



June 2023

LINK-UP

Keeping Churches in Touch

www.godalmingchurches.org

facebook.com/ChurchesTogetherinGodalmingandDistrict

Message from the Chair

At the last Churches Together Executive meeting, we had a discussion about Council, which according to our constitution is the governing body of CTIGD. What's the purpose of these general meetings, apart from carrying out necessary legal requirements such as approving accounts? It's an extension of the question of the purpose of ecumenical organisations like Churches Together as a whole. We know that structural unity between any of our denominations is a long way away, but also that Christians of different denominations are not strangers to one another as once they might have been.

When times are challenging for all our churches, the natural tendency is for us to concentrate limited resources of time and effort on the church community we belong to. But that's also precisely when it can be helpful to meet together and exchange experiences, and that's what I would like Council to do. Now that CTIGD's AGM is in March, we are moving the next Council meeting slightly later in the year to Monday 17 July (venue to be confirmed) and I hope we can hear about our experiences of initiatives that have tried to alleviate the recent cost-of-living stresses and the challenges they have faced. Each member church has official representatives on Council (not that I think any church actually sends a full complement!) but anyone can come so I do recommend taking part to you.

Rev James Rattue, Chair of Churches Together in Godalming and District
jamesrattue@hotmail.com

News of the Churches and organisations

St Peter & St Paul's Church and St Mark's Community Church & Centre

Sunday services at St Peter & St Paul

Sunday 4 June, 8.00am - Holy Communion followed by breakfast in the Octagon

Sunday 4 June, 9.30am - Muddy Church at Jack Phillips Memorial GU7 1ES, followed by refreshments in the Octagon at St Peter and St Paul's Church

Sunday 11 June, 10.00am - Holy Communion with the Baptism of Maia

Sunday 18 June, 10.00am - Holy Communion

Sunday 25 June, 10.00am - Holy Communion

Weekly Communion Service

Every Tuesday at 12.00pm in St Peter and St Paul's Church, we offer a short, Said Communion Service with a Thought for the Day homily. This provides an opportunity to sit quietly and engage with God amongst the busyness of the week. All are very welcome.

Godalming Minster

Strategic planning continues, with fundamental areas being addressed for specific development include patronage, legalities (consolidation of churches and 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 with interior re-ordering at St Peter and St Paul's Church, and leadership structure, including the creation of a Senior Leadership Team. Significant work this year continues to yield encouraging results.

Octots

Our Toddler Group, *Octots*, meet 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. (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. If you would like to be added to the waiting list, please email the Church Office 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 10am to 11am 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 Church Services

All Sunday 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 list is updated each month on the website. There have recently been many new referrals, which has resulted in a very low stock cupboard. We therefore need to replenish our stock and would be extremely grateful to receive any donations of the items on the list. Your financial donations are also important to us and if you would like to donate, please contact Karen, our Community Centre Co-ordinator who will provide the bank details, email stmarkscentre@googlemail.com.

Alpha Course

The course commenced on Thursday 11 May at St Mark's Church from 7.30pm to 9.15pm. www.parishofgodalming.org.uk

St John's Parish Church, Farncombe

In this month of seemingly perpetual Bank Holidays, we held a special eucharist to pray for the King on the eve of the Coronation, followed by afternoon tea. Messy Church on 13 of May also had a Coronation theme. Forest Church on the last Sunday of April visited the Colonels Grounds and the next gathering will be on 30 July. We have just adopted the latest Church Development Plan which will guide our mission over the next couple of years.

www.farncombe.org.uk

Godalming Baptist Church

Managing anger and conflict, Saturday 24 June, 10.00am to 12.30pm

Led by Revd Peter Jackson, this session will focus on such questions as What makes us angry? How does unresolved anger affect us and those around us? How do we manage anger? What

sort of things bring us into conflict with others? What are some of both the negative and constructive ways of dealing with conflict?

There is no charge for the session but donations towards the work of 'Emerge' - a Christian charity that supports young people in A&E who come in with mental health needs would be much appreciated.

To book a place please contact Sally Pollard on 01483 428646 or pollard3@hotmail.co.uk by Friday 16 June.

Friendship lunch and community coach outing to Kew Gardens, Wednesday 19 July

We will assemble at Godalming Baptist Church at 9.45am for departure at 10.00am. We will drive via the A3 and London Suburbs, arriving at Kew Gardens Elizabeth Gate at approximately 11.30am, depending on traffic.

We will have a group entry ticket, included in the price, which will give us a reduced admission charge.

Within the gardens, there are many places to visit within a short level walk eg. Kew Palace, Princess of Wales Conservatory, Palm House and formal gardens. Slightly further away is the Temperate House, Great Pagoda and lakes. For the more energetic there are over 320 acres that can be explored with numerous lakes and woodland walks.

