



May 2024

LINK-UP

Keeping Churches in Touch

www.godalmingchurches.org

facebook.com/ChurchesTogetherinGodalmingandDistrict

Message from the Chair

Every now and again fashionable buzzwords run through the Church of England describing what it is the Church is supposed to do, and I'm sure they do in other denominations as well. In my view they always boil down to the same three things: making new Christians, helping existing Christians to be better Christians, and serving the community more widely. This should come as little surprise because they're what the Church has been doing ever since the Ascension of our Lord itself, even if we call these tasks by different names.

Because of the way our church communities have developed, we naturally think of them in terms of doctrine: Anglicans believe this, Baptists believe that, and so on. At least we no longer tend to come to violence about it, though. Nevertheless, what this leaves out is that our churches are, perhaps more importantly, the actual, real contexts in which people learn what it means to follow Jesus. This is always more a matter of relationship, with him and with others, than about statements of belief. We get to know and work with a variety of different people with whom we probably only share one thing – that we are trying to be disciples. We have to be committed to that enterprise with that group of people over time. It helps to know that the specific local group we belong to is also part of something bigger and wider, a community that's existed before us and will carry on after us, and that's linked to others of the same kind. This is the setting where we make the (probably small) sacrifices and renunciations that help us to discover and take part in the life of Jesus Christ, the one sacrifice which saves us.

We do believe different things, but we are, very substantially, engaged in the same work

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

Churches Together events

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

11 August - Staycation Open-air Service, Godalming Bandstand

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

90th Anniversary of St Mark's Church

2024 is the 90th anniversary of St Mark's Church on Franklyn Road. Godalming Minster and

the Franklyn Road congregation is marking 90 years with several events, which started with a community fun day at St Mark's and All Saints school field on Sunday 28 March (to coincide with St Mark's Day). The community fun days have been running for three years, but this one was extra special and drew approximately 200 from the Minster, school and local community. There are some great photos on the Godalming Minster Instagram and Facebook pages. There will be a special service in August to commemorate when the cornerstone was laid, and an anniversary service to mark the first service in November.

Bereavement Journey course

The next Bereavement Journey course starts on 5 June, for anyone who has been bereaved recently or some time ago. Please find all the details here, and share with anyone you think might benefit. Numbers are limited, so please do register your interest with Sandra Wilkin: pastoral@godalmingminster.org. See the events coming up next and look up dates further ahead in the full calendar.

Charterhouse School recital, Tuesday 8 May, 7pm

Godalming Minster is delighted to host Charterhouse School as they present a recital at Church Street (St Peter and St Paul's). There will be performances from our jazz and wind ensembles and some solo items. All are welcome to attend, and admission is free.

godalmingminster.org

St John's Parish Church, Farncombe

At St John's we are looking forward to the first of our big community events of the year, the Spring Fair. As for the last couple of years, this will take place in the church and churchyard, and as well as a variety of stalls operated by local charities and organisations we have a fine mixture of entertainment through the day in the form of music and dance. There will also be plenty of refreshments. All we need now is reasonable weather and plenty of visitors! More mundanely (but no less importantly) we're working through what we have to do as a result of our fire safety review and the necessary changes we'll have to bring in.

www.farncombe.org.uk

Godalming Baptist Church

Visit our library

Do call into GBC Library to browse and choose a book on Monday to Friday mornings from 9.00am to 12.00pm, term time only. Our book review this month is *What's age got to do with it?* by Louise Morse. A book that will encourage us as we age that God has a purpose for us whatever our age!

Coffee Stop, Saturday 11th May

You are warmly invited to call in to GBC for coffee or tea and delicious homemade cake from 10.00am until 12.00pm. There is no charge, but donations are much appreciated towards our monthly chosen charity. This month will be to support Sophie's Legacy, a charity that supports children and their parents whilst in hospital. At RSCH, parents are given free pizzas at the weekend - a lovely touch that lifts their spirits (see attachment).

