

HURST GREEN NEWS

December 2016

Published on
3 December



The Gift

The new, young mum answered the door. Frankly, she was exhausted. The baby wouldn't stop crying, she was struggling to breast feed and the house was little more than a pigsty! The last thing she needed was visitors, in fact a hot bath and a warm, fluffy bed sounded like heaven.

But on the door step were three strangers with gifts for her baby. Who were the visitors and how did they know she'd recently given birth? She invited them in with trepidation. 'Hush, quietly', she whispered, 'I've just got him off to sleep!' The strangers peered into the Moses basket and fell to their knees with amazement and wonder - hadn't they ever seen a baby before?

Then they brought out their gifts. Gold, frankincense and myrrh. To be honest, the young mum would have preferred nappies, clothes and a soft toy. These gifts were for a king and used for embalming the dead. They weren't the most appropriate gifts for a new baby. What was she supposed to do with them? Yet the gifts were given with such love and sincerity. These strangers had clearly thought about the gifts they would bring. So, despite her tiredness, the young mum accepted the gifts these visitors gave with as much gratitude as she could muster.

The meaning of these gifts settled in her heart and she wondered, 'What kind of child and man would her son become if strangers brought gifts fit for a king?' Her most precious gift had already arrived. The gift of a first-born son. She and her husband were beyond proud. This baby was a miracle and the strange gifts just added to the phenomenon. Her husband had named him Jesus because that was what God had asked of them. What kind of man would he become? That question was for another day. It was enough that he was here, he was safe and he was loved.

Little did Mary know that her precious gift was a precious gift for the whole world, *'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life'* John 3:16.

This Christmas you may not like all the presents you receive. Some of them might be inappropriate like the three wise men's gifts. The socks that Aunt Bessie has given you three years in a row might quickly be forgotten about. But God has also given us a present this Christmas - Jesus. This gift should be our most valued treasure because the baby lying in the manger has become the Saviour of our messed up world.

In all your celebrations, take time to thank everyone who has given you a present (even if you don't like it) and don't forget to say thank you to God for the strange but amazing gift of Jesus. May you all have a happy and peaceful Christmas time.

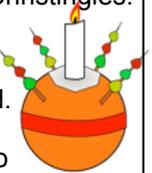
Revd Karen Bell, Hurst Green Methodist Church



Christingle Service Sunday 4 December, 9.30am

Do come and join this beautiful service for all ages (not a communion service) with Christingles.

A Christingle is a candle in an orange representing Christ, the light of the world.



A great way to get into the Christmas mood at a less formal, child-friendly service with traditional and modern music and refreshments afterwards with delicious cakes made by the St John's Youth Group

Aggies-on-the-Green Christmas Buffet



On Wednesday 14 December from 12 noon to 2pm, the annual Christmas Buffet will be held at Aggies-on-the-Green the Community Coffee Shop.

Tickets are available on Wednesday 7 December at £10 each (no increase from last year) or after the 9.30am Sunday service at St John's Church.

The Coffee Shop will then close for Christmas and the New Year, re-opening on 11 January 2017 at 10.30am.



Christmas Services in Hurst Green

Full details are in the enclosed Christmas card.

ADVENT AWAKENINGS

...were so popular last year, we're running them again this year!

**Mondays at 6.20am
for a 6.25am start**

(yes, you read correctly!).....

**5, 12 and 19 December
at St Agatha's Hall**

A beautiful, meditative start to the day and week by candlelight.

This short Advent reflection, open to all, will finish in time for any commuters to catch the 6.54am train!

Led by Revd Anna, St John's

The Mighty Oaks Youth Club Open Evening Event for new volunteers aged 18-98!

**Friday 13 January 2017
between 7.30 and 9.30pm**



We will celebrate our Sixth Opening Year with cake!

at Hurst Green Community Centre

(behind the parade of shops in Pollards Oak Road)

For enquiries or to register your interest please contact:
Tara Thomas, trashkey@ntlworld.com or 07990656591
Carmen Lambert Singer, c.lambertsinger@talktalk.net
or 07815074236

We are proud to be a registered charity (No 1157072).

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Remember to send your 2017 programme to the Compiler *(contact details below)*

by 16 December

for dates to be included in the Diary.

