



January 2023

LINK-UP

Keeping Churches in Touch

www.godalmingchurches.org

facebook.com/ChurchesTogetherinGodalmingandDistrict

Message from the Chair

2022 was a busy year for Churches Together and 2023 promises to be the same. This edition of Link-Up provides details of many events that are member churches are hosting or supporting. I would draw attention to two Churches Together events: the United Service at St John's, Farncombe on Sunday 22 January, and the Prayer Breakfast at St Mark's on Saturday 28 January.

What has changed over the past year? The Russian invasion of Ukraine stands out. One of the consequences is the arrival of many Ukrainian refugees in Godalming and the surrounding area. Local families and communities have been very generous in supporting them and helping them to settle here. Let us continue to pray for an end to the conflict.

Also, life has been more difficult for many people over the past year as their economic circumstances have changed. We have a role to play in helping people to cope. Some of our member churches are opening during the week to provide a Warm Hub with food and drink. Is there more we can do?

James Toon, Chair of Churches Together in Godalming and District
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News of the Churches and organisations

Parish of Godalming

St Peter & St Paul

- Sunday 1 January, 10.00am – Holy Communion
- Sunday 8 January, 10.00am – Holy Communion
- Sunday 15 January, 10.00am – Holy Communion
- Sunday 22 January – United Service
- Sunday 29 January, 10.00am – Holy Communion.

Godalming Minster

Strategic planning continues as we enter this new year, building on the experiences of the past 12 months, including a Parish Strategy Day led by a specialist Diocesan team in November 2022. Fundamental areas being addressed for specific development include patronage, legalities (charity requirements, Parochial Church Council, Minster requirements, Synod etc), HR matters (Transfer of Undertakings, Protection of Employment, equality of pay and seniority), change management, buildings and leadership structure.

Octots

Our Toddler Group, Octots, meets on Mondays during term time from 10.00am to 11.30am in the Octagon. There are lots of play-based activities for children to use independently and with their adult (including slides, ride-ons, role play, puzzles, books and resources to explore). Hot drinks are served by our dedicated volunteers. We finish the session with songs and rhymes.

The group is currently full, with many waiting for a space. If you would like to be added to the waiting list, please email the Church Office at godalming.church.office@gmail.com.

Baby Group

The Baby Group (newborn to crawlers) is a popular group meeting 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 via the Church Office at godalming.church.office@gmail.com.

St Mark's Community Church & Centre

Sheila Samuels will be licensed as Associate Minister for Godalming Minister on 11 January at St Mark's Church by the Archdeacon of Surrey. The role involves continuing pioneering ministry on Ockford Ridge and Aaron's Hill and has a wider Godalming Minister brief for mission.

Services

All Sunday services at St Mark's 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 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, meet new people and make friends.

Alpha Course

On Thursday 26 January at 7.30pm, Busbridge&Hambledon Church and St Mark's Church are launching the Alpha Course at St Mark's. 'Stay Curious' postcard invitations to the January Alpha course will be available at all four Godalming Minister churches this Christmas. For more information visit www.bhc.godalming.org/alpha or www.parishofgodalming.org.uk/alpha-course/.

Churches Together Prayer Breakfast

The Churches Together monthly Prayer Breakfast will be held at St Mark's on Saturday 28 January at 8.30am.

Warm Hub

St Mark's Church and Community Centre will be a Warm Hub from 12.30pm to 4.00pm every Tuesday, with lunch from 12.30pm to 2.15pm. Drinks and cakes will be served until 3.15pm. There is no need to book: all are welcome.

Foodbank

The Foodbank list is updated each month on the website. Your financial donations are important to us, and if you would like to donate, please contact Karen, our Community Centre Coordinator, who will provide the bank details. Email stmarkscentre@googlemail.com.

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 email curate.godalming@gmail.com.

www.parishofgodalming.org.uk

Busbridge&Hambledon Church

Happy New Year! Over the course of 2023, BHC will be working more with the parish of Godalming as we become Godalming Minister.

The Bereavement Journey

Starting in February, we will be running 'The Bereavement Journey' – a six-week course for those who have been bereaved at any time. The course runs from Tuesday 21 February to Tuesday 28 March 2023, 7.00pm to 9.00pm in the Old Rectory. Contact Sandra Wilkin at pastoral@bhcgodalming.org for more details.

NEXUS talk, Thursday 5 January 'Finding yourself in the middle of something big'

Nexus (a women's church/community group) starts 2023 with a presentation by Jon Gidley, the Godalming Coordinator for Ukrainian refugees. Jon had wanted to help house some Ukrainians fleeing the war and, from not knowing quite what to do, he found himself organising help and support for 160 Ukrainian refugees arriving in Godalming in desperate need of shelter and community! Annual subs £20, visitor fee £5. Meet in the Yew Tree Café at 8.00pm and start the evening with drinks and nibbles to welcome in the New Year before handing over to Jon for his talk. More details at <https://bhcgodalming.churchsuite.com/events/pawjczwd>.

Muddy Church

Muddy Church continues on the first Sunday of the month at 9.30am, meeting at Busbridge Village Hall at 9.20am on 8 January, before walking up to Heath Farm. This is a very popular gathering for all ages, which has been running since the pilot in 2021.

www.bhcgodalming.org

St John's Parish Church, Farncombe

We were able to resume our full schedule of public worship on the pre-pandemic pattern, and the Crib Service was particularly welcome, with the church fuller than it has been for many months (even if not everything went completely smoothly!).

We look forward to hosting the United Service on Sunday 22 January. We also anticipate engaging with the Parish Needs Process sponsored by Guildford Diocese to think more consistently about the way forward for St John's in the medium term.

www.farncombe.org.uk

Godalming Baptist Church

A very happy, healthy and peaceful New Year to everyone.

