



September 2023

# LINK-UP

*Keeping Churches in Touch*

[www.godalmingchurches.org](http://www.godalmingchurches.org)

[facebook.com/ChurchesTogetherinGodalmingandDistrict](https://facebook.com/ChurchesTogetherinGodalmingandDistrict)

## Message from the Chair

One of the key purposes of Churches Together is to find ways of co-operating to serve the town around our church communities, perhaps in forms that we wouldn't be able to manage on our own. For many years one of our main activities in this respect has been the Christmas Day Lunch for those who would otherwise be on their own. I came to the 2009 one, the first year I arrived in Farncombe, and have been every few years since. The organisation, from the cooking to ferrying attenders there and back, is always very impressive. Most admirable is the way people are prepared to devote so much of their own Christmas Day to making it a happy occasion for others.

Numbers have fallen a bit over the years, but the festive meal and all that goes with it are still much enjoyed and appreciated by those who come. 2023, though, presents us with some challenges. Although we will have to find funding, that probably won't be an insurmountable issue. More of a hurdle will be finding a new cook as Maureen Jones of the Baptist congregation who has so capably and generously carried out this role in the past has stepped back. We hope that the Christmas Lunch can go ahead as before, but that really does depend on finding someone, or a group of people, to take on this crucial task. It may be that the time has come for us to do something else to express the Church's generosity to the community at Christmas, but we have confidence that whatever God wants us to do he will provide the resources for it to happen. Do pray, friends, that the path ahead will become clear.

Rev James Rattue, Chair of Churches Together in Godalming and District  
[jamesrattue@hotmail.com](mailto:jamesrattue@hotmail.com)

## Churches Together events

Saturday 9 September – Surrey Churches Ride and Stride

Saturday 23 September – Prayer breakfast, Godalming United Church

## News of the Churches and organisations

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

### **Services at St Peter & St Paul**

Sunday 3 September, 8.00am - Holy Communion followed by breakfast in the Octagon

Sunday 3 September, 9.30am - Muddy Church at the Jack Phillips Memorial, followed by refreshments in the Octagon

Saturday 16 September - Heritage Weekend - Church open from 10.00am to 4.00pm. 2pm Bell Tower Tour and Demonstration. Tours must be prebooked. Telephone 01483 426510

Saturday 16 September, 5.00pm - Evensong - All are very welcome

Sunday 17 September, 10.00am - Holy Communion

Sunday 17 September - Heritage Weekend - Church open 1.00pm to 4.00pm

Sunday 24 September, 10.00am - Holy Communion

### **Godalming Minster**

The Minster Senior Leadership Team continues to meet approximately every two weeks, with current discussion focussed on convolving work on Minster branding with a new vision statement and memorable strapline. This will then move towards the development of a broad implementation plan and communication strategy. Our Parish Needs Plan has been developed with concrete objectives and action plans for three primary strategies to enable the delivery of Christian mission into greater Godalming:

- Intentional Discipleship
- Growing Younger
- Mission and Evangelism through community engagement.

The existing audio/visual system in St Peter and St Paul's Church needs a complete replacement with the latest state of the art equipment and screens. Some re-ordering of the church interior is also required, including the temporary removal of some of the pews at the front and at the back of the nave, in addition to re-positioning some of the front side pews. The aim is to complete the work before the end of 2023. Please refer to our website for more information <https://parishofgodalming.org.uk/godalming-minster>

### **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. We finished this term with a Summer Social in the Rectory Garden, Godalming and commence the new term on Monday 11 September. If you would like to be added to the waiting list, please email Vickie Nye, our Children and Families Worker email [godalmingparishoctots@gmail.com](mailto:godalmingparishoctots@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. We finished this term with a Summer Social in the Rectory Garden, Godalming and commence the new term on Wednesday 6 September. If you would like to be added to the waiting list, please email Vickie email [godalmingparishoctots@gmail.com](mailto:godalmingparishoctots@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, from 9am to 11am. The aim is to offer a welcoming space for toddlers and parents to socialise, meet new people and make friends.

### **Foodbank**

Thank you to everyone who supports the Foodbank. The 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](mailto:stmarkscentre@googlemail.com).

## **Bible Course**

An eight-session course helping you explore the BIG story. "Whether you're well versed in Scripture or just starting out on the journey, The Bible Course offers a superb overview of the world's best-selling book." With video led teaching, group discussion, and time for reflection. Refreshments from 7.30pm. Course book £5. The Bible Course commences on Thursday 7 September from 7.30pm to 8.30pm/9.00pm and runs every Thursday until 26 October at St Mark's Church. The course is led by Keith Harper LLM (Licensed Lay Minister) and Reverend Sheila Samuels.

