



LINK-up

December 2021

Keeping Churches in Touch

www.godalmingchurches.org

facebook.com/ChurchesTogetherinGodalmingandDistrict

Message from the Chair

Advent is a season of hope and expectation. We prepare to celebrate the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ into the world and we acknowledge Him as Lord of our lives.

Our churches are offering carols and special services this month. This edition of *Link-up* contains details in the section on each church's activities. Please join us, if you can, for the Churches Together carols at Crown Court on 11 December. Let us send the message of hope to our community, at this time of change and uncertainty.

We ask for your prayers for the Executive Committee, who meet on 6 December, and for the team planning the Christmas Day Lunch at Godalming Baptist Church

James Toon, Chair of Godalming & District Churches Together

Churches Together prayer breakfasts

There will be no prayer breakfast in December. The January Prayer Breakfast will take place on Saturday 22 January, venue to be decided.

Carols around the tree, Saturday 11 December

Come and join us around the Memory Tree in Crown Court on Saturday 11 December at 15:00 for some classic carols. All are welcome.

We will need some stewards to help hand out carol sheets and direct people. If you can help, please contact Michael on michaeleashing@aol.com.

Christmas Day Lunch

Churches Together in Godalming and District are again this year providing a Christmas lunch in Godalming Baptist Church for those who would otherwise be on their own on Christmas Day. This is free thanks to the generosity of Waitrose. There will be safety provisions in place in order to try to manage the COVID risk. There are still places available, and so for an invitation please contact Jacky Tickner on 01483 415702 or jacky.tickner@gmail.com.

News of the Churches and organisations

Parish of Godalming

We encourage the use of masks and social distancing for the wellbeing of everyone. There will be a designated, socially-distanced zone for those who wish to continue to distance and refrain from singing. All services are safeguarding-compliant.

St Peter & St Paul

- Sunday 5 December – 8:00 Holy Communion Service (BCP) , and 10:00am All-Age Service
- Sunday 12 December – 10:00 Holy Communion Service
- Sunday 19 December – 10:00 Nativity Service, and 6:30pm Advent Carol Service
- Friday 24 December (Christmas Eve) – 16:00 Crib Service, and 23:30 Holy Communion service
- Saturday 25 December (Christmas Day) – 10:00 Holy Communion Service
- Sunday 26 December – 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.

Men's group

Our next meeting will be held on Monday 6 December at 20:00. We meet in the Star Inn in Church Street for a drink and a chat. These relaxed and convivial meetings are open to all men from church and all are very welcome to call in and join us. For more information contact John Stevens at stevens@tuca.co.uk.

Prayer meeting

Please join us for our monthly time of prayer together, especially so we can pray about God's vision for the future of our parish. We meet on the first Tuesday of each month. Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday 7 December at 19:30 for an hour. This is an online meeting held on Zoom, led by Canon John Harkin. More details from Canon John at canonjohngodalming@btinternet.com.

Godalming Community Gospel Choir Christmas Concert

The Godalming Community Gospel Choir Christmas Showcase will take place in church on Saturday 11 December at 19:30. The choir are thrilled to welcome Elaine Simpson of the Kingdom Choir as their guest soloist. A £5 minimum donation per adult is requested on entry. There will be an interval with refreshments and a raffle. Come and join us for a joyous and uplifting evening of gospel music.

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. We learn about the Bible with a combination and weekly variation of stories, chat, games, drama and craft. This month we are meeting on Sunday 12 December. Members of Sunday Club will also be acting out the Nativity on 19 December, while our older children read the story. There will be a rehearsal in church at 10:00 on 18 December for anyone who wishes to take on a role or read at the Nativity Service. For more details of our activities please contact Sarah Bryans at godalming.church.office@gmail.com.

Alpha Course

We thank God that the Alpha evenings are going very well and pray they are helping all of us in the group to continue to grow in our Christian understanding and to develop spiritually. We have been blessed by a number of our church members who have been or are due to prepare meals for those attending; thank you all very much. The next Alpha Course will start on Wednesday 27 April 2022 and we already have six people booked. Do please contact Canon John Harkin or Sue Harkin if you would like to join the next course, or to offer catering assistance.