Warm Space

We are continuing to offer a Warm Space on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings at GBC for folk to be warm and comfortable with a hot drink, newspaper or a game of draughts, chess, scrabble etc to enjoy.

Games afternoon and Art Space

A reminder too – a very warm welcome awaits at our monthly Games Afternoon Fridays – the first on Friday 6 January from 2.00pm until 4.00pm, and our monthly Art Space on Saturdays – the first on Saturday 7 January from 9.30am to 12.00pm.

Becoming a Grandmother in our church and community

Our first life issue session of 2023 is on Saturday 21 January at GBC from 10.00am to 12.30pm (coffee from 9.30am) 'Becoming a Grandmother in our church and community' led by Kathleen Smith. This promises to be an encouraging morning as we focus on the younger generation and how we can live out our faith to them. To book a place please contact Sally Pollard on 01483 428646 or email pollard3@hotmail.co.uk by Friday 13 January.

www.godalmingbaptistchurch.org.uk

Godalming United Church

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

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

Messy Church, Saturday 28 January 3.00pm to 5.00pm

'David meets Goliath'. Bible-based activities for all the family, story-time and songs, party tea. See messy.church@guc.org.uk.

Cinderella Pantomime, Saturday 4 and Sunday 5 February

Always a great coming-together of the organisations and generations within the church community. Four performances; advance booking strongly recommended – contact frymaile@gmail.com.

For more information and other future events, please visit www.guc.org.uk for a constantly updated rolling calendar.

Warm space

We are open as a Warm Space on Fridays from 12.00pm to 3.00pm from 6 January onwards. Free hot drinks. Very reasonably priced lunches available from 12.00pm to 1.30pm.

www.guc.org.uk

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

Pope Francis' intention for January

Pope Francis' intention for January is that we pray that educators may be credible witnesses, teaching fraternity rather than competition and helping the youngest and most vulnerable above all.

Coffee and Cake at Squires on the Feast of the Epiphany

A chance for everyone to get together at the start of the new year. Meeting at 11.00am on Friday 6 January, following 10.00am Mass for the Epiphany at St Joseph's.

Invitation to the film screening of 'The Letter' on Thursday 9 February at 7.00pm at Ladywell Convent.

Described as a 'Message for our Earth', 'The Letter' is a powerful and moving film which features Pope Francis and tells the story of four 'champions' who each receive an invitation from the Pope to come to Rome to talk with him about the climate crisis. The evening will be hosted by the Livesimply group, and everyone is invited, parishioners and non-parishioners. Refreshments are from 7.00pm to 7.20pm and the film starts at 7.30pm. There will be time for discussion afterwards. You can reserve your place by clicking the link on the website calendar for 9 February at <https://stedsgod.com> or email godalming@abdiocese.org.uk.

Welcoming Workshop

To reflect on the importance of the Welcoming ministry, and the lasting impression a friendly smile and warm greeting has on all our visitors, particularly new people, we are holding a workshop on Thursday 19 January at 7.00pm at Ladywell Convent for all our Welcomers.

Diocesan Day of Reflection for Ministers of the Word

With Bishop Richard, in Crawley on Saturday 21 January from 11.00am to 4.00pm.

Diocesan Justice and Peace Assembly

'Hungry for Change' is on Saturday 28 January from 9.30am to 1.30pm in Crawley. It will explore food and conflict and the positive steps we can take towards a fairer, more peaceful world. To book a place or join a group going from our parish, email Jo Lewry at jolewry@aol.com.

Confirmation Preparation

Confirmation Preparation for young people in Year 10+ begins on 8 January. More information on our website at <https://stedsgod.com/confirmation>.

Mass times and regular parish events and activities

Weekend Masses

Weekend Masses are celebrated at St Edmund's (6.00pm Vigil Mass) on Saturday evenings; and on Sundays at St John's Farncombe at 8.45am, with Children's Liturgy (and with coffee after Mass on 15 January); 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 at www.stedsgod.com.

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

- *Bumps & Babes* on Mondays at 10.30am at St John's, Farncombe (restarts on 9 January)
- *Live Simply* Our parish group meets monthly, and the next meeting is on Thursday 5 January on Zoom. Joining details from Jo at jolewry@aol.com
- *SVP Afternoon Tea* on Wednesday 11 January at 2.30pm at the United Reformed Church, Elstead (to book, phone Janet on 07990 717067)
- *Prayer Group on Monday evenings* at earlier time of 5.00pm (phone Richard on 01252 703830).

<https://stedsgod.com>

Godalming Quakers

The regular weekly worship session continues to be held on Sunday mornings, starting at 10.30am at the Quaker Meeting House in Mill Lane, and all are welcome.

We are again embarking on a series of midweek Meetings for Worship at the Godalming Quaker Meeting House. The next one is due to be held on the evening of Wednesday 25 January from 6.30pm to 7.00pm, followed by a short time of reflection and sharing. All are welcome.

www.quaker.org.uk/meetings/godalming

Godalming Community Gospel Choir

Have you ever wanted to try singing authentic Gospel music? GCGC (Godalming Community Gospel Choir) invites you to a free taster session on Monday 16 January at 7.30pm. Reserve your place and get full details by emailing info@gcgc.org.uk.

Feba

The next Prayer Meeting for Feba, a media organisation with partners in most of the world's newsworthy spots, will be held on Zoom on Wednesday 1 February 2023, beginning at 7.00pm. Go to www.feba.org.uk and search for prayer focus.

Items for next month's *Link-up*

Please send items for the February 2023 edition of *Link-up* to Matt Farrow:

farrow.matt@gmail.com by **Friday 15 January**, for publication on Friday 22 January.