Loneliness, Saturday 22 June

Led by Revd Peter Jackson. Loneliness is a huge issue in our society today. Peter will focus on such questions as Why do we feel lonely? What are the causes and symptoms of loneliness? Are there ways we can deal with loneliness both for ourselves and for others? Do come to this worthwhile morning. There is no charge but all donations much appreciated towards the work of Silverline. To book a place please contact Sally Pollard on 01483 428646 or

pollard3@hotmail.co.uk

Relentless Love, 19 July, 7.00pm

Manna Theatre Company presents a passionate retelling of the life of Christ. Experience what it

meant to the people that encountered Jesus on Earth. Follow the smelly fisherman Peter, Mary from Magdala, the women at the well, and a little boy with a stubborn cow as they all experience His love and power to set them free. Watch as we see before our eyes how His life, death and resurrection changed us all for ever. Entry is free. Find out more at:

www.mannatheatrecompany.uk/event-details-registration/relentless-love-godalming
www.godalmingbaptistchurch.org.uk

Godalming United Church

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

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

Bible Study with Adam - Paul's missionary journeys, continuing as follows:

Tuesday 30 April, 10.00am, repeated on Wednesday 1 May, 7.00pm - Second Journey

Tuesday 7 May, 10.00am, repeated on Wednesday 8 May, 7.00pm - Third Journey

Rotary Young Citizens' Award 2024 Award Ceremony, Friday 17 May, evening

Wilfred Noyce Centre: Cash prize and Commemorative Plaque; Certificate for all nominees. An award given in memory of our late church member Malcolm Keene for outstanding contribution to the community; open for any individual or group aged 10 to 18 - as carer, charity fundraiser or community volunteer. Nomination forms available on Godalming Woolsack Rotary website or visit godalmingrotary.youth@gmail.com.

Messy Church: Lost and Found, Saturday 18 May, 3.00pm to 5.00pm

The Lost Sheep. Bible-based activities for all the family, story-time and songs, party tea.

messy.church@guc.org.uk

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 May

Pope Francis' prayer intention for May is for the formation of men and women religious, and seminarians; that they may grow in their own vocational journey through human, pastoral, spiritual and community formation, leading them to be credible witnesses of the Gospel.

Month of Prayer for Vocations

In the season of Eastertide we look towards the Ascension of the Lord on Thursday 9 May, which we celebrate with Mass at 10.00am at St Edmund's Primary School (all welcome), and in the evening at St Joseph's Milford (please check our website for time); and to Pentecost on 19 May. During this period our parish is focussing on prayer for vocations to the priesthood.

Fundraising for the FMDM Kasanka mission, our twin parish in Zambia

We started with a roving cake sale in April and continue with a plant sale at Ladywell on 2 June, held in memory of Pete Kelly RIP. If you are able to donate plants, fruit and veg plants, we would love to hear from you. Please contact Jo on 07920 180495.

First Holy Communion Masses

Our parish family celebrates First Holy Communion Masses on Sunday 12 and 19 May, at which over 30 children in our parish receive Holy Communion for the first time, having prepared for this important moment at monthly sessions from September last year.

Discernment on the future of our two churches

During May, after much prayer and discernment, we hope to have some indications of possible

ways forward regarding our parish buildings. We also continue our prayer effort for the new Diocesan Pastoral Plan and for the clergy of our deanery who are working together to seek how the new structures will look in practice.

Big Church Festival at Wiston Park

This takes place over the bank holiday weekend of 25/26 May and is a chance to join in worship with over 30,000 people in the surroundings of the Wiston Estate, and in the company of some of the best Christian artists in the world. Bishop Richard will celebrate Mass on Sunday. Lots of fun activities and family camping. For more information:

www.bigchurchfestival.com

What's it like to be a Benedictine monk?

This talk is at St Augustine's Abbey, Chilworth, on 18 May, from 10.00am to 11.30am, and explores the centuries old Benedictine way of life, from chanting in Latin to the discipline of dawn prayer. To register: richardatob@gmail.com Info: www.chilworthbenedictines.com

A Year of Encounter

With a UK general election due sometime this year, and politicians looking for our votes, we have a responsibility as Christians to make sure that parties commit to tackling issues of poverty and injustice. 'A Year of Encounter' is a joint initiative between CAFOD and St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP), equipping us to ask key questions of local candidates, and helping us to raise our voices and send a strong signal from our parish community to those standing for election in our local constituencies. A free online training session is offered on Saturday 4 May, and you can register at: <https://cafod.org.uk/news/events/using-our-catholic-voice-at-the-next-election-training-session>

Wintershall Stations of the Cross

Wintershall Stations of the Cross are on Friday 3 May at 7.00am, led by Sally Davis, and all welcome. www.wintershall.org.uk/stations-cross

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 5 and 19 May); 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 the home page of our website: www.stedsgod.com

