



March 2024

LINK-UP

Keeping Churches in Touch

www.godalmingchurches.org

facebook.com/ChurchesTogetherinGodalmingandDistrict

Message from the Chair

All of our church communities have our own stories. Even the most venerable of us came into existence at some specific time, and though the actual details might only be recoverable by archaeologists, there's a story to be told, and younger churches will be well aware of the circumstances that brought them into being. We'll all have a narrative of the ministers who have served our community (at least within living memory), some of the people who have been part of it, and the changes it's undergone. These stories affect our communities even if, as individuals, we might not be very familiar with them, because they will have shaped the way they've developed and the situations we who are part of them now have inherited.

The story we all share, whatever our differences, is that of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and ultimately our smaller stories are of course less cosmically important than his. But in order to be truthful and genuine servants of Christ within our own contexts we have to bring his story together with ours and allow the one to affect the other.

Hopefully our stories will be ones of at least trying to be faithful witnesses across the decades, and maybe centuries if they're long enough. But we know that we will almost certainly have made mistakes and taken wrong turns. What does the narrative of Easter, of dying and rising, mean for us in our own particular contexts? What will we have to die to and rise to? What has to be left behind, and what embraced or rediscovered? Allowing our church communities to be shaped by the story of Jesus Christ is about this as much as anything.

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

Churches Together events

20 March, 7.30pm – AGM at St John's, Farncombe

23 March, 8.30am – Prayer Breakfast, Godalming United Church

29 March, 11am – Good Friday 'Witness in the Town' on Godalming High Street

31 March, 6.45am – Easter Day Sunrise Service, Minster Field, refreshments after at Ladywell

27 April, 8.30am – Prayer Breakfast, Old Farm House, Farnham Road, Elstead, GU8 6DB

25 May, 8.30am – Prayer Breakfast, Godalming Baptist Church

22 June, 8.30am – Prayer Breakfast, Yew Tree Café, Busbridge Church

27 July, 8.30am – Prayer Breakfast, Milford Baptist Church

26 October, 8.30am – Prayer Breakfast, St John's Farncombe

23 November, 8.30am – Prayer Breakfast, The Cellar Café

News of the Churches and organisations

Godalming Minster

National Day of Reflection, Sunday 3 March 2024

To remember everyone who died during the pandemic.

11.00am - Service for the National Day of Reflection at Godalming Minster Church Street

12.00pm - A minute's silence at the Pepperpot

Godalming and Waverley are taking part in the National Day of Reflection on Sunday 3 March to remember everyone who died during the pandemic, whatever the cause.

Godalming Minster Church Street (St Peter & St Paul's) and the Mayors of Waverley and Godalming are holding a special service at 11.00am for everyone who would like to remember someone, with the opportunity to share their name on a petal for the area of display at the back of Godalming Minster.

The Godalming Minster pastoral care team will be available to talk about the bereavement support, before everyone moves to the Pepperpot to take part in the national minute's silence at 12.00pm. For more details see [National Day of Reflection](#).

Nexus talk, Thursday 7 March

Nexus is looking forward to a talk by James Giles, Reserve Manager for Thursley Nature Reserve at 8.00pm on Thursday 7 March in the Busbridge Old Rectory. It is a social opportunity with refreshments to start, and will be very interesting for those who enjoy our local commons. There's a £5 entry, or £20 to join Nexus for the year.

Supporting the Godalming Foodbank

The Godalming Foodbank at Godalming Minster Franklyn Road is open to visitors on Mondays and Wednesdays, coordinated by Karen Milton and supported by volunteers. The foodbank relies on financial donations and groceries, which can be dropped to Franklyn Road. A list of most needed items is updated on a monthly basis on the [website](#).

Hearing aid clinics

Godalming Minster now runs 3 busy hearing aid clinics per month offering free maintenance and batteries for NHS hearing aids, with tea and cake:

Busbridge Old Rectory on 2nd Fridays from 2.00pm to 4.00pm (8 March)

Godalming Library on 3rd Mondays of the month from 10.30am to 12.30pm (18 March)

Godalming Minster Hambledon on 3rd Wednesdays from 10.30am to 11.30am (20 March) – during the Hambledon coffee morning.

