



July 2022

LINK-UP

Keeping Churches in Touch

www.godalmingchurches.org

facebook.com/ChurchesTogetherinGodalmingandDistrict

Message from the Chair

One of the issues currently engaging the Executive Committee is the effect of the pandemic on ecumenical activity in our area. In a sense we are now living in a post-pandemic society with the emphasis on returning to life as normal, and living with the virus, even as Covid infections are rising again in the UK. Our churches began to re-open a year ago and our ecumenical work resumed. I don't know how the pandemic has affected the attendance at our individual member churches, but I sense that the churches are naturally focusing on nurturing and rebuilding their own congregations. No-one doubts the value of what we do as Churches Together but it is less of a priority.

This may explain the lower attendance at some of our events – for example the Ascension Day service in May, and our internal Council meetings. But it's not so simple. The Jubilee Songs of Praise held at St Peter & St Paul Godalming in early June was very well-attended, and the Good Friday Service of Witness in April brought together many church members as well as attracting the public. So there are clearly other factors in play. Still, we need to keep working to demonstrate the relevance and importance of ecumenical activity in conditions as we currently find them.

Please remember in your prayers the PCCs of St Peter and St Paul Godalming and St Mark's Ockford Ridge, and St John's Busbridge and St Peter's Hambledon, as they meet on 11 July to take an important decision about their future. If the proposals are agreed, they will become a single united parish while continuing to exist as individual churches, effectively creating a Minster. This will affect how they operate internally and also how they engage with our other member churches. At our next Council meeting on 26 October, we will be discussing the implications of the new Minster church (if agreed) for ecumenical activity in our area.

Also at the Council meeting we will have some input from an external speaker. Grace Keal, the Ecumenical Coordinator for Churches Together in Surrey, will be talking about her role, and giving us a wider perspective on the successes and challenges faced by Churches Together groups in other areas. This should be interesting.

James Toon, Chair of Churches Together in Godalming and District

News of the Churches and organisations

Parish of Godalming

St Peter & St Paul

Sunday 3 July, 10.00am – All Age Service

Sunday 10 July, 10.00am – Holy Communion Service

Sunday 17 July, 10.00am – Holy Communion Service

Sunday 24 July, 10.00am – Holy Communion Service

Sunday 31 July, 10.00am – Holy Communion Service

Every Tuesday at 12.00pm we offer a short, said Holy Communion service with a Thought for the Day homily.

A Vision for Godalming

The parish of St Peter & St Paul (including St. Mark's Church) is continuing to explore with Busbridge and Hambledon Churches the possibility of creating a single Anglican parish for Godalming. St Peter & St Paul would become a Minster Church, and Godalming previously had a significant Minster ministry of love, care, proclamation, teaching, worship, and presence. We continue to seek God's guidance and wisdom as we move towards the decision for this Vision to progress, which will be made in July.

Children's ministry

Sunday Club is an all-age group for children aged 3 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.

We will be taking a break over the school summer holidays. For more details of our activities please contact Sarah Bryans at godalming.church.office@gmail.com.

Baby Group

The baby group (newborn to crawlers) has got off to a great start at St Peter & St Paul 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.

The last session for Octots will be on 18 July, and the last session for the Baby Group will be on 20 July. Both these sessions will be held in the Rectory Garden. Please speak to Vickie for more details.

Alpha Course

The current Alpha Course began 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 for our next Alpha Course, which will begin in the Autumn Term – <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 church-led activity is for parents and toddlers at St Mark's. The group meets on Wednesdays, running from 9.00am to 11.00am. The aim is to offer a welcoming space for toddlers and parents to socialise, 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 12.00pm 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.

www.parishofgodalming.org.uk

St John's Parish Church, Farncombe

At St John's we continue to grapple with some complex practical issues including property matters and fire safety – apparently only remotely linked to the Kingdom but necessary nevertheless! We continue to consider outreach initiatives, but it may be that the immediate future is not the right time to be launching anything new, as people's lives are still so uncertain.

www.farncombe.org.uk

Busbridge&Hambleton Church

On 11 July the PCCs of Busbridge, Hambleton and St Peter and St Paul's with St Mark's will each vote on the proposal made by the Minster Evaluation Steering Group for the unification of the parishes, as to whether to proceed with the process. Substantial work and prayer has fed into the process and we are grateful for the collaboration between members of the 4 churches involved.