[www.parishofgodalming.org.uk](http://www.parishofgodalming.org.uk)

## **St John's Parish Church, Farncombe**

At St John's the major recent event has been the Village Show on Saturday 19 August. This annual event encourages Farncombe residents to show off what they've been able to achieve in their gardens and workshops over the year. Our new team of organisers had a steep learning curve but worked wonders, and thanks to both them and better growing conditions entries were up by over a third on 2022's figure to a record level. The church even made a bit of money – not that that's why we do it! Otherwise, we look forward to restarting some of our groups in the new term, and carry on implementing the ideas in our Development Plan

[www.farncombe.org.uk](http://www.farncombe.org.uk)

## **St Peter's, Hascombe**

On 3 September, we have a BCP Holy Communion at 8.00am followed by full English breakfast in the Vestry at 8.45am. Our "Something Different" service of the word follows at 10.00am and will include a presentation from Matt Dwyer from his home in France by zoom on RP "living with blindness"

## **Godalming Baptist Church**

### **Coffee Stop, Saturday 2 September**

On Saturday 2 September at Godalming Baptist Church from 10.00am until 12.00pm we are beginning the monthly Coffee Stop again in aid of a different charity each month. Please do call in for coffee and bring a friend! There will be no charge, but voluntary donations will be much appreciated towards the work of the charity 'Dnipro Hope Mission' for Ukraine. Art Space will be happening upstairs also!

We are delighted that Chris and Denise Arthey will be sharing at our morning service on Sunday 3 September at 10.00am. If you missed the Life issue earlier in the year their life journey is inspiring.

### **Dnipro Hope Mission, Sunday 10 September**

We are also looking forward to Melanie Gray sharing about the work of the charity 'Dnipro Hope Mission' Ukraine on Sunday 10 September at 10.00am at GBC. Do come and hear about their vital work.

### **Life issue: 'Anxiety, Fear and Panic', Saturday 23 September**

On Saturday 23 September from 10.00am to 12.30pm (coffee from 9.30am) Dr Martin Brunet will lead a very relevant Life issue session on anxiety, fear and panic'. Dr Brunet leads with great empathy, experience and understanding, and this promises to be such a worthwhile morning. To book a place, please contact Sally on 01483-428646 or [pollard3@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:pollard3@hotmail.co.uk) by Friday 15 September.

### **Book review: *Whisper* by Mark Batterson**

God still speaks - His whisper can answer your most burning questions, calm your deepest fears and fulfil your loftiest dreams. Do read this inspiring book

### **Ecumenical ladies' breakfast, Saturday 30 September**

Linda Chamberlain, who before retirement worked for WEC is our speaker on Saturday 30

September at our ecumenical ladies' breakfast at Jack Phillips (Wetherspoons) from 9.00am to 11.00am. Please contact Sally as above if you are coming as numbers have to be given in advance to the staff at the Jack Phillips. Thank you!

[www.godalmingbaptistchurch.org.uk](http://www.godalmingbaptistchurch.org.uk)

## Godalming United Church

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

Service recordings: [www.guc.org.uk](http://www.guc.org.uk), <https://bit.ly/GUCYouTube>.

### **Rev'd John Goatley 1929-2023**

It is with sadness that we report the death of John Goatley, a much loved member of our ministry team since he and his wife Margaret moved to Milford in 2013. In the 50s he trained initially as an engineer, became a local preacher, and then entered the Methodist ministry in 1958. After 10 years in Sierra Leone – John retained a keen interest in the work of the worldwide church and Christian Aid – the family moved back home and he was stationed successively in Circuits around the country. He possessed compassion, a keen sense of humour and a sharp intellect wrapped up in rock-solid faith. John was a wise and thoughtful preacher. His was a long and well-lived life, and a blessing to many people.

### **Pantomime celebration and reunion, Sunday 3 September, 2.30pm to 6.00pm**

GUC's annual pantomime marks its 20th Anniversary! A chance for cast, helpers and supporters past and present to reminisce and relive golden moments with video clips and light refreshments. Contact 07506 719046 or [thekeenenes@btopenworld.com](mailto:thekeenenes@btopenworld.com)

### **Friday Lunches start again, Friday 8 September, 12.00pm to 1.30pm**

Tasty homemade food at knockdown prices in support of local charities.

### **Messy Church, Saturday 30 September, 3.00pm to 5.00pm**

"Seed time and Harvest" – [messy.church@guc.org.uk](mailto:messy.church@guc.org.uk)

For other future events, please visit [www.guc.org.uk](http://www.guc.org.uk) for a constantly updated rolling calendar.

