



LINK-UP

November 2018

Keeping Churches in Touch

www.godalmingchurches.org

Stop press

URGENT: Accommodation needed for the Crick family. See Manna Ministries section below.

From the Chair

AGM and Christmas is coming!!

The Churches Together in Godalming and District AGM took place on 17 October, and the following were appointed to the CTiGD Executive for 2018/2019

- Chairman: Michael Stubbs
- Vice Chairs: Maggie Stirling-Troy (St Johns) and Andy Poulson (TTT)
- Past Chair: James Rattue (St Johns)
- Hon. Secretary: Gillian Martin (St Marks)
- Hon. Treasurer: Tony Bennewith (GBC)
- Clergy Representative: Simon Taylor (Busbridge)
- Publicity and Prayer Breakfast Co-ordinator: Edouard Le Maistre (St Johns)
- Co-option: Gwen Wheatman (GUC), Anna Seifert (Quakers),
- Angela Gilmore (RC), John Stevens (SSP&P and StM.)
- Web Master: Noah Crick (MM)
- Link-Up Editor: Matt Farrow (Quakers)
- Promotions: Vacant

There was a presentation by Trinity Trust Team. Do make contact and ask them to come and do a presentation at your Church or group about the work they do with young people, it's amazing.

Look out for info about the Winter Festival on 24 November (Switch on of The Lights day). We are planning to have a presence based out of Godalming Baptist Church. Do offer help when the request comes out!

MICAH 6.v8

And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

That seems to be the opposite of what the world does. Let's be different and work together for God's Glory and to keep Christ in Christmas.

Michael Stubbs, Chair of Godalming and District Churches Together, michaeleashing@aol.com

Events for your diary

Below is a selection of the many events taking place during November 2018 and beyond. More detail can be found in the sections below and on the Churches Together website: www.godalmingchurches.org/calendar

Saturday 27 October

08:30 – Churches Together prayer breakfast, Godalming Baptist Church

Wednesday 31 October

16:00 to 18:30 – Light Party, The Old Rectory, Busbridge Church

Friday 9 November

11:00 to 16:00 – Fairtrade Sale, 3 Braemar Close, Godalming

Saturday 10 November

11:00 to 16:00 – Fairtrade Sale, 3 Braemar Close, Godalming

Saturday 17 November

10:00 to 12:00 - Life issues session: Everyone at the table, Godalming Baptist Church

Monday 19 November

10:30 to 11:30 – Feba meeting, 42 Minster Road, Godalming

14:00 – Messy Vintage, Busbridge Church

Saturday 24 November

08:30 – Churches Together prayer breakfast, Hambledon Church

Winter Festival, Godalming High Street

Saturday 8 December

Christmas Together in Godalming, organised by Churches Together. This includes stalls in the High street (what about your Church or organisation taking a stall), Blessing of the Crib with real donkey this year and Town Carol service.

10:00 to 12:30 – Christmas Coffee Stop with You-Ukes, Godalming Baptist Church

10:30 to 12:00 – Free family cinema showing *The Star*, Godalming Baptist Church

Thursday 13 December

17:00 to 19:00 – Carol singing at Godalming Station, organised by Godalming Quakers

Friday 14 December

19:00 to 20:00 – Churches Together Carols, The Inn on The Lake

Saturday 15 December

14:00 and 19:00 – Manna Ministries: *The last laugh*, St Catherine's Theatre, Bramley

Sunday 16 December

17:30 - Carols by candlelight, followed by buffet, Godalming Baptist Church

Sunday 30 December

18:30 - 5th Sunday Churches Together Evening service at Busbridge Church, led by Trinity Trust Team

Sunday 20 January 2019

United Service, Godalming United Church

Friday 19 April 2019

Good Friday walk of witness

Sunday 21 April 2019

Easter Day sunrise service

Thursday 30 May 2019

Ascension Day service, St Edmund's Church

Sunday 11 August

Worship@The Bandstand

News of the Churches and organisations

Parish of Godalming

Lipreading classes

Thursdays, 14:00 to 16:00 at the Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul. Dates as follows:

- 1, 8, 15 and 22 November

www.parishofgodalming.org.uk

Busbridge and Hambledon Church

Light Party, Wednesday 31 October

We are hosting a Light Party on Wednesday 31 October from 16:00 to 18:30, at the Old Rectory, Busbridge. This is an evening for families with children up to 11 years. Come and join us for a Halloween family alternative. We have a range of activities, dancing, prizes and food for the family. As Christians we celebrate Jesus being the Light of the World, and our focus is choosing to opt-out of all things spooky and scary. Fancy Dress to impress with your optional superhero costumes, with prizes for those who dress up. For booking inquiries please email Becky: lightparty@bhcgodalming.org or book online via our website.

