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JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2024



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FROM THE EDITOR

Happy New Year! In this edition you will find how some of our local churches have combined together to form Godalming Minster and an invitation to the Launch Service on January 14th.

You will also find information on wild swimming in the local area and news and pictures from Christmas celebrations in our local community. We hope you find this edition of interest - please send in any local photos of wildlife or landscapes you would like considered for inclusion in the magazine.

David Brockman

Copy date for next edition is February 14th 2024

editor.atthebridge@gmail.com

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GODALMING

MINSTER

Front cover: Frosty sunrise - view from Alldens Lane by David Brockman

This Page (top): Hoar Frost at Winkworth by David Brockman

A Wild Swim

I love swimming and the idea of wild swimming always intrigued me. However, aside from swimming in Hampstead Heath Pond once in my 20s and the occasional lake abroad, it's been in pools or lidos. I wasn't brave enough to seek out wilder waters in the UK than those of a beach in summer (arguably for some, wild enough!).

Wild swimming has seen a resurgence in popularity since the pandemic, when people rediscovered both the physical and mental benefits to cold, outdoor swimming. I was keen to try and last February, I came across Mental Health Swims who organise social swims (dips not distance is their motto).

Discovering a host at nearby Frensham Pond, I signed up to swim the following week.

As anyone who's ever started anything new knows, there are always hundreds of reasons NOT to go, so motivating yourself to do it is often the biggest challenge of all. The cold drizzle on the morning of that first swim was not at all encouraging. But by the pond, our MHS instructor calmly explained how we would get in the water, what to expect and how long we would be in. I felt confident and totally up for it. I wore a wetsuit (and the essential woolly hat) but was without neoprene gloves or boots so the water felt beyond bitter as we cautiously waded in, to our knees. I took deep breaths, internalising *I'm OK, I can do this*; it reached my waist *just keep going, keep*

breathing; then, as we'd been told to expect, the toughest part was lowering our torsos in, staying calm and breathing slowly as our bodies reacted and adjusted to being submerged in water that was about 4°C.

Our instructor had warned us of the 'after-drop' effect, whereby you feel colder once out of the water as your body sends blood to the core to protect vital organs. Hence the rule of thumb, in winter especially, is only stay submerged for a minute per degree. So, after a quick swim to the swimming buoy and back, we hurriedly got dressed and began warming up with a hot drink. The oddest sensation for me was where my hands and feet had been exposed, they still felt as if they were in the water! But I was buzzing - I felt so alive, exhilarated and hooked to go again.

Which I did, two weeks later, and with neoprene gloves and boots this time which definitely helped with additional warmth, and boosted my confidence with footing. As the weather warmed up over spring and summer, friends joined me and we switched to

'skins' (just swimming costumes). When Frensham Pond closed (due to blue algae), we went in the River Wey near Guildford and Tilford; I even managed a midweek dip at Hayling Island in September which was glorious. My goal this winter is simply to see if I can manage my swims without going back into my wetsuit - though I'm not making any promises!



Gemma Taylor



boys and girls
ages 2-11



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A Word from the Rector

We're in 2024! It might be that 2023 was a great year for some people, but many have found it a year of turbulence.

A relative was once on a plane that had no option but to fly through a terrifying storm. At one point, the turbulence was so extreme that the plane almost felt like it was dropping through the air. It was described by those around my relative as being like in a freefall.

I wonder if this is what was in mind when this was written: **“Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I press on to reach the end of the race”**. This, for me as the Rector of our newly formed Godalming Minster, is what Godalming Minster is about - looking forward, pointing to Jesus Christ for all people, and offering spiritual peace in times of turbulence.

The quote above is a saying from the Bible, and was written to a group of people who were living with in uncertainty. They, and we, are being pointed to the future.

The writer of the quote is pointing us to “receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us”. And what I love about his words is that he starts, earlier, by saying he’s in as much life turbulence as anyone else. It isn’t an escape from life, but how to live life now, based on the best of the past and future.

