

HURST GREEN NEWS

November 2020

Remember, Remember ...

November – Month of Remembrance. 2020 holds many noteworthy anniversaries. Despite lockdown our road celebrated 75 years since VE day from their gardens in May. We recently honoured VJ Day and the Battle of Britain, a conflict which could easily have been lost without the sacrifice of those who defended our skies. I discovered that 100 years ago the first roller coaster in UK was opened at Dreamland Margate. This year has been a roller coaster in itself, hasn't it?



The Royal British Legion has found new and innovative ways of attracting our attention this year for its ongoing work with ex-service people, since normal poppy appeals are impossible. After WWII the whole world was turned upside down. The Legion points out that many of the feelings, emotions and challenges felt by service personnel returning to homes and families are echoed today. We too have faced shortages, job losses, social isolation, a feeling of being lost or forgotten. What was positive was that nations and communities worked together to face the foe, then just as we are doing, rallying everyone together in a common cause. The Royal British Legion website (britishlegion.org.uk) contains many practical examples of the way the world faced REBUILDING; REUNITING; REIMAGINING as they faced the future. This is so relevant for us in this time of COVID-19.

I was fortunate enough to work at the Royal Hospital School, Ipswich, attended by my children. My daughter sang in the choir at the Festival of Remembrance several years running. I remember watching her in her choir robes, standing to attention within the Royal Albert Hall arena as one million poppy petals fell silently from above, each one representing a life lost in defence of the freedom we enjoy. Memory is partly recollection, reminiscence, but it must also be commemoration. Let us take time in November to bring to mind all those people whom we have loved and lost who have made us the people we are today. Let us also remember those whose sacrifice bought us today at such cost. Let us finally, as beloved children of the God who sent His Son to die for us, think on whatever is true, honourable, just, pure, pleasing, commendable and excellent, especially when we are finding life tough and it is hard to remember to be thankful. (Philippians 4:8) Wendy Hewitt Lay Reader St John's

Remembrance Sunday - Sunday 8 November

This year, Remembrance Sunday will look very different from previous years and St John's is unable to hold a Remembrance Sunday service as normal due to restrictions. We will hold a small Sunday service service as usual, with restricted numbers, and a YouTube Remembrance video. Further details of both will be shared on our website stjohnshurstgreen.org.uk.

We continue to be grateful to all those who sacrificed their lives in war for the sake of others, and have provided you with a Poppy (enclosed) to colour and place in your window as a mark of your Remembrance. As part of Remembrance-tide, with a broader kind of Remembrance this year, we would also like to remember the Key Workers who have given their lives in the service of others during this pandemic, and ask that you colour the rainbow as a sign of Remembrance to our Key Workers.

The British Legion's work is more vital than ever as they support people from all generations who have new hardships as a result of COVID-19. You can buy a poppy at britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/ways-to-give/shop/poppies-by-donation or donate here: britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/ways-to-give/donate

All Souls' Day, Sunday 1 November Because of the Covid restrictions, sadly, we

are unable to hold our usual All Souls Day service which falls on 1 November this year. Instead, we invite you to visit St John's Church some time between 3pm and 4.30pm and light a candle in memory of your loved one(s), and place it on the table in front of the altar as usual. A priest will be there, and will say a prayer with you if you wish. In addition, the names of all those we have in our records who have died during the last two years will be read out during the afternoon. They will all be read out, together with other names of which we have been notified, but we are

unable to say at what exact time.
I look forward to seeing you there.

Mary Seller, Assistant Priest

Defibrillator

A second public access defibrillator has been installed in Hurst Green. The first can be found outside the flats near the shops in Pollards Oak Road and the latest addition has been installed on the front of the clubhouse at Holland Sports and Social Club. The code to access the defibrillator can be obtained by calling 999.

Virtual BBC Children in Need



This year's BBC Children in Need event at St Agatha's Hall has been cancelled because of COVID-19. Instead, it will be streamed live on Facebook on

Saturday 7 November from 6pm to 10 pm.

