



March 2022

LINK-UP

Keeping Churches in Touch

www.godalmingchurches.org

facebook.com/ChurchesTogetherinGodalmingandDistrict

Message from the Chair

This is the beginning of the Season of Lent. We are called to reflect more deeply on our relationship with God: our need for forgiveness and his overwhelming love for us expressed in the life, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. But this is not merely an inward journey. As Teresa White puts it in the 2022 Lent Book 'Hope and the Nearness of God', we are invited "with God's help, to face the problems of life and resolve to do our bit in building a better world." The deepening of our spiritual lives should naturally bear fruit in an active concern for our community and our world. The Christian message of love is so greatly needed at this time.

I am sorry that Churches Together is not offering a Lent Course this year. It would have been an opportunity to reflect and support each other in strengthening our common life. Maybe next year. Do take part in the Lenten events in your own churches.

One thing we are doing together is the re-imagined Walk of Witness on Good Friday, on which see below. A public declaration of our faith and the love of Jesus for all people. As the notice asks, for this to run effectively we need stewards on the day. Please contact Michael Stubbs if you can help.

James Toon, Chair of Churches Together in Godalming and District

Good Friday 2022 – Walk of Witness

This year we are going to have a different approach to our Good Friday Walk of Witness. We shall still walk shoulder to shoulder through Godalming as Christian brothers and sisters, and still congregate around the Cross for praise and worship, but instead of meeting at the Wharf and making our way up Bridge Street and along the High Street, we are encouraging church families to move on together into central Godalming after their morning services, or before those that might take place in the afternoon, to share in a short service of reflection outside Wetherspoons as we witness to the world around us on the day that changed the world.

Why our change? We considered how effective the traditional format was in drawing those in who might not recognise the significance of Good Friday as we do, the potential disruption we might cause to those going about their daily business, and the need to give passers-by more of an opportunity to join in. With a short piece of street theatre from the Trinity Trust Team, as well as the usual reading and reflection, we are introducing an interactive prayer station (a cross) with passers-by invited to tie a ribbon onto it in memory of someone they have loved and lost, as we reflect on the Jesus we love who was prepared to lay down his life for us. The team at Godalming Baptist Church have kindly offered again to provide refreshments afterwards, and if the weather is atrocious, we will move the event into GBC itself. Please join us on the High Street for 11:30am and then at GBC from midday. If you are able to be a steward on the day then please contact Michael Stubbs at michaeleashing@aol.com.

Michael Stubbs, Penny Rivers, Andy Poulsom

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

With Lent fast approaching, we will be serving Lent Lunches in the Octagon again. As before, it will follow after the 12:00 Tuesday mid-week communion. The first of these will take place on Tuesday 8 March at approximately 12:30 and each week thereafter until the Tuesday in Holy Week, 12 April. Everyone welcome. It would be helpful, for catering purposes, if you would please contact Janet in advance at janetd Davies6132@gmail.com or on 01483 416177.

A Vision for Godalming

Late last year Bishop Andrew visited the PCCs of Busbridge, Hambledon and St Peter & St Paul (including St. Mark's Church) and described a vision for Godalming where there would be a renewed and united focus on 'proclaiming afresh the Gospel of Christ'. He proposed the creation of a single parish rather than the three parishes we have today. The PCCs agreed to evaluate this challenge and so the concept of a possible Godalming Minster was born. Godalming was once one of the original, ancient Christian Minster churches which predate the formation of the United Kingdom. It used to be a Minster town with a significant Minster ministry of love, care, proclamation, teaching, worship, and presence.

A Minster Evaluation Steering Group has been formed with a view to proposing a recommendation to the PCCs in July. This group is chaired by David Wilkin and co-chaired by Canon John Harkin and Reverend Simon Taylor. Reporting to the Steering Group are six Working Groups which will address key issues and undertake analyses to determine whether the Minster concept is viable at this time. The membership of each group has been posted in each of the four churches. The six groups are:

- Finance – examining likely costs involved to expand mission – does it make financial sense?
- Property – looking at how existing properties could be best utilised / leveraged to further ministry needs.
- Services/Worship – identifying the best pattern of services across four churches whilst still preserving individual congregational identity and worship style.
- Clergy – focusing on mission and how we can reach out in love to all in Godalming Town; enhance clergy well-being, pastoral care and overall resourcing.