St Mark's

- Sunday 5 December – 10:00 All-Age Service
- Sunday 12 December – 10:00 Holy Communion Service
- Sunday 19 December – 10:00 Service of the Word, and 6:00pm Carol Service
- Friday 24 December (Christmas Eve) – 16:00 Crib Service
- Saturday 25 December (Christmas Day) – 10:00 Family Holy Communion Service.

Smart Tots

This is a new church-led activity for parents and toddlers at St Mark's. The group will begin on Wednesday 1

December, 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. If you would like to support the group by helping with refreshments or welcoming parents then please contact Rev Sheila Samuels at curate.godalming@gmail.com.

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 12:00 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 Rev Sheila Samuels.

www.parishofgodalming.org.uk

St John's Parish Church, Farncombe

It continues to be apparent how tough rebuilding from the pandemic is going to be as some things resume while others are more difficult. We can field a full serving team at our main Sunday services and gather a choir, so those occasions look almost the same as they did before February 2020, but we can't manage this all the time. Our enquirers' course had no takers so that didn't happen! Meanwhile the online Compline service went well, and we will make this a permanent part of our worship, on the second Sunday evening each month.

Over Christmas we hope to hold a carol service on the evening of Sunday 19 December, and will ask people to book in for three short Crib Services on Christmas Eve, as we did last year.

Farncombe & Godalming Mothers' Union will meet at St. John's Church, Farncombe on Wednesday, 15 December at 14:30 for a Christmas Miscellany – carols, readings, a raffle and a Christmas Tea. Visitors will be very welcome. Sue Petty will be "putting the kettle on!" Please come and join us!

www.farncombe.org.uk

Busbridge&Hambleton Church

Farewell to Lisa Olsworth-Peter

On 28 November we sadly say goodbye to our worship pastor of 3+ years, Lisa Olsworth-Peter, who has gone to be deputy director of Spring Harvest. We are grateful for all she has been to Busbridge&Hambleton Church, and the support she has given to other churches and organisations in Godalming, and send her off with our love and prayers. The Olsworth-Peters are staying in Chiddingfold, so Lisa, Ed, Henry, Lily and George won't be vanishing completely.

New appointments

We are delighted that Ben Ford has now taken the role of Worship Pastor for Busbridge&Hambleton church, and that Ed Sherwin is supporting Anto on 4-11s children's ministry.

Potential joining with St Peter and St Paul

A steering group is being formed to coordinate the potential joining with St Peter and St Paul's, Godalming.

Christmas

For Christmas, we are exploring the CofE theme: Jesus at the Heart of Christmas. Church members have created a stunning heart of willow, which is on the front door of Busbridge Church. Children from our children's groups and Busbridge Junior School have decorated wooden hearts which are hanging in the church for the start of Advent. The Busbridge Walking Advent Calendar starts 1 December and 24 members of the community have volunteered to create a display in their windows to be revealed every day in December. There will be carols in the Merry Harriers pub, Hambleton (16 December), and at the Busbridge rec (Holloway Hill Sports pavilion) on 20 December. All welcome.

All the Christmas events and services can be found on the website:

<https://www.bhcgodalming.org/christmas>. This year we are asking people to book for the very popular Christmas Eve services at Busbridge (only) using ChurchSuite. The BHC Admin team are very happy to share learning, and receive any tips, with others experimenting with new tools and processes!

www.bhcgodalming.org

Godalming Baptist Church

We send our warmest greetings to all the churches from the fellowship at GBC and we wish you a very happy peaceful Christmas and a blessed New Year.

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!

Games afternoon

Games afternoon takes place every month on a Friday from 14:00 to 16:00. We have a variety of boardgames: Quiddler, Uno, Scrabble, chess, draughts, Rummikub, bingo, card games and more! It is a light-hearted afternoon with tea and biscuits too. Contact Sally Pollard on 01483 428646 or via pollard3@hotmail.co.uk for more details and if you would like to come. A warm welcome awaits!

