



LINK-UP

November 2016

Keeping Churches in Touch

www.godalmingchurches.org

From the Chair

Happy New Year!

No – I have not got ahead of myself. The Churches Together in Godalming and District AGM took place on 19 October, therefore we are into a new year for Churches Together Ok!

Do read the AGM Notes below. There is a lot happening, and there will be more coming...

Do read the Job Vacancies list and help where you can, or if you think of something we could do, please get in touch.

Let's pray and then Act Together.

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 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

Saturday 29 October

17:00 to 18:00 - Light up the Dark service for 0 to 11 year-olds, Parish Church of St Peter & St Paul

Monday 31 October

10:30 to 11:30 - Feba prayer meeting

Light Party for children 4-11 years at Busbridge Church. Please register with Amy Johnston.

Friday 4 November

14:00 to 16:00 - Games afternoon at Godalming Baptist Church

Saturday 5 November

9:00 to 13:00 - Art group at Godalming Baptist Church

Sunday 6 November

18:30 - Open hands/Prospects service at Godalming Baptist Church

Friday 11 November

13:00 to 15:00 - Sands Group for those involved in pastoral work. At Godalming Baptist Church

Sunday 13 November

Remembrance Sunday service

Saturday 19 November

Ceilidh in aid of Busbridge Central, Wilfrid Noyce Community Centre

Saturday 26 November

08:30 to 10:00 - Churches Together prayer breakfast at Hambledon Church

Christmas Festival: Switch on of the lights Day

Saturday 10 December

Christmas Together in Godalming - the Churches Together day with procession, Blessing of the Crib and Town Carols.

Thursday 15 December

17:30 to 19:30 - Carol singing at Godalming station, organised by Godalming Quakers

Saturday 17 December

Manna Ministries Christmas show, *Raggedy Doll*, St Catherine's School Theatre, Bramley. Tickets now available.

Tuesday 10 January 2017

Mannacality music classes start at Godalming Baptist Church

News of the Churches and organisations

Busbridge and Hambledon Church

Feba prayer meeting, Monday 31 October

Prayer meeting for Feba, a media organisation with partners in most of the world's trouble spots. Monday 31 October, 10:30 - 11:30, 42 Minster Road. Details from Shelagh Godwin on 01483 417725.

Light party, Monday 31 October

Light Party for children 4-11years at Busbridge Church. Please register with Amy Johnston

Ceilidh in aid of Busbridge Central, 19 November

On Saturday 19 November there will be a ceilidh in aid of Busbridge Central at the Wilfrid Noyce Community Centre. A bar will be available on site. For more information or tickets, contact ceilidh@bhcgodalming.org. Tickets cost £15 and must be pre-booked.

Godalming Baptist Church

It has been an uplifting, challenging and busy month at Godalming Baptist Church.

Paraclesis

We have begun the Paraclesis Course - Journeying Together from CWR on caring for each other. It is a great opportunity to reflect on how we look at others and ourselves, and is divided into six weekly themes: Caring, Loving, Journeying, Living, Healing, Connecting.

There is a daytime and evening session, so an opportunity for everyone to come along.

Seasons

We have also been greatly encouraged by a wonderful morning with Lynette Brooks as she focussed on 'Seasons', reflecting on how life's different seasons bring personal growth on our spiritual journey.

Managing anger and frustration

We hosted another Life Issue Event *Anger and frustration*, with attendees travelling quite a distance to be with us. Again this was such a worthwhile morning with many valuable insights into coping with what life may deal us.

Open hands/Prospects service, Sunday 6 November at 18:30

Turning to November, we look forward to the Open hands/Prospects service on Sunday 6 November at 18:30.

Sands Group, Friday 11 November, 13:00 to 15:00

For those involved in pastoral work, do join us for Estelle's Sands Group on Friday 11 November from 13:00 to 15:00, when Estelle will focus on 'Responding to Conflict, Anger and Division in Relationships'.

