



April 2022

LINK-UP

Keeping Churches in Touch

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Message from the Chair

This month we commemorate the passion and death of our Lord Jesus Christ, and his resurrection to new life, bringing the message of salvation for all people. The message is also one of hope for the future in these increasingly difficult and uncertain times.

The Russian military action in the Ukraine will bring a number of Ukrainian refugees to our country and our own community. Our task is to welcome them, and to help them resettle, working with national and local government and the relevant voluntary organisations. Some of our churches are developing their own initiatives as part of this response. Churches Together stands ready to perform a co-ordinating role if that would help.

At the same time, more and more people are struggling to cope with the rising cost of living in relation to their essential food and energy needs. The St Mark's Foodbank is there to help people in difficulty, but they are very short of supplies and also their cash reserves are low. Please support their work if you can. More details below.

We can express our faith, hope, and love in so many ways, including our public witness as individual churches and through Churches Together. We welcome you to the Good Friday Service of Witness, for which we still need some help on the day (see below), and also to the Sunrise Service on Easter Day at 6:45 in Minster Field.

In times like these, I am reminded of the prayer of Archbishop Desmond Tutu:

"Goodness is stronger than evil;
Love is stronger than hate;
Light is stronger than darkness;
Life is stronger than death;
Victory is ours through Him who loves us."

James Toon, Chair of Churches Together in Godalming and District

Good Friday Witness – help needed

On Good Friday, we will be holding a short Service of Witness in the High Street from 11:30 to 12:00.

Waverley Borough Council has allowed us to close the High Street from 11:15 to 12:15, and Godalming Town Council are helping with signs and providing the key to the barrier.

However, we do need a number people to help at various points in the day.

- Cones will be put out about 8:00 but we need people to be by the unloading bay from 9:30 to 10:30, or 10:30 to 11:00, to ensure the coned area is kept in place and to hand out leaflets.
- We need people to act as stewards during the service to hand out orders of service, small crosses, and leaflets.

- After the service we will need people to be by the wooden cross in half-hour slots from 12:00 to 14:00 to hand out crosses and direct people to Godalming Baptist Church.

Please let Michael Stubbs know how you can help: michaeleashing@aol.com or 01483 427122.

Cash donations to St Mark's Foodbank

From time to time the foodbank needs to buy specific items for customers that they don't have in stock. Unfortunately, cash reserves are low, and the foodbank is appealing for financial donations as well as goods. To give money, please donate by BACS to St Marks Community Centre, sort code 402212, a/c 91277766, or send cheques to St Marks, Franklyn Road, Godalming GU7 2LD.

Christian Aid Week 15 to 21 May 2022

While Christian Aid is part of the disaster fund supporting the terrible situation in Ukraine, they still need support and funding for their ongoing projects. Christian Aid Week this year focuses on helping mothers in Zimbabwe hungry to provide food for their families. Muriel Clark is organising a collection on Godalming High Street, on behalf of Churches Together in Godalming and District, on Friday 20 May. Please contact her on 01483 424286 if you are able to help with this.

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 one-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 10 April, 10:00 – Palm Sunday Holy Communion Service
- Maundy Thursday 14 April, 19:00 – Holy Communion Service
- Good Friday 15 April, time to be advised – Reflective Service
- Easter Eve 16 April, 20:00 – Vigil
- Sunday 17 April, 10:00 – Easter Sunday Communion Service
- Sunday 24 April, 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

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.

Work continues apace on the Minster evaluation with the Steering Group and Working Groups continue to meet regularly.

We are grateful 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. Activities commence after the Easter break on Sunday 24 April.

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. Activities commence after the Easter break on Wednesday 20 April.

Alpha Course

The next Alpha Course will commence with supper in the Octagon at St Peter and St Paul's Church on Wednesday 27 April 2022 at 19:30. 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 us. <https://parishofgodalming.org.uk/alpha-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. Activities commence after the Easter break on Wednesday 20 April.

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.

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.

Easter Services

- Maundy Thursday Service at 18:30
- Good Friday Service at 9:30
- Easter Sunday Communion at 10:00.

Community Fun Day at St Mark's

On Sunday 24 April from 11:30 to 13:30 we are holding a Community Fun Day to which everyone is welcome. Please could you help by donating plants, bottles for the bottle tombola, and baking cakes for the cake stall. There will be various activities for adults and children, refreshments and a BBQ. Any offers of help, including help running a stall, will be warmly welcomed. For more information, please contact Reverend Sheila Samuels.