There are lots of Restaurants and cafés on site, or you can take your own picnic. Plus lots of toilets and seats.

A map of Kew Gardens will be available when you book.

We will leave Kew Gardens at 4.30pm, and should (depending on traffic) arrive back at the church by 6.00pm.

Cost £35.00 per person to include coach, gratuities, and entrance fee to garden. Food extra.

Contact Church Reception for a booking form on 01483 414544 or call in Monday to Friday 9.00am to 12.00pm during term time

www.godalmingbaptistchurch.org.uk

Busbridge&Hambledon Church

Notice of the DRAFT Pastoral Scheme has now been given by the Diocese of Guildford and is available for comment until 3 July.

The Pastoral Scheme is the legal document which sets out the organisation of the new Godalming Minster and has been sent to the affected parishes of Godalming, Busbridge, Hambledon and Farncombe.

The draft Pastoral Scheme and instructions can be found at www.bhcgodalming.org/godalming-minster. There is a notice on the church doors and a printed copy of the draft pastoral scheme in each of the churches. Notice will also be given in Sunday services between now and 3 July. Please spread the word and let those who might not come to church, or receive the email notices, be aware.

www.bhcgodalming.org

Godalming United Church

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

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

Christian Aid Week

We marked Christian Aid Week in May with a special collection across the whole month, dedicated in our Christian Aid Service at the end of May. The service featured Esther from Malawi, with her Pigeon Peas – a story that has caught the imagination across the land, with

its resonances with the parable of the mustard seed. Esther not only sells her peas but dries them and turns them into flour to make a delicious bread that she sells on. Profits are invested in storage and equipment, education, start-up businesses and community projects. And now there is a Pigeon Pea Recipe Book which we are going to obtain – watch out Church Sunday Breakfasts, Friday Lunches and beyond!

Church Anniversary and Lunch, 11 June

BBQ with strawberries and cream. Book lunch at frymaile@gmail.com £8 adults, £4 children.

Annual Collection for the Whitechapel Mission for the Homeless, Friday 30 June to Thurs 10 July

Bring your contributions to the trailer in the church car park. Urgently needed – non-perishable breakfast foods, men's clothing, toiletries, blankets, small rucksacks.

Friday 30 June	12.00pm to 1.30pm
Saturday 1 July	10.30am to 12.00pm
Sunday 2 July	11.30am to 12.30pm
Tuesday 4 July	2.00pm to 3.00pm
Wednesday 5 July	6.00pm to 7.00pm
Friday 7 July	12.00pm to 1.30pm
Saturday 8 July	10.30am to 12.00pm and 2.00pm to 3.00pm
Sunday 9 July	11.30am to 12.30pm
Monday 10 July	7.00pm to 8.00pm

www.guc.org.uk

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

Pope Francis' intention for June

Pope Francis' intention for June is the abolition of torture. We pray that the international community may commit in a concrete way to ensuring the abolition of torture and guarantee support to victims and their families.

Live Simply Supper & Green Energy Talk

As part of 'Big Green Week' the Live Simply group invites everyone to a shared supper and talk on renewable energy on Friday 16 June at St John's, Farncombe, from 7.15pm. Our two speakers are parishioners: Marek, who is a research Scientist at AFC Energy plc, will talk on the green potential of hydrogen; and Angela, who works for Cisco, will talk on solar and wind farms. Please do join us; contact Jo: jolewry@aol.com

Corpus Christi Outdoor Mass, Sunday 11 June at 10.45am

We are looking forward to gathering at Ladywell on this Feast day, starting with a short procession before Mass and followed afterwards with refreshments kindly provided by the FMDM community. This will replace the usual 10.30am Mass. All are welcome, and please bring a chair with you, or something to sit on.

Parish Small Communities

The parish is setting up parish family groups - a simple, fun and supportive way of living out our Christian lives which can fit well even into a busy life. Groups will meet monthly for simple social events and are open to all, no matter how often you come to church, whether you are Catholic or not, or if you come on your own. For more info and to register:

<https://stedsgod.com/our-parish-community>

Pizza and Prayer

For young people from Yrs10+ on alternate Sunday evenings offering a bit of space and spirituality, especially at this time when many are preparing for exams. At St Edmund's church and parish room from 6.30pm.

St Edmund's Primary School vacancies

St Edmund's Primary School is likely to have vacancies in Reception for September 2023 as it is a small birth year. Anyone who would like a good Catholic education for their children is encouraged to apply.

Annual Parish Forum, Monday 5 June

Our Annual Parish Forum takes place at St Edmund's School on Monday 5th June, 7.30pm for 8.00pm, and is a chance to celebrate and discuss all the good things that are going on in our parish!