Godalming Minster Service Information

Information about congregations and service times can be found on the [Sundays](#) page on the website. For all other news and activities such as the The Hub and Youth Café at Godalming Minster Franklyn Road see [godalmingminster.org](#).

[godalmingminster.org](#)

St John's Parish Church, Farncombe

This March – all falling within Lent apart from Easter Day! – we're holding a few different events at St John's. On the morning Saturday 16 March, I hope to offer a 'Slow Mass', a chance to think about the service of holy communion, how it works and what it's about, as we find our way through the liturgy across a couple of hours – do get in touch if that's of any interest to you.

The following day the Choir will lead a Choral Devotion for Passiontide at 6.30pm with seasonal

music. Stations of the Cross are marked on Monday 18 March at 6.00pm and Saturday 23 March at mid-day (outside if dry), and during Holy Week we have a Healing Service on Monday, Compline & Benediction on Tuesday, and Tenebrae on Wednesday. I mention all these as they're slightly outside the usual diet of worship and may be of interest to friends from other churches.

www.farncombe.org.uk

Godalming Baptist Church

Care Companion at End of Life, Saturday 16 March

On Saturday 16 March, Daphne Bleach, a retired nurse will lead a Life Issue session entitled Care Companion at End of Life at GBC from 10.00am (coffee from 9.30am) to 12.30. Please do join us for this sensitively led but so important subject. Death is such a taboo subject, but we all want our loved ones and ourselves to die well and peacefully, so it is vital to consider this subject with compassion, care and empathy as Daphne indeed will. To book a place please contact Sally Pollard on 01483 428646 or pollard3@hotmail.co.uk There is no charge but donations towards the work of Shooting Stars Hospice will be much appreciated.

Outing to Arundel and Littlehampton, Thursday 25 April

On Thursday 25 April, Friendship Lunch and Community Outing will travel through beautiful countryside to Arundel where the Tulip Festival will be taking place at Arundel Castle. There is the opportunity to browse the numerous shops, museum, castle gardens and the castle itself and enjoy the cafes, pubs or restaurants too! Then a scenic drive onwards to Littlehampton and a chance to breathe in sea air and partake of ice cream, a cup of tea on the esplanade or fish and chips! For more details, please see attached poster. Booking forms are available in Reception at GBC from 9.00am to 12.00pm Mondays to Fridays during term time or by contacting Pete and Christine Knottley on 01483 428703 or Sally Pollard on 01483 428646.

Forgiveness, Saturday 27 April

On Saturday 27 April, Revd Tim Carter will lead a Life Issue session on forgiveness from 10.00am (coffee from 9.30am) to 12.30 at GBC. Forgiveness is such a vital subject to gain understanding of. This session is suitable for both those of faith and those who do not share beliefs. Tim will lead on all aspects of forgiveness such as what it is, what damage we can do to ourselves, the hurt and pain it causes us etc. It can be a long, costly and painful process, and Tim will lead with sensitivity and empathy, so it promises to be such a worthwhile morning. To book a place please contact Sally (details above). There is no charge, but donations towards the work of The Forgiveness Project would be much appreciated.

Book Review: Being Mortal by Atul Gwande

This book challenges the modern experience of mortality, what it's like to get old and die, how medicine has changed this and how it hasn't, where our ideas about death have gone wrong. It is an impassioned, broad-ranging and deeply personal book and comes highly recommended. From GBC Library - open Monday to Friday, 9.00am to 12.00pm (subject to lettings). Ring GBC reception on 01483 414544 on the morning to check.

www.godalmingbaptistchurch.org.uk

Godalming United Church

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

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

Lent Appeal

Our Lent Appeal this year is in support of the work of Daniel and Grace Pratt Morris-Chapman, Methodist Mission Partners in Uganda and frequent attenders at GUC – roofing and finishing the church at Inula, Uganda.