We’ve spent time as your local church looking at what was good from the distant past, looking back to the best of the foundations of Godalming and Hambledon. Hambledon probably had a wooden church building by

c. 800 AD, and it is likely that the original small town of Godalming grew up around the original Godalming Minster c. 820 AD. It is an ancient foundation, one of the oldest in the UK. Godalming Minster was re-established for the locality on January 1st 2024.

This offers everyone many choices of connection in seeking God’s peace, open to all no matter past or present and united in seeking a future that leads us to reach the end of the race well. We support all; with faith or little, in the turbulence of life. There is Christian worship in a variety of styles, at different times, on a number of days of the week. Choral, Eucharistic, Classic, Contemporary, Muddy, Messy, Reflective, Organ based, Band led, Robed choirs, video projected... the choice is yours as we enter 2024.

Why not come along? See what Godalming Minster offers spiritually in the turbulence, and if you want to ask loads of questions of faith and life then we’re running a course on this called Alpha (starts 11th January) where no question or doubt is too big or small to explore. See www.godalmingminster.org/alpha.

Rev. Simon Taylor

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Walk with the Bridge: Hydons Ball, Enton and Hambleton

An interesting walk through woods and heath land with some good views. Note this walk can be muddy, depending on the time of year and recent weather.

Length 4 miles
Ascent 148m

1. Park in Hydons Ball Car Park (What 3 Words ///flanked.vision.lingering). Walk back towards the road and take the bridleway on the left just before the road.
2. Go straight at 2 crossing paths. The path then starts to go downhill and you will come out of the woods with fields on the left and right.
3. Turn right onto the road and then immediately left onto the bridleway towards the golf course.
4. Cross a fairway (watch out for golfers) and continue on the bridleway. After the second fairway, turn left up the hill with the fairway on your left and woods on your right (ignore footpath sign by the bridleway pointing straight on).
5. After about 130m, follow the path into

the woods. There is a valley on the right.

6. Cross a footbridge and follow a path up past a derelict house. A footpath sign points right across a field, but turn left. Soon there will be woods on your left and a field on the right (sometimes with sheep). After 200m there will be a pond on your left.
7. Follow yellow footpath sign pointing to the left soon after the pond into the woods.
8. Cross footpath and follow a narrow path across the heath known as Buss's Common.
9. Join a larger footpath from the right and keep straight on over a crossing path. Pass small pond on your left. Turn left onto signposted footpath to left. Almost immediately take left fork

through woods and cross small bridge past footpath sign. Continue on footpath.

10. After 800m, at the road, turn left and then after 50m, turn right onto Church Lane. One of the bends in the road can be missed out by using the footpath on the right.

11. Walk past the church (on your left) and take the footpath which goes straight on with the cemetery to your



View from Hydons Ball towards Blackdown

left. Ignore the bridleway which bears right from small car park. Follow the path across the field and enter into the woods via a gate.

12. After a Thames Water pumping station, there is a junction. Take the footpath up the hill.
13. When a footpath sign is reached after about 400m, take the path slightly to the right up the hill.
14. At the top, there is a large stone seat.

To the south east you can see Chanctonbury ring on the South Downs. To the south west, you can see Gibbett Hill and Blackdown. To descend, take the steep path down just to the right of the stone seat. Another path joins from the right.

15. At a junction with a large bridleway, turn left onto the bridleway which will go slightly downhill and take you back to the car park where you started.

Text and photos by David Brockman



Busbridge Parish Register

Baptisms

22nd October – Darcey Grace
Warren-Upham

19th November – Matilda Isobel

Sylvie Swainland and Beatrice
Audrey Elizabeth Swainland

26th November – Alexander Martin
Christopher Bott

Christmas Celebrations

A selection of photos from local Christmas celebrations in December



Godalming Community Gospel Choir singing at St John's Farncombe (photo by Hugh Rawson)



Prime Time members helping prepare for Christingle Services



Christingle service at Busbridge Church



Christmas Celebrations



Ukrainian choir singing in Busbridge Church



Christingle service for Busbridge Infants



The staff of Busbridge Junior school in festive mood



The Nativity at Busbridge Infant School



Fancy a free coffee and cake?

The Yew Tree Café (next to Busbridge church) is currently looking to add to its team of volunteers. To find out what is involved, I spoke to Annie Bryett who has been volunteering at the Yew Tree café since it opened in March 2022.