Grandparents Pilgrimage to West Grinstead, Wednesday 14 June, 11.00am to 3.00pm

This whole diocese event at the Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation is always a wonderful day of faith, friendship and recollection. Bring a picnic and sign up at:

<https://abdiocese.churchsuite.com/events/fazlomt9>

Weekend Masses

Weekend Masses are celebrated at St Edmund's Godalming (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 4 June and 18 June); 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

Parish gatherings

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

- *Bumps & Babes* on Mondays at 10.30am at St John's, Farncombe
- *Children's Liturgy* on Sundays at St John's Farncombe at 8.45am Mass
- *Live Simply* Our parish eco-group meets monthly on Zoom. Joining details from Jo: jolewry@aol.com
- *SVP Afternoon Tea* on Wednesday 14 June at 2.30pm at the United Reformed Church, Elstead (more info from Jane: 07990 717067)
- *Fairtrade Sale* at St John's after 8.45am Mass on Sunday 4 June.
- *Prayer Group* on Monday evenings at earlier time of 7.30pm (phone Richard on 01252 702230).
- St Edmund's church remains open every day for private prayer, usually between 10.00am and 5.00pm. (19 Croft Road, Godalming GU7 1DB).

www.stedsgod.com

The Franciscan Centre Ladywell

New Light from Old Stories, 9 to 11 June 2023

Speaker: Brian Purfield

Suggested offering: £160

The Old Testament, far from being merely a prelude to the New Testament, is full of spiritual insights that can illumine Christian life today. The biblical authors expressed their faith by telling stories about their ancestors, their heroes and their prophets. Millenia later these stories have lost none of their power. We will revisit some of the familiar (and perhaps not so familiar) stories and ask: what do these narratives have to say to us today? There will be time to pray, reflect and share insights gained.

Growing in God's Life – Exploring four recurring movements within spiritual development, 30 June to 2 July 2023

Speaker: Christopher Chapman

Suggested offering: £170

In the Bible, spiritual growth is likened to the natural development processes of plants, and the part played by gardeners, whether human or divine. Growing in God's Life will explore four recurring movements of this growth: Becoming rooted, Emerging, Struggling and Bearing Fruit. Jesus, the teller of parables, invites us to hold the mystery of creation in mind and heart, like seed in the hand of a Sower.

Knowing our Place: from Stardust to Sand, 17 to 20 August 2023

Speaker: Sr Colette Kane OP

Suggested offering: £255

The theory of evolution has been proven by science but offers a different explanation of how we came to be than the Book of Genesis in the Bible. How do I incorporate scientific facts with my story of faith? What does evolution tell me about God, creation, nature, and my place in it all? How can I celebrate being Christian in an evolving universe? Spend time in nature, feeling the gentle presence of God and nourishing your soul, becoming aware of your place in the universe story and learning how much a part of nature you truly are.

Our programme of events offers participants the opportunity to experience the Beauty, Goodness and Generosity of God in a reflective hospitable Franciscan environment, through retreats, quiet days and workshops. There is also the opportunity for Spiritual Direction from our Spiritual Directors.

We offer a place that allows for a deepening of your relationship with God, a place of welcome and safety as you navigate closer to your Creator. Take quiet time away from the haste of everyday life, either on a retreat or by engaging in the programmes and workshops we offer. The Franciscan Centre Ladywell is open for anyone seeking some space and quiet time.

Any enquiries or to book your place please email us at franciscancentre@ladywell.org.uk
<https://franciscancentre.org.uk>

Godalming Quakers

Sunday Meetings for Worship

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.

Midweek Meeting for Worship

Our next midweek Meeting for Worship will take place at the Meeting House on Wednesday 7 June at 6.30pm. All are welcome.

www.quaker.org.uk/meetings/godalming

Feba

You are invited to join us as we pray for with work of Feba, a media organisation with partners in most of the world's trouble spots, on Wednesday 7 June at 7.00pm.

www.feba.org.uk/blog/you-are-invited-to-pray-with-the-feba-family

Godalming Julian Meeting

We are a small ecumenical group meeting at 8.00pm on the second Tuesday of each month for silent prayer – also known as contemplative prayer, Christian meditation, or simply waiting on God in the silence. Our next meeting is on Tuesday 13 June at the Quaker Meeting House, The Mint, Mill Lane, Godalming GU7 1HB. For more details contact James Toon at james.toon@mac.com. We are part of a national network of Julian Meetings – see their website at <https://thejulianmeetings.net>.

Items for next month's *Link-up*

Please send items for the July 2023 edition of *Link-up* to Matt Farrow: farrow.matt@gmail.com by **Friday 16 June**, for publication on Friday 23 June.