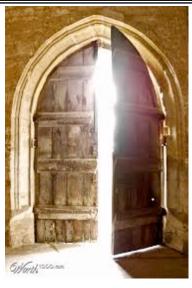


HURST GREEN NEWS

April 2022

Light in the Shadows

A few days ago I was returning home and saw the heart-warming scene outside a near neighbour's house. Two East Surrey College mini buses alongside a van were being loaded up with carrier bag after carrier bag of clothing and other items to transport to Mid Kent College, Maidstone, where the British Red Cross (BRC) were filling up vast lorries to help those leaving the horrific conflict situation in Ukraine. Many more drivers and vehicles turned up to help and when Maidstone finally said 'enough' local people offered to hold items until further transport could be arranged. There were volunteers too many to count and in the end, by Friday afternoon EVERY bag, EVERY donation had reached BRC OR



British Humanitarian Aid, Canterbury. In her thank you note to the hundreds of people who had helped, my exhausted neighbour reflected that 'we are giving real people, real hope and letting them know that we are with them - with compassion, with love and solidarity....'

Just when we thought things were getting better, the conflict situation between Russia and Ukraine erupted and cast a dark shadow across the world. We scroll through our news feeds shocked, sad, angry, fearful and helpless. I am also aware of so many people in our community who are dealing with their own personal tragedies too. We can start to wonder if things will ever get better.

But as the example of this community has shown, replicated manifold throughout our country and the world, when darkness descends, chinks of light with always find a way of getting through - like the light that shines from the landing under a darkened bedroom door that when gently opened bathes the whole room in a gentle, warming glow.

The signs of spring help us to see that hope and light too - with the bursts of colour from spring bulbs reaching out from the darkness into the cold, and the chatter of birds as the night turns to dawn. This month Christians will mark a journey from darkness to light and hope that suffering and death do not have the last word. Jesus stands in solidarity with all who experience these things, not just part of the way, but to death itself, his own death through crucifixion at the hands of those who hated him and what he did and said.

But the chink of light shines in as we celebrate Easter morning when we read 'while it was still dark' Mary Magdalene discovered the tomb was open, Jesus was gone, and there was the tiniest little hope that the power of God and resurrection-life had overcome. Desmond Tutu says it all in a quotation shared with me this week: 'Goodness is stronger than evil; Love is stronger than hate; Light is stronger than darkness; Life is stronger than death; Victory is ours through Him who loves us.'

I hope and pray this Holy Week and Easter you can spot the signs of light and hope breaking into the shadows all around us and so know the presence of God through Jesus. St John's and the Evangelical Church on the Green are here for you. St John's is open every day and you can visit any time and details of services at both churches can be found in this newsletter.

With Easter Blessings, Revd Anna, Rector

Volunteer needed!

We need someone to deliver Hurst Green News each month to The Greenway, just the odd numbers, 1 - 41 (21 in total).



If you are able to help, please contact the Compiler hgncompiler@gmail.com

Hurst Green Village Fair

Wonderful news! Hurst Green Village Fair is confirmed for

Saturday 17 September 2022.

But help is needed.
Behind the scenes the committee that makes this event happen needs a few new enthusiastic helpers, people with event experience and a treasurer.

If you were at last year's Village Fair, which was held following some uncertainty, you will remember the wonderful atmosphere as the local community came together in the sunshine with the lifting of many Covid restrictions.



Please help us run this party!

Anyone interested should e-mail HGVFair@hotmail.co.uk for more details.

Thank you

My grateful thanks to all who sent cards and tributes on the passing of my dear husband, Graham.

Jean Hawes

HURST GREEN CHURCHES WELCOME YOU

At St John's Church there are services of Holy Communion on Sundays at 8.30am (said) and 9.45am. The 9.45am service is sung (service also available via Live Stream) - you are encouraged to wear a mask. The church is open every day from 10am to 4pm. For updates and the latest information, please check websites below.

Minister:

ST JOHN'S, CHURCH WAY

Rector: Anna Eltringham, 712674, 14 Oast Road

(day off - Monday)

Assistant Priest: Mary Seller, 715675, 11 Home Park

Curate: Lotwina Farodoye, 07553 305087

Southwark Pastoral Auxiliary:

Monica Fenton, 715769

www.stjohnshurstgreen.org.uk

HURST GREEN EVANGELICAL CHURCH

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

www.hgec.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

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21 Bluehouse Lane, Oxted, 730406

oxtedurc@gmail.com

Graham Dadd, 07894 507467

www.oxtedurc.org.uk

St John's Church Holy Week and Easter Services 10th - 17th April

10th Palm Sunday 8.30am: Holy Eucharist

9.45am: Eucharist with palm crosses

with reading of the Passion

13th Holy Wednesday 12 noon: Eucharist, followed by Lent Lunch

14th Maundy Thursday 8pm: Eucharist with foot washing,

Last Supper stripping of the sanctuary

and short vigil

15th Good Friday 9.30am: Good Friday Liturgy and devotions

around the cross - Christ's final hours

12 noon: Churches Together Walk of Witness in Oxted

16th Holy Saturday 7pm: Night Prayer, short service

17th Easter Day 6am Churches Together Sunrise Easter worship

with communion, on the green near St Agatha's Hall

8.30am: Holy Eucharist

9.45am: Eucharist for all ages with lighting of the Easter Candle and renewal of Baptism vows

Break Bread and Eat

There will be a Communion Service at St John's Church during Lent on

Wednesdays at 12 noon: 30 March, 6 & 13 April

followed by a simple social lunch of delicious homemade soup and rolls in St John's Room.





