



October 2024

# 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 books I'm trying to find my way through at the moment is *The Enduring Melody* by Michael Mayne, the former Dean of Westminster Abbey. It describes his journey through treatment for cancer and eventually his terminal diagnosis, reflecting on what faith means in the face of illness. It's a moving and valuable book. But at one point Michael Mayne describes attending a church service (when he is able to) and expresses the impatience he's begun to feel at this stage in his life with sermons that focus on personal sinfulness to the neglect of social sins – conflict, neglect of the poor, racism and so on.

Perhaps in a basically well-off society, and in a particularly well-off corner of it, we have a tendency to focus on our internal spiritual states rather than anything more socially challenging. Our churches often offer events that tackle negative thoughts and feelings, but is this a little self-absorbed? Should we look more broadly at those bigger social issues? My view is that there's a connection between them. Our own individual pains, sins, and unacknowledged damage are exactly the root of those bigger problems, and dealing with them is a vital part of the work of tackling the sins and failings that afflict human society on the corporate level. There's no contradiction.

I always think of the remark of the Orthodox saint and martyr Mother Maria Skobtsova that 'the test of the liturgy inside the church is the liturgy outside it', that is, the quality of our worship is proved by what we do in the rest of our lives. When we succeed in holding both together, our church communities do the work that God wants of us.

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

## Churches Together events

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

Friday 15 November, Open Meeting following the United Church Fellowship Lunch from 12.00pm. Please save this date – more details to follow.

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

# News of the Churches and organisations

## Godalming Minster

Simon Taylor recently announced that after nearly 15 years here he and Catherine will be leaving Godalming Minster in January 2025.

Simon leaves parish ministry at a final service on 5 January 2025, to which everyone is welcome. His new role will be to work nationally with a Christian organisation (CPAS) in leadership development, clergy support and supporting churches in evangelism.

Please pray for Simon and Catherine as they embark on this new chapter, and for Rev Simon Willetts, Associate Rector, and the wardens David Wilkin and Will Bryans who will be leading Godalming Minster during the vacancy, through to the appointment of a new Rector.

[godalmingminster.org](http://godalmingminster.org)

## St John's Parish Church, Farncombe

Thank you to everyone who took part in our very successful second Quiz Night on 20 September (we may even do it again next year).

This Harvest season we're once again supporting the Food Bank and Community Store (as many other churches will), and at the end of the month on Sunday 27th at 3.00pm will offer the annual Memorial Service to remember loved ones – this is specifically intended for those whose relatives' funerals were conducted by the church, but everyone is welcome.

Friends from other congregations are also invited to Forest Church on 13 October and/or Compline Online that evening: more details will be on the website.

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

## Hascombe St Peter

We continue with our interregnum, but there is possibly light at the end of the tunnel. In the meantime, we are grateful to the clergy who are taking services and the spirit is high. We had a good number of visitors at the Heritage Open Day whilst I was away for the weekend in France with the Rotary Club of Aire-sur-la-Lys who were celebrating 70 years since they were founded and over 50 years since we twinned with them mainly due to our children at Broadwater School who exchanged visits with their local school!

## Godalming Baptist Church

### **Coffee Stop, Saturday 5 October, 10.00am to 12.00pm**

Do join us for coffee/tea and delicious homemade cakes. No charge but donations much appreciated towards the Repair Cafe - a monthly event at Godalming Borough Hall where folk can bring items that are not working!

### **Godalming through the ages, Friday 11 October**

David Rose returns to GBC to lead a session on Godalming through the ages. Come and hear about former industries, shops, pubs and famous folk with many vintage photographs, 7.30pm to 9.00pm (coffee from 7.00pm)

### **Living with anxious thoughts, Saturday 19 October**

Life Issue '*Living with anxious thoughts*' led by Dr Martin Brunet, GP at Binscombe Medical Centre, 10.00am to 12.30pm (coffee from 9.30am). Living with anxious thoughts is so hard. Dr Brunet will cover intrusive thoughts, health anxiety, understanding where these thoughts come from and how best to manage them. There is no charge, but voluntary donations towards the Farncombe Community Garden will be much appreciated.

