



# LINK-UP

December 2018

*Keeping Churches in Touch*

[www.godalmingchurches.org](http://www.godalmingchurches.org)

## From the Chair

**Jesus is better than chocolate.**

At this time of year, we can all get to be consumers, but we can also get consumed by material things, including chocolate and we can consume too much of everything including chocolate. But the buzz caused by the chocolate will fade but knowing Jesus won't!

If someone says "Christmas is for Children", we need to say: "Christmas starts with Christ" and remember what Christmas is about - see the item on the CT website: [godalmingchurches.org.uk](http://godalmingchurches.org.uk).

Do pray for and attend the various events being organised this month, including:

- **Saturday 8 December:** Christmas Together day - many stalls and entertainment in the High Street and Procession of Godalming Town Councillors and Mary and Joseph to the Blessing of the crib at the Pepperpot at 15:30, followed by the Town Carols at SS Peter and Paul at 16:00.
- **Thursday 13 December:** Carol singing at Godalming Station 17:30 - just turn up and sing
- **Christmas Day:** Lunches for anyone who doesn't want to be on their own, held at Godalming Baptist Church from 12:15 to 15:15, including entertainment.
- **Sunday 30 December:** Churches Together 5th Sunday Evening Service 18:30 at Busbridge Church, led by Trinity Trust Team. All welcome.

All the above take a lot of organising, do support them even if it's not your thing and pray for them and for Godalming and the Country at this time!

Let's Make A Difference!

**Happy Christmas!!**

*Michael Stubbs, Chair of Godalming and District Churches Together, [michaeleashing@aol.com](mailto:michaeleashing@aol.com)*

## Events for your diary

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

### **Saturday 24 November**

08:30 – Churches Together prayer breakfast, Hambledon Church

09:20 to 16:20 – Public Gospel singing workshop, St Mark's Community Centre, GU7 2LD

Winter Festival, Godalming High Street

### **Saturday 8 December**

Christmas Together in Godalming, organised by Churches Together.

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

19:00 – *Any colour you like* (Pink Floyd tribute band), St John's Church, Farncombe

### **Thursday 13 December**

17:30 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

19:00 - The GCGC Christmas Showcase 2018, Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul

### **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

## News of the Churches and organisations

### Parish of Godalming

#### **Public Gospel Singing Workshop with Colin Vassell, Saturday 24 November**

09:20 – 16:20, St Marks Community Centre, Franklyn Road, Godalming GU7 2LD, UK. Colin Vassell is a fabulous London gospel choir director. Join GCGC for an amazing day of uplifting gospel singing. Register and pay at [gcg.org.uk](http://gcg.org.uk)

#### **The GCGC Christmas Showcase 2018, Saturday 15 December**

St Peter & St Paul C Of E Church, 19:00. Mince pies and music will be flowing as we perform, giving the festive season some Gospel flavour! FREE. Donations welcomed.

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

### Busbridge and Hambledon Church

A full range of all our Christmas services and activities at Busbridge&Hambledon are available on our website [www.bhcgodalming.org](http://www.bhcgodalming.org). A particular favourite for families on Christmas Eve is the Candlelight Celebration for all the family – a choice of 4 identical services in Busbridge Church: 15:15, 16:30, 17:30 or 18:30.

[www.bhcgodalming.org](http://www.bhcgodalming.org)

### St John's Parish Church, Farncombe

We were delighted that Sue Petty from St John's was among about 35 new Pastoral Assistants from across the Guildford Diocese licensed by Bishop Jo on Saturday 3 November. Sue has lots of ideas about taking forward the church's mission to serve the needs of local people. Despite atrocious rain we had over 80 souls at Messy Church on Saturday 10 November (the theme was Peace).

By the time *Link-up* emerges we will have trialled our new Sunday evening contemplative 'Taketime' event, using Ignatian meditation to facilitate encounters with Jesus. Hopefully it will run in future on the 3rd Sunday each month and is, of course, open to all.

#### **Any colour you like, Saturday 8 December**

Saturday 8 December sees the welcome return to St John's Church of the fabulous Pink Floyd tribute band, *Any Colour You Like* performing that band's music alongside an incredible visual and lighting show. The aim is to raise over £2,000 for the Trinity Trust Team youth project as achieved at the band's show here last year. Advance tickets at £14 each available from Record Corner or by contacting Julian Lewry on 01483 421520 or e-mail [julianlewrymusic@aol.com](mailto:julianlewrymusic@aol.com) . £17 on the door. Doors open at 19:00, show starts at 19:45.

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

### Godalming Baptist Church

Our thoughts are turning towards Christmas as we begin our final month before Reverend Sandra Platford takes up her ministry as Pastor at Godalming Baptist Church in January.

#### **Toy service, 2 December**

We have our annual Toy Service when we donate toys to Merton Christian Care.