David: What does being a café volunteer involve?

Annie: I do one shift a week - either 8-1 or 1-5. We get the café ready, take orders, prepare food and drinks, clear tables and load and unload the dishwasher. In the afternoon, there is also some cleaning to do after the café closes. There is also the opportunity to bake cakes for the café, if this is what you enjoy. We have a set of well proven recipes to work from.

David: Is training provided?

Annie: Yes - We watched some videos and then training is provided on the job from one of the managers and the other volunteers. Prior experience is not required!

David: Is there a lot to learn?

Annie: Yes, but there is always a

manager on hand to help if I don't know what to do or make a mistake. Also, our customers are very understanding!

David: What do you enjoy?

Annie: We always have a laugh and good banter between ourselves and customers. There is a very friendly atmosphere and volunteering helps me to feel more part of the local community. I have made some new friends and enjoy a free coffee and cake during the shift.

David: Anything you don't enjoy?

Annie: Sometimes it is hard getting up early for the morning shift, but I am always glad I have done it!

David: What have you learned?

Annie: Making a coffee is more precise and scientific than I had realised. I've had to learn a new language about the science of making excellent coffee!

David: Are you able to take time off?

Annie: Absolutely - I just try and give as much notice as possible if for example I will be on holiday.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please email the Manager at lizzie.soar@bhcgodalming.org or come into the café for a chat.

David Brockman



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A Novel Idea

A Novel Idea is Godalming's only charity book and vinyl shop. Located on Queen Street just off the High Street, the shop stocks a wide range of pre-loved books, records and CDs. A Novel Idea is run mainly by volunteers and all profits go to Catalyst Support, a Surrey-based charity delivering over 20 services to the community, focussing on Mental Health and Wellbeing, Drug & Alcohol and Specialist Outreach.

There are books for everyone at **A Novel Idea!** Thanks to the generous donations of local people, the shop holds a variety of classic and modern fiction and non-fiction for both adults and children. We have thrillers and travelogues, romance and literary fiction, books about philosophy and cook books... and if you don't see what you are looking for on the shop floor, try asking one of our volunteers, as it may be hiding round the back. Typically, paperbacks are priced at £2 and hard-backs at £2.50.



It doesn't stop at books! Working in partnership with Make a Difference With Records, the shop also offers an extensive collection of vinyl, CDs and sheet music. All priced second-hand vinyl and CDs are checked for quality by the team. Rediscover old favourites or find new ones from the diverse selection of LPs and singles. CDs start from £2, singles and albums vary but are competitively priced. There are over 10,000 records and CDs waiting to refill the shelves. "Working at A Novel Idea is a labour of love," says Manager and former volunteer Alan Garvey. "We have a great team of volunteers who value what the shop offers, and that it makes a contribution to the work of Catalyst Support. Some of our volunteers received help from the charity in the past and now the shop provides them with an opportunity to give back and a helpful role in the community." We are always looking for new volunteers to join our friendly team. If you are interested please contact Volunteer Development Manager Mark Burton via email at mark.burton@catalystsupport.org.uk or Tel: 07714 744150. Do visit us at 9 Queen Street, Godalming, GU7 1BA, for a browse, for recommendations and to help support our work. We're open Tuesday-Thursday 10am-1pm, Friday & Saturday 10am-4pm.





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Roasted Cabbage Steaks by Elizabeth Silver



This is the perfect recipe for when Savoy cabbages are at their best - healthy New Year food!

INGREDIENTS

1 medium sized Savoy cabbage
6 tbsps olive or avocado oil
2 cloves garlic, crushed
2 tps red bell pepper flakes
Salt flakes and freshly ground black pepper
50g walnut pieces
Generous handful of freshly chopped chives
Half a lemon
50g Sussex Charmer, Parmesan or mature cheddar



1. Heat the oven to 200° C, 180° C Fan, Gas 6.
2. Remove any loose outer leaves from the Savoy cabbage. Cut the stalk off at the base.
3. Place the cabbage base side down on a chopping board and cut top to bottom into 1cm thick slices.
4. Place cut slices onto baking parchment lined baking trays leaving space between each slice.
5. Mix together the oil, garlic, pepper flakes and seasoning in a bowl.
6. Brush each cabbage slice with some of this mixture. Flip the slices and brush the top of each slice reserving a little of the oil mix to use at the end of cooking.
7. Roast in the oven for about 20-25 minutes until golden and tender. Don't worry about crispy edges, these are part of the deliciousness of the final dish.
8. Sprinkle over the walnut pieces and brush with the remaining oil mix. Squeeze over the lemon juice, sprinkle with the cut chives and grated cheese and return to the oven for a further 5-10 minutes until the cheese has melted.

