

HURST GREEN NEWS

August 2021

Singing Together

As you read this we hope the St John's congregation have been singing again following the government's lifting of restrictions. It's been a long wait. Faithfully, when we have been able to meet in person for worship in church, (as opposed to online), we have dutifully sat at a distance, masked, listening to one or two singers but frustratingly not being able to join in ourselves.



At the time of writing this moment hasn't quite happened and I'm wondering what it will be like. We have been 'allowed' to sing when gathered *outside* the church which we did for the first time on Easter Day. I had visions of the most glorious sound rising heavenwards. Those who led the singing were indeed glorious. However some of us left a lot to be desired, or I did at any rate, and I realised it was because we were so out of practice. My voice certainly felt it had dropped a few tones along the way and was even less in tune than before!

As restrictions have eased and hopefully have now finally lifted (for now at least), there are things we may need to re-learn and re-discover. One of those will be how to connect as community. In the Western world we often observe how individualised everything has become. When Covid started there was a huge reaction against this and those who usually relied on their own strength and resources began to turn to others and others turned to them to assist.

But now I wonder if we need to re-discover Jesus' teaching to love our neighbour as ourselves and live in communities where all are valued and fully included. Our community will only be as good as the investment we make in it - the events we attend, the community organisations and businesses we support, the voluntary time we give and the love and kindness we share with friends, neighbours and yes even strangers. As everything opens up and we get to do things again which we haven't for a while, we might ask ourselves 'what really makes *my* heart sing?' What do I want to prioritise? What shall I do to ensure this community is a place that makes me and others happy - where I am connected with others and they are connected with me?

The summer is a time to rest and relax. As we do, let's reflect too. How will we rediscover the value and joy of living and being (and singing) together?

With love and prayers for a wonderful summer,
 Revd Canon Anna Eltringham, Oxted Team Rector
 St John's Hurst Green and St George's Crowhurst



Oxted Boot Fair, Sunday 15 August, from 10.30am

The popular OXTED BOOT FAIR is back! Organised by Titsey Rotary Club, it raises money for charities whilst offering the chance to have a good clear-out and make some cash. After the long COVID-lockdown, we're sure there'll be lots of fantastic bargains.

We hope to raise over £3,000 and all profits from pitch fees (cars £10, vans £20 if pre-booked/pre-paid, £5 extra if you arrive un-booked) plus donations for parking will be distributed to charities. These are mostly local ones including one of our favourite charities, Master Park, where the event takes place.

We can take up to 250 pitches, so please book as soon as possible. If you don't want a pitch, come and browse the stalls - there'll be lots of great bargains. The Oxted Guides will provide tasty burgers and hot-dogs, as well as hot and cold drinks, and there'll be a fresh fruit and veg stall... and the regular ice cream van. Entrance is free for buyers. For details, or to book a pitch see www.titsey.org.uk

Come back and join us for COFFEE and a CHAT!

We are delighted to be able to reinstate our fortnightly coffee mornings at St John's following a very long break during the coronavirus pandemic.

We look forward to welcoming our previous 'regulars' and would be very pleased to see some new faces too.

Our get-togethers are primarily (but not exclusively) aimed at those who live alone and are a great way to make new friends and catch up on local news. It could be a good way to start venturing out again after a long time of restrictions.

We serve 'real' coffee and tea with biscuits (and occasionally cake if we're lucky!) in convivial surroundings.

We will, of course, comply with any remaining covid-related requirements.

**Where? St John's Room
St John's Church**

**When? Fortnightly
on Thursdays
5 and 19 August
10.30am - 12 noon**

Need a lift? Ring Barbara, 715636



Food Provision in Hurst Green

Are you likely to find it a challenge to feed your children during the school holidays?

If so, please contact Reverend Lotwina Farodoye of St John the Evangelist, Hurst Green from 3 August onwards:
Lotwina@Stjhurstgreen.co.uk

After taking some details from you, Reverend Lotwina is able to email you a voucher for the local foodbanks if you are struggling with food provision for your family. Furthermore, by arrangement Reverend Lotwina is able to collect your food parcel from the local foodbanks on your behalf to distribute to you at Aggies on the green on Wednesdays, so you don't have to travel far.



Please note, Reverend Lotwina is away until 3 August so will not be able to respond to any requests until then.

HURST GREEN CHURCHES WELCOME YOU

At St John's there are services of Holy Communion on Sundays at 8.30am (said) and 9.45am (with music); and on Wednesdays at 12 noon. The 9.45am service is also available via Live Stream. The church is open for private prayer on Sundays and Wednesdays from 10am to 4pm. For updates and the latest information, please check the church websites given below.