Friendship lunch

Friendship lunch takes place on Thursdays. We are so grateful to various clergy and others who are willing to come and share a thought with folk from our community. If you are able to share in this way, please contact Sally on 01483 428646 or via pollard3@hotmail.co.uk. We would love to hear about any charitable events, a hobby, testimony or life experience that you are able to share. You are welcome to stay for lunch too!

Golden Moments

Our Golden Moments get together for senior citizens takes place fortnightly on Wednesdays from 14:30 to 16:00. Come and enjoy afternoon tea and chat, with an interesting talk or discussion. Contact Eric Jarman on eandbjarman@btinternet.com for more details!

Sing for Fun

Our singing group for dementia sufferers and their carers, friends & family continues on Tuesdays 14:00 to 15:00. Please contact Janet on 01483 414019 for information or just turn up and sing!

Christmas Services:

Sunday 12 December at 10:00: Toy Service (for donations of toys to Merton Christian Care)

Friday 17 December at 18:30: Carols around the Piano

Sunday 19 December at 17:00: Carols by Candlelight followed by buffet

Friday 24 December at 17:00: Children's Christmas Nativity Service

Saturday 25 December at 10:00: Christmas Day Service

Sunday 26 December at 10:00: Sunday Service

Life issues events

We are delighted to say that we are finally able to resume Life Issues events at GBC in 2022 after a risk assessment and safety measures due to COVID have been put in place to ensure we keep everyone as safe as we can.

Our first session 'Bereavement' will be on Saturday 5 February at Godalming Baptist Church led by Revd Peter Jackson who has a wealth of experience and understanding of bereavement and had led 'Insight Into Bereavement' at Waverley Abbey. Please see attached poster and flier. We would be very grateful if you are able to display a poster. To book a place for this very worthwhile session please contact Sally Pollard on 01483 428646 or e-mail pollard3@hotmail.co.uk

Further Life issues booked for your diaries are

- 'Decision Making' and the will of God led by Andy Peck on Saturday 23 April
- 'Autism' led by Suzette Jones on Saturday 25 June
- 'Growing Old Disgracefully!' led by Dr Martin Brunet on Saturday 8 October

www.godalmingbaptistchurch.org.uk

Godalming United Church

Sun 5 December, 10:30: Gift Service – bring a gift to put beneath our tree – toys or games (new) or gift vouchers – to be distributed during December by The Camino Cellar Café to the less fortunate in our community

Saturday 11 December, 19:00: Godalming Band Christmas Concert - www.godalmingband.org.uk

Saturday 18 December, 15:00 to 17:00: Messy Church – Christmas is Coming! Family activities for all ages, church trail, puppet play, songs, party tea. Check beforehand on 01483 414778.

Sunday 19 December, 18:00: Candlelit Carol Service

Friday 24 December, 16:00: Christmas Eve Communion – a quiet time for adults

Saturday 25 December, 10:00: Christmas Day Family Service – a short service for all the family. Bring along one of your presents to show everyone!

Sunday 26 December, 10:30: Morning Worship – Godalming is hosting the annual Methodist Circuit Service for all 13 churches in the Wey Valley Methodist Circuit.

Services are live-streamed at <https://guc.online.church>; recordings are available through our website after the services.

www.guc.org.uk

St Edmund King & Martyr Godalming with St Joseph's Milford Roman Catholic Churches

Lectio Divina

During Advent Fr Jonathan is leading a new series of Lectio Divina prayer using the Advent readings on Zoom on Wednesday evenings at 19:30. Those who are new to this way of prayer are particularly welcome, and help will be given. (Zoom Meeting ID: 846 7892 5944, Password 2021).

St Edmunds School Christmas Market

St Edmunds Catholic Primary School is holding a Christmas Market on Saturday 4 December, from 11:00 to 14:00, with carols, mulled wine, food, stalls and seasonal merriment. All are welcome. The Drive, Godalming GU7 1PF.