Games afternoon - first Friday of the month

For something completely different, we host a monthly Games afternoon, usually on the first Friday of the month. Upcoming afternoons are Friday 4 November and Friday 2 December from 14:00 to 16:00. You are warmly invited to join us and bring a friend or relative or neighbour! We have light-hearted games of Scrabble, Uno, RummiKub, Quiddler, card games and bingo!

Art group, Saturday 5 November

There is also the second monthly Art Group - a new venture - on Saturday 5 November from 9.00 to 13.00, led by Doctor Martin Brunet from Binscombe Surgery. A wonderful opportunity to be creative (in many different ways!).

Connect group for ladies

Our Connect group for ladies has ladies joining us from different churches which is just wonderful. We have a Programme of events, including walks, theatre visits, cookery demos, visits to historic houses, gardens and also opportunities for encouragement in our spiritual journey, such as days at Waverley Abbey, Ladywell Covent and breakfasts at Wetherspoons with inspiring speakers!

Our new six-monthly programme will be available in a few weeks' time. Do call in to GBC - open from 9:00 to 12:00 - and pick up a programme. We would love you to join us and invite friends also

as it is another opportunity for reaching out to the community. Sending our love to you all from GBC

www.godalmingbaptistchurch.org.uk

Godalming Quaker Meeting

Remembering all those affected by war

November starts with All Souls Day, when many families remember their loved ones who have died during the last year.

As a nation we also remember UK soldiers killed in war and lay wreaths of red poppies at the national and local war memorials.

As Quakers, we have compassion for all those affected by war, including injured and disabled soldiers and civilians everywhere, and their families. More importantly, our faith calls us to work unceasingly for peace and to live 'in that life and power that takes away the occasion of all wars'.

Therefore Friends choose to wear red and white poppies to remember our responsibility for resolving conflict not with weapons of war but with nonviolent and just means. White poppies were first worn on Armistice Day 1933, mainly by women who were mothers, sisters, widows who had lost loved ones in WW1. Each year, Veterans for Peace UK lay a wreath of red and white poppies at the Cenotaph in Whitehall.

Godalming Friends again prepare to witness to the gospel of peace by wearing a red and white poppy in public and by laying a wreath with both colours at the War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday.

Carol singing at Godalming Station, Thursday 15 December

This year we will again be organising carol singing at Godalming Station from 17:30 to 19:30 on Thursday 15 December in aid of Quaker Action for the Homeless, followed by a simple supper at the Meeting House. Join us if you can.

www.godalmingquakers.org

Godalming United Church

Harvest Festival

Our Harvest Festival at the beginning of October was declared by all to be "the best ever"! Gifts of non-perishable foods were offered in thanksgiving, and the church was decked out for family café-style worship.

A christening at the start of the service made it a doubly special event. The service was attended by around 200 people, and around 100 stayed for lunch – a "bring-and-share" event that flowed seamlessly from the service.

Looking ahead to November:

No morning service on 13 November

On Sunday 13 November, there will be no 10:30 service at GUC as the congregation will be supporting the Civic Service of Remembrance on the Burys.

Advent Service, Sunday 27 November

Advent Service at 10:30 – family- and parade-service

Link with Gambia

Our charitable link with the Gambia remains as active as ever, and a container of goods – mainly recycled school furniture – will depart on 19 November.

www.guc.org.uk

Manna Ministries

Mannacality classes - starting Tuesday 10 January

Our musical theatre classes for ages 5 to 7 and Mannacality Choir for ages 9 to 18 start at Godalming Baptist Church on Tuesday 10 January 2017 at 16:15 and 17:15. All we ask is that you make a kind donation to Mannacality.

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.

Tickets for Christmas show now available

Tickets for our Christmas show with Philippa Hanna are now available. This will be a musical production based on the song *Raggedy Doll*, featuring a guest appearance and live music from Philippa Hanna. The event will take place at St Catherine's School Theatre, Bramley on 17 December.

