

HURST GREEN NEWS

September 2020

Life after Lockdown

Living in the shadow of Coronavirus has taught us many things including how to live with uncertainty.



We just managed to produce the April Hurst Green News before Lockdown but couldn't expect our usual kind volunteers to deliver it as many were shielding. So instead many households received it thanks to those who collected a bundle from the church step and delivered to their road or others nearby.

In my message in that April Hurst Green News I talked about how we must be kind and loving during this uncertain time, especially to our neighbours, and it was wonderful that so many signed up to help one another in many and is there a person or an organisation that you'd different ways.

I don't know about you, but I've been finding the easing of Lockdown as challenging, if not more so, than going into it. At least then the rules were clear. But coming out of Lockdown has been so confusing and in organising church matters the options and variables to consider have been myriad. Do we still create a pre-recorded YouTube service? How do we keep everyone safe in church? What do we do if too many turn up? If we can't sing hymns how do we make that work instead? I'm sure many of you have had your own challenges in your own situations too.

As you read this the school holidays will be coming to an end and you may be gearing yourself up to go back to work, get children back to school (or even settle them in their new school) all within the current restrictions, whatever they might look like by the time this Hurst Green News is printed and delivered!

The continued uncertainty and the 'brain strain' that goes with it can become quite overwhelming. Also many are still, understandably so, being very cautious and staying at home as much as possible.

So I feel now my message should be yes of course, we continue to be kind to and look after those in most need. But also, this is now a time to take care of ourselves and our own wellbeing. Everything is not back to normal, things are still confusing and uncertain and living lives of social distancing, face masks, shielding, anti bac and more can mean our usual support networks feel fragile and possibly not quite there for us in the usual way.

There are some words of Jesus which have stayed with me throughout this experience, 'Come to me all you who are weary... and I will give you rest' (Matthew 11:28). In amongst the autumn busyness, compounded this year by extra stresses and strains, give yourself a break when you need to and take care of yourself. If you're struggling, the church is also here for you and Jesus is always ready to help ease your burdens and relieve you from your weariness. Please turn to him for rest, comfort and strength. He waits for you and hopes you come to him.



If you need to talk, please do get in touch (contact details over the page).

With love and prayers as ever,

Revd Anna Eltringham Rector, St John the Evangelist Oxted Team of Churches

Note from the Compiler

We're sorry we had to take a publishing break for four months but when you issue a newsletter which is largely about local events and the world goes into lockdown, there isn't much for us to say! But now, as the restrictions are starting to ease, it feels like it is the right time to resume publication.

We'd love to hear your lockdown stories - how have you been spending your time? What new skills have you or your family members acquired?

What has been your personal experience of lockdown? Have you experienced some of the many acts of kindness over the last few months like to thank for what they have done for you or your community? Please send your stories to

hgncompiler@gmail.com and we'll include them over the next few months.

Creative Community

We have been very busy during the lockdown. Here is an update on our projects:



Draw Hurst Green - A massive thank you to everyone who has done drawings for us. All the drawings are currently being displayed in the shop window between Willow Hairdressers and Select Convenience Shop/post office. One of our volunteers is making a fabric map of Hurst Green and will transfer drawings onto it. We will let you know when it is finished!

Colour Hurst Green - We had planned to invite everyone to help our wildflower day. everyone one, we had to cancel it due to the coronovirus restrictions. However TDC parks team stepped up to help us. They sowed wildflower seeds on Hurst Green, near Aggies, which have been looking colourful and buzzing with bees all summer. This is the first part of this project, with more things to come...

Community Garden - We have had some wonderful feedback from people letting us know how much they are enjoying the calm, relaxed garden we are creating. People have been very generous with their time, giving us plants, watering in hot weather, and helping looking after it. It is open to anyone, any time, so do take it in as part of a stroll.

Hurst Green Station - our wooden planter is now looking much smarter, with new planting in it.

For photos and up to date info on what we are up to, look us up on Instagram or head to facebook.com/creativecommunityhurstgreen.

HURST GREEN CHURCHES WELCOME YOU

Contact details for the respective churches are shown below. Please telephone any of these numbers for further details.