- 0–18 Years – looking at how a Minster would impact youth and children’s ministries across Godalming.
- Administration/Operations – addressing how a Minster would be run efficiently and effectively.

All teams have had at least one meeting to date and begun to identify key issues and possible solutions. The Steering Group has discussed patronage in detail as Busbridge, Hambledon and St Peter & St Paul/St Mark’s have significantly different patronage structures.

We are pleased to have Reverend Richard Lloyd as a member of the Steering Group. Richard is the head of the Diocesan Mission Enabler Team and thus brings considerable experience to the discussion of expanding mission in Godalming.

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 seven people booked. Do please contact Reverend Canon John Harkin at canonjohngodalming@btinternet.com or Reverend Sheila Samuels at curate.godalming@gmail.com if you would like to join the next course.

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.

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 Reverend Sheila Samuels.

www.parishofgodalming.org.uk

St John's Parish Church, Farncombe

We are continuing to think about resuming some aspects of our worship life which were normal before the pandemic. In particular, we're discussing returning to the use of the common cup. There is a variety of different opinions, and it will be some time before we find a way of accommodating the differing concerns practically. We're aiming at Lent and Easter being virtually 'normal' after the last two years of disruption.

Thankfully we got through the February storms with only a couple of branches falling from a tree in the churchyard and a poster blown away from a noticeboard!

www.farncombe.org.uk

Busbridge&Hambleton Church

Free film showings on the "big screen" take place at Busbridge church on the 3rd Saturdays of the month at 14:30. There's free popcorn and refreshments, and the films are chosen for their recent release to DVD, and tend to be based on a heart-warming story, with a well known cast featuring actors such as Kenneth Branagh and Judi Dench...! You can find details in the church calendar on www.bhcgodalming.org. All welcome.

There will be an Ash Wednesday Communion with ashing at 20:00 at Hambleton Church.

Busbridge&Hambleton Church is looking forward to the opening of the Yew Tree Café, now in March 2022.

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!

Outing to Winchester

You are warmly invited to join us for our outing to Winchester on Thursday 28 April. It promises to be a very enjoyable day out with plenty of time to explore this historic city, visit Winchester cathedral, browse around the shops, gardens and enjoy lunch in the numerous cafes. Please see the attachment for more details and information about booking. Do come and bring a friend! Cost £15.00 per person to include coach and gratuities. Food extra. Please note there is an admission charge of £9.95 for the cathedral (concession £8.00). Contact Church Reception on 01483 414544 or Peter and Christine Knottley on 01483 428073, mobile 07956 502688.

Life issues events

We are delighted that Andy Peck will join us to lead 'Decision Making and the Word of God' at GBC on Saturday 23 April at 9:30 (coffee from 9:00) to 13:00. Andy is a great speaker - often heard at Waverley Abbey - a Bible teacher, trainer, broadcaster and editor, and the morning promises to be so worthwhile. Come and hear what the Bible says about guidance, how God's will is expressed, the kind of decisions we have to make and hearing God's voice amidst it all. To book a place please contact Sally Pollard on 01483 428646 or pollard3@hotmail.co.uk.

Thanksgiving service for the life of Rosemary Caie

There will be a Thanksgiving Service for the life of Rosemary Caie at GBC on Saturday 26 March at 11:00. You are warmly invited to come, and please do pass the date to anyone else who knew dear Rosemary.

www.godalmingbaptistchurch.org.uk

Godalming United Church

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

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

Our annual pantomime – this year Dick Whittington and his Cat – made a welcome return in February, with four performances playing to capacity audiences – smaller than usual because of increased spacing between seats. It was a joy to see and hear so many children having so much fun – both on- and offstage. A huge Thank You to Barbara Keene and her team: another triumph.

Looking ahead to Lent, our Minister, Alan Payne, will be running a weekday Lent Course starting in the first week of March – Monday mornings 11:00, repeated on Wednesday evenings at 7:30.

And our annual Lenten Appeal will be in support of the relief work Médecins Sans Frontières in Afghanistan.

www.guc.org.uk

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

The Season of Lent

This starts with Ash Wednesday Mass at 9:30 at St Joseph's Milford and 19:30 at St Edmund's Godalming.