There will be music from Phil Short, John Lazenby with a George Michael tribute, Ryan Mac with a Rat Pack tribute and Nico Vox. Mel's challenge from Ridge Radio will be a Name that

Tune quiz. The event will be hosted by 'Big Brother 2018 runner-up' Akeem Griffiths and there will be special guests.

Please search and like our Facebook page 'Together for BBC Children in Need' and join us live and donate as together we can change lives for disadvantaged children and young people in the UK.

Weekly Pram Walks

Our pram walks start at 10.30am on Wednesdays from St John's.
We walk in socially distanced groups of no more than six, led by Suzanne.
If you have a baby or toddler you are welcome

to join us. Please drop us a message via Facebook @stjohnshurstgreen if you would like any more details, or just turn up!

HURST GREEN CHURCHES WELCOME YOU

Contact details for the respective churches are shown below. Please telephone any of these numbers for further details. You are advised to check websites for the latest information about any services being held.

ST JOHN'S, CHURCH WAY

9.30am Holy Communion with music, every Sunday

More details about this and other services at:

www.stjohnshurstgreen.org.uk

Rector: Anna Eltringham, 712674, 14 Oast Road

(day off - Monday)

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

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 Stephen Mares - 020 3719 4644

Please see update below

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

Hurst Green Methodist Church

You do not need me to tell you that the past 6 months have been a very difficult time for many people, and they continue to be. COVID-19 has caused huge problems for many, from severe illness and death for some, to uncertainty about work and finances for others. Very few people and communities have been untouched.

What I did not expect was the huge effect it would have on the life of the Church, including Hurst Green Methodist Church. The problems we faced were not during the lockdown, during which we distributed services on paper to many, while others were able to share in YouTube services prepared on my computer. Our issues really came to a head as we started to talk about how to 'reopen' the Church. These conversations led to some people deciding that Hurst Green Methodist was no longer the Church for them, and others letting us know they were in the process of moving away. We began to face up to a severe shortage of leaders in the Church, and none of those are young and energetic. Many have reached the point of needing to do less rather than more!

On 23 August we opened our doors for a brief act of worship and a conversation about the future. It became clear that there was neither the will nor the energy to reopen our doors. One month later our Church Council held an official vote 'not to reopen the Church building and to request permission to close permanently'. That was a sad occasion bringing down the curtain on a Church which has served faithfully in Hurst Green over many years.

However, such a vote is not the end of the story, as we require permission from the Circuit and District to complete the process of closure. The Church is thus 'in limbo', neither open nor closed, until these permissions are granted. Some of us are continuing to meet by Zoom on Sundays and we are still offering some of the things which were available during lockdown. (YouTube worship has ceased as I now conduct live worship in Coulsdon and other places). We do not know how long our limbo will last, though the Circuit permission has now been given. The decision of the District may take some time because the Synod does not meet till well into next year. (We hope not to wait that long.) For now, we continue to be the Methodist Church in Hurst Green, waiting for the time when we can hold a final service of celebration and bring our corporate life to an end. There will be more news on that later.

But after that service, you will find that there are still Methodists in Hurst Green.

Stephen Mares, Minister in limbo

Tandridge Club for the Visually Impairedhad to find a new home!

After 42 years in the Methodist Church Hall at Hurst Green, we were dealt a blow when we were informed that the Church was closing its doors for the last time.

Tandridge Club for the Visually Handicapped, as it was originally called, was founded in 1978 by Hurst Green resident and social worker, Joy Rogers. Despite being informed by the powers that be that 'there was no call for such a club' and 'you'll never get the drivers to help', Joy went ahead and started it up. And the members and the drivers came!

Joy's husband Tom was a leading light in the newly built Methodist Church and so it seemed sensible to use it as the venue, despite the members coming from all over Tandridge District - indeed they still do! People with sight loss coming together for friendship, fun, a relief from their isolation or even despair and tea and cake, these latter being most important! Over the years there have been handicrafts, cane work, flower arranging, quizzes, tea dances, reminiscence sessions, shopping trips, seaside outings and speakers, but strictly no slide shows! But always lots of fellowship and chat...

The name of the Club was changed over 20 years ago, driven by the members themselves, who refused to be defined by their 'handicap', whilst admitting to visual impairment! The strapline is 'A Special Club for Special People!'

