



April 2024

LINK-UP

Keeping Churches in Touch

www.godalmingchurches.org

facebook.com/ChurchesTogetherinGodalmingandDistrict

Message from the Chair

It's not so long in the past that even a fairly modest church such as St John's in Farncombe might have up to eight services on Easter Day, if you add them all up. There were, perhaps, more clergy available then, but it's still a remarkable tally. In the approach to Easter I found it hard to concentrate on much more than the next thing coming up, and I wonder whether clergy colleagues felt the same. Looking at the sheer amount of worship we managed to pack in once upon a time, I shouldn't complain too much about being tired, but you feel what you feel!

That sort of worn feeling may be the closest any of us gets to sharing in the Lord's Passion, which is probably not a bad thing as we are not called on to match his pain for pain. And the time may come, for any of us, when we do have to face pain that we can't do anything about (more people live with chronic pain than you might realise). What we are called on to do is to use what we undergo as a way of connecting with his experience.

Christ's life is echoed in our shared human experience – both the things we may have to put up with and the joys we are lucky enough to be granted – and that's common to all our church communities. Even when theological emphases or church practices set us apart from one another, we still share experiences which are common to all humanity, and because Christ shares them with us too, they are one powerful way in which we're already connected.

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

Churches Together events

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

The Friday Night Youth Social

The Friday Night Youth Social at the Busbridge Old Rectory run with Trinity Trust Team has

been growing steadily, and there is space for more 11-16 year-olds, as well as helpers!
Contact Ben.barnes@godalmingminster.org.

Godalming Minster Bereavement Support

The following services have been running for a while now and are providing welcome support to those who are experiencing grief.

The Bereavement Café is open on the last Tuesday of every month in the Busbridge Old Rectory from 2.30pm to 4.00pm for anyone who has lost a loved one recently or some time ago. The next dates are 30 April and 28 May.

The Bereavement Journey is a course which starts on 5 June for 7 weeks. Each session comprises two short talks and opportunities for discussion in a small group, with a break for refreshments. Attendance for all 7 sessions is recommended, but starting from session 2 is possible. Session 7 is optional. All details can be found on the godalmingminster.org web site or contact sandra.wilkin@godalmingminster.org.

godalmingminster.org

St John's Parish Church, Farncombe

As I write, our observation of Lent and Holy Week are drawing to a close, and I think have made a good contribution to the spiritual life of God's people here. Even the weather favoured us for the Palm Sunday procession, which was better attended than for many years. Hopefully this will also be the case on 11 May, when we hold the annual Spring Fair in and around the church building, as we have since restarting in post-pandemic conditions. We continue to investigate faith-sharing and faith-developing to make the best of the many contacts we have with the community beyond the church.

www.farncombe.org.uk

Godalming Baptist Church

Coffee Stop, Saturday 20 April

On Saturday 20 April we are holding our monthly Coffee Stop at GBC from 10.00am onwards. There will be no charge, but proceeds will go towards the chosen charity this month 'Sophie's Legacy', a charity supporting families who have a child in hospital. Please do call in - a warm welcome awaits!

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 Pollard on 01483 428646 or e-mail pollard3@hotmail.co.uk. There is no charge, but donations towards the work of The Forgiveness Project would be much appreciated.

Women In Scripture, Saturday 18 May

On Saturday 18 May, we have a wonderful ecumenical day at Ladywell Retreat Centre, Godalming for women led by Revd Canon Hazel Whitehead, who will be focussing on 'Women In Scripture', the significant and insignificant women in the Bible and their continuing impact on us today. Please do join us in the peaceful and beautiful surroundings of Ladywell and enjoy a delicious lunch too! Please contact Sally as above to book a place, cost £28 per person by Friday 12 April. This is a great opportunity to come away from the demands of life for a few hours. Do come and bring a friend!

www.godalmingbaptistchurch.org.uk

Godalming United Church

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

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

Looking back

On 17 March we celebrated Kath Benny's 70 years as a Local Preacher when Wey Valley Methodist Circuit Superintendent Rev'd Paul Glass led our morning service and presented her with a certificate marking the occasion. Kath's rock solid faith has been an inspiration to us all at GUC - shining through her thoughtful preaching both in Godalming and in churches across Surrey, and locally in her commitment to Godalming Churches Together and The Cellar Café.

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 April

Pope Francis' prayer intention for April is for the role of women. Let us pray that the dignity and worth of women be recognized in every culture, and for an end to the discrimination women face in various parts of the world.

The Solemnity of the Annunciation

The Solemnity of the Annunciation this year is transferred to Monday 8 April, after Easter Week.

Fundraising for the FMDM Kasanka mission in Zambia

On the weekend of 20/21 April we are holding a mobile cake sale! We invite parishioners to bake, donate and buy cakes at all our Masses, with the cake stall moving from St Edmund's on Saturday (6.00pm) to St John's (8.45am) to St Joseph's (10.30am) on Sunday. Last year we raised over £800, which benefitted the Franciscan community school in Kasanka by funding an irrigation project to improve the efficiency of the farm providing food for the school.

Discernment on the future of our two churches

During April we continue to pray and discern the way forward with our parish buildings following the recent Building Review report and our parish-wide questionnaire. We also continue our prayer effort for the updated Diocesan Pastoral Plan and our clergy who are working together to seek how this will look in practice.

Wintershall Stations of the Cross

Wintershall Stations of the Cross are on Friday 5 April at 7.00am; all welcome.

<https://www.wintershall.org.uk/stations-cross>

SVP Afternoon Tea

This month the tea is on Wednesday 10 April, from 2.30pm to 4.00pm, at the United Church in Elstead. Please call SVP if you would like a lift.

Live Simply April meeting

Live Simply April meeting is on Thursday 11 April on Zoom at 7.30pm. This month, in view of

the upcoming general election, the group will be preparing questions for our election candidates to enable us to find out their party's policy/views on issues of peace, justice and climate change. For more information email Jo: jolewry@aol.com

The parish website: 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 7 and 21 April); 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 10.30am at St John's, Farncombe (no sessions on 1 April & 8 April)
- Live Simply, our parish eco-group, meets monthly on Zoom. Joining details from Jo: jolewry@aol.com
- SVP Afternoon Tea on Wednesday 10 April 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 10am and 5pm. (19 Croft Road, Godalming GU7 1DB).

www.stedsgod.com

The Franciscan Centre Ladywell

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.

Who is God? Who am I in relation to others and all of creation? A time of retreat.

Led by: Br William Short OFM

Date: 10-12th 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, OFM, STL, STD, 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 BA from the University of San Francisco, an MA in Philosophical and Systematic Theology, and the STL and STD 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.

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

Feba

Please help persecuted minorities in several countries in the news to receive the joy of Christ's resurrection. Click on www.feba.org.uk/prayer at 6.55pm on Wednesday 3 April to pray for an hour with partners if Feba Radio.

Items for next month's *Link-up*

Please send items for the May 2024 edition of *Link-up* to Matt Farrow: farrow.matt@gmail.com by **Friday 19 April**, for publication on Friday 26 April.