ST JOHN'S, CHURCH WAY

Rector: Anna Eltringham, 712674, 14 Oast Road

(day off - Monday)

Assistant Priest: Mary Seller, 715675, 11 Home Park Southwark Pastoral Auxiliary: Monica Fenton, 715769

www.stjohnshurstgreen.org.uk

ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH OF OXTED & WARLINGHAM

All Saints' Church Chichele Road, Oxted - 627762

St Ambrose Church Warren Park, Warlingham Parish Priest Fr Stephen, 713776

www.oxtedandwarlinghamparish.org

METHODIST CHURCH, HURSTLANDS

Minister: Sang Wook Han

HURST GREEN EVANGELICAL CHURCH Pastor: Keith Dickson, 712017

www.hgec.org.uk

OXTED UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

The Church of the Peace of God 21 Bluehouse Lane, Oxted, 730406

oxtedurc@gmail.com

Minister: Graham Dadd, 07894 507467

www.oxtedurc.org.uk

The following information about services being offered was correct at the date of going to press.

However, things can change rapidly in the current climate, so please check their websites for the latest information.

Hurst Green Evangelical Church: We are not currently holding formal services. However we recognise the comfort and solace the Church can bring at this time and the need for our world and community to find hope in times that seem so hopeless. Therefore, during this period, we will be holding online Sunday worship, prayer meetings and bible studies via Zoom. These meetings are open to all who would like to attend. To be part of these times together, please contact Pastor@hgec.org.uk for the link.

St John's Church: At 9.30am on Sundays there is a service of prayer and reflection; doors open at 9.10am. Please note that face coverings are now mandatory, although children under 11 and people with disabilities or certain health conditions are exempt. Social distancing means numbers are restricted, but each week someone will be outside ready to lead a short service based on what's going on indoors, if numbers are too many (not needed yet!) Services will be streamed live from just after 9.30am on our YouTube channel and will remain available afterwards. St John's is also open for personal prayer on Wednesdays from 10am - 4pm.



New Curate, Lotwina Farodoye

I was licensed as a Curate to the Oxted team ministry on 27 June 2020. Due to lock down, my licensing took place on the internet via zoom and although licensing via zoom is rather unusual, as most things have been in the lockdown, the on-screen occasion was one of thanksgiving, celebration, hope and great joy. I feel very blessed and overjoyed to have been licensed to such a wonderful community and look forward to getting to know many of you as lockdown eases.

As a Curate, I have a share in the 'Cure of Souls' which relates to the work of caring for souls in regard to their healing, health and salvation. This is a very special charge and I am humbled and honoured by God's call to share in this vocation together with Reverend Canon Anna Eltringham and Reverend Professor Mary Seller from St John the Evangelist, Hurst Green whom you may already know, together with the rest of the Oxted team Ministers.

My husband David, and children Benjamin (18), Jemima (16) are also looking forward to getting to know many of you once we have moved house in order to be closer to Hurst Green. As we embark on this new journey together, David will continue to work in London in the field of Business Intelligence while Benjamin hopes to start studying history at university this autumn and Jemima hopes to start 'A' levels in psychology, business and law at college.

'For the Love of Scrubs' and 'Oxted Sewing Group'

Way back in March, which almost feels like a distant memory, those of us with connections to the NHS were hearing directly of the serious threat of COVID-19 and the potential dire effects of being infected. We were all suddenly placed in lockdown with time on our hands for gardening, hobbies and in the case of some local folks - sewing! There was a sudden need for work clothes for health and social care workers which could be washed daily at 60 degrees to kill the virus. The group was organised locally by Pam Deverill and expanded through Scrubs for Surrey and Sussex Healthcare Facebook group', a local team of up to 50 sewers, with resources supplied by other fantastic local people including Susie Hill Reid who produced the paper patterns for each sewer to use and cut many lengths of fabric for distribution, and Cheryl Hetem who purchased and fundraised for fabric. We used 7 rolls of fabric, supplemented by the up-cycling of sheets and duvet covers to make over 300 sets of scrubs, over 600 drawstring laundry bags, plus gowns, hats and face masks, supplying GP surgeries, hospital departments, social carers, care homes, special schools, community nurses and hospices. Demand has now eased but the local group has been established and will no doubt spring into action should the need arise.