All welcome!

Donations to the Bishop's Lent Appeal

You are invited to our first

Eggcellent Eggy Easter Funday Saturday 16 April 2022

Eggcellent Easter Fancy Dress strongly encouraged!

9.45-10.30am Join in any time with an Eggcellent trail quiz

with Easter prizes at Hurst Green Community

Centre in the Community Garden.

10am-12pm at St Agatha's Hall - lots of Easter crafts for kids to

make and do including Easter Funday Bonnets
Eggcellent Eggy Easter Parade outside Aggies with

12 noon Eggcellent Eggy Easter Parade outside Aggies with prizes for the best bonnet and fancy dress costume.

It all ends with a simple lunch for children inside Aggies, with a cuppa and hot cross buns available for adults throughout.

Watch out! Watch out! There's a floppy eared fellow hopping about!! Who is going to be the first to spot our special guest?

If possible, please text 07815 074236 stating numbers of children and adults joining before Thursday 14 April so we can judge numbers.

Hopping to see you there!! Brought to you by the churches and community halls of Hurst Green.

Magnolia facts

You may have seen some beautiful magnolias in bloom around the local area, but did you know that magnolias are believed to be the

earliest known flowering plants, with their fossils dating back over 100 million years? Magnolia trees even existed before bees, so they rely on beetles for pollination. Instead of nectar, the flowers produce large quantities of pollen that the beetles use for food.

The oldest trees in the grounds of the White House are two southern magnolias planted between 1829 and 1837 by Andrew Jackson. They were planted in memory of his wife, Rachel, who died shortly after he won the election.

Magnolia flowers are actually composed of 'tepals', a combination of sepals and petals similar in size and shape, comparable to water lilies.

Hurst Green Gardening Club

Thanks to support from other local garden clubs and lots of new members, it was standing room only at our last meeting on 9 March. I don't think anyone was disappointed after an hour of non-stop advice and guidance from our speaker Fergus Garrett from Great Dixter. He showed us photos of how they provide interest all year round, with minimal amounts of work. It's all about the plants being in their right places and timing so that they can grow together. If you have never been to Great Dixter, check their website for information on access to the garden and nursery, where you can buy unusual plants. This is no garden centre, but a gardener's paradise with something different to see each month.

We now have a full programme for the rest of the year. Before our next speaker, who will talk about vegetables on 11 May, we have our annual spring challenge with the Godstone Club at Aggies on Saturday 9 April. We will set up from 8.30-10.30am with public viewing from 2-4 pm. Come and see two local garden clubs battle to discover who can grow the best daffodils and tulips! With the season being so advanced it may be quite a challenge for spring flowers.

Brian Parrott

Come and join us for

COFFEE and a CHAT

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

When? Fortnightly on Thursdays 7 and 21 April

10.30am - 12 noon

Need a lift? Ring Barbara, 715636

Dates for your Diary 2022

1 April ...and every Friday, Oxted Country Market, Woodhouse Centre, Oxted, 9.30-11.30am cakes & savouries, vegetables, eggs, crafts. To order in advance, call 01883 623273

9 April (Saturday) Hurst Green Gardening Club, see page 2. Contact: Brian Parrott 723916

11 April Tandridge Club for the Visually Impaired, 2nd & 4th Mondays, 2.45- 4.15pm, York Rooms, St John's Church: Margaret Watson - 'The Golden Harpist' Contact: Carol Leach 01883 382031

14 April Pollards Oak WI, York Rooms, St John's Church, from 7.45pm: 'Show Time' - behind the scenes, Chelsea Flower Show, Paul Patton. More info Jan Ward, 01883 712143
 25 April Tandridge Club for Visually Impaired, Bletchingley Skills Centre, Caroline Eastwood

St Agatha's Hall

To enquire about booking, contact the

Booking Administrator: 07769 001796 or aggieshall@gmail.com

or complete the form on the website: stagathashall.weebly.com/ contact.html

ST SURREL

Modern Slavery - Right Here Right Now!

Chris Elliott of the Reigate Archdeaconry Social Justice Focus (RASJF) addressed the congregation at St John's Church on 13 March on the subject of modern slavery. RASJF was formed in 2019 to help Surrey Police and other authorities tackle modern slavery and county lines (drug trafficking by gangs across local boundaries, often using vulnerable people or children.) Read more about the group at https://www.reigatedeanery.org.uk/rasjf/

You may be surprised to learn that there are estimated to be more than 125,000 people in the UK trapped in modern slavery, and nearly half of these are children. This is not just in big cities like London, Birmingham and Manchester and in fact the third highest number by county is in Surrey, with victims in every town: Oxted, Reigate, Leatherhead and Guildford. Right here right now!