Christmas Carols at Ladywell Convent

Christmas Carols at Ladywell Convent on Sunday 19 December at 15:00. This event takes place outdoors in the newly restored walled garden at Ladywell Convent, or inside in the refectory if it is raining, followed by mulled wine and mince pies, with a collection for a local charity.

Christmas Mass times

Times of Christmas Mass in the parish are as follows

Christmas Eve

17:00: Mass at St Joseph's, Milford - Children are very welcome to come in Nativity fancy dress. As this Mass is usually very popular there will be no socially distanced seating; everyone over 11 to wear a face covering and to take a lateral flow test. Please dress warmly as the windows and doors will be open.

19:00: Mass at St Edmund's

22:00: Mass of Christmas Night at St Edmund's – please get in touch with Fr Jonathan if you would like to join the choir for this Mass

Christmas Day

8:45: Mass at St John's, Farncombe

10:30: Mass at St Joseph's, Milford

Wintershall Stations of the Cross

Wintershall Stations of the Cross are on Friday 3 December at 8:00. All are welcome and there is breakfast afterwards. Wintershall Nativity Tickets are still available for performances from 16 to 20 December. To book, visit www.wintershall.org.uk. Volunteers are also needed to help with guiding the audience, please get in touch: 01483 892167.

Christmas prison outreach

In solidarity with the women prisoners at HMP Send, our parish has been fundraising to donate towards a Christmas Day gift for each prisoner, to bring hope and comfort and help them feel loved and remembered on a day when it is particularly hard to be separated from their family. We will be delivering 200 gifts to HMP Send in the next few weeks. We have also supplied Christmas cards for the prisoners at HMP Coldingley to send home.

LOAF Christmas

Our LOAF group (Love one another fellowship) is reaching out to parishioners this Christmas by arranging

Christmas hampers, gifts and cards for the elderly, housebound and anyone who has had a difficult year, with cards designed by the children at St Edmund's primary school.

CAFOD World Gifts for Christmas Catalogue

From energy saving stoves to weatherproof crops to emergency shelters, CAFOD's virtual charity gifts help transform the lives of families living in poverty. Buy online at <https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk> or pick up a catalogue from the back of church.

<https://stedsgod.com>

Dunsfold and Hascombe Churches

For any issues or questions relating to Dunsfold or Hascombe churches (including baptisms and weddings) please contact our Church Wardens;

Church Wardens Dunsfold

Mrs Sheila Jones 01483 200204 sheilajones4@btinternet.com

Mrs Jan Richardson 01483 200519 janmrichardson@gmail.com

Church Wardens Hascombe

Mrs Anne Eve 01483 208497 grannybud@gmail.com

Mr Colin Swait 01483 425380 cds@hascombe.com

If there is a pastoral emergency and you need a priest please contact the Area Dean, Canon Roy Woodhams on 07889542054 or roy@stnicolascranleigh.org.uk

Trinity Trust Team

We are delighted to be back in Rodborough and Broadwater schools with Christian Union after such a long absence and to be enjoying our regular weekly groups and sessions (Wowza after school club at Godalming Junior School, Loseley Fields Youth Café, Fuse discipleship group at GBC, Friday Night Club (Ockford Ridge) and street outreach (Godalming/Farncombe).

We are planning to re-launch Fusion children's group (open to school years 3-6) with the team at Godalming Baptist Church with a pre-Christmas party.

We will again this year be producing a Christmas assembly video production to distribute to local schools and will take the lead on the Christmas RE Day at Godalming Junior School.

Our new-look website is also up and running and we will be involved with Churches Together events, such as Carols around the Tree and the virtual Service of Light.

Flexible full and part time opportunities within the team:

We still have opportunities to join the team so if you, or anyone you know, might have the skills and experience to partner with TTT as we take the love of Christ to young people through our church, schools and communities do get in touch with Andy Poulson our Team Director: andytrinitytrustteam@hotmail.co.uk

Please pray for:

- Continued increase in numbers of young people returning to regular weekly groups and for our online assembly to be a blessing to many children, young people, and staff in our local schools this Christmas
- 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, particularly in these challenging times. Our thanks and blessings, all this Christmas. Andy and the team.

Items for next month's Link-up

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