Alison Richardson

New Pastor, Keith Dickson

Hello, my name is Keith Dickson and I am the new Pastor of Hurst Green Evangelical Church. I am married to my long-suffering wife Gillian, bless her. We have two daughters Sarah and Hannah. We also have two little blessings, our grandsons Lucas (12) and Ezra (4). We don't have any pets as Gillian says she has enough to do cleaning up after me. This is my first post as Pastor after spending the last thirty years desperately trying to avoid God's call to serve in the church.

I have spent the last twenty years serving in the Fishermen's Mission as Senior Superintendent with responsibilities for Western England, Wales and Northern Ireland. During my Mission service I was blessed to serve in Newlyn (Cornwall) twice and Mallaig (West Coast of Scotland) twice. Both Newlyn and Mallaig are in beautiful parts of the country and we were very fortunate to be accepted into both of these fishing communities.

I must confess I enjoyed my time serving in the Fishermen's Mission and really struggled to leave it to move to Hurst Green. However, I have found at Hurst Green a warm and welcoming community and I admit I am enjoying the fantastic weather we have been having recently.

Before joining the Fishermen's Mission, I worked with the Salvation Army in New York as a programme assistant working in Spanish Harlem. I also worked in a Church of Scotland Mental Health Rehabilitation Unit as a Community Support worker. The best paid job I have ever had was delivering beer for Carlsberg Tetley as a Drayman!

Arriving in Hurst Green during the COVID-19 lockdown was a slightly surreal and challenging experience. Still, in God I trust. I am tremendously excited to be given the opportunity to pastor Hurst Green Evangelical Church and to see what God is going to do in Hurst Green.

East Surrey Walkers

East Surrey Walkers, along with most other organisations, has been inactive over the past few months, in line with guidance from the Government. The priority for us all has been to protect the health of our members and help suppress the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Now, the easing of lockdown measures allows more freedom for walkers but the advice remains the same, to limit contact with others. Some walking groups will gradually start to walk with small groups of six but ESW has made the decision to await further guidance from the Government before we feel it is safe to restart our group walks, which are generally far more than six in number.

It has been wonderful to see more people walking by themselves or with their families, exploring their local area, at the same time as keeping fit and trying to exhaust their young children! Anything we can do to improve our heart-rate variability not only helps our heart health but also our emotional strength. If you are one of the many who has discovered the delights and benefits of walking over the past few months, you might want to consider making it a permanent part of your life once 'normality' kicks back in and I would urge you to think about joining East Surrey Walkers. We are a friendly group that enjoys talking whilst walking in the countryside, making new friends and having pub lunches. We also enjoy various social events throughout the year and organise holidays together, both in the UK and abroad. Each week we offer a selection of walks for different abilities, ranging from 3 to 12 miles. There's bound to be one that suits you, and you are welcome to walk with us on one or two occasions before you decide whether to join East Surrey Walkers. We'd love to have your company...

By the time you read this, hopefully we will have a full programme of walks or, at



By the time you read this, hopefully we will have a full programme of walks or, at least, more of an idea of when it will be safe to start walking in groups. So, please, look at our website to check what East Surrey Walkers are offering and join us for a walk near you as soon as you can: www.eastsurreywalkers.org.uk.

News from St Agatha's

St Agatha's is celebrating its 125th anniversary this year and despite the lock down, the hall now has modern toilet facilities which bring it into the 21st century.

At least no-one was inconvenienced during the refurbishment!

The hall is now COVID secure with new terms and conditions to cover the difficult situation we find ourselves in. We are opening cautiously with very few classes in August and a rather fuller calendar in September. Please consult the website to see what classes and activities are available: **stagathashall.weebly.com**.

We realise that events can move very fast and we are ready for any eventuality.

We recently lost our caretaker and would welcome applications for this local role.

Details available from the booking secretary: 07586 863079 or aggieshall@gmail.com.