Delicious served as a main dish or as an accompaniment.

Elizabeth Silver

elizabethsilverfood





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It's time to celebrate!

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now live in the new church parish of

**GODALMING
MINSTER**

Established 1 January 2024

and your local church in Busbridge will be
referred to as

Godalming Minster Brighton Road



Follow us @godalmingminster.org
Contact us at The Busbridge Old Rectory
t. 01483 421267
e. office@godalmingminster.org

Find out more www.godalmingminster.org

A few things to know about Godalming Minster

Godalming Minster came into being on 1 January 2024.

Godalming Minster unites the parishes of Godalming, Busbridge and Hambledon, to refresh what it means to follow Jesus, love people and renew faith in its community.

You can find Godalming Minster at five main locations:

St Peter & St Paul's on Church Street, GU7 1EW

Busbridge Church on Brighton Road, GU7 1XA

St Mark's Church on Franklyn Road, GU7 2LD

Hambledon Church on Church Lane, GU8 4DS

and online @godalmingminster.

Our locations are open to all - drop in anytime!



Godalming Minster is working in other places throughout the week - local schools, Godalming Library, in homes and The Yew Tree Café at Godalming Minster Brighton Road.

Godalming Minster will be led by Rector Simon Taylor and Associate Vicars Simon Willetts, Sheila Samuels and John Harkin, supported by other clergy and lay ministers.

To find your place and explore life with Godalming Minster, follow @godalmingminster, and watch out for the new web site www.godalmingminster.org.

GODALMING

MINSTER

Things happening in January & February at Godalming Minster Busbridge Church Brighton Road

Sundays

7 January

10am Busbridge Classic Service with Communion

10.30am Muddy Church / Holloway Hill Recreation Ground

11.30am SPCM for Godalming Minster

A Special Parochial Church Meeting for members of the church Electoral roll to vote in the new Godalming Minster PCC members and Deanery Synod representatives.

6pm Evening Service + Youth

14 January

10.30am Godalming Minster Launch Service / St Peter & St Paul's Church Street.

The Bishop of Guildford invites you to a celebration of the new Godalming Minster. Children's groups will take place during the service, coffee and prosecco to follow. Free parking is available in the Crown Court car park, a short walk away.

21 January

10.30am Godalming and District Churches Together Service
(all denominations) / St Peter & St Paul's Church Street.

(No services at Godalming Minster Brighton Road.)

Sundays from 28 January

10am Busbridge Classic Service

[Communion on 1st Sundays]

6pm Evening Service with communion

[with Youth on 1st Sundays & Communion on 4th Sundays. No service on 3rd Sundays: 18/2]

+ **Sunday 4 Feb** Muddy Church meets at The Jack Phillips Memorial Park

GODALMING
 **MINSTER**

Weekly (term time)

Mon-Fri 8.30am-4pm / Sat 10-2.30 Yew Tree Café open, eat in or takeaway

Mondays 10.30am Prime Time coffee drop in at the Yew Tree Café

Tuesdays 9.30am ABC Toddlers Stay & Play in The Busbridge Old Rectory

Wednesdays 9am Online Prayer Meeting (Zoom via www.godalmingminster.org)

Fridays 9.30am Pray & Play in the Busbridge Old Rectory

Fridays 7.30pm Friday Night Youth Social in the Busbridge Old Rectory

What's Changing?

The **wider parish boundary** means that Godalming Minster can partner with and serve the community in many more meaningful ways, with groups and activities for every age and stage, for those with particular interests and those with particular needs. You can find out what's on and how to get involved by going to the web site www.godalmingminster.org.

