

NEWSLETTER - FEBRUARY 2022

St John the Evangelist, Hurst Green

Welcome All | Deepen Faith | Inspire Action

Welcome to St John's!

I've been thinking a lot about liminal spaces. Those times and places of waiting as one thing ends and another is about to begin. We've all been waiting in a long liminality of COVID remembering the time before and waiting for the time after. I've been doing the same with my surgery. Also as the year turns, we feel in that space where winter is just beginning to fade and tiny hints of spring are in the air, be it snowdrops or more birdsong than there was before. In church Candlemas draws together Christmas and Epiphany and this month we await the start of Lent.

Covid has taught us something of waiting and patience in the in-between. We can do nothing else. And perhaps such times do force us to stop and breathe and be as comfortable as we can with 'being', here and now - not worrying about what has gone or what might come. I feel a bit like that about our church life and maybe you do too. What we had and what we were is currently not here. Will it return? Will a new way of being emerge? Should I be worried?

I think God calls us to wait on him. To try to trust. That's what the psalmists seem to do a lot. Maybe you are in a liminal space too and finding it hard. If so, heed these words 'Wait for the Lord. Be strong and take heart. Wait for the Lord'. (Psalm 27 verse 14) And if you're able, do sit in the quiet of St John's any time to 'gaze on the beauty of the Lord and seek him in his temple.' (Psalm 27 verse 4).

Revd Anna, Rector

Services this month

Sunday 6 February

*4 before Lent
(Accession of Queen Elizabeth II, 1952)*

8.30am: Said Eucharist
9.45am: All Age Eucharist
12 noon: Baptism of Ruby Eagar

Sunday 13 February

3 before Lent

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

Sunday 20 February

2 before Lent

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

Sunday 27 February

Epiphany 3

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



CTOD will join St Mary's Oxted for their Café Service to give thanks for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2022 on **Sunday 30 January at 4.30pm.** You are most welcome.



Choral Evensong, Sunday 30 January 6.30pm at St Peter's, Tandridge

*To celebrate Candlemas,
The Presentation of Christ in the Temple*
The music will be led by a new small group of singers, 'Oxted Voices', including some members of St John's. Everyone is welcome to attend.

The March Newsletter will be available on Sunday 27 February.

Please send anything to be included by Sunday 20 February 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

PCC REPORT: The Parochial Church Council met on 27 January for 2½ hours and covered a lot! There will soon be disabled parking spaces at St John's. During Lent this year, instead of Lent talks, there will be special Sunday services: a Fairtrade theme (stall already booked) and a speaker on modern slavery. The mid-week Eucharist may be introduced with a soup lunch. The organ has hugely exceeded its life expectancy and options were considered for refurbishment and/or replacement. As an interim measure, funds being tight, Hilary Dilnot will investigate the organ function on the digital piano, in case the organ fails completely. Ideas for celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee as a church were explored, perhaps a special service with something afterwards, as there will be many other local events. Good News - the latest guidance means a return to coffee after services!

CHRISTIAN AID: In 2022, Christian Aid week will take place from 15 to 21 May and will focus on the plight of drought faced by numerous countries around the world. It recognises that droughts have become more intense and more common because of the changing climate. Phil and Debby Harris have been our Christian Aid co-ordinators for many years and have done a fantastic job, but they have now stepped down and so we're asking if there is someone, or a family, who would like to take over this role? There are no rules as to how it is done; it is up to you how awareness of Christian Aid's work is raised and some money collected during that week. Envelopes can be distributed to, and collected from, houses or individuals in the village, and Phil and Debby also ran a 'Big Brekkie'. If this is something you think you could help with, please speak to one of the clergy or the churchwardens. Thank you.

A MOTORCYCLIST'S FUNERAL: I wonder if you sometimes find motor cyclists annoying when you are driving, as they weave in and out of the traffic? But motor cyclists are a wonderful community, and they support each other right to the end. Recently we had a motorcyclist's funeral at St John's. The coffin arrived in a motorcycle hearse, and it had travelled along the roads to church, and then afterwards to Oxted burial ground, with a motorcycle escort of around 30 machines – it was quite noisy! The church was filled with friends resplendent in their padded leathers and high boots, and there was a lovely atmosphere as they said RIP Chrissie Padgham.



THANK YOU FROM WELCARE: The crib services at St John's on Christmas Eve went ahead in a slightly different way due to rising concerns about Covid. It was lay led instead of being led by the clergy. A band played for the Christmas carols and the nativity story was less interactive, with children invited to come dressed in their own costumes. Instead of the usual gifts, there was a retiring collection for Welcare, which raised an amazing £450 and Welcare have written to thank everyone for their generosity.

THE LATE JOY MILES: The beautiful flowers we had in church on Sunday, 23 January, placed on the white pedestal by the altar, were from the funeral of the late Joy Miles. Her daughter had requested that I brought them back to St John's for us to enjoy.

Only a few people now, will remember when Joy and her late husband, Stephen, were regular members of our congregation. They had lived overseas for most of their working life serving in the diplomatic service. Although Joy's main job had been to support Stephen in his position as High Commissioner in



various countries on five different continents, she, in her quiet and unobtrusive way, also served her Queen and country with flying colours. Her warm, gentle and kindly nature meant that she could get on with absolutely everyone. And she generously used her many gifts to help people, when help was needed, as it so often was. For four years while in Calcutta she worked with Mother Teresa and her Sisters in their Home for the Dying. Joy was very modest and never flaunted her close friendships with Bishop Trevor Huddleston, Nelson Mandela and Bishop Desmond Tutu. If it was revealed, it gently came out in conversation - one I remember: 'Robert Mugabe would often drop in for coffee'.

When she was part of the community of St John's, she was a loyal supporter of all our activities, and most notably, led our flower arranging team, and organised a number of Flower Festivals. As she lived in Sycamore Court, when she gave up driving she transferred to St Mary's, Oxted, and her active church life and flower arranging continued there. She spent her final years in Tandridge Heights, where she died aged 93 years. Deo gratias. May she rest in peace and rise in glory. *Mary Seller*

LIVING IN LOVE AND FAITH: This is a C of E project which invites us as Christians to listen to each other respectfully and learn together about today's understandings of human identity, relationships, family life and sexuality. A course for the Oxted Team will be held at St John's on these times in February:

7.30-9.30 on Wednesday 2nd, Thursday 10th, Tuesday 22nd (avoiding half term) and 9.30am-1pm on Saturday 26th. We realise not everyone will be able to make every session. To find out more, or sign up, please email office@stjhurstgreen.co.uk or call 712674.

SAVE OUR FROGS AND TOADS! From early/mid-February until early April there are likely to be frogs and toads trying to cross Church Way and Oast Road near the T-junction in the hours after dusk. We have a Toad Patrol to help them on their journey, but not enough people to cover the whole of each evening. These little amphibians can be seen and avoided if we all drive slowly and carefully in that area. Please help us to spare God's creatures. If you can help, please contact Adrian Hardingham, 07974 171977.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER, FRIDAY 4 MARCH: There will be a service at 10am at St John's Church, Hurst Green, and at 7.30pm at St Mary's Church, Oxted. All are welcome to attend this ecumenical service, planned this year by the women of England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Do come!

www.stjohnshurstgreen.org.uk
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st John's
HURST GREEN