



LINK-UP

May 2017

Keeping Churches in Touch

www.godalmingchurches.org

From the Chair

This is not the start of a joke...

The Archbishop of Canterbury, a Catholic Theologian and Senior Baptist Minister go on stage at Spring Harvest.

They agree that Christian unity is essential in a fractured world - not just a warm fuzzy feeling when we worship Together, but we must be seen by the world to be working together to bring Glory to God.

I saw the following hard-hitting article in a magazine recently:

"The church must live out what it means to be a community of believers, One Body, reflecting the unity of The Trinity. It must reject the individualism of the West, which makes many churches just a collection of self-satisfied individuals each seeking to be personally blessed.

Community is also about commitment and loyalty to our Christian brothers and sisters.

It is through the model of a loving community that the world understands who we are as followers of Jesus."

In what areas should we be working together in Godalming and District, and which are we?

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 May 2017 and beyond. More detail can be found in the *News of the Churches and organisations* section below and on the Churches Together in Godalming and District website: www.godalmingchurches.org/calendar

Sunday 30 April 2017

18:30 - Churches Together evening service at Busbridge Church, Rev Marcus Dickinson preaching

Tuesday 2 May 2017

19:30 to 21:00 - Guildford's lost shops, Godalming Baptist Church

Monday 8 May 2017

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

Wednesday 10 May 2017

19:00 - Alan Hulme: "Be prepared to give an answer", Busbridge Church

Saturday 20 May 2017

10:00 to 16:00 - Managing Conflict, Godalming Baptist Church

Monday 29 May 2017

19:00 - Moya Brennan - The Voice of Clannad, St John's Parish Church, Farncombe

Saturday 10 June 2017

18:30 - Meditation presents *The Journey*, Busbridge Church

Saturday 15 July 2017

19:00 - *Sherbet Pips*, family musical from Manna Ministries, St Catherine's School Bramley

Wednesday 19 July 2017

09:30 - Annual trip to Worthing for the over 60s

Monday 14 August 2017

10:30 to 13:30 - Manna Ministries Summer school, Merrow Methodist Church, Bushy Hill Drive GU1 2SH

Friday 18 August 2017

14:00 to 20:00 - Manna Ministries Fun day, Farley Hall Field, Shophouse Lane, Farley Green GU5 9DN

News of the Churches and organisations

Busbridge Church

Alan Hulme: "Be prepared to give an answer" - Wednesday 10 May 2017

Confidence in talking about faith was identified as a key issue holding back church growth by those who responded to the Bishop's diocesan strategy survey.

Help is at hand. "Be Prepared to Give an Answer" is a 90-minute session aimed at all Christians who want to become more confident in talking about their faith and sharing it with others.

Led by Alan Hulme, Director of the Diocesan Parish Development and Evangelism Team and others. We don't have to give people new skills (they know how to chat with friends), we don't have to give people new information (they already know their own faith journeys).

This seminar aims simply to add some confidence and motivation.

19:00 - social, nibbles and drinks, 19:45 - talk and discussion, Cost: Free

Meditation presents *The Journey*, Saturday 10 June 2017, 18:30

A one-hour reflection on the life of Jesus, with readings and songs at Busbridge Church, followed by refreshments. There will be a retiring collection in support of the Old Rectory project.

www.bhcgodalming.org

St John's Parish Church, Farncombe

There were more people in St John's for our Easter Day services than for many years, which was a very hopeful sign. As I write it's still a few days before our Annual Church Meeting on Low Sunday when a new churchwarden will be elected, and the following week will see the annual Spring Fair on the 29th of April. We will soon begin the process of reviewing the Mission Plan we first settled in July 2016 to see where the church goes next. Priorities are likely to be outreach and service patterns.

Moya Brennan - The Voice of Clannad, Monday 29 May 2017

On Monday 29 May, Moya Brennan - the Voice of Clannad, who is considered as the First Lady of Celtic Music - will be performing a concert with her band at St. John's Church in Farncombe as part of a very short UK tour. Much of Moya's music is strongly Christian. Moya is also a well-known philanthropist. Doors open at 19:00, and the show starts at 19:45. Tickets are £20 and are available from Record Corner in Pound lane or from Julian Lewry on 01483 421520 e-mail julianlewrymusic@aol.com.

www.farncombe.org

Godalming Baptist Church

Church weekend away

Many of the folk at Godalming Baptist Church enjoyed a wonderful and uplifting weekend away together just before Easter.

End of life care

After Easter we were very fortunate to have Dr Martin Brunet and Dr Karen Jones share a Life Issue session on End of Life Care. Thank you so much for supporting these sessions.

Farewell to Rev Marcus Dickinson

Change is not an easy thing, and sadly at GBC Marcus, our Pastor and Gina, Sophie and Ethan will be moving to Winchester Baptist Church after Marcus' final service with us on Sunday 4 June.

