



Church Game
St John's, Hurst Green vs. St Mary's, Oxted
Sunday September 4th 2016

This annual fixture took place at Master Park and turned out to be just about the most exciting!

St John's batted first and started with a good partnership between Alison Langham and Rob Merry. Alison was out for 11 but Rob stayed to make 40 runs before being most unluckily run out when backing up. Jon Steel came in at number 3 and on debut in this fixture compiled a classy 50 before retiring in accordance with the etiquette of this game. Batting wise the only other name to mention was Louie Steel-another debutante- who looked like a well-schooled batsman. Louie survived for some time despite being completely bamboozled for a couple of overs by Richard Adamson who enjoyed demonstrating the art of leg spin bowling. In his School cricket Louie would never have seen such trickery with a cricket ball! St John's ended on 146 runs for 8 wickets off our 30 overs.

The traditional sumptuous tea took place between the innings. Yet again I think St John's "won" the tea by the sheer weight and excellence of the cakes provided by our players. Special mention of Kate Reynolds whose Dad Patrick was roped in to play at short notice. I reckon Kate must be a fan of the TV "Bake Off" show judging by the volume and quality of her baking!

As Captain I felt our total was possibly 10 runs or so light but to my delight and pride in ALL my team I was proved wrong—just!!

Gideon Bradshaw and Adam Wilks opened the bowling—a responsibility Gideon is accustomed to shouldering and he only conceded 29 runs off his 6 overs For Adam it was his first time as starting strike bowler so he doubled his run up and bowled like a demon. He took 3 wickets for only 14 runs in his 6 overs with no boundaries. He was supported superbly in the field. Rob was his usual predatory "beast" in the covers-Nigel Herbert caught the eye with some great running and diving to protect the boundary in front

of the Pavilion –Jon was excellent and took a very difficult catch off a high swirling ball-James Saunders did his usual roving role cutting out runs-Louie was also busy and effective in the field— Alison took 2 excellent catches behind the stumps and at one point exhibited her tough Northern roots by heading the ball without making a fuss or falling down! Peter Langham and Patrick Reynolds also kept runs down when called on in the outfield. Our other bowlers used were Jon—2 wickets for 26 runs, Louie—only 24 runs off his 6 overs—and Rob - 3 wickets for 34 runs. The last over was bowled by Rob with the last 2 balls seeing the scores identical. We surrounded the batsman with fielders but the young batsman –a very promising Oxted Colt—survived and we prevented him scoring the winning run.

St Mary's also scored 146 runs for the loss of 8 wickets **so for the first time in 24 years the match was TIED.**

Ian Wilks

St Johns v St Mary's 2016

Our Team

Rob Merry,
Alison Langham,
Jon Steel,
James Saunders,
Nigel Herbert,
Adam Wilks
Peter Langham
Ian Wilks
Gideon Bradshaw
Louie Steel
Patrick Reynolds

