



August 2022

LINK-UP

Keeping Churches in Touch

www.godalmingchurches.org

facebook.com/ChurchesTogetherinGodalmingandDistrict

Message from the Chair

July was a quiet month for Churches Together. Many people were away on holiday. It was a natural break in our activities, after a year in which we gradually returned to life as normal following the pandemic. It was also an opportunity for reflection: how can Churches Together best serve our member churches and communities as we prepare for another year? Do our current activities remain valid and useful? Is there anything we need to change?

Times of rest from activity enable us to focus on what really matters. I am reminded that the work of prayer supports and sustains everything we do. A previous Archbishop of Canterbury, William Temple, observed: "The right relation between prayer and conduct is not that conduct is supremely important and prayer may help it, but that prayer is supremely important and conduct tests it."

The monthly Prayer Breakfasts bring us together in a time of fellowship to thank God for his goodness and seek his direction as we plan for the future. The numbers attending vary, but there were not many at all at the July event. In a sense, quantum doesn't matter ("For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them" – Matthew 18:20), but we are missing an opportunity if we stay away. The next Prayer Breakfast is on Saturday 24 September and it would be good to see more people there.

Contemplative prayer, also known as Christian meditation, or the prayer of quiet, is a different kind of prayer and is not something we currently offer in Godalming. I would like to start a contemplative prayer group in September if there is enough interest. More details at the end of this edition of Link Up.

Returning to the programme, our next activity is the Worship in the Park service at Godalming Bandstand at 10.30am on Sunday 14 August. This is at the end of the Staycation week of activities. This enables us to come together in a public act of worship and to witness to the local community. The Cellar Café will be open for refreshments after the service. We do need some help of various kinds to make the event run smoothly, so if anyone is able to act as a steward, please let me know in the next few days.

James Toon, Chair of Churches Together in Godalming and District

07803 812094

james.toon@mac.com

News of the Churches and organisations

Parish of Godalming

St Peter & St Paul

Sunday 7 August, 10.00am – All Age Service with Baptism

Sunday 14 August, 10.30am – Staycation Service at Godalming Bandstand

Sunday 21 August, 10.00am – Holy Communion Service

Sunday 28 August, 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.

Godalming Minster

On Monday 11 July 2022 the PCCs of Busbridge Church, Hambledon Church and St Peter and Paul with St Mark's Churches voted on the proposal to unite and become a Minster Parish for the Godalming and wider area.

The PCC members are the Trustees of their parishes, so the matter was taken seriously, and they all spent considerable time in thought, preparation and prayer.

Now the Minster proposal has been passed by all PCCs by a clear individual and collective majority, there will be meetings over the coming weeks for all church members where details of the proposal will be fully explored with lots of opportunities for questions. We will also gather for more prayer times.

In the Autumn the PCCs' decision will be brought to special Archdeacon's APCMs across all the parishes for further prayer and ratification.

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's Church 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 is space for up to eight families. For more details, please contact Vickie at godalmingparishoctots@gmail.com. We look forward to seeing you in September.

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.

Alpha Course

St Marks Church will be hosting an Alpha Course starting on Thursday 15 September at 7.30pm with a meal, for 10 weeks. We'll take a break for half term on 24 October, and our final week will be 24 November. Details will come out shortly about the Alpha weekend. The course will be led by Keith Harper, a Licensed Lay Minister, and Rev Sheila Samuels.

For any queries email Sheila at curate.godalming@gmail.com or find details at parishofgodalming.org.uk/alpha-course or www.bhcgodalming.org

Smart Tots

This 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

We have given away quite a large amount of food to schools for local families to help them with rising costs, especially over the summer holidays when children are home. Please spread the word about the foodbank so we can help as many people as possible.

Any food donations are always gratefully received as we replenish our stock levels. If you would like to donate to the Foodbank have a look at the up to date info about what food items are needed at <https://parishofgodalming.org.uk>

You can also contact Karen Milton, our Community Centre Co-ordinator, at stmarkscentre@googlemail.com, who can provide more information too.

