalming Mothers' Union will meet on Wednesday, 9 February at 14:30 in St John's Church room, Farncombe for a Community Question Time. The panel consists of Rev Simon Taylor, Colin Stokes, Cllr Penny Rivers and Antonia Wilson (ex Diocesan President). Non-members very welcome.

www.farncombe.org.uk

Busbridge&Hambleton Church

New services for families are going well and attracting new faces. Following a pilot in the Autumn, All Age Muddy Church is continuing on the first Sundays of the month in and around the wild areas of Busbridge and Hambleton. Messy Church moved from Hambleton Church in the mornings to Hambleton Village Hall at 16:00 on third Sundays – with tea(!) and is proving popular with younger families.

The new Yew Tree Café will be opening in March, and the interior is starting to take shape. Lizzie Soar started as café manager in January. The café management team hope to appoint an assistant manager, or two, shortly, and will be training the team of volunteer baristas in the coming weeks.

www.bhcgodalming.org

Godalming Baptist Church

The Rock

The Rock children's church for 5-11yrs continues to meet weekly with fun planned children's sessions whilst parents are in church. 10:00 Sunday mornings. All welcome!

Friendship lunch

Friendship lunch takes place on Thursdays. We are so grateful to various clergy and others who are willing to come and share a thought with folk from our community. If you are able to share in this way, please contact Sally on 01483 428646 or via pollard3@hotmail.co.uk. We would love to hear about any charitable events, a hobby, testimony or life experience that you are able to share. You are welcome to stay for lunch too! *Friendship lunch is currently on hold due to the increase in COVID cases but hopes to return this month - please seek confirmation before attending.*

Senior Moments

Our Senior Moments get together for senior citizens takes place fortnightly on Wednesdays from 14:30 to 16:00. Come and enjoy afternoon tea and chat, with an interesting talk or discussion. Contact Eric Jarman on eandbjarman@btinternet.com for more details! *Senior Moments is currently on hold due to the increase in COVID cases but hopes to return this month - please seek confirmation before attending.*

Sing for Fun

Our singing group for dementia sufferers and their carers, friends and family continues on Tuesdays from 14:00 to 15:00. Please contact Janet on 01483 414019 for information or just turn up and sing! *Sing for Fun is currently on hold due to the increase in COVID cases but hopes to return this month - please seek confirmation before attending.*

Life issues events

Our first Life Issues session 'Bereavement' will be on Saturday 5 February at Godalming Baptist Church (subject to any COVID restrictions) led by Revd Peter Jackson who has a wealth of experience and understanding of bereavement and had led 'Insight into bereavement' at Waverley Abbey. Please see attached poster and flier. We would be very grateful if you are able to display a poster. To book a place for this very worthwhile session please contact Sally Pollard on 01483 428646 or e-mail pollard3@hotmail.co.uk

Further Life issues for your diaries are

- 'Decision Making' and the will of God led by Andy Peck on Saturday 23 April
- 'Autism' led by Suzette Jones on Saturday 25 June
- 'Growing Old Disgracefully!' led by Dr Martin Brunet on Saturday 8 October

Safeguarding training

There is safeguarding training at Godalming Baptist church on 5 March from 10:00 to 12:30. If you volunteer for working with children or adults at risk at your local church then you may wish to update your training. The cost if you are not a member of the church is £5. Please inform catherine@lawtonfamily.net if you wish to attend as we cannot accept anyone who has not previously booked.

www.godalmingbaptistchurch.org.uk

Godalming United Church

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

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

At 21:00 on Saturday 8 January the Church was asked to make its premises available as an emergency disaster centre following a fire in a small block of flats in Farncombe. We immediately opened the hall, rooms and kitchen, and 9 church members came to help staff the centre. Residents of the flats quickly started to be brought in and in the usual way tea and coffee etc were served. The Church car park and road filled with police and their vehicles,

ambulances and disaster management staff. A regional Red Cross disaster recovery vehicle arrived bringing blankets, toiletries etc. and the County Deputy Fire Head arrived. All worked to reassure and give comfort to the evacuated residents.

In the next hours some residents were moved to accommodation elsewhere. The Council brought in camp beds for those who would need to sleep in the Church Hall overnight and the Church staffed the Centre overnight together with staff from the disaster agencies. Breakfast was served the next morning and housing officers worked on temporary rehousing for the residents. Morning worship took place as normal but with no access for the congregation into the disaster centre. By 15:00 all residents had been moved and the premises returned for normal use. We feel privileged to have been able to offer this service to the community and we pray for all who were affected by the fire.