Of course, due to the pandemic, the Club has not met since March. Hopes for a fish and chips lunch meeting just to get together in August were dashed, even at Godstone Village Hall where we have gone for an 'summer outing' for the past few years. Some of our members are desperate to get out and back together, others fearful of leaving their homes - casualties of the strange times we're living in.

But, all is not lost; we have found another venue for our meetings, the York Room at St John's Church, in Hurst Green. Provisional bookings have been made from January 2021. Surely there will be some normality by then....!

We hold onto this hope of all being together again before too long, and we remember the old saying, "This, too, shall pass..."

Further information on Tandridge Club for the Visually Impaired from Chairman, *Diana Drysdale on 01883 742708*.

Hurst Green Gardening Club

At last, enough rain to make the ground workable, if you are on clay like me. It's very welcome for what is a busy time in the garden (is there ever a slack time?).

My pond is now full, not just with water, but plants too including the lilies which are still flowering. This is a good time to start your own pond or water feature. Even a small one will give an extra dimension for plants and wildlife (don't forget to cover it with netting if you have very young children around). Form steps at the sides, but make them more than six inches deep to cover plant pots. You can use old pots, cut down and with a few holes punched in them. You may soon have newts and frogs, but like toads they like to have hiding places after the breeding season, so don't overdo the garden tidy this autumn. Brian Parrott

St John's website

St John's has recently updated its website to make it more user friendly; it can now be easily accessed on all devices (phones, tablets, laptops) via www.stjohnshurstgreen.org.uk. If you have any suggestions or comments, please contact office@stjhurstgreen.co.uk



We are back, do join us! **Mondays, 8-10pm**

Christ Church, Kings Cross Lane South Nutfield, RH1 5NG

For more information contact Pat Denchfield 07841 827496 or sncscontact@gmail.com

See the website for full details: southnutfieldchoralsociety.org.uk

These boots are made for walking... in groups of 6, 10, 20 or 30...

As an organised 'outdoor physical activity event', Ramblers and Walking for Health group walks are exempt from the restrictions on social gatherings known as the 'Rule of Six' in England (from 14 September). This is taken from the Ramblers website but advice is changing constantly, so please check our website at the time of your walk.

Under this exemption, we are allowed to organise walks with up to 30 members but East Surrey Walkers recognises that not all our leaders, or all our walkers, want to walk in such a large group. For that reason we have organised walks of different sizes and varying lengths so that everyone can find a walk on which they feel safe and comfortable. In both September and October we organised over 20 COVID-safe walks, so there's a great choice.

Living with COVID is restricting and challenging but we can still enjoy the simple pleasures in life, like the joy of kicking a path through crisp, autumnal leaves and enjoying the kaleidoscope of colour that Mother Nature offers us. Autumn is a magical time of year and it's certainly no time to hibernate, COVID or not!! So, boost your feel-good hormones with a walk with us. What are you waiting for; we are a friendly group that welcomes new walkers. We enjoy talking whilst walking in the beautiful countryside that we are lucky enough to have on our doorstep and we enjoy making new friends and having pub lunches together (on tables of 6) whenever possible.

If you would like to try us out, please look at our website/walks programme to find a walk that suits you, book in with the leader, as per the instructions on the listing, and come along on the day. There's bound to be one that is perfect for 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... www.eastsurreywalkers.org.uk

Welcare - by Susie Burnard

Many of you will have already heard about our local family support charity, Welcare. From their centre based in Redhill, they cover the East Surrey area including Hurst Green. They work with families and children up to the finally reopened its doors for visitors after being closed age of 13, helping parents and carers to use their strengths and skills to nurture happy and confident children. Welcare's services are tailored to the real needs of the communities in which they work. They strive to empower families and change lives for the better, offering practical and emotional support to overcome challenges.