The **web sites** for bhcgodaming.org and parishofgodalming.org.uk will be combining into something new in the coming months, and the clergy and staff emails will change to firstname.surname@godalmingminster.org. Watch our online space!

Godalming Minster has a larger, more **mobile clergy team** who will each lead and care for a particular congregation, but will move between the 6 congregations which meet at the four Godalming Minster locations. People tend to connect with a particular location or style of worship, and with the people that share their preference. We call that joining a congregation, but(!) no one is fixed, you can attend any service at any location, anytime. People from different congregations often mix through mid-week activities, at the Yew Tree Café and in small bible study groups.

On Sundays, the **Busbridge Classic service** time will change to 10am. The **6pm Evening Service** will stay at the same time and place.

The **Contemporary** congregation is moving from Brighton Road to Church Street, where the larger church building and central location will enable it to welcome more people and grow. The Contemporary congregation will gather at **10.30am at Godalming Minster St Peter & St Paul's Church Street.**

Sunday morning children's groups will also move to town, and take place in the Octagon at Godalming Minster Church Street. **Youth groups** will continue to meet in the Busbridge Old Rectory at 6pm on Sundays, and for the Friday Night Social from 7.30-9pm.

If you live in or have a "qualifying connection" to the parish of Godalming Minster, you can **get baptised, married or have a funeral** in any of the four churches. For information contact the Minster Office in the Busbridge Old Rectory.

**Curious about faith? Try Alpha with Godalming Minster.
7.30pm on Thursday 11 January: introductory session at
Godalming Minster St Mark's Franklyn Road.**



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Dates in 2024 30 Jan, 27 Feb, 26 Mar, 30 Apr, 28 May, 25 Jun, 30 Jul, 24 Sep, 29 Oct, 26 Nov, Dec tbc

If you would like to chat to someone about The Bereavement Café, please contact: Shan Hallam
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Advertisement Feature

Retirement living in Godalming, Surrey

Birchgrove, the award-winning retirement living specialist are creating a new retirement development – Pepperpot House at Godalming, Surrey.

This one-acre estate, formerly the home of Mole Country Stores, is being transformed to provide 52 modern, light and spacious apartments for those in later life. The Grade II listed Cowshed will be exquisitely restored into two one-bedroom apartments safeguarding its architectural and historical interest. Pepperpot House and Stable Cottages will offer a choice of modern, elegant one and two-bedroom self-contained apartments finished to its trademark high standards. The extensive communal facilities will include a club room, restaurant, bar and wellness suite – shared spaces where people can meet and be part of what will become a friendly community.

The elevation of Pepperpot House has been carefully designed, and at its highest point, you'll discover a roof terrace that truly embraces the views over Godalming to the Surrey Hills. A wonderful place to relax and socialise.

Downsizing can offer a fresh start in later life – and the benefits may astound you. However, moving from a large family home to something easier to manage, triggers some powerful emotions and raises a good many questions. The practical side of our brain tells us the earlier we do it, the better we are – physically, socially, and financially. Yet, understandably, it's not a task anyone undertakes lightly.

Birchgrove retirement apartments are offered solely for rent on an assured tenancy basis. This provides security of tenure but without the hassle of home ownership.

The UK is fast becoming a rental market – especially for retirees. Renting in retirement is becoming more and more popular because it offers all the benefits of independent living without any of the stress of owning a house.

The inclusive rent offered by Birchgrove makes it easier to manage your finances and covers all the large-ticket expenses like energy costs – electricity, heating and water – and many of the rising incidental costs that go along with owning your own home e.g. housekeeping, buildings insurance, security, broadband, window cleaning and many more.

There are no lengthy contracts or confusing small print. Nor service charges or exit fees. You simply pay the inclusive rent and a one-off joining fee.

To find out more about Pepperpot House you can get in touch with the team on 020 3929 5599 or visit www.birchgrove.life You'll find them at Hamptons Estate Agents on the High Street, Godalming. Or, if you prefer, they'd be just as happy to visit you at your own home.