Stations of the Cross will take place on Fridays during Lent at 19:00 at St Joseph's Milford.

CAFOD Lent Fast Day will be on Friday 11 March, with Appeal talks at Masses on the weekend 5 to 6 March.

Sycamore Course Online in Lent

You are invited to come and join us online as we enjoy watching and discussing five more Sycamore films about Faith and life, produced with Fr Stephen Wang. We meet from 19:45 and finish by 21:45. You can sign up through the parish calendar www.stedsgod.com, and the Zoom link is: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89934568457>. The weekly film themes are:

3rd: The Light of Christ

10th: Creation, Fall, Salvation

17th: The Social Teaching of the Church

24th: How to Pray

31st: Mary and the Hope of Heaven

CAFOD Walk against Hunger during Lent

If you can commit to walking 5K every day for 40 days to raise funds for people around the world who suffer from malnutrition and go hungry every day, we would love you to join our team of 30 walkers; and please join us even if you can't manage the daily 5K! If you are kindly able to donate the link is: <https://walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/jo-and-julian-walk-against-hunger>. To sign up to walk, and for more information, please contact Jo: jolewry@aol.com.

Quiz & Hog Night

Hosted by St Edmund's Catholic Primary School, this takes place on Friday 4 March at 19:30. More information at: <https://stedsgod.com/news-events-and-chat>.

Shared Supper and Parish Get-Together

On Friday 18 March at 19:00 at Milford Village Hall for the Feast of St Joseph & Dedication of St Joseph's Church. All welcome and sign up is via the calendar on parish website.

Feedback on Synod 2021-2023

Following our Synod discussions at parish level, Bishop Richard is presenting feedback from

across the diocese via a livestream webinar, which we will be watching from Ladywell Convent on 9 March at 19:30. If you would like to join us, please sign up through the parish calendar or contact the parish office. To join from home visit: <https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/synod>.

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

- Bumps & Babes on Mondays at 10:30 at St John's, Farncombe
- SVP Afternoon Tea on Wednesday 9 March at 14:30 at the United Reformed Church, Elstead (to book phone Janet on 07990 717067)
- Prayer Group on Monday evenings at 17:00 (phone Richard on 01252 703830)
- Lectio Divina on Wednesdays online at 19:30 (Zoom ID: 846 7892 5944, Password: 2022)
- Live Simply meeting on Monday 7 March at 19:30 (email: jolewry@aol.com).

If you would like help with getting to Mass or attending parish events, please get in touch with Alan at LOAF (Love One Another Fellowship) on 01483 420859 or Francis at SVP on 07379 108009.

Finally, during March we keep in mind Pope Francis' prayer intention: for a Christian response to bioethical challenges, that Christians facing new bioethical challenges may continue to defend the dignity of all human life with prayer and action.

<https://stedsgod.com>

Trinity Trust Team

Like so many who work around the academic year, we staggered into the half term break, thankful for having delivered a full timetable of groups and programmes but welcoming a week in which to draw breath before the busy lead up to Easter. At the time of writing in mid-February, we are still unsure whether we will be able to deliver our school assemblies in-person this year but remain hopeful of doing so.

We are also excited at again being involved in the Good Friday Walk of Witness and short service of reflection on the High Street. We will share our drama 'The Bridge' that explains how the Cross was that bridge that allowed us into a right relationship with God once more so let's pray that there will be passers-by to hear the truth of the gospel on Godalming High Street.

Flexible hours/opportunities within the team

We would love to hear from anyone who has the experience and passion for youth ministry, or knows someone who has, and might be interested in joining the team. We will be happy to work with the hours that you might be able to offer as we have a flexible approach to recruitment to reflect the world of work around us. Do get in touch if interested: andytrinitytrustteam@hotmail.co.uk.

Please pray for:

- Continued opportunities to prosper the gospel in schools and communities and for plans for assemblies and performances in the lead up to Easter.
- 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. Our thanks and blessings to you all. Andy & the team.

Feba

This media organisation has partners in most of the world's trouble spots and more places besides. If you would like to join them in prayer, please join a Zoom meeting on Wednesday 2 March at 19:00. Further details from Shelagh on jimdogshome@aol.com.

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 March**, for publication on Friday 25 March.