The COVID-19 pandemic has provided challenges for us all but Welcare has adapted and found new and innovative ways to provide support. Taking line between Lewes and East Grinstead had been advantage of technology and the great outdoors, Welcare has continued to work with families on a one-to-one basis and maintain contact with those in need. Families struggling without their regular routine or structure have been seeing more behavioural issues with young children, with parents of East Cringtons. Dr Richard Rooching, However, by without support groups left feeling frustrated and isolated in turn. One of Welcare's Family Support Workers Cathy said 'When lockdown began we originally continued to deliver services over the phone or by video calls. This didn't work well for everyone, and it made it particularly difficult to interact with the children of these families.' Once restrictions began to lift, Cathy found creative ways to get back that invaluable face-to-face contact with families. First in gardens, then walks in local parks, Cathy brought in elements of her Forest School training to find fun ways to engage the children she works with.

If a local family is in need of support they would first contact the Tandridge Family Centre at Hurst Green Infant school. Where the needs of the family do not meet the Family Centre criteria, they can be referred to Welcare who can offer 1:1 appointments for support and advice, and where relevant∥Subsequently, thanks to the efforts of further provide food bags and supermarket vouchers or support the family to generations of volunteers, by 2013 another six miles of purchase essential small items.

Traditionally Welcare has benefitted from gifts at harvest time and Christmas, especially the Toy Service on Christmas Eve at St John's mainline railway to London. Church. Sadly the current restrictions mean they are unable to accept food Having retired from my own full-time railway career in and toys but welcome financial donations for their Families in Crisis fund.

For more information about how you can donate to Welcare or refer for support, visit www.welcare.org, contact redhill@welcare.org or 01737 780884

PARISH REGISTERS

Holy Baptism

We welcome into the family of God's Church:

18 October Thann Carter Perryman

Funerals

Our sympathy goes to all her relatives and friends:

15 October Jeanette Braganza

St John's Book of Remembrance To have a name entered, please email office@stjhurstgreen.co.uk

Keep everyone safe this Bonfire Night!



It won't be 'quite the same this year without organised events. Please be considerate of others if you have a bonfire and fireworks at home. For more information and guidance, take a look at www.tandridge.gov.uk/fireworks

St Agatha's Hall

To enquire about booking, contact the **Booking Administrator:** 07586 863079 or aggieshall@gmail.com or complete the form on the website: stagathashall.weebly.com/ contact.html

Hurst Green Infant School & Nursery Open Day Friday 27 November from 4.30pm

Please contact the School Office to book a half hour slot: office@hurstgreenschool.org. We request that adults only attend. Tours will be in small groups of no more than 6 adults (to include school staff). Masks must be worn and you are asked to observe social distancing rules.

www.hurstareenschool.org

The Bluebell Railway reaches its 60th Anniversary

On 7 August this year the Bluebell Railway in Sussex since the COVID-19 lockdown in March. The reopening date was chosen for a very specific reason: it was exactly 60 years to the day since the Bluebell Railway had started operating, on 7 August 1960, as Britain's first standard gauge steam heritage railway.

Just two years earlier, in 1958, the so called 'bluebell' closed by British Railways. This was in fact several years before a nationwide programme of line closures of East Grinstead, Dr Richard Beeching. However, by 1960 a group of young volunteers had managed to convince the authorities and the public that they could successfully reopen part of the line for steam railway preservation, and in so doing, they had paved the way for scores of other such lines across the country to be reopened over the years as heritage railways.



They began by preserving a five mile section of the line from Sheffield Park station (adjacent to the National Trust gardens) to Horsted Kevnes.

the Bluebell Railway had been reopened, taking it to

2013 after 40 years on the railways in Britain and Ireland, I felt very privileged to then be given the opportunity to serve the heritage railway sector as Chairman of the Board of the Bluebell Railway Company from 2014 to 2019. In that role I saw how so many volunteers from all walks of life bring their skills and dedication to the work of railway preservation and I found it very rewarding to see the pleasure that the beautifully restored steam locomotives, carriages and stations bring to the visitors, young and old alike.

Even with all the precautions necessary during the current coronavirus pandemic, the Bluebell Railway has been able to find ways to entertain its visitors safely this autumn and I understand Santa has already announced his intention to be there to welcome families again this Christmas! Richard Fearn

Find out more about the Bluebell Railway, including how to book a ticket at: www.bluebell-railway.com

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