Busbridge Hearing Aid Clinic Celebrates 10 Years

On 10th January 2014, I ran the first Hearing Aid Clinic in Busbridge in the old Church Centre. I had trained as a Hearing Champion the previous summer as part of the Diocese of Guildford's newly launched Hear Here project. 9 hearing aid wearers came through the door that day, confirming that there was a need for such a service in Busbridge.



Fast forward 10 years and the Hearing Aid Clinic has developed into one of the biggest outreach activities into our local community which Busbridge & Hambledon Church regularly undertakes. The Hearing Aid Clinic has now moved to the Old Rectory and I still oversee the clinic, supported by a team of 7 volunteer Hearing Champions.

In the 10 years that the Busbridge Hearing Aid Clinic has been in operation, the clinic has received 1228 visits, more than 2000 packs of batteries have been given out and 1624 hearing aids have been retubed. The Busbridge Clinic remains our flagship one as that is where we are able to offer tea and cake and there are volunteers available to chat with people while they wait. However the Busbridge & Hambledon (now Godalming Minster) Hearing Champions operate across the area, with clinics in Hambledon and at Godalming Library. Some of the team also run clinics in local care homes as well as undertaking the occasional home visit to those unable to get to a clinic. Hearing aid batteries can also now be picked up from the Yew Tree Café at Busbridge Church. Hearing Champions have been trained

by NHS Audiology staff in the basics of hearing aid maintenance. They provide a range of services including:

- Checking the hearing aid is working properly;
- Re-tubing, ear mould cleaning and battery replacement;
- Checking the fitting of the hearing aid in the ear;
- Advice on maintenance and cleaning of the hearing aid;
- Information and signposting to other services and useful equipment.

The service is free and available to anyone with a 'behind the ear' NHS hearing aid. Training and the provision of supplies is funded by local NHS audiology departments in partnership with the Diocese of Guildford.

The Busbridge Hearing Aid Clinic runs on the second Friday afternoon of every month between 2 and 4pm at the Old Rectory (adjacent to Busbridge Church). Forthcoming dates are 12th January, 9th February and 8th March.

Penny Naylor



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Coming up for Prime Time in January and February...



The free **Marvellous Movie Matinees** at Busbridge Church continue on **Saturday 20th January** and **Saturday 24th February**. Our January offering stars a very young Hugh Grant who plays an English cartographer tasked with measuring the height of a Welsh mountain... Whilst in February we'll be showing a spy drama from 2020 starring Benedict Cumberbatch as Greville Wynne which is based on the incredible true story of a businessman turned spy. Doors open at 2pm for a 2.30 start. Complimentary tea, biscuits and popcorn are available at every screening and we always pause for an interval to allow for refills and chat! Please check the Godalming Minster website nearer the time for clues as to the title of the movie being shown or telephone the Church Office so that we can tell you!



Friday 26th January—Afternoon Musical Recital with harpist Margaret Watson. Margaret Watson is one of the busiest professional harpists in South East England and she is renowned for her versatility as a harpist in the range of music she performs. Margaret has performed for Royalty and in such notable venues as London's Guildhall, The Savoy and The Ritz, but for one afternoon only she performs for Prime Time at Busbridge Church! Margaret's performance will be followed by the customary Prime Time Tea & Cake! This is a free event, although donations on the day will be welcomed to help cover expenses. **2.30pm—Busbridge Church**



Hearing Aid Clinics - 2024



**MONTHLY
2nd Fridays
of the month
2PM - 4PM**

January 12th
February 9th
March 8th
April 12th
May 10th
June 14th
July 12th
August 9th
September 13th
October 11th
November 8th
December 13th

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For more information on the Hearing Aid Clinic please contact Penny Naylor.
E mail: penny.naylor@godalmingminster.org
Phone 01483 421267
See www.godalmingminster.org



Tuesday 13th February—Prime Time & Pancakes! Our Shrove Tuesday celebrations are now a firm fixture in the Prime Time programme. This is a Prime Time tea with a difference; instead of the legendary Prime Time cake, pancakes will be served with your cup of tea. **2.30pm—Busbridge Church.**

Regular **Coffee Drop-In** sessions take place in the **Yew Tree Café** every Monday morning between 10.30 and 11.30am. No need to book for these sessions, just come along and enjoy the chat and good company. A member of the Prime Time Team will always be there to welcome you.

