

NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER 2021

St John the Evangelist, Hurst Green

Welcome All | Deepen Faith | Inspire Action

Welcome to St John's!

After last year's Christmas that wasn't, this year we are all looking forward to making Christmas an event that really IS! As December begins, preparations are well under way for many, and that includes us at St John's. You will see in this newsletter details of the many activities that are planned. Please come and enjoy them with us. Many like to come to our Crib Services on Christmas Eve, but please note that this year, because of Covid and other restrictions, we are unable to accept gifts for the less fortunate, as part of the service. Nevertheless, the services will follow our traditional pattern that makes them so very special to St John's.

We hope that Christmas this year will be, for everyone, very different from last year's.

But what will not have changed is Christmas itself – the story and meaning of Jesus' birth. Jesus came to earth as one of us, to show us that he knows what it is like to live in our world with all its difficulties, problems and sorrows. His coming brought light and life into our dark world, and showed us what God is like - loving, caring and compassionate, and there for everyone.

May the joy and peace of Christmas be yours this year. Revd Mary

Services this month

Sunday 5 December Advent 2	8.30am: Said Eucharist 9.45am: All Age Eucharist, Fairtrade stall afterwards in the York Rooms
Sunday 12 December Advent 3	8.30am: Said Eucharist 9.45am: Parish Eucharist with Sunday School
Sunday 19 December Advent 4	8.30am: Said Eucharist 9.45am: All Together (Parish) Eucharist 5pm: Nine Lessons and Carols - collection for Crisis followed by mulled wine and mince pies
Friday 24 December Christmas Eve	3.30 and 5pm: Crib Services - collection for Welcare, card reader available 9pm: First Eucharist of Christmas ('midnight mass')
Saturday 25 December Christmas Day	8.30am: Said Eucharist 10am: Christmas Day Eucharist - family friendly service, slightly later time
Sunday 26 December	NO SERVICES TODAY



Yo Yos Christmas Party
Wednesday 15 December, 9.15am
For parents, carers, babies & pre-school children
Party food and Christmas crafts, moving into the church to finish with a story & songs

COFFEE and a CHAT
9 and 23 December, 10.30 - 12 noon
Fortnightly on Thursdays in St John's Room, St John's Church. Please come and join us!
If you need a lift, ring Barbara, 715636

Christingle, Crafting & Carols
Saturday 18 December, 3-5pm
A festive afternoon for all the family



A variety of craft stations to choose from, including Christingle making
Enjoy mulled wine, mince pies and even a puppet show! Christmas carols in the Church to end.
Children must be accompanied by an adult.
This is a free event but donations are welcome.

The January Newsletter will be available on Saturday 25 December.
Please send anything to be included by Saturday 18 December to Janet Harman at office@stjhurstgreen.co.uk, or phone 715301 (and leave a message if I'm out!) Thank you.

St John's Notices



[facebook.com/stjohnshurstgreen](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnshurstgreen)



twitter.com/AnnaRevd

GOODBYE JOHN MILLS AND RUTH - SO SAD TO SEE YOU GO!

We recently said a fond farewell to John Mills and Ruth Vowles. John has been a member of St John's for over 50 years. He and his late wife, Mollie, were a formidable pair who did so much for us over so many years. Both were, at different times, a churchwarden, both served on the PCC; John was still a member when he turned 90 years old! Mollie organised the cleaning of the church and the coffee rota. John represented us on the Deanery Synod, and acted for the Children's Society on our behalf, and if there was ever a job that needed doing, John Mills was the one who did it.



Some time after the sad death of Mollie, we were delighted to welcome Ruth into our midst, a long standing friend of John and Mollie. She quickly became part of us, and how lovely it has been to have her with us and to get to know her. Sadly for us, it now seems that the most sensible thing for John and Ruth to do is to move near to Ruth's family - which is also nearer to John's two sons. They go with our love, and our thanks for all they have given to us, together with our best wishes for their future. Their new address is: 30 Stroudwater Court, Cainscross Road, Stroud, Gloucestershire, GL5 4ET.

ANNUAL CHURCHYARD LEAF CLEARING: Saturday, 4 December from 9.30am. Please come and help - even if you can only spare a short time we will be delighted to see you. Coffee and cake will be served during the morning.

PLEASE CONTACT JANET FEARN if you can help with the Fairtrade stall on Sunday 5 December, after the 9.45am service or serving refreshments after the carol service on 19 December: 722684 or janetfearn2@gmail.com. Two people for each event would be ideal if possible!

ST JOHN'S ECO CHURCH GROUP: This is making great progress under the leadership of Jon Macartney assisted by Wendy Hewitt. The group will consider the use of Church facilities and assets in relation to environmental and ecological sustainability, under five headings: worship and teaching, buildings, land, community and global engagement, and lifestyle. Having identified areas on which to focus, ideas will be presented to the wider Church community for feedback as to which the Church could or should take action on during 2022.

NEVILLE JACOBS: Neville's new address is 20-22 Lower Street, Rode, Frome, Somerset, BA11 6PU. His phone number is unchanged, 07776 338 560, but Neville says the signal is dodgy so WhatsApp, text or chat are best.

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT: In the Rector's absence, the meeting on 18 November was chaired by churchwarden Cathy Booth and began with a reflection by Stephanie Foster. Despite recent diocesan guidance that the House of Bishops now allowed communion 'in both kinds', the PCC was unanimous to continue with just bread, Covid rates in Tandridge being amongst the highest nationally. New volunteer sidespersons were welcomed: John Barker, Marion Barker, Michelle Calvert, Delphine Cochran, Janet Fearn, Ruth Hack, Lucy Kay and Alison Richardson. Volunteers for other roles are still sought: cleaners, Hurst Green News editor, and representatives for Christian Aid and the Children's Society. Plans were approved to upgrade the sound system; advertise for an Oxted Team Ministry youth worker, to focus on youth rather than young children and families; move to a more permanent means of streaming services. Some of this is already covered by grants and donation pledges. The recent Quinquennial Inspection of St John's revealed no major issues.

HURST GREEN SINGERS CONCERT: 12 December, 7pm at St John's - a festive programme of readings and carols with some audience participation, followed by refreshments. Admission is free, with a retiring collection for choir funds. However, numbers are restricted, so please apply for a ticket by contacting hurstgreensingers@gmail.com or Cathy Booth 715748.

CROWHURST CHURCHYARD has the joint grave of Bishop Arthur Preston, a former Bishop of Woolwich, who died in 1936, and his wife Nancy, who died in 1977, and who worshipped at St George's for many years, and organised the embroidery of the kneelers there.

I recently received a phone call from one of their daughters, who had visited the grave with her sister some time ago, and who wished to plant some bulbs on the grave, but is too infirm now to travel to do it. Of course I volunteered!!!!

The Tête-à-tête bulbs duly arrived by post, and this week I have planted them. Note the bishop's mitre on the top of the masonry in the centre.

Mary Seller



Other Notices

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL: Pop in and enjoy the beautifully decorated Christmas trees at Oxted United Reformed Church, Tuesday 21 - Thursday 23 December, 4 - 7pm. Admission £1 for adults, children free. Please bring loose change to donate to your favourite charities. There will be refreshments, music and a Traidcraft stall. Visitors are requested to wear face masks.

St John's
HURST GREEN

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