[www.guc.org.uk](http://www.guc.org.uk)

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

### **Pope Francis' intention for September**

Pope Francis' intention for September is that we pray for people living on the margins of society, in inhumane life conditions; may they not be overlooked by institutions and never considered of lesser importance.

### **The Season of Creation**

We celebrate this season, which starts with a World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation on 1 September, and continues through until 4 October, the Feast Day of St Francis of Assisi. During this time we are invited to ponder on the many gifts that God has given to us and to consider how we can protect and care for our world. On the weekend of 23 and 24 September, our Masses will be of thanksgiving for Creation, and parishioners are asked to bring to Mass a photo, picture or example eg plant/flower, of an aspect of Creation they would like to thank God for. The display will be part of the Offertory procession. Our parish Live Simply group has other activities planned for the season; and there is an invitation to join a webinar 'Call of creation: Reading the signs of the times' organised by the Catholic Bishops Conference in conjunction with CAFOD, on 12 September at 7.00pm. More info from: [jolewry@aol.com](mailto:jolewry@aol.com)

### **Surrey Churches Ride & Stride**

This annual fundraising event takes place on Saturday 9 September, and a group of parishioners will set off at 10.00 from outside St John's, Farncombe. To sponsor them and help raise funds for Surrey Churches Preservation Trust contact Ian: [honeysett@btinternet.com](mailto:honeysett@btinternet.com)

## **Blessing of students and teachers**

At this time of year when schools, colleges and universities reopen after the summer break, there will be a special blessing at all our parish Masses over the weekend of the 9 and 10 September, as all those in education return for the next academic year.

## **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 September and 17 September); 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](http://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](mailto:jolewry@aol.com)
- SVP Afternoon Tea on Wednesday 13 September at 2.30pm at the United Reformed Church, Elstead (phone 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](http://www.stedsgod.com)

## **The Franciscan Centre Ladywell**

### **Being Human in an Emerging Universe, 14 to 17 September**

Speaker: Niamh Brennan

Suggested offering: £255

In this workshop we will examine what it means to be a 'human being' considering the Universe story as articulated through contemporary science. Through the medium of input, discussion, and reflection, we will look at the implications of this for our ecological understanding and our spirituality, and the manner in which both are intertwined. In doing this, we will also address such age-old existential human questions as what is love, what is suffering and what might it mean to have a life – all from the larger context of the Universe story as articulated through contemporary science.

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](mailto: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.

### Eyewitness accounts of life in the West Bank, 20 September

Come and hear eyewitness accounts of the life of a shepherdess and others in the West Bank, the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Debby Flack will share stories from her visit as an ecumenical accompanier on Wednesday 20 September at 7.30pm at Godalming Meeting House, Mill Lane, Godalming GU7 1HB

[www.quaker.org.uk/meetings/godalming](http://www.quaker.org.uk/meetings/godalming)

## Trinity Trust Team

We enjoyed a great end to the school year with our annual Activities Week; five days of trips to theme parks, water parks, outward bounds and activities centres with local teenagers, a high point of the year for the team and young people alike.

The team have enjoyed some well-earned respite during August and look forward to spending some quiet time on 6 September to pray and plan for the academic year ahead. We will be joined on that day in Elstead by Ola, our new recruit, who will be migrating south from Aberdeen to take up the post of Full Time Team Youth Worker on 1 September.

Thank you to all who have offered help to accommodate Ola in the first couple of months with us as he finds his feet in Godalming before committing to longer term accommodation. If you have an under utilised annexe or have space in your home and would be prepared to have Ola for a month or so do please get in touch with our Chairman, Michael Stubbs ([michael@trinitytrust.co.uk](mailto:michael@trinitytrust.co.uk))

Please pray for:

- A 'good landing' for Ola as he moves south from Scotland, that he settles in well and soon feels part of the team and the local church community
- Continued opportunities to prosper the gospel in schools and communities in the coming school year and for new partnerships within local churches
- 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.

[www.trinitytrustteam.co.uk](http://www.trinitytrustteam.co.uk)

### Feba

Although we enjoy the freedom to worship God in the way we want, there are many parts of the world where this is not the case. Feba Radio produces programmes on radio and internet and podcasts which can be heard in these places. Join us on Zoom on Wednesday 6 September at 7 pm to learn more about Feba's work and to pray.

[www.feba.org.uk/prayer](http://www.feba.org.uk/prayer)

## Items for next month's *Link-up*

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

[farrow.matt@gmail.com](mailto:farrow.matt@gmail.com) by **Friday 16 September**, for publication on Friday 23 September.