Most Methodist churches in poor, rural areas are without buildings and meet under trees.

Those being built often have only walls because they cannot afford roofing materials - in stark contrast to the fully built mosques being financed from abroad, often even before congregations have formed.

For more information or to support this, contact 01483 861446 or GUC.Missions@gmail.com.

Afternoon Tea with Communion, 7 March, 2.30pm

Especially for those who often can't get out on Sunday mornings.

Lent Study

Our Monday evening group has been following the URC's Daily Devotions devotions.unc.org.uk/todays-daily-devotion (based on St Mark's gospel) and will be meeting for study, discussion and prayer based on this on Mondays March 4, 18, 25 at 7:30pm. For more info and to join in, contact pastoral.assistant@guc.org.uk

Messy Church Easter Egg Trail

Saturday 23 March, 3.00pm to 5.00pm Messy Church Easter Egg Trail

messy.church@guc.org.uk

Easter services

Maundy Thursday, 28 March, 7.00pm - Holy Communion

Easter Sunday, 31 March 10.30am - Holy Communion and dedication of gifts for Uganda appeal

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

www.guc.org.uk

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

Pope Francis' prayer intention for March

Pope Francis' prayer intention for March is for the martyrs of our day, witnesses to Christ. Let us pray that those who risk their lives for the Gospel in various parts of the world might imbue the Church with their courage and missionary drive.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Throughout March there are regular opportunities for 'Adoration', often before weekday Mass and on Friday evenings at 7.00pm, as well as opportunities for the sacrament of Reconciliation. The parish calendar on the home page of our website: www.stedsqod.com gives details of times, venues etc. St Edmund's Church is also open each day, usually from 10.00am to 5.00pm.

Lent Groups

During this Season of Lent, we are meeting in faith sharing groups on Thursday evenings at the Franciscan Centre at Ladywell, following the 'Invited' course. The themes include: Jesus as Lord of our lives; becoming Missionary Disciples; What is the Church and how do we fit in? Reconciliation; and Holy Week. Tea and coffee from 7.00pm with the session starting at 7.30pm. Please sign up via the website calendar if you would like to join us.

CAFOD Big Lent Walk

Our parish team of walkers have set out on the CAFOD Big Lent Walk, joined by the children/families at St Edmund's Catholic Primary School. The aim is to reach a target of 6,800km, which is the distance from Godalming to Monrovia in Liberia. Fishermen in this area can spend 16 hours out fishing for food only to return with empty nets; our walk aims to raise £2,000 to equip them with tools and resources (such as life jackets and GPS tracking systems) to enable them to fish effectively. If you would like to donate to CAFOD by sponsoring the walkers, the link is: <https://parishes.walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/st-edmund-godalming>

The Wintershall Passion of Jesus

The Wintershall Passion of Jesus will be performed in Trafalgar Square on Good Friday by the Wintershall players. Their moving portrayal of the final days of Jesus can be watched in 90-

minute performances, at 12.00pm and 3.15pm. No tickets are required, the performances are free. It's highly recommended.

Easter services

Easter Services this year take place as follows:

Good Friday

7.00am - Stations of the Cross at Wintershall: www.wintershall.org.uk/stations-cross-1

10.30am - Family Stations of the Cross at St Edmund's

3.00pm - Solemn Liturgy of Good Friday at St Joseph's

Holy Saturday

8.30am - Świąconka at St Joseph's (Polish community blessing of Easter baskets)

9.30am - Morning Prayer and Office of Readings at St Edmund's

8.00pm - Solemn Vigil of Easter at St Joseph's

Easter Sunday

6.45am - Dawn Service at Minster Field, followed by refreshments at Ladywell

8.45am - Mass at St John's and 10.30am Mass at St Joseph's.

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 3 and 17 March); and at St Joseph's Milford at 10.30am.