Foodbank Volunteers

If time is something you can donate, please join our current teams as a regular helper or as bank support when we have an emergency. Helpers provide a warm welcome and hospitality to people needing to use the foodbank. Helpers also help with stocking shelves and packing parcels. To volunteer and go through the process of becoming a foodbank helper please email Sheila at curate.godalming@gmail.com.

www.parishofgodalming.org.uk

St John's Parish Church, Farncombe

We were very pleased with the success of our first Forest Church venture on Sunday 24 July, in Willow Woods adjoining Long Gore and Northbourne. Forest Church events seem to vary massively between children's crafts (basically Messy Church but outdoors) and reflective hiking for adults, but ours was contemplative and quiet, a chance to reflect on the presence of God in the natural world. We will have another outing in October.

20 August is the Farncombe Village Show, which we host and organise, and hopefully it will be as well received as last year's, when it was the first big event staged locally after the end of the pandemic restrictions.

www.farncombe.org.uk

Busbridge&Hambleton Church

Job opportunity

Busbridge&Hambleton Church seeks an assistant manager for its café at Busbridge Church.

The role is part time: 22.5 hours per week, 3 days of 7.5 hours. Salary £9.90 per hour.

The Yew Tree Café opened in March 2022 and is now looking for a second assistant manager to work with the Manager and the volunteers, to make the Café a welcoming safe space, offering quality, with an emphasis on pastoral care, and outreach.

See: <https://www.bhcgodalming.org/vacancies/2021/7/20/yew-tree-caf-manager-f4nse>

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!

Retirement of Maureen Jones

Maureen Jones, our wonderful Friendship Lunch cook is retiring at the end of this year after many years of faithful service. Our heartfelt thanks to Maureen, who has worked tirelessly in cooking many delicious meals for those in our local community. Friendship Lunch is a wonderful opportunity in outreach to serve our community and we have a wonderful team who work so hard every fortnight to enable this to happen.

We are now looking for a cook for 2023! If you know anyone in the church or community who would be willing to work on Wednesday mornings, preparing and Thursdays 9.00am to 2.00pm on a fortnightly basis, please contact Sally Pollard on 01483 428646 or e-mail pollard3@hotmail.co.uk.

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>

Whitechapel Collection

Thank you to everyone who responded to our annual Whitechapel collection for the homeless – a stupendous collection as ever.

Church Anniversary

Our Church Anniversary made a welcome return on 17 July after two summers' absence - a riverside BBQ, strawberries and cream and afternoon family entertainments.

Messy Church, Monday 8 August, 10.30am to 12.30pm

"The Amazing Picnic", a Godalming Staycation event. Family activities, story-time and songs, bring-your-own-picnic lunch: messy.church@guc.org.uk

Sunday 14 August, no service

There will be no morning service at GUC on this day as we will be supporting the Churches Together Staycation service at the Burys Bandstand.

www.guc.org.uk

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

Fr Rajesh Minz has been appointed from September to serve the neighbouring parish of Haslemere, Hindhead and Chiddingfold, and to serve alongside Fr Jonathan How in Godalming.

Fr Rajesh will reside in Haslemere and will take the lead in the day-to-day pastoral care of Haslemere parish, and Fr Jonathan will continue to do so for Godalming. There is no intention to merge the two parishes, and the plan is for Fr Jonathan to celebrate Masses one weekend a month in the Haslemere parish, and for Fr Rajesh to do the same in Godalming. We pray that this new arrangement will bring many blessings to our priests and our parish.

SVP announces a special Summer Raffle

You could be in for a prize of £5,000 by supporting SVP this summer! SVP members will be selling raffle tickets after Mass during July and August to help raise funds for their work - offering friendship, practical assistance and everyday support to people in need in the Godalming area and nationally. Tickets cost £1 and cash prizes are £5000, £1000 and 15 prizes of £100. The draw is on 27 September, the Feast of St Vincent de Paul. The helpline number for the parish SVP group is 07379 108009.

Pizza and Prayer on Sunday evenings in the school hols with Fr Jonathan

For young people in Yr9+, dates will be on our parish calendar.

Feast of the Assumption, Sunday 14 August

It is always a pleasure to get together as a parish to celebrate this Feast (which is transferred to the Sunday this year), and Richard Grey has kindly offered to host a gathering on Sunday 14 August. Details will be on our parish calendar.

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 and Coffee after Mass on Sunday 7 August and 21 August); 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 August:

- SVP Afternoon Tea on Wednesday 10 August at 14:30 at the United Reformed Church, Elstead (to book phone Janet on 07990 717067)
- Fairtrade Sale at St John's after 8.45am Mass on Sunday 7 August.
- Prayer Group on Monday evenings at the later time of 7.45pm (phone Richard on 01252 703830).