Pantomime

It isn't too late to get tickets for our annual New Year Pantomime on the weekend of February 5th and 6th (four performances) – this year Dick Whittington and His Cat. Phone 01483 421433.

www.guc.org.uk

St Edmund King & Martyr Godalming with St Joseph s Milford Roman Catholic Churches

During February we mark Racial Justice Day on Sunday 20 February, and the Day for the Unemployed on Sunday 27 February. And we keep in mind Pope Francis' intention for February: 'We pray for religious sisters and consecrated women; thanking them for their mission and their courage; may they continue to find new responses to the challenges of our times'.

This month we are delighted to be reinstating our Coffee after Mass at St John's Farncombe on the first and third Sunday of the month.

Our parish activities and Masses continue as before with COVID precautions in place:

Weekend Masses

Weekend Masses are celebrated at St Edmund's (18:00 Vigil Mass) on Saturday evening; at St John's Farncombe at 8:45 (with Children's Liturgy) and St Joseph's Milford at 10:30 on Sundays.

Weekday Masses

The dates, times and venues of these vary and can be found on the calendar on our website: www.stedsgod.com

Bumps & Babes

Bumps & Babes sessions are at 10:30 at St John's, Farncombe.

SVP Afternoon Tea

This month it is hoped that the monthly SVP Afternoon Tea will be able to go ahead on Wednesday 9 February at 14:30 at the United Reformed Church in Elstead. To register to attend please phone Janet on 07990 717067.

Parish Prayer Group

The parish Prayer Group meets on Monday evenings at 17:00; all are welcome and please phone Richard for more information on 01252 703830.

Lectio Divina

Lectio Divina is on Wednesday at 19:30: <https://stedsgod.com/lectio-divina>

Day of Prayer

Fr Jonathan leads a Day of Prayer in preparation for Lent at Ladywell Convent Retreat Centre on Wednesday 23 February. For more details, please phone 01483 416880.

Synod Update

This month we will submit our parish response to the Diocese from our January discussion groups, reflecting on the themes of 'Communion, Participation and Mission'. These conversations have been stimulating and enabled us to discern the positive ways we have adapted to the pandemic world and where more change is needed in the future.

Live Simply

This year's Fairtrade fortnight runs from 21 February to 6 March, and 2022's campaign is 'Choose the World you Want'. Our Live Simply group asks us to be Fairtrade aware and when shopping to select by preference those items which have the Fairtrade label as a direct way of showing our support for the farmers who produce our food and drink and grow the cotton in our clothes; people who are frequently exploited and underpaid, and who are currently on the front line in our climate crisis.

Knitting Group

Our parish group 'EdKnitters' knits for charities and have made their first deliveries of the year; a bumper bag of baby knits to the Royal Surrey Charity; and hats, socks and balaclavas to Stella Maris, a charity which supports our seafarers.

<https://stedsgod.com>

Trinity Trust Team

Faith, fun, fellowship for children & young people midweek in Godalming

Fully up and running with all groups in-person and delighted to have re-launched the Fusion children's group at Godalming Baptist Church with the team there after an absence of over 18 months. Fusion is an hour of games, drama, Jesus' stories, teachings, and songs open to all children in school years 3-6 (KS2). It is free and runs from 18:00 to 19:00 during term time.

Fusion is followed by Fuse (19:30 to 21:00) youth group for secondary school students that offers midweek refreshment; hot choc and chat, the Alpha Youth series, peer support and that of the team. If your children are interested in joining us, simply register online at

www.trinitytrustteam.co.uk

Our other weekly groups include: Loseley Fields Youth Café (on Monday evenings), Christian Union (both secondary schools, Thursday lunchtimes) Friday Club @ St Mark's Community Church and street outreach (Friday night). For further info on all we offer please check our website.

Flexible full and part time opportunities within the team

Recruitment hasn't just been an issue in hospitality and haulage! It has extended to many areas including that of youth ministry. We still have opportunities to join the team, so if you, or anyone you know, might have the skills and experience to join us as we take the love of Christ out to young people locally, do get in touch: andytrinitytrustteam@hotmail.co.uk

Please pray for:

- All young people returning to in-person groups, for safety and for opportunities to prosper the gospel in schools and communities.
- The right individuals to come forward to seek to join the team and wisdom and discernment when recruiting new team members.
- 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, particularly in these challenging times. Our thanks and blessings, all. Andy and the team.

Feba

If you would like to join in prayer for Feba, a media organisation with partners in the world's newsworthy areas, please contact Shelagh on jimdogshome@aol.com for a Zoom link to the next prayer meeting, probably on 2 February. Thank you.

Items for next month's Link-up

Please send items for the March 2022 edition of *Link-up* to Matt Farrow: farrow.matt@gmail.com by **Friday 18 February**, for publication on Friday 25 February.