Weekday Masses

the dates, times and venues of these vary so please check 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
- Live Simply Our parish eco-group meets monthly on Zoom. Joining details from Jo: jolewry@aol.com
- SVP Afternoon Tea on Tuesday 13 March at 2:30pm at the United Reformed Church, Elstead (07379 108009).
- Prayer Group on Monday evenings (phone Richard for details 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

Praying the Passion – Living the Gospel

Led by: Brian Purfield

Date: 15 – 17 March

Suggested offering: £180

In Holy Week the gospels of Mark and John are enticing gateways into both the familiar sequence of the passion story and the perhaps less known, but very beautiful, world of each evangelist's portrayal of Jesus.

Brian Purfield is a team member at the London Jesuit Centre and has worked alongside the Jesuits since 2001. Prior to that he taught at the International Franciscan Study Centre in Canterbury. He studied theology at the Gregorian University, Rome and at St. Bonaventure's University, New York. His particular interest is in deepening a knowledge and love of the Scriptures for people, young and old, at a level that they can understand and seek to apply to their daily lives.

Franciscan Triduum Retreat

Led by: FCL Team

Date: 28 – 31 March

Suggested offering: £255

Come join us at the Franciscan Centre Ladywell for our Easter Triduum: Holy Thursday Evening to East Sunday.

Join our community as we celebrate the Easter Triduum, as we recall and journey with Jesus in his last days, from his final meal with His disciples to His resurrection from the tomb. Experience the liturgies as part of a community and take time and space in our beautiful centre to reflect more deeply on these profound events. Be alongside the Franciscan family, as we celebrate Easter in our unique way with daily prayer, reflections, liturgies and celebration.

Becoming Easter People: Living in faith, hope and love

Led by: Christopher Chapman

Date: 5 – 7 April

Suggested offering: £180

As Christians we are Easter people: we experience within ourselves both cross and resurrection. The events of our lives are often challenging or confusing. Yet, we are also people of hope: for after the desolation of Good Friday, life breaks through afresh. By reflecting on the events of Easter, we will explore how endings in our own lives become new beginnings. In the Spirit of the risen Christ, our own spirit wakes in faith, hope and love.

Christopher Chapman is an experienced retreat leader and spiritual director. He is the author of 'Seeing in the Dark, Earthed in God' and 'Send My Roots Rain'. He is a regular guest director at St. Beuno's Jesuit Spirituality Centre and teaches spirituality at St. Augustine's College of Theology.

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.

www.quaker.org.uk/meetings/godalming

St Peter's Hascombe

The process of finding a new priest to live in the Rectory and spend three days a week and Sundays working in our two parishes is now under way. The advert will appear in the Church Times and on the Diocesan website (CofeGuildford) in the last two weeks of February and the first two weeks of March, with the closing date of 12 March. Hopefully there will be a number of applicants, and interviews will be held on 11 April, after a lunch with the churchwardens on 10 April, followed by an orientation tour for all candidates and their spouses, and a reception in the Winn Hall on the evening of 10th for members of the PCC and the wider parishes to meet them. The formal interviews will be held on 11 April, with the interviewing panel comprising the Bishop, an Archdeacon, the Area Dean and the representatives of the parish, as decided at the Section 11 meeting held last month.

www.hascombe.com/st-peters-church

Feba

Many countries in the world have intolerant societies or regimes which persecute Christians. Feba works in many of them through loyal local partners. You have an opportunity to pray for them at Feba's next zoom prayer meeting on Wednesday 6 March at 7.00pm. Further details from www.feba.org.uk/prayer

Godalming Community Gospel Choir

Godalming Community Gospel Choir invites you to join us for our Easter Concert, when you are guaranteed a lively, joyful and uplifting evening of gospel music, both modern and traditional. St Peter and St Paul's Church, Church Street, Godalming on Saturday March 16th at 7.30 p.m. Wine and soft drinks will be available in the interval. Tickets £10, children free. Available for Record Corner (cash only), by contacting gccginformation@gmail.com or on the door.

www.gccg.org.uk

Items for next month's *Link-up*

Please send items for the April 2024 edition of *Link-up* to Matt Farrow: farrow.matt@gmail.com by **Friday 15 March**, for publication on Friday 22 March.