PARISH REGISTERS

Holy Baptism

We welcome into the family of God's Church:

25 July Leo Clarke Turner 23 August Lennon Farooq

Marriage

We wish them every happiness in their future lives together:

18 July Rachel Collins and David White

Funerals

Our sympathy goes to all their relatives and friends:

25 March Audrey Hodge 3 April **Brian Constable** 10 April Marion Brewer 17 April Colleen Richardson Ronald Maltwood 21 April 12 May **Dorothy Brown** Elizabeth ('Ann') Living 18 May 22 May Elsie Critcher Sheila Davies 28 May 8 June Maureen O'Neill 9 June Peter Williams 10 June Baby Hunter Bethell 16 June Arthur ('Patrick') Mills 24 July Karen Connor Terence Turner 30 July 21 August David Steptoe

St John's Book of Remembrance

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

St John's Church Notice Board

Have you noticed the newly refurbished St John's Church sign that is located at the junction between Church Way and Woodhurst Lane? The old sign had deteriorated badly and collapsed in one of the storms earlier this year, but Titsey & District Rotary came to the rescue! Talented Rotary members Roger Fox and Roy Pope put in the hard work needed to strip, rebuild, re-varnish and re-install the old sign and the Rotary provided funds for the materials needed. St John's Church is very grateful.

Would you like to help with community projects, raise funds for needy causes, get involved in local Titsey & District Rotary projects and above all meet new friends, socialise and have fun?

The Rotary always welcomes new members. To find out more, contact **sam@titsey.org**.

Foodbank

St John's Church cannot currently receive donations but there is still an urgent need

and we encourage you to give in other ways if you can. Morrisons and Sainsbury's in Oxted both have collection points. Details of the items most needed can be found at caterham.foodbank.org.uk and eastgrinstead.foodbank.org.uk.

Hurst Green Infant School & Nursery OPEN MORNINGS

Wednesdays 14 October & 18 November

Timings and format will be confirmed in September following Government guidelines.

More info: www.hurstgreenschool.org or 712171

Hurst Green Busy Bees

The preschool is open for business as usual, caring for children aged 2 - 4, between 8am and 4pm in term time. They do have spaces for September so please contact **Marian atkn848@aol.com** for more details.

The Oxted Rotary Charitable Trust

We have a Grant Scheme to help single parent families and families living with a disability who are directly affected by the pandemic: 'CoronaCare in the Community'.

Any single parent family on a low income or those living with a registered disability or chronic illness can apply if they meet the criteria. Applications must benefit the whole family and the applicant's family must live in areas where the Rotary Club of Oxted & Limpsfield operates. More details from: grants@oxtedrotary.org.uk

Hurst Green Garden Club

Like all the local clubs, we have not had any meetings during lockdown and none are expected until some time next year. We've adapted, for example, we received photographic entries for the spring and it was such a success, we may try it again for our September show. With so many being stuck at home we may even consider a best front garden for anyone in Hurst Green. We have also had plant sales in front gardens which have raised funds to cover the cost of speaker fees for next year.

Our programme for 2021 is being developed in the hope that we return to some form of normality by then. Our hopes for rain have not yet been met and the need to be doing so much watering is a bit of a burden. But the gardens still give us a lot of pleasure and are essential for our

wellbeing. Enjoy yours. Brian Parrott

Hurst Green Village Fair

Sadly, for the first time in over 40 years, the village fair will not take place this September as it was felt this was not possible to organise in a safe socially distanced way. Hopefully it will return in

2021. One or two members are stepping down from the committee and we need some new people to come and help organise this community based event. Lots of things need to be done such as liaising with the council for the use of the land, booking attractions (e.g. dance groups, community bands), and on the day helping to prepare the green in the morning, putting up marquees and tidying everything away at the end.

For further details, please email hgvfair@hotmail.co.uk

Local Advertisers

A number of our advertisers have been in touch to say it's business as usual, subject to additional cleaning and social distancing. Please support them if you can. We mention particularly these who say they would love to hear from you: Chartfords Trees Ltd, Day's Garage Ltd, GC Electrical Services.

H₂O Plumbing Services, Jackson-Stops, PsP Logistics Ltd and T C Hillier.

The Woodhouse Centre



The Centre plans to re-open in mid September.

Please check their website for further details:

www.thewoodhousecentre.org.uk

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