

NEWSLETTER - JANUARY 2022

St John the Evangelist, Hurst Green

Welcome All | Deepen Faith | Inspire Action

Welcome to St John's!

At the time of writing, we are once again facing a period of great uncertainty because of Covid-19 and so have no idea how many of our planned Christmas activities will actually have taken place. But regardless of whether we actually managed to hold events such as Nine Lessons and Carols, Crib Services as well as all our other regular services, what we do know is how much work went into preparing for these. It never ceases to amaze us how many people give willingly of their time and talents and thus enrich our church community. Thank you to our clergy, SPA, reader, crucifer, servers, musicians, sacristan, PCC, parish administrator, children and youth workers, cleaners, coffee team, filming team, flower arrangers, intercessors, sidespersons, gardeners, and if we've forgotten anyone, thank you too!

The one thing we've all had to become very good at over the last 18 months is adapting and making the best of any given situation. And, we have a feeling that we're going to have to carry on doing that for a while yet! Please bear with us if we don't always get things quite right, or things don't happen to plan, or as you would prefer. Also, if anyone out there would like to become part of the team of volunteers, we'd love to hear from you, you would be most welcome.

In the meantime, let's give thanks for what we have achieved together in 2021 and pray that we can continue to support each other and the wider community in 2022. Happy New Year!

Cathy and Henk, Churchwardens

Services this month

Sunday 2 January
The Epiphany

8.30am: Said Eucharist
9.45am: All Age Eucharist

Sunday 9 January
Baptism of Christ

8.30am: Said Eucharist
9.45am: Parish Eucharist with Sunday School

Sunday 16 January
Epiphany 2

8.30am: Said Eucharist
9.45am: All Together (Parish) Eucharist

Sunday 23 January
Epiphany 3

8.30am: Said Eucharist
9.45am: Parish Eucharist with Sunday School

Sunday 30 January
*The Presentation of Christ
in the Temple (Candlemas)*

8.30am: Said Eucharist
9.45am: Parish Eucharist



The Epiphany

Creator of the heavens,
who led the Magi by a star
to worship the Christ-child:
guide and sustain us,
that we may find our journey's end
in Jesus Christ our Lord.




Candlemas


Lord Jesus Christ,
light of the nations and glory of Israel:
make your home among us,
and present us pure and holy
to your heavenly Father,
your God, and our God.

The February Newsletter will be available on Sunday 30 January.

Please send anything to be included by Sunday 23 January 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

 twitter.com/AnnaRevd

THANK YOU to the van den Berg family for decorating the Christmas tree at St John's this year.



COFFEE and a CHAT: Our fortnightly coffee mornings at St John's will resume in the New Year on Thursday 13 January. 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. A few regular attenders have recently moved away so we are a little down on numbers at the moment. It would be lovely if some others felt able to join us. We serve 'real' coffee and tea with biscuits (and occasionally cake if we're lucky!) in convivial surroundings. We do, of course, comply with covid-related requirements. If you need a lift, call Barbara 715636.

Yo Yos: It has been decided to cancel our weekly baby and toddler group, until further notice, due to increasing COVID rates in the local area. We hope to be up and running again soon in the New Year, and will share information on the YoYos Facebook page and St John's website stjohnshurstgreen.org.uk as soon as we know our return date.

REVD MARK ANDERSON: Mark preached for the last time at St John's at the 9.45am service on 12 December 2021. After 4½ years as the Assistant Curate in the Oxted Team, Mark is moving on to begin his new appointment as Rector in the Benefice of Sherfield on Loddon and Stratfield Saye with Hartley Wespall with Stratfield Turgis and Bramley. These are four parishes just north of Basingstoke in the Diocese of Winchester. During his time here Mark has led Café Church at St John's and also Youth Work in the York Rooms. He and his family will be moving house just before Christmas to begin in mid January. We wish him well!

CARE4CALAIS COLLECTION: Following the dreadful news that a number of refugees lost their lives in the Channel after their dinghy capsized, a bucket collection was held at St John's after the 8.30 and 9.45am services on Advent Sunday, 28 November. The £250 raised was sent to Care4Calais who provide emergency aid to refugees in Calais and areas affected by the European migrant crisis.

ECO CHURCH FOR 2022: The Eco Church Group met on 8 December and ideas for environmental and ecological actions were discussed. Areas being considered are worship, buildings, community and lifestyles, land and global engagement. Initial thoughts will be presented to the wider congregation in early 2022, to garner interest and preferences for action. Watch this space....

CRISIS: You may have read in the introduction overleaf that there was no certainty that the service of Nine Lessons and Carols on 19 December would actually go ahead. Fortunately it did and was a lovely occasion. Afterwards a magnificent £415 was raised for Crisis, the national charity that provides shelter, hot meals and companionship for the homeless, especially over the Christmas period but also throughout the year.

CONGRATULATIONS to Emily and John Paul Danaee who were both confirmed at Southwark Cathedral on 20 November 2021 by Bishop Jonathan.



Other Notices

OXTED BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP: This Churches Together initiative will start on Thursday 6 January, taking place fortnightly thereafter at Oxted United Reformed Church, Bluehouse Lane. Drop in between 1 and 3pm. Come on your own or with a friend, to meet others who are in a similar situation. It is a great opportunity to chat, share experiences and discuss ways of coping. Trained volunteers will be on hand for emotional and bereavement support. We look forward to welcoming you. Tea/coffee and biscuits served.

OXTED TEAM CHOIR: One of the upsides of last year's lockdowns was more activity together with the four churches across the Oxted Team, including virtual choirs and the chance to hear singers from other churches leading musical worship. Once we were able to sing together again, there was great enthusiasm to form an Oxted Team Choir. Following minimal rehearsal, the Choir sang for the first time on Sunday 28 November at St Peter's Tandridge, leading the music for a special Tenebrae-style Advent service. There is nothing like music to bring people together and we hope this will be the first of many occasions. Tentative discussions are underway for the next event - possibly a performance at St John's of The Crucifixion by Stainer before Easter.

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