### **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. Father Christmas will make an appearance from 11:30 to 12:00 (gifts are limited £2, profits to Trinity Trust Team). Do call in and enjoy a coffee and enjoy the great entertainment by the Ukes as children enjoy a Christmas film.

### **Christmas services**

- Sunday 2 December, 11:00 – Toy service with donations to Merton
- Sunday 16 December, 17:30 - Carols by candlelight, followed by a buffet
- Monday 24 December, 16:30 – Christingle Service

### **Refreshing your spiritual life**

Turning to January, we have a wonderful way to start the New Year! On Saturday 26 January from 9:30 to 12:30, Andy Peck from CWR will lead a session entitled *Refreshing Your Spiritual Life*. This is for both men and women who are looking to review their walk with God or who feel weary in service and life and long for God to refresh and renew them. Details are on the attached flier. To book a place please contact Sally Pollard: [pollard3@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:pollard3@hotmail.co.uk) or the Church Office on 01483 422105 Mon, Weds or Fri morning.

We send warmest Christmas greetings and love to everyone from all at GBC

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

## **Godalming United Church**

### **Upcoming events**

- Saturday 1 December, 15:00 to 17:00 - 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 café).
- Saturday 15 December, 19:00 – Godalming Band Christmas concert
- Sunday 16 December, 18:00 – Carol Service with Christingles
- Monday 24 December, 16:00 to 16:45 – Christmas Eve Communion
- Tuesday 25 December, 10:00 – Morning family worship – bring along a present to show
- Sunday 6 January, 10:30 – Covenant Service, our annual new year service of commitment and rededication

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

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

### **Parish Prayer Group**

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

### **St Vincent de Paul (SVP) Christmas Cards**

These are 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.

### **Parish barn dance, Saturday 1 December, 19:30 to 23:00, Milford Village Hall**

Tickets include a fish and chip supper and barn dancing to a live band. Please bring your own drink. All are warmly invited and encouraged to book tickets ASAP as this is sure to be a lively and well attended evening. Tickets cost £15 and are available from Andrew Lodge on 01252 717705 / 07768 830984 or by email: [alodge@andrewlodge.co.uk](mailto:alodge@andrewlodge.co.uk)

### **Wintershall Nativity Play**

Thursday 12 December to Sunday 16 December: [www.wintershall.org.uk/nativity-play](http://www.wintershall.org.uk/nativity-play)

### **St Edmund's School Y3+4 Service of Readings and Carols**

Thursday 12 December, 18:00 at St Edmund's Church, Croft Road, Godalming

## Carol service, Sunday 22 December

At the 18:00 Mass at St Edmund's Church, Croft Road, Godalming

## Christmas Masses

24 December

- 17:00 - Children's Mass, St Joseph's, Milford
- 22:00 - Midnight Mass, St Edmund's, Godalming

25 December

- 8:45 - Christmas Mass, St John's, Farncombe
- 10:15 - Christmas Mass, St Joseph's, Milford

[www.stedmundgodalming.btck.co.uk](http://www.stedmundgodalming.btck.co.uk)

## Godalming Quakers

Come and join us for Christmas carol singing at Godalming railway station on Thursday 13 December from 17:30, in support of Quaker Homeless Action.

[www.godalmingquakers.org.uk](http://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](http://www.mannaministries.org.uk).

## Trinity Trust Team

Our schools Christmas assembly programme represents a huge mission field for us as we take the heart of the Christmas message to children, young people and teachers in our local primary and secondary schools. We currently have dates in the diary to visit Rodborough (two performances) Broadwater, Godalming Junior, Chandler, St Edmund's and are hopeful of visiting Loseley Fields Primary School this year also.

Our drama this year is based on Nick Butterworth & Mick Inkpen's *The Fox's Tale*, where a fox hunting in the hills around Bethlehem witnesses an amazing series of events, from a heavenly host appearing to local shepherds to a King being born in a cattle shed. It's a story we have dramatised specifically for junior schools, with a short 'spoken word' film the offer to secondary schools as we have just a few minutes in which to deliver our message to the students. We will be involved in CTiGD's 'Christmas Together' day on Saturday 8 December, Carols @ Inn on the Lake on Friday 14 December and will be leading the evening service at Busbridge on Sunday 30 December, so we look forward to seeing you at some point over Christmas.

Please pray for:

- The Christmas assembly run, that children, young people and teachers will be struck by the awe and beauty of Jesus' arrival on earth and that it will provide the backdrop for their celebrations this year.
- For other services/events we will be involved in locally and for all those planning Christmas carol concerts and services; that 2018 will be a year when many come to ponder on and worship the saviour of the world.
- 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 & 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 blessings this Christmas!

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

Please send items for the January 2019 edition of *Link-Up* to Matt Farrow: [farrow.matt@gmail.com](mailto:farrow.matt@gmail.com) by Saturday 15 December for issue on Saturday 22 December.