Messy Vintage, Monday 19 November, 14:00

Have you heard of Messy Church? That is now a well-established initiative and is a fun and creative way of 'being church' for families from all kinds of backgrounds. Well now there's Messy Vintage too; it's an offshoot of Messy Church and follows Messy Church principles, but it was designed with the older generation in mind. The Busbridge & Hambledon Prime Time Team, supported by our wider Church community are offering you the opportunity to come and experience a Messy Vintage session on Monday 19 November starting at 14:00.

One of the delights of Messy Vintage is that it is all-age encompassing, so there will be families at this event too, and you are very welcome to invite your own families, grandchildren and friends as well. It is a great opportunity for us to be together for an afternoon as one big extended family and for us to support each other in completing craft activities whilst getting to know one another and sharing stories and experiences from our own lives. It's so much easier to start a conversation when your hands are busy creating something, especially when there is laughter and busyness all around, and you know there will be tea and cake to follow!

www.bhcgodalming.org

Godalming Baptist Church

Remembrance Service, Sunday 4 November

On Sunday 4 November we are holding our first Remembrance Service at 15:00 for everyone who has lost loved ones at any time. This will be a quiet reflective service, and everyone is very welcome to attend. It will be followed by refreshments.

Everyone at the table, Saturday 17 November

On Saturday 17 November, Kathleen Smith will lead a life issue session at GBC from 10:00 to 12:00 with an optional bring-your-own lunch afterwards (to finish by 13:00). Entitled 'Everyone at the Table', this morning considers who is missing at our family table and what you can do to support the prodigal or difficult person in your family. Contact Sally Pollard on pollard3@hotmail.co.uk or phone 01483 422105.

Christmas Coffee Stop and family cinema, Saturday 8 December

From 10:00 to 12:30 we will have a Christmas Coffee stop with the You-Ukes ukelele band, raising money for Trinity Trust Team. There will also be a free family cinema from 10:30 to 12:00, showing *The Star*, a comical nativity as told by the animals.

Christmas services

- Sunday 16 December, 17:30 - Carols by candlelight, followed by a buffet
- Monday 24 December, 17:30 – Christmas Eve family service

www.godalmingbaptistchurch.org.uk

Godalming United Church

Celebrating the harvest

Harvest was marked by a rousing thanksgiving on 14 October, with the church splendidly decked out and a packed congregation, including over 30 youngsters from our associated uniformed organisations – not forgetting the splendid bring-and-share lunch to follow! The many generous gifts of non-perishable foodstuffs are being distributed by the Guildford Salvation Army.

Supplies for The Gambia

At the end of October, another container of supplies – mainly for schools – departed for The Gambia. One heartening annual contribution is from St Hilary's School, where the Upper School children bring gifts of school stationery as their offerings to the school Harvest Festival.

Upcoming events

- Sunday 11 November – no morning service at Godalming United Church as we will be participating in the civic service at the War Memorial and Parish Church
- Saturday 1 December, 15:00 - Messy Church "Christmas is Coming"
- Sunday 2 December, 10:30 - Advent Sunday – Family/parade service with offerings of toys/gifts for those in our community who are less fortunately placed (to be distributed by The Cellar).

www.guc.org.uk

St Edmund King & Martyr Godalming with St Joseph's Milford Roman Catholic Churches

Alpha course

Alpha course will run till 25 November, to be held at St John's Church Hall Farncombe on a Sunday evening from 19:00 to 21:00. This course is open to everyone. The next session is on Sunday 4 November and is entitled "Why and how should I read the Bible". There will be supper and a drink, and an opportunity to meet and discuss the contents of the video. For further information and to register, please go to the parish website and click on the Alpha link www.stedmundgodalming.btck.co.uk

Parish Prayer Group

Every Monday (except Bank Holidays), 20:00 at The Old Farmhouse, Elstead (opposite the Golden Fleece) contact Richard Grey 01252 702230

Divine Renovation Reading Groups

Starting in November working through the Divine Renovation book by Fr James Mallon. For further information and to register, please go to the parish website and click on the DR Reading Groups link www.stedmundgodalming.btck.co.uk

St Vincent de Paul (SVP) Christmas Cards

These will be on sale after the weekend Masses at each of the Churches – 18:00 at St Edmund's Godalming, 20:45 at St John's Farncombe, and 10:15 at St Josephs in Milford. All profits from the sale of cards go to the work of the SVP, an international voluntary organization in the Catholic Church, founded in 1833 offering material help to the poor or needy. The Society also has thrift stores, which sell donated goods at a low price and raise money for the poor. There are a great variety of outreach programs addressing local needs for social services.