Our Children's Liturgy and Bumps & Babes group start back after the summer on Sunday 11 and Monday 12 September.

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

Franciscan Centre at Ladywell Convent

Individually Guided Retreat from August 23 to August 31.

Led by the Franciscan Centre Team. You are welcome to stay for 8 days or make a shorter retreat if you would prefer. This Retreat offers you space to rest and reflect, and the opportunity to be accompanied by a Spiritual Director.

More information is available at: <https://franciscancentre.org.uk>.

<https://stedsgod.com>

Godalming Quakers

Godalming Quakers are continuing their current series of walks, which started in February. At the time of writing it is expected future rambles will include a visit to the Yew Tree Café at Busbridge Church, and one to Ladywell Convent.

On a different note, a plaque giving some of the history of the Quaker burial ground in Binscombe was recently reinstated to the site. This records that 161 members of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) were buried there between the years 1659 and 1790.

www.quaker.org.uk/meetings/godalming

Trinity Trust Team

We were delighted to be able to run our summer activities programme in-person again this year, with four fun-filled days of rollercoasters, karting, paintballing, kayaking, mega-boarding, archery, crate stacking and quad biking to finish the year in style. Huge thanks go to Catherine Lawton and Paul & Siobhan Walsh for driving the minibus as Andy Poulson is still on crutches after an Achilles tendon tear, never a good time, but in the summer term! A well-earned break for the team before an away day of reflection and prayer to herald in the autumn term – wishing you happy and blessed summers all.

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 in the coming school year and for new partnerships within local churches
- 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.

The Julian Meetings

The Julian Meetings:

- Foster the teaching and practice of contemplative prayer and meditation in the Christian tradition.
- Encourage people to practise contemplative prayer and meditation in their daily lives, and to explore ways of doing this which are appropriate for them.
- Support the individual ecumenical Julian Meetings – groups who meet regularly to practise Christian contemplative prayer and meditation together.

A Julian Meeting is usually 6–15 people of various denominations, both lay people and clergy. They meet regularly in a house, church or chapel. A brief reading, or piece of music, leads into about 30 minutes of silent contemplative prayer. This may be followed by a time for tea or

coffee and conversation. The ethos is to keep things simple. There is no fixed leadership, and as little administration as possible. They are free of charge.

The Julian Meetings movement was named after Julian of Norwich, a fourteenth century mystic. Her writings are sometimes used at meetings but JM is not associated with other organisations bearing her name – or indeed with any particular denomination.

What is contemplative prayer?

Contemplative prayer has been described as listening for God; opening ourselves to God; waiting silently upon God. Other descriptions are meditation, contemplation, centring prayer or 'the prayer of quiet'. In contemplative prayer we seek to be aware of the presence of God and to remain silently and attentively in that presence, completely open to God. It is not just that words are unnecessary, but that they may even get in the way. Prayer involves listening as well as speaking, but so often we do all the talking and God doesn't get a chance to talk to us! Simply 'being with God' like this is a very natural way of praying. It may be the only way we can pray when we're tired or ill. Some children pray in this way quite instinctively. So did the old man who explained why he sat in church for hours: 'I look at Him, He looks at me.'

Why join a Julian Meeting?

If we feel we need to learn how to be still with God, we might start with ways that have helped other people. Belonging to a group of people who meet regularly to pray in silence can both help and encourage us. We do not feel isolated. Prayerful silence is helped when two or three are together, and this complements our daily personal prayer. If we are having problems with our praying, sharing them can help us to grow through them. A Julian Meeting can provide these opportunities.

What next?

I would like to start a Julian Meeting in Godalming if enough people are interested. This would start in September, meeting once a month, on a Tuesday afternoon or evening depending on what suited those attending.

The meeting would be held in the Lady Chapel at St John the Evangelist, Farncombe, by kind permission of the Rector and PCC.

If this appeals to you, please contact me by the end of August.

James Toon
07803 812094
james.toon@mac.com

Items for next month's Link-up

Please send items for the September 2022 edition of *Link-up* to Matt Farrow: farrow.matt@gmail.com by **Friday 19 August**, for publication on Friday 26 August.