We would very much value prayer for Marcus as he begins a new ministry and also for all the fellowship at GBC during our pastoral vacancy as we seek God's guidance for the way forward. We send much love to you all from us all at GBC. It is so wonderful that we are united together in Christ! God bless

Managing conflict, Saturday 20 May 2017 - 10:00 to 16:00

The latest in our series of life issues sessions.

Guildford's lost shops, Tuesday 2 May, 19:30 to 21:00

Over the years, Guildford has changed from being a small market town to a regional centre, and this change has been reflected in the shops, and shopping trends in the High Street.

This fascinating illustrated talk by David Rose, will include photos from the late 19th century onwards, of the family run shops which once prevailed, and will also feature classic old advertisements from those lost shops.

Please let Sally Pollard know if you'd like to come along - pollard3@gmail.co.uk, 01483 428646. The cost is £5, but if we have more than 10 attendees, this can be reduced.

www.godalmingbaptistchurch.org.uk

Godalming United Church

Continuing work in The Gambia

Our African charitable link continues. In April, Ryan and Sylvia Kelley led a group of church members out to The Gambia – a chance to visit the country and see the work that we have supported there for so long. And on 13 May, another container of medical and educational equipment is being filled and despatched to Banjul.

Musical Allsorts, Saturday 6 May, 14:30

Music Kids, Nick Wyschna, The Surrey Fringe, Godalming Jazz Choir, followed by tea & cake. Free to 60+s

Ordained former church “young people” leading morning worship:

7 May, 10:30 - Rev'd Michael Hunt (son of Margaret & Martin Hunt)

4 June, 10:30 - Rev'd Bryony Arnold (daughter of Rev'd Bernard Arnold – a former minister)

40th Anniversary Flower Festival Weekend 10 to 11 June

Refreshments available

www.guc.org.uk

St Peter's Church, Hascombe

The Church looked tremendous at Easter, and we had Ken's grandson Noah trying out chiming the treble bell and later joining in as a junior Acolyte with Richard.

After the Service, it ended with an Easter Egg Hunt. The flowers in Church were exceptional this year and can

be seen on the Hascombe Community page on Facebook. We will be having our third breakfast between 8.00 Holy Communion and 10.00 Something Different service on Sunday 15 May; all are welcome. It is growing in popularity.

Manna Ministries

Godalming academy

Manna Ministries' Godalming academy runs on Tuesdays at Godalming Baptist Church from 16.15 for an hour for children aged 5 to 9 years It is going strong and would love new members.

New show: *Sherbet Pips*, 15 July, 19:00

Our new show, *Sherbet Pips*, a heart-warming family musical set in the 1980s, will be taking place on Saturday 15 July at 19:00 at St Catherine's School Theatre in Bramley. Tickets are £6 each or £15 for a family, and are available from www.mannaministries.org.uk.

If any churches would like some free tickets to give away, we would love to bless them. Also, if there are any families that can't afford the cost, again we will bless them with tickets. We would love to have groups come from churches.

Summer school, Monday 14 August 2017, 10:30 to 13:30

£7 per child or £20 for 4 or more children. Merrow Methodist Church, Bushy Hill Drive, Merrow, Guildford GU1 2SH.

Fun day, Friday 18 August 2017, 14:00 to 20:00

Music, bouncy castles, games, food and more. Farley Hall Field, Shophouse Lane, Farley Green GU5 9DN. Free entry.

Looking for volunteers

Manna Academy of Christian performing arts is looking for volunteers. Can you spare an hour of your time every week? Manna Ministries is looking for volunteers aged 18+ who have a heart to serve children aged 4 to 16 and see them share Jesus through the power of performing arts. We need volunteers in Eastbourne, Reigate and Guildford.

Sponsoring of Manna Ministries

If you are, or were going to, sponsor Manna Ministries, please can you do it through the Stewardship scheme and whether anonymously or named can you mention 'Godalming Churches' and if possible agree to sponsor them for a stated period of time? It makes their accounting easier and helps landlords have more confidence with their rent. I have some paper copies of the sponsor forms, or you can go on the Manna Ministries website. If you have any queries, please contact Michael Stubbs.

www.mannaministries.org.uk

Annual outing to Worthing, Wednesday 19 July

This year's annual outing to Worthing for the over 60s in Godalming and Farncombe will take place on Wednesday 19 July. Four coaches are booked to leave at 9:30 and return from Worthing at 16:00. The cost is £5. Tickets are available from the Denningberg Centre, St Mark's Community Centre and Farncombe Day Centre. Please contact Jacky Tickner for more information - 01483 415702

Items for next month's *Link-Up*

Please send items for the June 2017 edition of *Link-Up* to Matt Farrow: farrow.matt@gmail.com by Friday 19 May for issue during the week commencing Monday 22 May.