Parish gatherings

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

- Bumps & Babes on Mondays at 10:30 at St John's, Farncombe (no sessions on Bank Holiday Mondays)
- Live Simply Our parish eco-group meets monthly on Zoom, with the next meeting on Thursday 2 May on zoom, 7.30pm. Joining details from Jo: jolewry@aol.com
- SVP Afternoon Tea on Wednesday 8 May at 14:30 at the United Reformed Church, Elstead (phone 07379 108009).
- Prayer Group on Monday evenings (phone Richard for details on 01252 702230), starting at 7.30pm.
- St Edmund's church remains open every day for private prayer, usually between 10am and 5pm. (19 Croft Road, Godalming GU7 1DB).

www.stedsgod.com

The Franciscan Centre Ladywell

Learning to Speak from a Franciscan Heart: A 21st Century Language

Led by: Br William Short OFM

Date: 10 to 12 May

Suggested offering: £180

A time of retreat and reflection lead by Franciscan Friar, William Short OFM

The Franciscan spiritual tradition approaches major questions of life and meaning from a unique angle. Who is God? Who am I in relation to God and others? Does this world have value for a Christian? What does it mean to be "saved"? Franciscan language focuses on God as Love, and a creation proclaimed as "good" by its Creator. The fundamental relationship uniting all creatures is that of being brothers and sisters to each other. This religious language has become familiar today through the words of Pope Francis in recent encyclicals like *Laudato Si'* and *Fratelli Tutti*. Share a time of rest and reflection learning more about this Franciscan language and how easy it is to speak in our times.

William Short OFM: Br. William Short, O.F.M., S.T.L., S.T.D., is Professor of Christian Spirituality at the Franciscan School of Theology in Oceanside, California, where he has also served as President and Academic Dean. He was previously Professor of Christian Spirituality at the Graduate Theological Union and Director of the St. Francis Retreat Centre in California. A Franciscan friar, he received a B.A. from the University of San Francisco, an M.A. in Philosophical and Systematic Theology, and the S.T.L. and S.T.D. degrees from the Gregorian University in Rome. In July of 2014, Br. Short received the 25th Franciscan Institute Medal. Br. Short has dedicated his scholarly work to a retrieval of the Franciscan tradition of spirituality and theology. He is co-editor of the three-volume series of English translations of all the documents written by St. Francis of Assisi and his earliest biographers, *Francis of Assisi: Early Documents*. He has published works on the history of the Franciscan movement and its spirituality.

Reflections in the Mirror – A Journey with St. Clare of Assisi

Led by: Brian Purfield

Date: 14 to 16 June

Suggested offering: £180

How can the fidelity of Clare and Agnes to their particular vocation inspire us today? We shall explore the four letters Clare writes to Agnes. By weaving together history and spirituality, participants will be invited into the God-centred world of Clare. By sifting out the key elements of Clare's spirituality through her letters to Agnes, we shall explore her legacy for us today. A woman of profound courage, with much to teach us as we navigate our own journeys to God.

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.

Ecofluency Experience

Led by: Saskia von Diest

Date: 20 to 23 June

Suggested offering: £395

Explore your ability to commune and communicate with all of Nature, in this residential experience and workshop. Dr Saskia von Diest is offering an Ecofluency experience within the tranquil setting of the Ladywell Convent, a space that is ideal for deep contemplation and welcoming of all faiths, belief systems and spiritual traditions, with the only provisor being an open mind and open heart. This experience is for anybody interested in communing and communicating with Nature, including those who practice it already, though no previous experience is required.

In 2021, Saskia founded Ecofluency, an organisation that offers consulting, facilitation, teaching and coaching in Nature communication, and promotes other human voices in this field. With 14 years of experience in teaching and facilitating through various forms and in many countries, her passion is creating opportunities for others to have their own experience of communicating with non-human Nature, and develop that for individual and collective evolution. In 2021, Saskia founded Ecofluency, an organisation that offers consulting, facilitation, teaching and coaching in Nature communication, and promotes other human voices in this field. With 14 years of experience in teaching and facilitating through various forms and in many countries, her passion is creating opportunities for others to have their own experience of communicating with non-human Nature, and develop that for individual and collective evolution.

June 6 Day Individually Guided Retreat (IGR)

Date: 23 to 30 June

Suggested offering: £520

Step away from the noise and haste of your everyday life and into the quiet beauty of the Franciscan Centre Ladywell in the heart of Surrey. Set on expansive grounds which are peaceful and beautiful, with wonderful walks and a stunning woodland to explore, find God in the sacred book of nature and in the peaceful, prayerfulness of our wonderful house.