The next issue of Hurst Green News will be published on 7 January 2017. Please send material for that issue, including items for the diary, no later than **FRIDAY, 16 DECEMBER 2016** to The Compiler, 26 Orchard Way, Oxted, RH8 9DJ; e-mail: hgncompiler@gmail.com. The Compiler reserves the right to edit copy. The Hurst Green News is published by St John's Parochial Church Council (Registered Charity 1133107) as a church and community newsletter.

It is financed by advertisements and St John's Parochial Church Council.

HURST GREEN CHURCHES WELCOME YOU

ST JOHN'S, CHURCH WAY

8am Holy Communion
9.30am Parish Eucharist
 Crèche and Children's groups - all ages
11.30am, 3rd Sunday Café Service, refreshments from 11am
12 noon Holy Communion, David Gresham House
Other services: details in church porch
Wednesday **12 noon** Weekday Eucharist
Vicar: Anna Eltringham, 712674, 14 Oast Road (day off - Friday)
Assistant Priest: Mary Seller - 715675, 11 Home Park
Southwark Pastoral Auxiliary: Monica Fenton - 715769

METHODIST CHURCH, HURSTLANDS

10.30am Morning Worship and Junior Church
6.30pm Evening Service - 1st Sunday of the month
Minister: Karen Bell - 371346 (day off - Friday)

EVANGELICAL CHURCH ON HURST GREEN

10.45am Family Worship
Pastors: Steven and Margaret Cox - 717510

ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH OF OXTED & WARLINGHAM

All Saints' Church Chichele Road, Oxted - 627762
St Ambrose Church Warren Park, Warlingham
5.30pm Saturday First Mass of Sunday, All Saints' Oxted
9am Sunday St Ambrose, Warlingham
11am Sunday All Saints' Oxted
Parish Priest Fr Simon Hall - 713776

OXTED UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

The Church of the Peace of God
 21 Bluehouse Lane, Oxted - 730406
 oxtedurc@gmail.com
10am Sunday Service includes story-time for children, Junior Church, and communion monthly

Please telephone any of these numbers for details of weekday worship and activities, to discuss baptism, marriage, or the arranging of a funeral, or if you want help in times of joy or sorrow.

Muriel Ryman

As part of our series of talks with local residents, Muriel Ryman who, like the Queen, was 90 this year has been sharing some of her early memories with us.

If you were born in Hurst Green anytime from the 1960s to the 1980s, there is a very good chance you've already met Muriel. This is because one of her voluntary jobs was to weigh babies at the Baby Clinic, held in St Agatha's Hall. She also worked with Meals on Wheels and the local family planning clinic (this must have had a bearing on the baby clinic in some way!) and has always been heavily involved with activities at St John's. Somehow she also found the time to play tennis and badminton and was a very keen, good player.

Muriel moved to Hurst Green in 1959 and noticed immediately how rural it was in comparison with Thornton Heath where she'd grown up and this was despite the extensive building programme which was taking place in the village at that time. Her husband commuted to London and for the first few months had to wear his wellington boots to walk to Hurst Green Halt (the predecessor of Hurst Green Station) because of all the building work and lack of proper roads and pavements.

When she was growing up, she spent the summer holidays along with her twin sister, June, with her grandparents who lived in Lechlade, in the Cotswolds. Again, this was very different from the family home in Thornton Heath. She recalls particularly being fond of market day when all the farmers from the nearby villages congregated with their animals and the milkman who brought the milk on his horse and cart, pouring the milk directly into the jugs which she and her sister then carried home. She also developed a liking for roast rabbit as rabbits were in plentiful supply!

At the age of 15 Muriel left school. She says that there were no opportunities available to her for any further education and so she went to work in the accounts department of Fortnum and Masons. The office was in the basement and so she was far removed from the world of luxury goods.

Muriel still lives in the same house into which she moved in 1959. She has a large family including grandchildren and her first great grandson.

Jean Atkins

After many years of very distinguished service Mrs Jean Atkins has elected to retire from Hurst Green Infant School and Nursery at the end of this term. Chris Botten, Chair of Governors says she is one of the most outstanding educationalists and leaders he has met in his nearly forty years as a school governor and that it has been a privilege to work with her. So many families have been touched by Jean's support, dedication and commitment.