For further details regarding Prime Time or to book onto any Prime Time event, please contact the Prime Time Team via the Church Office on 01483 421267 or email: primetime@godalmingminster.org

BUSBRIDGE EVENING WI

Our monthly meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at Busbridge Village Hall at 8 p.m. We have various activities: Book Club, Garden Club, Coach Trips any many more.

New members warmly welcomed. Contact Ann Heward 01483 420360

Tuesday 9th January Chairiobics - Jane Tomes - Let's get moving

Tuesday 13th February "Westminster Detectives Fact & Fiction" Given by Helen Naylor. Follow the clues into the inner world of detectives and their chilling cases; a world of ruthlessness, brutality and forensic expertise.



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The advertisement is decorated with various Christmas-themed icons including a reindeer, a dog in a Santa hat, a small dog, a dog with a Santa hat, and holly leaves. A central photograph shows a brown dog standing on a blue table in a veterinary or grooming setting.

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For a free design consultation, contact Stephen Allford on 07723717897 or for more information see www.allford.co.uk

The advertisement features a dark grey header with the 'Allford Interiors' logo and the text 'BESPOKE CABINET MAKERS'. The main body of text is white on a dark background.

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The advertisement features a purple circular logo with the text 'My Personal Fixer' and a photograph of a woman sitting in a chair. The background is decorated with colorful confetti. The text is in a mix of purple and white colors.

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**Happy New Year to you
all!**

Nexus

linking church & community

Our Christmas Charity Quiz Night on December 2nd was a great success, with our Quizmaster team of Alan Betts and Dudley Hilton on good form – keeping the quiz tables guessing and entertained. And we raised £750 for Milford Hospital League of Friends! A grand finale to our 2023 programme of events – 20 years since Nexus started!

We begin 2024 with a treat for us all: '**Delicious and Light New Year Bites**'. On **Thursday 4th January**, Teacher and BBC1's Best Home Cook Finalist, **Philip Friend** will demonstrate for us how to prepare three appetizing dishes, one of them possibly using an air-fryer, which should be interesting! We may have an opportunity to taste a sample!

On **Thursday 1st February** we are delighted to welcome **Sarah Squire**, Chairman of **Squire's Garden Centres**. Squires was set up in 1936, then mainly involved in landscaping domestic gardens. This business expanded and, from opening the first ever UK garden centre, there are now 16 Squire's Garden Centres in the South of England. Come along and find out more about '**Squire's - a family business**'. Sarah will be accompanied by Ricky Bowness, Manager of our local Milford Squires.

We're really pleased that **James Giles** can come and talk to us on **Thursday 7th March**, after he had to cancel last year for health reasons. James is **Reserve Manager** for **Thursley Common National Nature Reserve**, with its diverse areas of dry heathland, woodlands, and varied wetlands. It is abundant in wonderful wildlife, and we are very lucky to have this gem on our doorstep! Many of you will walk there regularly but it will be fascinating to hear about the management of this great open space.

All these events will take place at **8.00pm** in the **Busbridge Old Rectory**. We start our meetings with refreshments and a chance to mingle and meet new people before handing over to our speakers.

All are welcome – including men! We look forward to seeing you!

2024 Annual Subscription £20
Guests: £5.00 contribution towards speaker costs

Our 2024 charity is:
Farncombe Community Garden

New members welcome! For information, please contact:
janetmharvey@btinternet.com or katekaye2@btinternet.com

Nexus – building a network of friendship and support between church and community



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GCGC - meet at St Peter and St Paul on Mondays at 7:30pm.

Taster session on January 8th. See www.gcgc.org.uk



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Events to be held at Godalming Baptist church:

A great way to start 2024! Do come to our Life Issue-'**Overwhelmed-Finding Balance In A Fast Paced World**' on **Saturday 27th January at Godalming Baptist Church 9.30-1.00pm** (coffee from 9.00am) led by Andy Peck. Please contact Sally Pollard on 01483 428646 or e-mail-pollard3@hotmail.co.uk to book a place at a cost of £7 per person. It promises to be a very worthwhile morning!