Cream Tea and Musical Accompaniment, 24 April from 15:00

Gillian Martin is arranging a Cream Tea with music being provided by harpist Margaret Watson at St Mark's. All proceeds will be shared between St Peter and St Paul's Church and St Mark's Church.

For more information about St Peter and St Paul's Church with St Mark's Church, please visit our website www.parishofgodalming.org.uk

www.parishofgodalming.org.uk

St John's Parish Church, Farncombe

Apart from our Easter services and a wedding and renewal-of-vows or two, our big focus in April will be the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on Sunday 24 April. We will be appointing to

several posts, and in the year ahead face some major decisions about finance, assets and focus of resources. Please keep us in your prayers. We are also hoping to play our part in our community's efforts to welcome refugees from Ukraine, and are keeping in touch with the other groups and organisations (including fellow churches) working on this.

www.farncombe.org.uk

Busbridge&Hambleton Church

BHC4Ukraine

Busbridge&Hambleton Church has gathered a team to coordinate church and local support for hosts and families arriving from Ukraine. The group aims to:

- Link with council, community and hosts
- Support host families with practical help
- Organise fundraising and supplies.

The church is also involved with Hambleton Village which has started a village appeal for Ukraine.

Updates will be posted on the new BHC4Ukraine page: www.bhcgodalming.org/bhc4ukraine, and there is contact information for churches to liaise and pool efforts with Busbridge&Hambleton too.

Godalming Minster Evaluation

For background information and latest updates see www.bhcgodalming.org/godalming-minster-evaluation.

Easter "Letting the Light Shine"

There's lots on, and events and services have been loosely categorised into 3 areas: Reflect, Connect and Celebrate to help people journey through Holy Week to Easter, and offer ways to observe reverently, connect with each other and then celebrate on Easter Day.

This includes two great outdoorsy things for children and families on Easter Saturday, 16 April, which are community and outreach focused: 10:00 Hambleton Messy Easter – meet at Hambleton Village hall, and 15:00 Busbridge Easter Garden service with Easter Egg hunt.

www.bhcgodalming.org

Hascombe St Peter with St Mary & All Saints Dunsfold

Hascombe St Peter with St Mary & All Saints Dunsfold are delighted to announce the appointment of Rev Rutton Viccajee as priest in charge until 31 January 2024. He will be installed by the Archdeacon of Surrey on Palm Sunday, 10 April. Rutton has been covering our services during the interregnum and during a period of sick leave of the former priest. In two years' time it is hoped there will be a full-time resident priest in place.

Godalming Baptist Church

Easter services

- 14 April, 19:00 - Maundy communion service, led by Peter Jackson
- 15 April, 10:30 - Good Friday service
- 17 April, 10:00 – Easter morning service.

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!

New initiative for pastoral assistants

We are starting a new initiative for pastoral assistants and those involved in pastoral care from across our churches. This will be an opportunity to meet quarterly for prayer, coffee and training in aspects of pastoral care. Suzette Jones is kindly leading our first session 'Focusing on mental health after COVID' at Godalming Baptist Church on Friday 29 April from 10:00 until 12:00. Please contact Sally Pollard on 01483 428646 or email pollard3@hotmail.co.uk if you are involved in pastoral care and would like to come. Cost is £5 per person.

Art space

A reminder too that we have a monthly Art Space on Saturday 9 April. Do come and bring friends, neighbours and family members for a relaxing morning of arts and crafts. Please join us anytime from 9:30 onwards and finishing by 12:00. Do bring your art and craft materials with you. Lots of coffee and tea provided – cost £1 per person. A warm welcome awaits! Contact Sally as above.

Decision making and the Will of God

Andy Peck is leading 'Decision Making and the Will of God' on Saturday 23 April from 9:30 to 13:00 (coffee from 9:00) at GBC. Cost £5 per person. This promises to be such an encouraging and thought-provoking morning. To book a place please contact Sally as above. Please do book early as numbers are restricted now for safety purposes.

Outing to Winchester

There are still places on our coach outing to Winchester on Thursday 28 April. Do call in for more information at GBC-reception, open every weekday morning, or contact Peter Knottley on 01483 428073. It promises to be a great day out!

We wish everyone a very happy and blessed Easter from the fellowship at GBC.

Godalming Community Gospel Choir Easter Unplugged Concert

The Godalming Community Gospel Choir (GCGC) invites you to share with us the joy and good news of Easter at our Easter Unplugged Concert on Saturday 2 April at 19:30 at Godalming Baptist Church, Queen Street, Godalming. Tickets £8 in advance from Record Corner (cash only) or £10 on the door (cash only).

