



August 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

It was good to hear proper acknowledgement in the media of Sinead O'Connor's religion after the singer's death a few days ago. Much of what she did and said was filtered through her own self-admitted craziness, but it was always deeply serious and profoundly meant. I wonder how the Church can manage to deal with prophetic figures like O'Connor who seem to have a vocation to call it to account, to announce to it that all is not well? Perhaps it can't – prophets can't be accommodated or assimilated without ceasing to be what they are called to be.

But perhaps the Church (which means all our church communities) can try to keep focused on what it is for. The more I go on the more I reflect that this means two things: to state definitely and dauntlessly the reality, nature, and works of God – because otherwise human beings will forget – and to make the point that we can't live the spiritual life alone, because that's where, otherwise, we have a tendency to go. These seem to be the primary things we absolutely need the Church for: they are humble goals which might make us more open to what the Spirit is saying through the people we find hardest to deal with, and which those outside Christian communities might find easier to understand.

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

## Churches Together events

Sunday 13 August, 10.30am - Ecumenical Open-air Service, Godalming Bandstand, all welcome

Saturday 9 September – Surrey Churches Ride and Stride

## 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 6 August, 8.00am - Holy Communion followed by breakfast in the Octagon

Sunday 13 August, 10.30am - Churches Together Staycation Worship at the Bandstand

Sunday 20 August, 10.00am - Holy Communion

Sunday 27 August, 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 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 end 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, [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 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**

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).

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

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

We've concluded another school year with our popular Toddler Group and Church Club coming to an end and the children leaving sent on their way to the next stage in their lives. We look forward to the Village Show on 19 August and pray it will be as successful and enjoyed as last year's was. We have a new Church Development Plan and are beginning to work through the (hopefully achievable) tasks we've set ourselves.

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

## St Peter's, Hascombe

St Peter's, Hascombe will be part of Heritage Open Days on 16 and 17 September, and if you have not visited this highly decorated Tractarian gem then make a point of listening to the talk at 3.00pm on Saturday or just visiting in daylight hours.

## Godalming Baptist Church

### **August Book Review: 'The Busy Christian's Guide to Busyness'**

While offering practical help to busy Christians, Tim Chester also opts for root and branch treatment: it's not enough to slow down, or to simplify your lifestyle, you need to deal radically with the things that are driving you. A challenging read! Do call in to borrow a book for the summer holidays on Thursday 3 or Thursday 18 August when the church is open for Friendship Lunch.

### **Coffee stop, Saturday 2 September**

The monthly 'Coffee Stop' is beginning again! On Saturday 2 September at Godalming Baptist Church from 10.00am until 12.00pm there will be coffee, cake and biscuits and a warm welcome too! Please do call in for coffee and bring a friend! Voluntary donations much appreciated towards the work of the charity 'Dnipro Hope Mission' for Ukraine.

Sunday 3rd September - Chris and Denise Arthey will be sharing at the Morning Service at 10.00am at GBC. They led a Life Issue event 'Meeting disaster head-on with hope' earlier this year and were so inspiring.

### **Anxiety, Fear and Panic, Saturday 23 September**

Led by Dr Martin Brunet at GBC 10.00am to 12.30pm (coffee from 9.30am)

Anxiety can be very bewildering. Do come and gain a deeper understanding of anxiety - whether for yourself or in order to support others - and learn how to be in control of our anxiety rather than our anxiety being in control of us. No charge but voluntary donations towards the Farncombe Community Garden much appreciated. To book a place please contact Sally Pollard on 01483 428646 or [pollard3@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:pollard3@hotmail.co.uk)

### **Open the Book assemblies**

Please think about helping at Open the Book assemblies at local primary schools 2 or 3 times a term. You dress up and act out a Bible story. Contact Catherine Lawton at [catherine@lawtonfamily.net](mailto:catherine@lawtonfamily.net)  
[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>.

### **Looking Back**

A big "Thank You" to all who supported the Whitechapel Mission to the Homeless with donations of clothes and food - massively generous as ever, with items coming in from other churches and the wider Godalming community.