TV Screens at St Joseph's Milford

As part of our renewal programme, two large TV screens have been installed at St Joseph's in Milford to enable those who attend to participate more fully in the Mass. As well as hymns and Mass responses, parish information will also be displayed.

www.stedmundgodalming.btck.co.uk

Godalming Quakers

Peacemaking and the white poppy

In November, many of us will be preparing for Remembrance Sunday and we will be wearing a red poppy. Some of us will also wear a white poppy next to the red one to say we remember all those killed and maimed during recent wars and we hear a challenge in Jesus' words 'Blessed are the peacemakers'.

The first white poppies for peace were offered by mothers, sisters and wives who had lost loved ones in WW1. They wanted their white poppies to be a warning against any further war. We have failed to address the causes of conflict such as poverty, inequality and social injustice. We continue to invest more in destructive wars and arms trade than in nonviolent conflict resolution and peace initiatives. At the recent GCT Executive meeting, we briefly reflected on the above and heard that peacemaking is not an optional commitment but a requirement of our Christian faith.

www.godalmingquakers.org.uk

Manna Ministries

The last laugh – bullying never pays, Saturday 15 December

Join Manna Academy as they perform an adaption of the beloved story *The Three Little Pigs* as an anti-bullying campaign. Performances at 14:00 and 19:00 at St Catherine's Theatre, Station Road, Bramley GU5 0DF. Tickets £6 for children, £7 for adults or £20 for a family ticket (2 adults and 2 children) available at www.mannaministries.org.uk.

Christian house-sitters available over Christmas

Gary and I run Manna Ministries in Guildford. We have been given notice on our house and have to leave on 23 November. We are looking for a home, and may have found one from January, but we might be stuck for a house over Christmas and New Year. If anyone needs careful and considerate house sitters for the festive period, we would love to help! We have well behaved children and have house sat before for Christians.

If you need anyone or can help, we would so appreciate hearing from you!

Trinity Trust Team

Peer Pressure

Peer pressure (PP) can be positive, but it all too easily carries a negative connotation. It is often associated with teenagers (who are especially vulnerable to PP), but it can affect adults as well. PP can be defined as 'the feeling that one must do the same things as other people of one's age and social group in order to be liked or respected by them.' We will be aware of the pressures placed on young people in traditional areas (drugs and alcohol, sex before marriage, anti-social behaviour) but the rise in online profiles and social media has added a new dimension by which children and young people can be influenced, affected and damaged.

As Christians, peer pressure also has an additional aspect, for we should be far more concerned with how God sees us than how people do. As adult Christians why don't we consider how we deal with peer pressure (people pleasing in order to avoid conflict, agreeing with a majority view in the workplace that is at odds with our beliefs in order to avoid ridicule, little white lies to paint ourselves in a better light) then consider the pressures our children and young people are facing. Maybe then we can be more sympathetic towards them and the younger generation in general and reserve judgement as we all need to manage the pressures we face by our peers in a way that sits with our Christian values. Why don't we strive to be positive peer influencers in the workplace, at the school gates, social events?

Please pray for:

- All the local young people who are struggling with peer pressure and those Christian children and young people who might face ridicule in the light of their profession of faith.
- That we as adults will set positive examples in dealing with peer pressure and for us be supportive to those in our care who might be facing difficult decisions.
- All those who currently donate to TTT (both corporately and individually) for new opportunities to bid for funding, for those currently supporting our fundraising efforts and for new bids made this summer and autumn.

We continue to thank all those who play a part in and support the youth ministry of the Trinity Trust Team. Our thanks and blessing all.

Items for next month's Link-Up

Please send items for the December 2018 edition of *Link-Up* to Matt Farrow: farrow.matt@gmail.com by Wednesday 14 November for issue on Wednesday 21 November.