



May 2022

LINK-UP

Keeping Churches in Touch

www.godalmingchurches.org

facebook.com/ChurchesTogetherinGodalmingandDistrict

Message from the Chair

We were pleased to share in two lovely services over Easter, the Good Friday Service of Witness on Godalming High Street, and the Easter Day Sunrise Service at the Minster Field. Both events were very well supported. Photos are on our Facebook page. Thank you also to Richard Grey for hosting the Prayer Breakfast in Elstead on Saturday 23 May.

In May we look forward to the Ascension Day Service, 6.00pm at St John's Farncombe on Thursday 26 May. This service of Evening Prayer will be led by Rev James Rattue (St John's) and Fr Jonathan How (RC Church). The Prayer Breakfast on Saturday 28 May will take place at St John's Farncombe at 8.30am.

The Churches Together Executive Committee meets on Monday 16 May to prepare for the Council meeting on Wednesday 8 June.

James Toon, Chair of Churches Together in Godalming and District

Christian Aid Week 15 to 21 May 2022

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 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 1 May, 8.00am – Holy Communion Service (BCP) followed by a light breakfast in the Octagon. 10.00am – All-Age Service
- Sunday 8 May, 10.00am – Holy Communion Service with members of Busbridge and Hambledon Churches

- Sunday 15 May, 10.30am – Contemporary Service at Busbridge Church - **no services at St Peter & St Paul or St Mark's**
- Sunday 22 May, 10.00am – Holy Communion Service
- Sunday 29 May, 10.00am – Holy Communion Service followed by APCM.

Every Tuesday at 12.00pm, 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 to 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 10.00am 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 10.00am to 11.00am 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

The next Alpha Course began with supper in the Octagon at St Peter and St Paul's Church on Wednesday 27 April 2022 at 7.30pm. 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 10.00am. 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, from 9.00am to 11.00am. The aim is to offer a welcoming space for toddlers and parents to socialise and meet new people and make friends. Activities commenced 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. 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 12.00pm until 2.30pm. 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.

Report on fundraising afternoon

On Sunday 24 April, members of St Mark's and St Peter & Paul's churches enjoyed a concert given by Margaret Watson, a celebrated harpist. They were joined by members of several local community groups, and a cream tea, ably provided by family and friends, rounded off a pleasant afternoon. Donations will be made to both churches.

www.parishofgodalming.org.uk

St John's Parish Church, Farncombe

We were delighted to be able to celebrate Easter fully in our usual way for the first time since 2019, and on Easter Day had our highest number of communicants since the pandemic began.

We held our Annual Parish Meeting on Sunday 24 April, and look forward to another year of trying to be part of God's people in Farncombe as best we can.

We are aware of refugees from Ukraine beginning to arrive in the area and have congregational links with one while other church members have applied to be hosts through the Government system and are waiting to hear more. We look forward to working with them and with the secular groups and agencies too to give what support we can.

www.farncombe.org.uk

Busbridge&Hambleton Church

The Yew Tree Café at Busbridge Church opened on 23 March and welcomes all visitors from 8.30am to 4.00pm on weekdays, and from 10.00am to 2.00pm on Saturdays. The takeaway hatch and terrace are open until 4.30pm too. It's a wonderful space, serving barista coffee and delicious handmade cakes and snacks, with a team of volunteers available to chat and make visitors feel at home. It's been great to see a steady flow of visitors including old friends and new faces. Please come along and try it.

www.bhcgodalming.org

Godalming Baptist Church

Connect Breakfast for Women, Saturday 21 May, 9.00am to 11.00am

You are warmly invited to have breakfast with us at the Jack Phillips, Wetherspoons, followed by our speaker, Canon Hazel Whitehead, who has written a book entitled *God in Lockdown* and will share thoughts of these times. It promises to be a very worthwhile morning. Numbers **must** be given by Sunday 15 May. Contact Sally Pollard on 01483 428646 or email pollard3@hotmail.co.uk.

Bereavement Service, Sunday 22 May, 2.30pm to 3.30pm

Led by Rev Peter Jackson, followed by refreshments at Godalming Baptist Church. You are warmly invited to join us for this reflective Service for everyone who has lost loved ones, friends or neighbours at any time. Please contact Sally Pollard as above.

Advance dates for June

Saturday 4 June, 10.00am to 1.00pm – Coffee morning and floral/memorabilia displays, children's craft and 1950s children's games to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Please do join us at GBC – a warm welcome awaits!

Saturday 25 June, 10.00am to 12.00pm (coffee from 9.30am) – Life Issue: Autism, led by Suzette Jones. Please do join us for an informative session in understanding autism. Cost £5 per person. Places are limited so please book early! Contact details: Sally Pollard – as above.

Volunteers wanted

We are seeking volunteers to be part of children's ecumenical outreach with a monthly assembly at Moss Lane School, so if you are free for an hour once a month on a Monday afternoon, do consider joining in this important opportunity. Text Catherine on 07973 927233 or email 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 gladness that we once again journeyed through Holy Week together – the joy of Messy Church, the reflection of our sombre Upper Room Maundy Communion and of course the jubilation of Easter Sunday.

Events in May

- Sunday 15 May – Soup and fruit lunch after morning service marking the start of Christian Aid Week – Street collection in High Street on Friday 20 May. Contact 01483 424286
- Saturday 21 May – Messy Church, 3.00pm to 5.00pm. Family fun for all ages - crafts, games, story and songs, party tea. messy.church@guc.org.uk

Further ahead

We hope to have the collecting trailer for the Whitechapel Mission for the Homeless once again in late June/early July. Start collecting your items - especially men's clothing - now!

www.guc.org.uk

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

Celebrating the Ascension

In this season following Easter we look towards the Ascension of the Lord, which we celebrate on Thursday 26 May, with Mass at 10.00am at St Joseph's Milford, and 7.30pm at St Edmund's Godalming; and with Evening Prayer for Ascension Day at St John's at 6.00pm.