In June a group of 7 from GUC travelled up to visit Whitechapel and came back deeply impressed. The Mission provides not only food, clothing and a hot shower but advice, counselling, and access to computers to help untangle the complications of modern life that are often the root cause of homelessness.

### **Looking Ahead**

Saturday 2 September, 2.30pm to 4.30pm - Cream tea on the lawn - in support of our ongoing commitment to The Gambia ophthalmic unit.

Sunday 3 September, 2.30pm to 6.00pm - Pantomime celebration and reunion - 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 [thekeenes@btopenworld.com](mailto:thekeenes@btopenworld.com)

Friday 8 September, 12.00pm to 1.30pm - Friday Lunches start again – tasty homemade food at knockdown prices in support of local charities.

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 August**

Pope Francis' intention for August is For World Youth Day: We pray the World Youth Day in Lisbon (1 to 6 August) will help young people to live and witness the Gospel in their own lives.

### **Parish Small Communities**

Many of our newly formed parish family groups – which are a simple, fun and supportive way of living out our Christian lives and can fit well even into a busy life - are about to meet together for the first time, and the launch takes place at:

### **Outdoor 10.30am Mass and Picnic for Feast of Assumption**

On 13 August at The Old Farmhouse, Elstead, GU8 6DB. All are welcome and there is plenty of parking in the grounds. We hope for a sunny day so that we can relax and enjoy picnics. We will also be launching our newly formed parish community groups, with prayers at Mass for special blessings on them.

### **Supporting Mary's Meals**

This charity works to end global hunger by providing a daily meal to schoolchildren, and it costs £19.95 to feed one child for a year. Our parish is joining their foreign currency initiative by collecting up old coins (many of us have a hoard stashed away somewhere at home!), with envelopes available at church to take home and fill with old coins. More information about the charity at: [www.marysmeals.org.uk](http://www.marysmeals.org.uk)

### **Gatwick Detainees Welfare Group**

This group, which supports asylum seekers and other migrants held in immigration detention at Gatwick, needs good quality men's clothes, and speakers of Albanian, Romanian, Portuguese Brazilian, Polish, Lithuanian, Arabic, Kurdish Sorani. If you can help, please contact [nasima@gdwg.org.uk](mailto:nasima@gdwg.org.uk) (clothes) or [karris@gdwg.org.uk](mailto:karris@gdwg.org.uk) (languages).

### **CAFOD Campaign on Migration Bill**

Pope Francis has called on world leaders to 'build bridges, not walls' and show compassion for those fleeing their homes because of war, persecution or poverty. The government's new 'Illegal Migration Bill' would effectively shut the door on people needing protection. Please consider emailing or writing to Jeremy Hunt our MP to ask him to oppose the Bill:

<https://action.cafod.org.uk/page/130969/action/1>

### **Knowing our Place: from Stardust to Sand**

This retreat runs from 17 to 20 August, at the Franciscan Centre, Ladywell, with Sr Colette Kane OP. <https://franciscancentre.org.uk/>

### **Mass times and regular parish events and activities**

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, (but no Children's Liturgy during school holidays) (and with Coffee after Mass on 6 August and 20 August); 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](http://www.stedsgod.com)

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

- 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 9 August at 2.30pm at the United Reformed Church, Elstead
- Prayer Group on Monday evenings at later 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](http://www.stedsgod.com)

## The Franciscan Centre Ladywell

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

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.

### **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 companioner 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**

#### **Wanted: temporary accommodation for youth worker relocating to Godalming**

(From 1 September 1 for 6 weeks)

TTT has recently appointed a new Team Youth Worker (single male, aged 30) who will be relocating from Scotland at the end of August. Do you have a spare double room with en-suite facilities or vacant annexe at a reasonable rate for 6 weeks whilst he undertakes his first half term with us? If you can help us in housing Ola then please contact our Chair (Michael Stubbs) on [michael@trinitytrustteam.co.uk](mailto:michael@trinitytrustteam.co.uk)

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

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

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

[farrow.matt@gmail.com](mailto:farrow.matt@gmail.com) by **Friday 18 August**, for publication on Friday 25 August.