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 (please see below)

Minister Stephen Mares - 020 3719 4644

HURST GREEN EVANGELICAL CHURCH

Pastor: Keith Dickson, 712017, Pastor@hgec.org.uk
www.hgce.org.uk

OXTED UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

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oxtedurc@gmail.com

Minister: Graham Dadd, 07894 507467

www.oxtedurc.org.uk



**WE NEED
YOUR HELP!**

The Hurst Green Community Centre in Oak Close (behind the Pollards Oak shops) is a valuable and well-used local resource. However, built in 1976, it needs to be updated for the needs of our community now. We have some ideas, and now have the opportunity to bid to Surrey County Council's Your Fund Surrey to make significant improvements to the hall. But we need your involvement and views so that we can plan for YOUR hall's future.

Please spare just a few minutes to give us your views. You can fill in our questionnaire online (*please do this if you can as it's much easier for us to analyse!*) or on paper if you don't have computer access. Online: go to <http://bit.ly/HGCommunityCentre>. On paper: pick up a form at the One Stop shop, fill it in, and leave it at the One Stop Shop or post through the Community Centre letterbox. To have your form collected, please email carmen@hgcc-surrey.org.uk We would be grateful if you could submit/return your completed questionnaire by the end of August 2021.

Thank you so much for taking the time to fill in this questionnaire, which really helps us to understand what YOU want for your Community Centre and make it fit for the future.

If you would support improvements to the Centre in principle, you can also help us by going to Your Fund Surrey's Commonplace page and giving the 'Thumbs Up' to our idea at <https://profile.commonplace.is/contributions/yourfundsurreymap> THANK YOU!



Oxted Country Market

After lockdown, the Market re-opened on 22 July at its regular venue: Oxted Red Cross Centre (opposite the Leisure Centre and behind Morrisons). You will find us there every Thursday from 9.30 - 11.30am with our usual local produce. This includes homemade cakes and savouries, jam, chutney, marmalades and locally produced honey. There are also seasonal plants and garden produce, eggs and traditional hand-made crafts. Tea and coffee will be available.

For further information, contact oxtedcm@outlook.com or take a look at our Facebook page. Orders can be placed in advance, call 01883 623273 or 07554 023786 or email wi.ann@btinternet.com. We look forward to seeing our regular customers and new ones too.



Hurst Green Methodist Church

The Church has now received permission to close from our Methodist Circuit and District, and we will be holding a final service on Sunday 8 August at 3pm.

We would love to invite everyone to share that service, **but we cannot do so**. If you would like to share the occasion, please email Stephen Mares on smares@tiscali.co.uk who will let you know if there is space to accommodate you.

A New Priest!

This time last year Lotwina Farodoye joined St John's church as a curate, a Church of England 'vicar' in training. When a curate starts they are ordained as a 'deacon', one whose emphasis is serving God, the people of the church and the community. Then, after a year, a deacon is ordained as a priest.

As a priest you never lose that first call from God to serve. But you do so not just practically and pastorally, but in a 'sacramental' way too. This means that in church and in other ways you are ordained by the bishop to do things which are a visible sign of this ministry which has already begun and which holds God's people in a spiritual way. The main example of this is presiding at the Eucharist where the priest offers to God the lives of those gathered and of the wider world in thanks and then prays for God's special blessing on bread and wine to feed and sustain all through Jesus.



Lotwina was ordained as a priest at the start of July. This took place at Croydon Minster with four others from the surrounding area. Revd Anna, the Rector of St John's and Revd Mary, the Assistant Priest, joined the Bishop of Croydon in laying on hands as she was ordained. Although the numbers who attended were more restricted than usual, the service was no less special and profound.



A week later, on Sunday 11 July Lotwina presided at her first Eucharist at St John's, another special and profound occasion shared by the congregation and celebrated afterwards with a glass of fizz! God still seems to call people like Lotwina to the priesthood for which we are very grateful.

She brings unique gifts and skills to the St John's team and as you will have seen in this newsletter, has got very involved in serving God in this community in numerous ways. Why don't you come to a service at St John's some time to meet her or connect with her on one of the initiatives she is leading?



A Wildlife Garden Part 4

Now at the beginning of July, the garden is ablaze with colour. Vivid yellow hawkbit, and the orange variety called fox & cubs - a large centre bud surrounded by smaller ones resembling a vixen and young!

The flowers have attracted a lot of small orange-bottomed bumble bees. Lots of creeping buttercup, daisies, red and white clover and a patch of striking royal blue germander speedwell which a while back was interspersed with lady's smock or the old country name of milkmaid. My patch of lesser stitchwort is out and spreading like tiny stars. Also a favourite creeping plant called self-heal with a rich, purple burr-like head. It was thought to have medicinal purposes a long time ago, hence the name - a poultice made of flowers and leaves to put on wounds and a drink to cool fever. I don't think I'll put it to the test!

There are very few baby birds this year except for the armies of great and blue tits. I always listen out for young blackbirds, calling 'chib, chib' from deep cover as if to say 'I'm here, Mum' - but not this year. May be there's time for another brood. Wood mice are everywhere - I envy their speed in getting about! They are royally fed from the feeders by the house when the birds drop the seed.