You might find modern slavery at a nail bar or a car wash. There will be no chit chat, interaction or eye contact with customers or between the workers, who may look worried or undernourished. Is it cash only? Is it cheaper than elsewhere? On a building site, large or small, do the workers arrive in an unbadged van? Are they wearing the right protective clothing? Do they avoid conversation and look underfed?

The most hidden form of slavery is in domestic servitude. Do you know someone who has someone working in their house who doesn't appear properly paid or looked after? Are there signs of possible physical abuse? Simply, if it doesn't look right, it's probably wrong and if it seems too good to be true, it probably is, and someone is suffering and someone is profiting.

What can you do? If someone is in immediate life-threatening danger, don't hesitate: call 999. If it's not immediate, you can call 101 or contact Crime Stoppers on 0800 555111 or via the website: crimestoppers-uk.org. Crime Stoppers is an independent charity that gives people the power to speak up to stop crime 100% anonymously. Save the number in your phone.

East Surrey Walkers (ESW) News www.eastsurreywalkers.org.uk

Spring is a beautiful season: flowers bloom, birds sing and the arrival of warmer weather is ideal for walking. The quarterly walks programme commences in April. Please do join us and enjoy the benefits of the new season.

Continuing a theme of famous people buried in churchyards, I will tell you a little about Frederick Delius. Born in Bradford in 1862 to a prosperous family dealing in wool, he was educated at Bradford Grammar School. The Delius household was musical, Frederick's love of music was established and he learned to play the violin and piano. He did not join the family business or engage in commerce as his parents hoped but eventually moved to Paris for a full time career as a composer and music teacher.

In 1903 Delius married Jelka Rosen a professional painter, who lived in a village 40 miles outside Paris. Delius began to suffer the effects of a STD, and became paralysed and blind. wished to be buried in his own garden, but the French authorities forbade it. His alternative was a country churchyard in the south of England. Unfortunately Jelka became too ill to travel so Delius was buried temporarily in a local cemetery. The Harrison sisters, accomplished musicians of the times and well known to Delius, influenced the choice of St Peter's in Limpsfield as the site for Delius's reburial. Feeling stronger in 1935, Jelka undertook the crossing to England. On the way her health deteriorated, she was admitted to hospital and unable to attend the reburial. The ceremony took place at midnight, possibly at this unusual hour due to Delius's atheism. Jelka died two days later and was interred in the same grave as her husband.

Delius and his wife are not the only well known personalities buried in St Peter's churchyard. Perhaps on one of our walks you may explore the churchyard, locate Delius's grave and identify some of the other persons of note buried within. In the meantime we wish you happy walking. Stephen Hanks

Spring has sprung!

Look out for lesser celandines, daffodils, and primroses.

Brimstone butterflies and early bumble bees can be seen on the wing.

The first migrant birds, wheatear and chiffchaff, arrive exhausted and depend on a diet of worms. Some birds will try worm charming, luring worms to the surface by drumming their feet on the ground to imitate the vibration of rain. Meanwhile bird nesting begins. Robins, blackbirds and wrens are likely to choose densely covered places close to the ground, others such as chaffinches head for the higher branches and nest on tree forks and gather spider webs to anchor the nests.

Bundle up natural fibres and plant materials including natural undyed wool, dry grass, hay, freshly cut leaves, moss and twigs then hang them round the garden for birds to make their nests. Avoid pet hair as it may have been treated with anti-parasitic chemicals that are toxic to birds.

More information can be found at www.surreywildlifetrust.org

The High Sheriff of Surrey

The Woodhouse Centre in Oxted was pleased to welcome Dr Julie Llewelyn, High Sherriff of Surrey for a visit recently. The High Sherriff spent time talking to members, finding out about the crafts they were involved in and visiting the Men in Sheds section. Here she was shown how to make the bug houses and was so impressed she ordered for one herself.



During her year in office Dr Llewelyn aims to visit many charities and community groups in all boroughs of Surrey, undertaking the traditional role of High Sheriff by supporting and encouraging those working on our behalf upholding The Queen's Peace. These include the judiciary, police, prisons, probation and emergency services, voluntary organisations involved in crime education and social cohesion, local authorities, and faith groups.

PARISH REGISTERS

Holy Baptism

We welcome into the family of God's Church:

20 March Skyla Cross

2 April Daisy Jemima Wynne
3 April Robyn Hope Swabey
9 April Evelyn Tracy Scott-Yates
10 April Lana Jeanette Turner

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

Oxted & Limpsfield Choral Society Easter Concert STAINER: THE CRUCIFIXION

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Organist - David Thomas
Musical Director - Michael Burbidge

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