Jean started her teaching career as a supply teacher in 1978 and after working at other schools, she came to Hurst Green in 1999 as Acting Deputy, followed by Joint Head Teacher in 2003 and finally as Head Teacher from 2011.

The school will be holding a special celebration of her time later in the term (at a date to be determined). Parents and friends of the school will receive more details of this in due course. There will also be a memory book and collection which parents and friends are welcome to contribute to. If you would like to add to the memory book but cannot attend the school, please email info@hurst-green.surrey.sch.uk.

Jean will be replaced in the short term by an Acting Head for two terms while the governors explore long term options to take the school forward. Hurst Green as a community has had the best in Jean and they want to ensure that it continues to have the best leader it can into the future.

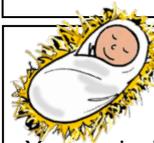
Walkers Doing their Bit For Local Footpaths

East Surrey Walkers, the local group of The Ramblers covering the Tandridge and surrounding district, not only walk the local paths but also help Surrey County Council, as it struggles under budgetary constraints, to maintain the rights of way network.

The latest initiative by the group has been to buy two kissing gates for a public footpath near Wire Mill Lake at Newchapel near Lingfield. Six members of the volunteer footpaths maintenance team, known as Ken's Krew, recently replaced two broken wooden stiles with longer lasting galvanised kissing gates. These will enable members of the public, who might have difficulty in getting over stiles, to have better access to the countryside. Over the past 8 years some 50 gates have been installed to replace faulty stiles, helping to maintain the wonderful path network in the area.

A selection of free walks are planned each month, of different lengths in a variety of locations. Just turn up and join in! See next page for this month's walks. More details at www.eastsurreywalkers.org.uk.

Christmas Craft Morning for Children
Thursday 22 December 10am-12noon
Evangelical Church on the Green



Christmas Crib Services
St John's, Hurst Green
Christmas Eve, 3.30 and 5pm

You are invited to bring a present wrapped and labelled, saying for what age (0 - 16 years) and sex the gift is appropriate. No soft toys please.

This year gifts will be shared between Welcare (Strengthening Families) and East Surrey Domestic Abuse Services.

Children - please come dressed as shepherds, angels or kings to take part in the service.

Dates for your Diary 2016

- 5 Dec Mon & Wed: Harry's Bridge Club, Red Cross Hall, Oxted, 1.15-4pm, 715900 / 7144329
 5 Dec Tandridge Club for the Visually Impaired, Shopping Trip to Redhill.
 8 Dec Pollards Oak WI, Methodist Hall, 7.45pm: Members' Christmas Party
 12 Dec Tandridge Club for the Visually Impaired, 2.30pm (note early start) Christmas Entertainment, Hurst Green First School. Contact: Carol Leach, 01883 382031
 14 Dec Oxted and Limsfield Flower Society, 2pm St Peter's Hall, Limsfield, Christmas Lunch and AGM, Myra Lester - With Christmas in Mind; competition - Planning your Christmas
 7 Jan Hurst Green Country Music Club Dance, 8-11.15pm Hurst Green Community Centre first Saturday of every month. New members welcome: phone 714916

Hurst Green News can also be read on www.stjohnshurstgreen.org.uk

EAST SURREY WALKERS www.eastsurreywalkers.org.uk

Recent research shows that half of us are reluctant to get on our feet for more than 20 minutes a day. Compared with the growth in cycling in recent years, interest in walking has been slow. What better time to walk than over Christmas and the New Year, and it is free. Most of these December walks start at 10am:

Short walks

- Mon 5th, Oxted - Helen/Tony 01883 712303
 Fri 9th, Lingfield - Graham 01342 833453
 Tues 13th, Dormansland - Adam 01342 832911
 Tues 20th, Bletchingley - Di 01883 717800
 Tues 20th, Limsfield Chart - Tony 716980

5-7 mile stroller walks

- Wed 7th London Bridge St - Dan 01883 346714
 Sun 11th, Westerham - Arthur 01883 713207
 Wed 14th, Limsfield - Mike 01883 712303
 Sat 17th, Bletchingley - Jeff 01883 743269
 Wed 21st, Woldingham - Fay 01732 300922
 Mon 26th, Godstone - Sue 01883 743807
 Wed 28th, Godstone - Arthur 01883 713207
 Sat 31st, Chipstead - Robert 01737 778337

8-12 mile longer walks

- Sat 10th, Woking - Ken 0208 657 6304
 Sun 18th, Godstone - Malcolm 01883 330276

OXTED BAND

Christmas Concert

Saturday 10 December, 3pm
 St John's Church, Church Way

Arrangements of favourite carols and an opportunity to sing along. The concert will also feature the Training Band, many performing in public for the first time.

