



LINK-UP

February 2019

Keeping Churches in Touch

www.godalmingchurches.org

From the Chair

Thank you... and some disconnected thoughts... or are they?

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank all those who are connected with the Christmas lunches provided by Churches Together in Godalming and District. Over seventy people are involved with putting on this amazing event. It is held at Godalming Baptist Church, but people from most churches in the area are involved, whether cutting vegetables, driving guests to and from the event, waitering or hosting tables. It is open to anyone who would be alone on Christmas Day, of any age and single or a couple.

Do bear this in mind for next year as there were spaces this year.

The day consists of a drink on arrival then the traditional Christmas meal, followed by entertainment and watching The Queen before heading home with a small present from Father Christmas and a Christmas card.

As I write this I have just returned from an amazing Churches Together United Service led by Rev Paul Hulme from Godalming United Church. It's so good to see so many from different churches worshipping together. A phrase within his sermon was the title of a book by the Archbishop of Canterbury: 'Dignity of Difference', something this nation needs now, more than ever. Do pray using that phrase.

The other phrase was 'Love is a verb', something else we need to pray about. Possibly summed up in Micah 6v8: *what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.*



These are the Clergy who were involved with or attend the United Service.

From left to right: Michael Stubbs (Chair of Churches Together in Godalming and District), Rev David Preece (Busbridge and Hambleton), Rev Maggie Stirling-Troy (St Johns Farncombe), Rev David Mace (B&H), Rev Paul Hulme (Godalming United Church), Rev Sandra Platford (Godalming Baptist Church), Rev Margot Spencer (B&H), Rev James Rattue (St Johns Farncombe), Rev Andy Spencer (B&H), Rev Simon Taylor (B&H)

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

Compassion?

It all started on a war-torn Korean street in 1952. Everett Swanson, an American army pastor was watching city workers scoop up what looked like piles of rags and throw them into the back of a truck. He walked over to take a closer look. He saw that the “piles” were not rags, but frozen bodies of orphans who had died overnight in the street. He felt God challenging him “What are you going to do?”.

This led to him developing a programme, linking Korean orphans with a sponsor. This enabled him to provide the children with education, food, clothing, shelter and medical care, and transformed their lives. As the programme grew, he embedded it working through the local church. Sixty-six years later, the structure and support are international, but the workers are from the country and community enabling churches to be a focal point for God’s love being worked out in practical ways, in 25 developing countries. This is what is now, “Compassion”, an International Christian child sponsorship charity.

Join us to find out more at “Curry with Compassion”, Churches Together’s next event. We start with an authentic vegetarian curry, followed by a cookery demonstration given by Jane’, who was a sponsored child from India. He will tell about his life and what a difference sponsorship and the Compassion programme meant for him and many others.

So why not join us and bring a friend, on Saturday 30 March at Godalming Baptist Church Hall from 19:00 to 21:00

Tickets (please pre-book): £6.50 from Michael and Julia Stubbs - eashingstubbs@aol.com

Events for your diary

Below is a selection of the many events taking place during February 2019 and beyond. More detail can be found in the sections below and on the Churches Together website: www.godalmingchurches.org/calendar

Saturday 26 January

08:30 – Churches Together prayer breakfast, The Barn, Elstead GU8 3DB

9:30 to 12:30 – *Refreshing your spiritual life*, Godalming Baptist Church

Monday 28 January

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

Saturday 2 February

14:30 - Service of Induction of Revd Sandra Platford, Godalming Baptist Church

Saturday 9 February

Annual spring pantomime, *Pinocchio*, Godalming United Church

Sunday 10 February

Annual spring pantomime, *Pinocchio*, Godalming United Church

Saturday 23 February

8:30 – Churches Together prayer breakfast, Church Room, St John's Parish Church, Farncombe

15:00 to 17:00 – Messy Church, Godalming United Church

Saturday 2 March

9:30 to 13:30 - GCGC Gospel Singing Workshop, St Marks Community Centre

Saturday 30 March

19:00 to 21:00 – Curry with Compassion, Godalming Baptist Church

Thursday 30 May 2019

20:00 – Churches Together Ascension Day service, St Edmund's Catholic Church

News of the Churches and organisations

Parish of Godalming

GCGC Gospel Singing Workshop, Saturday 2 March

Godalming Community Gospel Choir is running a gospel singing workshop with Colin Vassell, a fabulous London gospel choir director on Saturday 2 March from 9:30 to 13:30 at St Marks Community Centre in Franklyn Road, GU7 2LD. Don't miss this opportunity to spend a day with Colin and his wonderful keyboardist Calvin for a Spring uplift of new gospel music and learning! Book at www.gcg.org.uk or email info@gcg.org.uk

GCGC is looking to make its choir bigger and is actively recruiting new members - please do encourage friends and family or work colleagues to sign up and come along! The first session is FREE to try out.

www.parishofgodalming.org.uk

St Peter's Church, Hascombe

Archdeacon of Surrey, 3 February

The Archdeacon of Surrey will be preaching at the 10:00 service on 3 February at St Peter's Hascombe

Women's world day of prayer, 1 March

The Women's world day of prayer will be held on 1 March at Dunsfold at 14:00.

Godalming Baptist Church

Greetings from Godalming Baptist Church!

Refreshing your spiritual life

At the end of January Andy Peck led an inspiring morning session *Refreshing Your Spiritual Life*. It was a great way to start the New Year. It was so encouraging to see folk from other churches in Godalming. Thank you so much for your support.

Service of Induction of Revd Sandra Platford, Saturday 2 February

On Saturday 2 February at 14:30, we have our Service of Induction of Revd Sandra Platford, our new Minister. Sandra took up her ministry with us at the beginning of January. Please pray for Sandra, her husband Bryan and Liona, their daughter as they settle in to Godalming.

Managing adolescence

Towards the end of the month, on Saturday 23 February, Suzette Jones will lead a life issue session entitled *Managing Adolescence* at GBC, which promises to be a very helpful morning for us all to gain a deeper understanding of young people. It would be great to see folk there.

Library

Just a reminder - do call in and borrow a book (weekday mornings) from our library. Just sign in the red book (please add a phone number too). There are books to encourage us on our faith journey and books on many life issues that we may face along our journey. A good new year's resolution to come in and enjoy a few moments peace browsing in the library. Do turn the CD on too for some beautiful music to listen to as you browse.

www.godalmingbaptistchurch.org.uk

Godalming United Church

Aid to The Gambia

In mid-January we shipped another container to The Gambia packed with essential items for schools and community centres.

Annual spring pantomime, 9 and 10 February

This year, there will be four performances of *Pinocchio* on Saturday 9 and Sunday 10 February. They are always very popular, so book your tickets by contacting 01483 421268 or frymaile@gmail.com.

Messy Church, Saturday 23 February

15:00 to 17:00 - Messy Church - fun for all the family - crafts, games, story, songs, party tea.

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

www.stedmundgodalming.btck.co.uk

Items for next month's Link-UP

Please send items for the March 2019 edition of *Link-Up* to Matt Farrow: farrow.matt@gmail.com by Friday 15 February for issue on Friday 22 February.