Open the book

We are looking for folk to join our 'open the book' team to do a monthly 10-minute Christian story through drama for a local school on a Monday afternoon. This is an ecumenical outreach so if this is something that might be of interest, please contact catherine@lawtonfamily.net.

www.godalmingbaptistchurch.org.uk

Godalming United Church

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

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

It was with great joy that on 20 March we celebrated the 100th birthday of Bill Cartwright – in church on a perfect spring morning to receive our best wishes.

Easter Events

- Saturday 9 April: Messy Church 15:00 to 17:00 - Easter Egg Trail - Family fun for all ages. Easter gardens, crafts, games, story and songs, party tea messy.church@guc.org.uk.
- Maundy Thursday, 14 April 19:00 - Holy Communion in the Upper Room
- Easter Sunday Holy Communion at 10:30.

www.guc.org.uk

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

On the Feast of the Annunciation on 25 March, Pope Francis consecrated Ukraine and Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, calling on the intercession of Our Blessed Mother for peace. This was an important day for everyone, and all parishes are invited to offer continuing prayers for peace and Holy Hours within their own respective churches. There will be a specific prayer for peace in Ukraine during the Solemn Intercessions at the Celebration of the Passion of the Lord on Good Friday. Masses in our parish will continue to be offered for peace in Ukraine.

Lenten Devotions

Our Lenten Devotions continue until Holy Week:

- Adoration, Sung Evening Prayer, 16:30 at St Edmund's on Sundays.
- Exposition / Holy Hour on Wednesdays, 16:00 to 17:00, at St Joseph's, Milford.
- Stations of the Cross on Fridays at 19:00 at St Joseph's, Milford.
- Early Morning Mass at 7:30 at St Edmund's, most often on a Friday.

Pizza and Prayer during Lent for young people

Fr Jonathan invites young people in Year 9 or above to join him for pizza and prayer at 18:30 on Sunday evenings in Lent at St Edmund's. More information: 01483 416880.

CAFOD Walk against Hunger during Lent

Our parish team of 30 walkers are well on their way (virtually) to Sierra Leone, to raise funds for people around the world who suffer from malnutrition and go hungry every day. So far, they have covered 3,171 km of the total 6,330km and raised £401. The team has a JustGiving page: <https://walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/jo-and-julian-walk-against-hunger>. *'Let us not only keep the poor of the future in mind, but also today's poor, whose life on this earth is brief and who cannot keep on waiting'*. Pope Francis, Laudate Si 162.

Parish Prayer Group during Lent

On Mondays at 17:00, the group is exploring Carmody Grey's York Course booklet 'God has no favourites'. More information from Richard: 01252 702230.

SVP April Afternoon Tea

This will be on Wednesday 13 April at 14:30 at the United Reformed Church, Elstead (to book phone Janet on 07990 717067).

April prayer breakfast

Parishioners Richard and Hilary Grey have kindly offered to host the Churches Together in Godalming and District prayer breakfast on Saturday 23 April at 8:30 in the Barn at the Old Farmhouse in Elstead, GU8 6DB.

Wintershall Passion of Jesus on Good Friday in Trafalgar Square

The Wintershall players offer an electric and moving portrayal of the final days of Jesus in a 90-minute production which is free of charge - and no booking is required either! There are two performances: at 12:00 and 15:15, and the production is open air with visibility maximised using large screens. If you haven't yet experienced this, it's highly recommended and well worth the journey.

News from our Live Simply group

The Live Simply group has compiled a Ten-Step Guide to Living Simply, to help us focus our actions, inspire us and remind us of the different ways in which we can have a positive impact on the environment by making simple changes. Step 7 is 'Walk & Cycle more, Drive less, whenever you can'. To sign up for our monthly Live Simply e-newsletter email the parish office: godalming@abdiocese.org.uk.

Live Simply recycling tip

Did you know that most soft plastics can now be recycled? Drop them off at collection points at the Co-op in Farncombe or Sainsburys. Otherwise, they end up in landfill sites, release carbon gas and contribute to the ongoing climate crisis.

...And if you are on Facebook, please follow our parish: [@stedsgod](https://www.facebook.com/stedsgod).

<https://stedsgod.com>

Feba

Please contact Shelagh on jimdogshome@aol.com for details of the next Feba Zoom prayer meeting, probably on Wednesday 6 April from 19:00 to 20:00. This media organisation has partners in many of the world's trouble spots including those we pray for just now.

Items for next month's Link-up

Please send items for the May 2022 edition of *Link-up* to Matt Farrow: farrow.matt@gmail.com by **Friday 22 April**, for publication on Friday 29 April.