Each day you will be accompanied by a trained spiritual director, who will listen attentively and offer suggestions for allowing you to go deeper into your relationship with God.

Arrival Sunday 23 June evening from 4.00pm and depart next Sunday, 30 June, morning after breakfast and Mass.

July 6 Day Individually Guided Retreat (IGR)

Date: 18 to 25 July

Suggested offering: £520

Step away from the noise and haste of your everyday life and into the quiet beauty of the Franciscan Centre Ladywell in the heart of Surrey. Set on expansive grounds which are peaceful and beautiful, with wonderful walks and a stunning woodland to explore, find God in the sacred book of nature and in the peaceful, prayerfulness of our wonderful house.

Each day you will be accompanied by a trained spiritual director, who will listen attentively and offer suggestions for allowing you to go deeper into your relationship with God.

Arrival Thursday 18th July evening from 4.00pm and depart next Thursday 25 July morning after breakfast and Mass.

Exploring Spirituality in the context of evolving universe, an endangered earth, in the Christian tradition

Led by: Sr Collette Kane OP

Date: 22nd to 25th August

Suggested offering: £255

This program touches on the following areas:

- Becoming familiar with our evolution over 14 billion years as discovered by contemporary science.
- Exploring its implications for understanding our place in the universe as Christians.
- Exploring the theological implications of this new cosmology.
- Listening to the wisdom of the mystics.
- Reflecting on themes from the Celtic Tradition.
- Examining our images of God.
- Critiquing our present world order and exploring possibilities for a sustainable lifestyle.

Through input, prayer, discussion, and reflection, engage more deeply in our place within the natural world as created by a loving God. Spend time in nature and see God's fingerprints.

Sr Colette Kane OP, a Dominican Sister, is the Director of Programs at An Tairseach, Organic Farm and Ecology Centre in Wicklow Town in Ireland since 2014. Sr Colette also delivers lectures on the ten-week bi-annual course entitled 'Exploring Spirituality in the context of: an Expanding Universe, an Endangered Earth, and the Christian Tradition'.

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 Meetings for Worship

In addition to our Sunday Meetings, we will also be holding midweek Meetings for Worship on the following Thursdays:

2 May, 1.00pm

6 June, 6.30pm

4 July, 1.00pm

www.quaker.org.uk/meetings/godalming

Feba

You have an opportunity to pray on Zoom for Christians in the world's most significant trouble spots. Past prayers have been answered. Join us at www.feba.org.uk/prayer on 1 May just before 7.00pm for an hour.

Trinity Trust Team

Our Easter assembly this year was 'The Centurian's Tale' as we dramatised the role the Centurian and his guards had to play in the death of Lord Jesus, and imagined their shock at finding the empty tomb days after Jesus was laid in it.

We took the play to local junior schools and performed on Godalming High Street on Good Friday; what a blessing to be able to witness with fellow believers on the High Street. Our thanks to Simon Taylor and Marcus from Godalming Minster for playing a part in the short service and the hospitality team at Godalming Baptist Church for providing refreshments afterwards.

We also delivered the assembly as part of the Godalming Junior School RE Day, again going into individual classrooms afterwards and spending the morning sharing the essence of Easter with the children.

This term our attention will be focused on the Year 6 Moving on Workshops, Year 7 Induction, and school retreat days as well as planning and resourcing for our annual Summer Activities programme; each term has its own rhythm. This of course along with all our regular weekly groups.

New since our last update is our partnership at Busbridge on Friday nights with the 'Friday Night Social', with the Milford Baptist Church youth also on Friday nights and a monthly event 'Snack-Chat' with the youth at Godalming United Church – part of a vision to engage with young Christians (and those on the fringes) where they are, with a view to organising a cross-town praise and worship event this autumn.

Thank you to everyone who so kindly responded to our request for accommodation for Ola. He is now settled in Milford and thankful for all those from local churches who had offered to house him.

Please pray for:

- Continued opportunities to prosper the gospel in schools and communities in the coming school year and for new partnerships within local churches to flourish
- Continued growth in numbers of youth attending our new projects and that they will yield the opportunity to go deeper with our proclamation of Christ
- 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 pre-Pentecost!

Items for next month's *Link-up*

Please send items for the June 2024 edition of *Link-up* to Matt Farrow: farrow.matt@gmail.com by **Friday 17 May**, for publication on Friday 24 May.