Youth & Children

Busbridge&Hambleton Church has received a good response to the ad for a new Director of Youth and Children – Youth Minister, as we say goodbye to Anto Ficatier on 3 July. Interviews will take place shortly. The ad for a 4-11s Children's worker has been less fruitful, and BHC would appreciate the support of other local churches in sharing the job spec here: <https://www.bhcgodalming.org/vacancies/2022/6/1/childrens-worker-4-11s-pt>. Simon Taylor would be delighted to speak to anyone about the role, and to discuss the terms and specification.

Hearing Aid Clinics

Hearing Aid Clinics offering free NHS hearing aid maintenance and replacement batteries are now back up and running at Busbridge in the Old Rectory, Godalming Library and are returning soon to Hambleton Church. Refreshments and a chat come with the service! For details see <https://www.bhcgodalming.org/hearing-aid-clinic>.

www.bhcgodalming.org

Godalming Baptist Church

For Summer Reading!

Do come and browse and borrow a book from our Library. We have some great authors with books to equip, challenge and build you up in faith and also books on various life issues. Please ring Reception on 01483 414544 Monday to Friday 9.00am to 12.00pm to check if the library is free to browse in.

Please note that on Mondays and Fridays we have folk from Ukraine learning English in the Library so the room is not free. Do call in on other days and borrow a book!

Outing to Chichester and Bosham, Thursday 28 July, open to everyone

Please do join us with friends, family and neighbours too! It promises to be a great day out visiting Chichester and then on to Bosham. Booking forms are available in reception at GBC Monday to Friday mornings during term time or contact Christine and Pete Knottley 01483 428073 for more information.

Advance dates for your diaries!

On Friday 2 September from 7.00pm to 9.00pm, Philip Friend is returning to Godalming Baptist Church to give us some culinary delights with his cooking demo! Open to men and women!

On Friday 23 September from 7.00pm to 9.00pm, we have a fascinating evening going back in time Navigating the River Wey from Weybridge to Godalming using vintage pictures telling its fascinating history led by David Rose. Open to men and women!

We also have a vital Life Issue event on Saturday 10 September from 9.30am to 12.30pm (coffee from 9.00am) - 'Compassion Fatigue' focussing on how to protect ourselves while constantly giving out to others. Could you be running on empty? Jayne Ellis, a brilliant, recommended speaker will lead our morning. Find out how to react to the symptoms of compassion fatigue and how to strengthen your emotional resilience. Do come and pass the event on to others.

Save the date in 2023! After nearly 4 years, we are delighted to let you know that once again we are having an Away Day for women in the beautiful surroundings of Ladywell Convent on Saturday 13 May 2023 with an inspiring Speaker – Canon Revd Hazel Whitehead who will lead our day. Hazel spoke recently at our Breakfast at The Jack Phillips, and we were all inspired! The day will include a delicious buffet lunch and afternoon tea and cake. Do come! This is a wonderful opportunity to join together ecumenically and to come away from the busy demands of life. Cost £25 per person to include the hiring of the Conference Room, Buffet lunch and afternoon tea and cake and a contribution to the speaker's lunch and travel expenses.

To book for any of the above events, please contact Sally Pollard on 01483 428646 or email pollard3@hotmail.co.uk.

www.godalmingbaptistchurch.org.uk

Godalming United Church

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

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

Annual collection for the Whitechapel Mission for the Homeless, 1 to 11 July

The Mission is entirely dependent on public support, and the pandemic and cost of living crisis mean that its need has never been greater - www.whitechapel.org.uk.

Items needed

Non-perishable breakfast foods: Peanut Butter, Nutella, Ketchup, Brown Sauce, Baked Beans, Plum/Chopped Tomatoes, Sugar, Instant Hot Chocolate, Chocolate Spread, Coffee, Biscuits, Squash, Honey, Jam (also Breakfast Cereals, Bottled Water).

Men's Clothing: Underpants/boxers, jeans 28"-36", trainers, shoes, trousers 28"-34", socks (also woollen scarves, winter coats, jumpers, woollen hats & scarves, baseball caps, t-shirts).

Toiletries: Razors, Shaving Foam, Shower Gel, Spray/Roll-on Deodorant, Shampoo.

Other items: Blankets, Small Rucksacks, Bath/Hand Towels.