Mass times

Weekend Masses are celebrated at St Edmund's (6.00pm Vigil Mass) on Saturday evening; and on Sundays at St John's Farncombe at 8.45am (with Children's Liturgy every Sunday, and Coffee after Mass on Sundays 1 and 15 May); and St Joseph's Milford at 10.30am.

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

Our parish family celebrates four First Holy Communion Masses on Sunday 8 and 15 May, at which over 30 children in our parish receive Holy Communion for the first time, having prepared for this important moment at monthly sessions from September last year.

Fundraising for Kasanka

We start with a roving Cake Sale, organised by our Live Simply group, to raise funds for Kasanka, our twin parish in Zambia where the Ladywell Convent FMDM Sisters have a mission.

We will be selling home-baked cakes after each Mass on Saturday 30 April and Sunday 1 May. Donations of cakes – and funds – are greatly welcomed. Please contact Mary on 01483 428031 if you are able to help.

Our Kasanka fundraising continues with a Plant Sale at St Joseph's Church over the weekend of 21 and 22 May, held in memory of Pete Kelly RIP. If you are able to donate plants, fruit and veg seedlings and cuttings, we would love to hear from you. Please contact Jo on 07920 180495. Please come along to support the sale – there is plenty of parking at the church and the plants are on sale outside the church all through the weekend.

Parish Summer Alpha Programme

We are delighted to be running this course again, which offers an opportunity to explore life and the Christian faith in a friendly and informal environment. The course runs on Sunday evenings from 1 May from 7.00pm to 9.00pm, and each session includes supper, a short film and discussion. Full details and sign-up are on our website www.stedsgod.com (scroll down the home page).

This course is open to everyone and is the ideal tonic to renew and to inspire you, especially if you feel your faith has waned as a result of recent world events. And, if you know of anyone who might like to come too, please invite them or offer to come along with them – as the greatest gift we can give a fellow human is faith, a gift which can last for eternity. For more information: Nicki and Alan on 01483 420859 or at alio@btinternet.com.

Invited Season II - and an invitation to supper with Fr Jonathan

This is the second season of the Diocesan mission 'Growing in Faith', which launched on Easter Monday. Every Monday a new hour-long film is released online at <https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/invited> with an inspiring talk from some great speakers and wonderful testimony. This is followed up by a Thursday conversation at 7.30pm on 5, 12 and 19 May, leading us into Ascension and Pentecost, and it comes with an invitation from Fr Jonathan to join him at 7.00pm at 19 Croft Road for supper, prayer and conversation about the episode of the week. If you would like to join him for one of these, please drop him an email: pp.godalming@abdiocese.org.uk.

Parish Forum, Wednesday 18 May, 8.00pm, with refreshments served from 7.30pm

This is an opportunity for an update on what's going on in the parish, to discuss plans and finance and to offer some feedback. Forum meetings take place two or three times a year, and all parishioners are warmly invited.

Parish gatherings

Our regular parish gatherings continue during May, and we offer a warm welcome to all:

- Bumps & Babes on Mondays at 10.30am at St John's, Farncombe
- SVP Afternoon Tea on Wednesday 12 May at 2.30pm at the United Reformed Church, Elstead (to book phone Janet on 07990 717067)
- Prayer Group on Monday evenings at 5.00pm (phone Richard on 01252 703830)
- Live Simply meeting on Monday 9 May at 7.30pm (email: jolewry@aol.com).

If you would like help with getting to Mass or attending parish events, please get in touch with Alan on 01483 420859.

Prayer for Ukraine

We continue to pray for peace in Ukraine, and share this prayer from the Catholic Bishops Conference of England & Wales – www.cbcew.org.uk/pray-for-peace-in-ukraine.

Almighty and Great God, accept our gratitude for your boundless mercy towards us.

Hear the supplication of our afflicted hearts for the land and people of Ukraine, as they confront foreign aggression and invasion.

Open the eyes of those who have been overtaken by a spirit of deception and violence, that they be horrified by their works.

Grant victory over the powers of evil that have arisen, and bless Ukraine with your gifts of liberty, peace, tranquillity and good fortune.

We implore you, O Merciful God, look with grace upon those who courageously defend their land.

Remember the mothers and fathers, the innocent children, widows and orphans, the disabled and helpless, those seeking shelter and refuge, who reach out to you and to their fellow human beings looking for mercy and compassion.

Bless the hearts of those who have already shown great generosity and solidarity, and those who prepare to receive their Ukrainian brothers and sisters in Ukraine's greatest time of need.

Bring us together as your children, your creation, and instil in us your strength, wisdom and understanding.

May you be praised and glorified, now and forever, and to the ages of ages.

Amen.

<https://stedsgod.com>

Godalming Quakers

This spring, Friends have delighted in holding a number of Sunday worship sessions outdoors – whenever the weather is sunny and dry – in the beautiful walled garden of the Godalming Quaker Meeting House.

A series of circular walks started in February, with plans to continue through the Summer and into Autumn. It is hoped that at least one of these will include a visit to the new Yew Tree Café at Busbridge Church.

godalming.quakermeeting.org

Feba

To join a Zoom prayer meeting for this Christian media organisation with partners in most of the newsworthy areas in the world, please contact Shelagh on jimdogshome@aol.com for contact details. Our next meeting will be on 4 May at 7.00pm.

Items for next month's Link-up

Please send items for the June 2022 edition of *Link-up* to Matt Farrow: farrow.matt@gmail.com by **Friday 20 May**, for publication on Friday 27 May.