To book a place at any of the above please contact Sally Pollard-01483-428646 or e-mail [pollard3@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:pollard3@hotmail.co.uk)

### **Book Review from GBC Library: *Personality and Stress* by Ruth Fowke**

Discover what causes you stress and manage it more effectively. This insightful book will help you evaluate your stress load based on your personality type, and enable you to resolve stress build-up before it becomes debilitating.

### **Visit our library**

Our library is for everyone! Do call in weekday mornings (subject to bookings), from 9.00am to 12.00pm term-time only to browse and borrow a book. We have a range of books on life issues and books to encourage us on our faith journey.

[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>.

### **Curling evening with fish and chip supper, Saturday 5 October**

Come and join us from 6.30pm to celebrate Harvest with a curling evening and fish & chip supper. (Soft drinks available or BYO). Tickets £10, children under 14 years £8, from [frymaile@gmail.com](mailto:frymaile@gmail.com)

### **Harvest Festival, Sunday 6 October, 10:30am**

Gifts of non-perishable foodstuffs for the Foodbank please.

### **Messy Church, Saturday 19 October, 3.00pm to 5.00pm**

"Helping Hands" – family fun for all ages: crafts, games, storytime and songs, party tea.

[messy.church@guc.org.uk](mailto:messy.church@guc.org.uk)

### **Pantomime rehearsals**

And looking even further ahead... Pantomime rehearsals have started! Yes, Goldilocks and the Three Bears are appearing at GUC on 1 and 2 February 2025 (4 performances) – put the date in your diaries now!

For more information and other future events, 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' prayer intention for October**

Pope Francis' prayer intention for October is for a shared mission, that the Church continues to sustain a synodal lifestyle in every way, as a sign of co-responsibility, promoting the participation, communion and mission shared by priests, religious and laity.

### **CAFOD's Family Fast Day**

CAFOD's Family Fast Day is on Friday 4 October. Our donations this year will help fund training, tools, equipment and safe spaces so more people living in poverty can learn new skills and fulfil their God-given potential. For example, Daniel, a young man in the Democratic Republic of Congo, now has a better future for his family using carpentry skills he learned in a CAFOD-funded training centre. Donations can be made online at

<https://cafod.org.uk/?form=harvest24> (As a guide, £11 can buy a starter tool kit; £32 can pay for an electric tool). Thank you!

### **St Edmund's Annual Quiz Night**

St Edmund's Annual Quiz Night in aid of CAFOD is on Saturday 12 October and all are welcome. 7.15pm for 7.30pm start in the church room at St John's Farncombe. Tickets are £10, cash only in advance. There are 8 people to a team; you can organise your own team or join one. Please bring your own snacks and drinks as this year we are not providing food to help keep costs down. Please contact Jo Lewry: [jolewry@aol.com](mailto:jolewry@aol.com). Space is limited so book as soon as possible!

### **New Youth Discipleship Group**

Every other Friday, 7.00pm to 9.30pm at the Franciscan Centre, Ladywell, for young people turning 16+ who are serious about deepening their faith. Includes pizza and fun – because good food and laughter are essential; real conversations that challenge and inspire us to reflect on life and faith; moments of prayer, worship, and quiet reflection – connecting us more deeply with God. This is a group for those seeking to deepen their relationship with God, wanting to grow spiritually and live out their faith in a meaningful way. Wherever you are on your journey, you are invited to walk this path with us. For more information:

[DavidBeresford@franciscancentre.org.uk](mailto:DavidBeresford@franciscancentre.org.uk)

### **Prayer and Pub for Young Adults**

The next session is at St Joseph's in Guildford from 7.00pm on Wednesday 23 October. For more info: [office@cpq.church](mailto:office@cpq.church)

### **Goodbye to Fr Rajesh**

Goodbye to Fr Rajesh who leaves the Haslemere parish to become Parish Priest in Tadworth. We thank him for his contribution to our Godalming parish whilst he has been with us, and he will be very much missed. Fr Bruno Witchalls will be coming to Haslemere to help out for the time being.