Collection times at Godalming United Church, Bridge Road GU7 3DU

Fri 1 July, 12.00pm to 1.30pm

Sat 2 July, 10.30am to 12.00pm

Sun 3 July, 11.20am to 12.30pm

Tues 5 July, 2.00pm to 3.00pm

Wed 6 July, 6.00pm to 7.00pm

Sat 9 July, 10.30am to 12.00pm, 2.00pm to 3.00pm

Fri 8 July, 12.00pm to 1.30pm

Sun 10 July, 11.30am to 12.30pm

Mon 11 July, 7.00pm to 8.00pm

Any queries, contact Ryan on 01483 423261.

Messy Church

"Waterside Fun" – Saturday 2 July, 3.00pm to 5.00pm, messy.church@guc.org.uk

Church Anniversary, Sunday 17 July, 10.30am

Service led by Revd Adam Payne followed by lunchtime BBQ, strawberries & cream and afternoon entertainments. Contact frymaile@gmail.com to reserve your place.

www.guc.org.uk

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

Pope Francis's Intention for July is "that we pray for the elderly, who represent the roots and memory of a people; may their experience and wisdom help young people to look towards the future with hope and responsibility."

CAFOD's 'Fix the Food System'

Jo Lewry will be speaking about this new campaign at St John's after 8.45am Mass on Sunday 3 July. The global food system is broken; it doesn't work for those who work the hardest and it's a major driver of the climate emergency. CAFOD are calling on the UK Government to support alternative food systems, rather than continuing to focus support on agribusiness, and urge us to add our voice by emailing the Foreign Secretary Liz Truss using the email template at <https://cafod.org.uk/Campaign/Fix-the-food-system>.

Fairtrade Sales at St John's

We are delighted to be able to resume Fairtrade sales on the first Sunday of the month after 8.45am Mass at St John's, starting on Sunday 3 July, and hope in time to be able to offer Fairtrade sales at St Edmund's and St Joseph's.

St Edmund's School PSA Summer Fest

This will take place on Saturday 9 July from 1.00pm to 4.00pm. Lots of stalls, events and refreshments for family fun, so please come along and support this annual event at St Edmund's Catholic Primary School, The Drive, Godalming, GU7 1PF. The School is now a designated Terracycle collection site for biscuit, cracker and cake wrappers. If you're not able to drop off at the school, don't forget that you can recycle soft plastics at collection points at Sainsbury's and the Co-op.

Supporting Foodbank

During July we have collection boxes at our churches for donations to the Foodbank at St Mark's as the school holidays are often a time of extra difficulty for young families.

Encouraging biodiversity and pollinators

Our Live Simply group is working on a project to create some beautiful wild spaces to attract pollinators. Two enterprising parishioners have designed and built some impressive planters, using recycled wood pallets, and during July these will be painted, planted and installed in the grounds of St Joseph's.

July Retreats at Ladywell Convent

Weekend retreat (15 to 17 July) on the theme of 'The Hebrew Scriptures through Franciscan Eyes – A look at Genesis and the Psalms', led by Dr Garrett Galvin, OFM and President of the Franciscan School of Theology in San Diego, USA. £240 resident/£180.00 non-resident.

Individually Guided Retreats led by the Franciscan Centre Team are on Monday 4 July and Monday 11 July, and you have the space to rest and spend time with God, pray, reflect and consider where God is leading you, alongside a Spiritual Director. £75 day/£105 overnight and full board. Email: franciscancentre@ladywell.org.uk

Mass times and regular parish events and activities

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 Sunday 3 July and 17 July); 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

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

- Bumps & Babes on Mondays at 10.30am at St John's, Farncombe
- SVP Afternoon Tea on Wednesday 13 July at 2.30pm at the United Reformed Church, Elstead (to book phone Janet on 07990 717067)
- Prayer Group on Monday evenings at the later time of 7.45pm (phone Richard on 01252 703830)
- Live Simply meeting on Sunday 24 July at 2.30 (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.

<https://stedsgod.com>

Feba

Feba will be having its monthly prayer meeting on Zoom on Wednesday 6 July between 7.00pm and 8.00pm. To access the link, go to www.feba.org.uk, click on Prayer Focus, and then follow the links, or go to <https://zoom.us/j/562338208>

Items for next month's Link-up

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