Tickets £5 for adults, accompanied children under 12 free, on the door. Followed by refreshments



More Carol Singing with Oxted Band at Hurst Green Station on Thursday 15 December at 7.30pm

All welcome!



PARISH REGISTERS

Funerals

Our sympathy goes to all their relatives and friends:

- 28 November Gordon Woodjetts
 29 November Gary Toulson

St John's Book of Remembrance

To have a name entered, please phone Diana on 712845.

BULKY RUBBISH CLEARANCE

Will take: ceramics, furniture, garden waste, glass, household rubbish, metal items, up to two washing machines etc.

Unable to take: fridges, freezers, asbestos, car batteries, concrete, hardcore, hazardous chemicals, oil, paint, plasterboard, trade waste or tyres. For advice on these call: 03456 009009, or Customer Services 722000.

Please do not dump rubbish at sites before the vehicle arrives, or abuse the collection crew, or we may lose this very valued service.

SATURDAY 10 DECEMBER Hurst Green

Community Centre, 7.30 - 10.45am
 Coldshott, 12 noon - 2.15pm

Limsfield

Stoneleigh Road, 12 noon - 2.15pm
Oxted

Council Offices 7.30 - 9.45am
 Chalkpit Wood 10am - 12.15pm

Barbara Harling, 01883 723034

Kim Sullivan, Chiropodist

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Nine Lessons & Carols

St John's Hurst Green
 Sunday 18 December 5.30pm

followed by mince pies and mulled wine
 There will be a collection for the charity Shelter

Children's Christmas Party at St Agatha's Hall Sunday 11 December 3 to 5 pm

Disco, games, activities, food, £7 per child including a present from Father Christmas. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

For tickets contact Marian 722796, atkn848@aol.com



St Agatha's Hall
Booking Secretary
Marjorie Walker, 714492 or
www.stjohnshurstgreen.org.uk/st-agathas-hall/make-an-enquiry

CAFÉ CHURCH St John's, Church Way 11 for 11.30am

Sunday 18 December
 (3rd Sunday of every month)

A relaxed and informal service
 Fresh coffee and croissants
 ~ A Band ~ Crafts ~ For all ages ~
 Hope to see you there!



For more info, call 01883 712674 or e-mail office@stjhurstgreen.co.uk

Hurst Green Singers' Christmas Concert Sunday 11 December, 7pm St John's Church, Church Way

Stanford - Songs of the Fleet, Spirituals and Songs to commemorate the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare
 Carols for choir and audience

Conductor: Michael Barlow
 Organist: Alec Crowe

Tickets £10 from 01883 715748, any choir member or at the door

www.hurstgreensingers.co.uk

Come and join us for
COFFEE and a CHAT
 Where? St John's Room
 St John's Church



When? Fortnightly on Thursdays
 15 December, 12 January
 10.30am - 12 midday

Need a lift? Ring Barbara, 715636

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Lions 'Message in a Bottle' is a simple but effective way to keep essential personal and medical details where they can be found in an emergency - in the fridge! More than five million FREE Message in a Bottle kits have been distributed in recent years to people with conditions such as diabetes, allergies, disabilities and life-threatening illnesses.

The bottles are available free from health centres, doctors' surgeries and chemists and also direct from Lions Clubs, thanks to generous donations from the public and businesses.

A plastic bottle is kept inside the door of a fridge containing details of a person's health and the medication taken. The Emergency Services can make potentially lifesaving decisions by referring to the information in the bottle. A green cross sticker is placed inside the main door or where it would be most obvious with another sticker on the fridge door.

In Hurst Green, a supply of these bottles will be kept in the porch of St John the Evangelist (open in daylight hours) and in the pharmacy in Pollards Oak Road.

For further information, contact Tony Skilbeck on 01883 335945.

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