### **Man for all Seasons**

We have a group booking for Tuesday 25 February to see Robert Bolt's inspiring portrayal of St Thomas More at the Yvonne Arnaud in Guildford in the spring. Tickets are £44 (or £42 if we are a larger group) If you're interested in coming with us, please let us know asap. Email: [godalming@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:godalming@abdiocese.org.uk)

The parish website: [www.stedsgod.com](http://www.stedsgod.com) gives more information on our parish activities.

### **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 6 and 20 October); 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](http://www.stedsgod.com)

### **Parish gatherings**

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

- Bumps & Babes on Monday mornings at St John's Farncombe from 10.30am to 12.00pm. The group welcomes all mums to be, as well as mums (& grandparents!) with newborns and toddlers.
- SVP Afternoon Tea on Wednesday 9 October at 2.30pm 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.
- Live Simply, our parish eco-group, meets monthly, with the next meeting on Thursday 3

October, 8.00pm. Joining details from Jo: [jolewry@aol.com](mailto:jolewry@aol.com)

St Edmund's church remains open every day usually between 10.00am and 5.00pm. (19 Croft Road, Godalming GU7 1DB).

[www.stedsgod.com](http://www.stedsgod.com)

## The Franciscan Centre Ladywell

### **Cultivating an Ecological Spirituality**

Led by: Jane Mellet

Date: 18 to 20 October

Suggested offering: £180 Residential

Join us for this weekend retreat in the beautiful surroundings of the Franciscan Centre Ladywell. During these days we will explore how to cultivate an ecological spirituality. These days will be a mix of input with plenty of time for reflection, time in nature and experiencing various contemplative practices which can help us to cultivate an ecological spirituality, nourish and sustain oneself amid ecological breakdown / discerning a way forward.

Jane holds a Masters in Theology from Maynooth University. She works as the Laudato Si' Officer in Trócaire and with the Laudato Si' Movement. Her role involves sharing the wisdom of Pope Francis' encyclical, On Care for Our Common Home, with grassroots faith communities. How can faith groups engage in climate actions and respond to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor? Laudato Si' gives us the blueprint. Jane is a qualified spiritual director. She is co-author of two books, "The Deep End – A Journey with the Sunday Gospels in the Year of Luke" and "The Deep End – A Journey with the Sunday Gospels in the Year of Matthew".

### **Love is his meaning: At prayer with Julian of Norwich**

Led by: Christopher Chapman

Date: 8 November, 4:00pm to 10 November, 2:00pm

Suggested Offering: £180 Residential

Julian of Norwich was a woman of prayer, a spiritual guide and the most down to earth of theologians. She lived in a turbulent time and sought to make a sense of how a good God could allow difficult things to happen. She saw no anger in God: no desire to punish or blame. For her, love was God's meaning: love that was tender, resourceful and deep. In this retreat we will journey with Julian into 'who' and 'how' God is, and what this means for our lives.

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'.

### **November IGR - Six-day individually guided retreat (IGR)**

Date: 24 November to 1 December

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 24 November evening from 4.00pm and depart next Sunday 1 December morning after breakfast and Mass.

### **Advent Retreat**

Date: 6 December, 4:00pm to 8 December, 2:00pm

Suggested Offering: £180

Led by: the Franciscan Centre Team

Join the Franciscan Centre Team for an Advent retreat, in preparation for the incarnation when God chose, out of deep love to become human and live and walk among us in order to draw closer to us and for us to come to know Him personally.

In these days, listen to input, pray together, take time to reflect and celebrate the sacraments surrounded by the beauty and tranquillity of the Franciscan Centre Ladywell.

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.

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

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

Please send items for the November 2024 edition of *Link-up* to Matt Farrow:

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