Also at Godalming Baptist Church we

are holding a **monthly Coffee Stop-10.00am-12.00 noon** with delicious homemade cakes. No charge but donations much appreciated towards a different charity each month. On **Saturday 3rd February** the chosen charity is **Godalming Good Neighbours-voluntary transport scheme** - such a worthwhile cause. Please do come, a warm welcome awaits and you can also see Art Space in action!

For more details see also <https://www.godalmingbaptistchurch.org.uk/events>

Conservatoire Concerts

Conservatoire Concerts invite you to their annual Baroque Festival which this year will run from the 11th till the 13th of January at Godalming Baptist Church. The Purcell School Baroque Ensemble will open the Festival with a one hour programme including Bach Suite No.2. Then on Saturday morning at 10.30am Paul Bambrough will perform a recital of various Baroque works on keyboards. The Festival concludes with a Gala Concert on Saturday 13th January at 7.00pm, by the London Conservatoires String Ensemble and Soloists.

Booking is highly recommended. Admission free with a retiring collection towards musicians' fees and expenses.

More details and booking on www.conservatoireconcerts.org.uk

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Godalming Afternoon Townswomen's Guild

We meet on the 4th Friday in the month in the Scout & Guide HQ in the Burys. We are a part of a national organisation with its HQ in Birmingham. We meet on January, 26th for a fun afternoon playing table games and on February 23rd for a talk by Roger Duckworth "Tomb of the Unknown Soldier".

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Godalming MUSEUM

Out of the Archives, Tuesday 9th to Wednesday 31st January 2024.

A fascinating selection of items, not normally on display, will be highlighted in the Museum's first exhibition of the year. This is your opportunity to see artworks, documents and photographs from the collection that are normally housed in our stores and archives, and to get a different perspective on Godalming's history.

Charterhouse Art and Textiles Takeover, Thursday 1st February to Saturday 2nd March 2024.

Charterhouse School's art and textiles students are transforming Godalming with a dynamic exhibition. The town will become a canvas for their creativity with vibrant paintings and intricate textiles, showcasing the students' innovative spirit.

Surrey Guild of Craftsmen members are selected professional craftsmen and designer-makers of contemporary and traditional applied arts. A new display of works by members of the guild is on display and available to purchase.

Godalming Museum Coffee Club meets from **11am to 1pm on the 3rd Monday of each month**. Would you like to connect with other people in Godalming to share memories, have interesting conversations, and build new friendships in our relaxed and friendly group? Everyone is welcome, just come along.



A lecture at the Octagon, Godalming Parish Church will take place on **Wednesday February 7th** at 7.30pm for 8pm. Hilary Underwood BA MPhil, who will give a talk on **George and Mary Watts at Compton**. Hilary has worked at Watts Gallery for over 35 years and has a great passion for, and knowledge of Watts' work. Tickets are £5 from the Museum or on the door on the night.

Godalming Museum normal opening times are Tuesday to Saturday 10am to 4pm. The Museum will open after Christmas break on 9th January. Please check the website www.godalmingmuseum.org.uk or ring 01483 426510 in opening hours for further details.

The **Bridge** Magazine - editor.atthebridge@gmail.com

We ask you to please make sure that those people who are the focus in photos have given their consent to be included in our publication and on our website; in the case of minors we ask that this is parental consent. "The Bridge" would like to thank advertisers for their support, but to make clear to readers that it does not offer any endorsement of the goods or services advertised. Views expressed in the articles are not necessarily those of the Editor or Busbridge Church. The Editorial Team reserve the right to edit any articles submitted for consideration for publication.

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**Copy Date for next edition:
Wed 14th February**

Write to us:
c/o Church Office, The Old Rectory, Old
Rectory Gardens, Godalming GU7 1XB.

Rector: Rev Simon Taylor 421267

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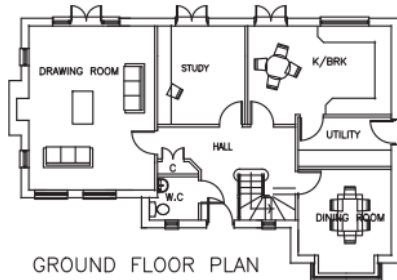
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