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

Trinity Trust Team

Light up the Dark service, Saturday 29 October, 17:00 to 18:00

This year TTT will be hosting an inclusive Light up the Dark service on behalf of GTiG in Saint Peter & St Paul's church on Saturday 29th from 5pm-6pm for ages 0-11 with activities, songs, craft, a short reading & prayer – refreshments will be provided.

Churches Together AGM and open meeting

The Churches Together in Godalming and District AGM took place on 19 October 2016. There were people from nine churches and one visitor representing the five denominations that make up CT. This is quite remarkable and does show the Togetherness of Christians in and around Godalming and is something we need to share with our fellow Christians and with the wider world.

We said a BIG Thank You to Jacky Tickner, who stood down as CT Secretary after ten years and has been a power house and guide for us all, and I would personally like to thank her for reminding me of meetings and agendas and things!

Marcus and I were prepared to stand again as Chair and Vice Chair, and Gillian Martin has agreed to be the New Secretary.

So the Executive for 2016-17 is:

Chairman - Michael Stubbs
Vice Chairman - Marcus Dickinson
Past Chair – James Rattue
Hon Sec – Gillian Martin
Hon Treasurer – Tony Bennewith
Clergy Rep – Simon Taylor
Lay Rep – Penny Rivers
Publicity – Edouard le Maistre
Web Master- Matt Farrow

Co-options - Gwen Wheatman, Anna Seifert, Rosemary James.

We are still looking for someone to be the TTT rep on the Executive. Do get in touch if you want to know more.

There were reports from people in areas where CT is involved, namely:

Christian Aid, Cellar and Skillway, Trinity Trust Team, Fairtrade Steering Group, Farncombe Community Centre, Go-Godalming, Godalming Food Bank and Manna Ministries.

Possibility of joint events and fundraising events as financial reserves are dropping.

There was also a fascinating talk by Callum Stubbs - (A level Godalming College and Degree UEA Norwich) in International Development on the problems that Sudanese and Eritrean refugees/asylum seekers face in the middle East.

Help Needed – Job Vacancies..!

The following is a list of things which will need doing in the next few months. Do look to see how you can help and make contact.

Christmas Festival – Saturday 26 November: Switch on of the lights Day

We have a stall, possibly near the Pepperpot, and it will be a good opportunity to raise the profile of churches in and around Godalming. We have said we will be wrapping presents, amongst other things. Are you a good wrapper!? Or can you help set up the stall, be part of a rota, have battery powered lights, table, bunting etc? Do get in touch with michaeleashing@aol.com.

Christmas Together - Saturday 10 December

The Churches Together day with procession, Blessing of the Crib and Town Carols, and the stalls are just £10 each, so if you know of an organisation who might like one, please contact Gillian Martin on martin21s@btinternet.com. If you can help in any way as steward etc contact jacky.tickner@googlemail

Crib Rota – Christmas Nativity under the Pepperpot

Edouard le Maistre has done most of this over many years, and we need to find others to help and fill the rota. It involves setting up the stable before the Crib service and then taking it away after Christmas and then there is a rota to put out and put away Mary and Joseph from inside the Pepperpot each day. If you feel you can help in any way please contact Edouard on ealm@btinternet.com or 01483 416303

Manna Ministries

Performance on 17 December at St Catherines School 'Raggedy Doll' with a special appearance by Phillipa Hanna (well known famous Christian Artist) who wrote the song from which the musical has been written.

They will need help with costumes on the day or/and before, raffle organiser, set up and take down props etc on the day, front of house and refreshments, programme editing, hospitality and chaperone DBS etc, signing children in and out, fundraising, grant finder, able to video the show.

If you can help or know someone who can, please contact Gary on mannaministriesuk@gmail.com or on 07596096319

Street Evangelism

There are a couple of people from Godalming Baptist Church and Busbridge Church who would like to start street evangelism - exact details to be decided. If you want to know more please contact Marcus Dickinson on marcus.gbc@btinternet.com

Items for next month's *Link-Up*

Please send items for the December *Link-Up* to Matt Farrow: farrow.matt@gmail.com by Friday 18 November for issue on Thursday 24 November.