What a wonderful sight the wild flowers at St John's must be! If only more people set aside wild patches for mammals, birds and insects!
Suzanne Hill, Old Oxted

St Agatha's Hall
To enquire about booking, contact the
Booking Administrator:
07586 863079 or
aggiesshall@gmail.com
or complete the form on the website:
stagathashall.weebly.com/
contact.html

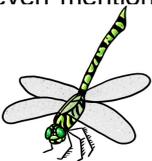
East Surrey Walkers
Our programme of walks up until September is now on our website
www.eastsurreywalkers.org.uk
 At the time of writing we are obliged to maintain a booking system. Please do join us for an amble or more strenuous walk.

Hurst Green Garden Club

The artist John Constable once said that 'no two days are alike, nor even two hours, neither were there ever two leaves of a tree alike since the creation of the world.' Such is the joy of our gardens and countryside, but having spent a few days away from my patch of 'organised chaos', I think a new definition is needed. 'Re-wilding' might be a better description. Sneaky or what?! The rain has all but destroyed my few flowers and everything is even more crowded than before, and don't even mention the weeds!

As Suzanne Hill mentioned in last month's edition, the dragonflies are absent. My theory is that the small beach and rocks around my small pond have been ideal for their egg laying, but as it is now overgrown with self-seeded plants, they may have been forced to look elsewhere. I will clear the beach area and hope they will come back. Watching the larva emerge from the water and change into dragonflies is one of nature's miracles. At least there are lots of newts, and water lilies have taken over.

So my garden, and yours, are living organisms. I was always fascinated to see World War II bombed sites taken over by nature. To me, over-manicured gardens of country houses are joyless spaces. What do you think?
Brian Parrott



Tandridge Club for the Visually Impaired now meeting in the York Rooms in St John's Church

The Club had hoped to open up again on 12 July but as ever, the best laid plans have to be abandoned and new ones made! Barring any further disruption in the General Escape Plan, the Club will convene on Monday 2 August (12.30 for 1pm) for a Fish & Chips Lunch - we'll come back with a bang! Meetings thereafter will be on the usual 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month, 2.45 - 4.15pm. On 9 August the subject will be 'The Great Storm of 1987' with Bob Ogle and on 23 August 'Music, Movement and Fun' with Jill Fortune.

We would welcome new members, both with a view to joining for anyone whose sight is poor, or volunteering to help run the afternoons - with no obligation of course. In fact we welcome anybody who would like to come along to see who we are and what we do. Our members are an unfailingly cheerful bunch and they feel in a safe environment amongst people with similar difficulties and chatting can be a great help to overcoming them. During lockdown we managed to stay in touch with our members by sending, via the drivers, a gift of hyacinths at Christmas and a goodie bag at Easter. Some we know are raring to get back so we keep our fingers crossed that all will be well. Any queries, please contact Diana on 742708.



Oxted Band hopes to hold a picnic event at Holland Sports Club in August - still to be confirmed and likely to be quite informal to try to keep people safe.

They are playing at the Godstone donkey derby and fete on Monday 30 August and Hurst Green Village Fair on Saturday 25 September. All being well, they plan to come to St John's Church for an autumn concert on 23 October and a Christmas Concert on 11 December 2021. More information at oxtedband.co.uk

PARISH REGISTERS

Holy Baptism

We welcome into the family of God's Church:

31 July Imogen Rosanna Wahlich Hale

Marriage

We wish them every happiness in their future lives together

31 July Fiona Giles and Michael Bolding

Funerals

Our sympathy goes to all their relatives and friends:

28 June Baby Lincoln Daniel John Burke

7 July David East

8 July Kristina Helen Bevan

St John's Book of Remembrance

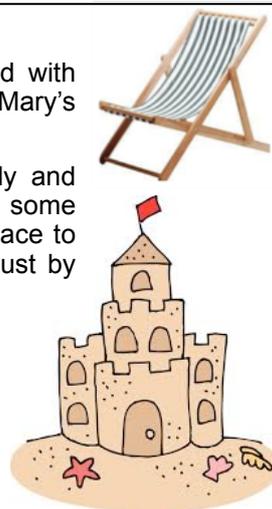
To have a name entered, please email **office@stjhurstgreen.co.uk**

St Mary's on Sea - Summer Special!

Following on from the success of the Easter trail and with many of us enjoying summer at home this year, the St Mary's Adventure Team is pleased to bring the seaside to you.

Throughout the holiday season, beginning on 22 July and going on until 31 August, the churchyard will feature some typical seaside resort activities, to offer another fun space to enjoy in Oxted. Come with friends and a picnic, or just by yourself to enjoy:

- End of the Pier Photo Booth
- Sand and Water play for toddlers
- Hope Postcards
- Deck Chairs
- Beach Games
- Special event each Friday



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While the Church is open, visitors will be able to look round what is Oxted's oldest and most historic building.

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