



HURST GREEN NEWS

March 2023

The Season of Lent

For many people who have given up various treats for Lent, the month of March may feel just that little bit longer. Lent is the 40 day period traditionally observed by Christians from Ash Wednesday, which fell on the 22nd of February this year, right up until Easter ending on the 6th of April. These 40 days reflect the 40 days that Jesus fasted in the wilderness, neither eating nor drinking. It was a time during which Jesus was tested by the devil, a time in which he not only endured but overcame trials. Often, in response to this, some people give up treats such as chocolate or coffee, or a habit or vice to help them reflect on the sacrifice that Jesus made and drew him closer to God.



Although the season of Lent has already started, it is never too late to participate. Of course, whether and what one chooses to abstain from is a personal choice. I recently read an article offering ideas regarding things to give up or reduce during Lent which included time spent on screens, and in particular scrolling on mobile phones, computers, televisions and social media with a view to

repurposing that time to seek God through prayer, scripture and meditation. Another interesting idea was reducing shopping to avoid consumerism and focus on storing up treasures in heaven rather than in our wardrobes. Another was the concept of reducing worrying. The latter is probably easier said than done, after all we are constantly reminded in the news about the wars going on in the world, natural disasters, climate change and injustice, in addition to the rise in the cost of living and the personal trials that each of us may face in health, finances, relationships or some other aspect of our lives.

Some of our trials may cause us to feel isolated, as if we are in a wilderness or a desert like place. If or when we feel like this, it is good to know that we do not have to face our experiences alone. Scripture assures us that Jesus loves and cares about us deeply and desires to walk alongside us in our trials to help us to get through them. When we draw near to God, he draws near to us. With this in mind, I hope that this season of Lent can be one where we daily feel God's presence and peace, and his care and love in our endeavours to draw closer, whatever these may be.

Revd Lotwina Farodoye, Curate, St John's Church and Oxted Team Ministry

St John's Church MOTHERING SUNDAY 19 March, 10am

Family friendly, all age service with Church band and posies, followed by a community brunch.



Could you be Holland Junior School a school Governor?

Holland Junior School is recruiting for governors to support the strategic leadership of the school. Governance is often described as a "critical friend" role and would suit anyone with an interest in education who would like to contribute their skills to the local community.

Governors attend 5 evening meetings per year and at least 3 school visits per year. You will receive training and development through The Pioneer Academy.

If you are interested in finding out more about the role, please contact Ché Ramsden for a friendly chat and a full description: chair@holland.surrey.sch.uk

Musical Moments Flute Recital

A selection of trios and duets for Flute performed by Claire Bentley, Rachel Kamm and Catherine Whitehouse.



**St John's Church, Church Way
Hurst Green RH8 9EA**
Sunday 12 March 14:30-16:00
Tea, coffee, cakes and biscuits.

Donations welcome for the Church Fund and Age UK.

Lent Lunches at St John's

Lent Mid Week Services at St John's start on Wednesday March 1st at 12noon weekly for six weeks followed by a light lunch. We hope to see you there!



Would you like to meet new people in the area while broadening your horizons over a cup of coffee or tea?

If so, why not go along to Oxted Library for **Warm up Wednesday** coffee morning on 22 March, 10.30am-12pm. Free and no need to book.



World Day of Prayer

On Friday 3 March the 2023 World Day of Prayer will be celebrated. World Day of Prayer is an international, inter-church organisation which enables us to hear the thoughts of women from all parts of the world: their hopes, concerns and prayers. This year people will gather to celebrate the service prepared by the women of Taiwan.

10am at St Andrew's, Limpsfield Chart
7.30pm at St Peter's, Limpsfield
All are welcome – we hope to see you there.



Toad Patrol needs you!

From now until early April there are frogs and toads in Church Way and in Oast Road near the T-junction in the hours after dusk. These little amphibians can be avoided if we drive slowly in that area.

We have a Toad Patrol in place to help them on their journey, but sometimes we don't have enough people to cover the whole of an evening.

If you are interested in helping out, even just for an evening or two, please contact Adrian on 07974 171977.

Many thanks from the Toad Patrol!



HURST GREEN CHURCHES WELCOME YOU

At St John's Church there are services of Holy Communion on Sundays at 8.30am (said) at 9.45am (sung) and at 12 noon on the 4th Wednesday each month, followed by lunch. The 9.45am service is available via Live Stream. The church is open every day from 10am to 4pm. For updates and the latest information, please check websites below.

ST JOHN'S, CHURCH WAY

Rector: Anna Eltringham, 01883 712674,
14 Oast Road (day off - Monday)
Assistant Priest: Mary Seller, 01883 715675, 11 Home Park
Curate: Lotwina Farodoye, 07553 305087
Reader: Wendy Hewitt, 07789 680653
www.stjohnshurstgreen.org.uk

HURST GREEN EVANGELICAL CHURCH

Pastor: Keith Dickson, 01883 712017,
Pastor@hgec.org.uk / www.hgec.org.uk

ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH OF OXTED & WARLINGHAM

All Saints' Church Chichele Road, Oxted, 01883 627762
St Ambrose Church Warren Park, Warlingham
Parish Priest Fr Stephen, 713776
www.oxtedandwarlinghamparish.org

OXTED UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

The Church of the Peace of God
21 Bluehouse Lane, Oxted, 01883 730406
oxtedurc@gmail.com
Church Administrator:
Claire Harris, 01883 730406
www.oxtedurc.org.uk

Hurst Green and the 2023 Winter Wassail at Limpsfield Community Orchard

Planning and running an outdoor community activity in which a large bonfire, a dark evening and over two hundred members of the public are involved would not be everybody's idea of an easy option! Cue Carolle Stent, already a volunteer at Limpsfield Community Orchard, stepping calmly into the shoes of Rosemary Buchan, also of Hurst Green, and Helen Ellson, now of Limpsfield but also a Hurst Green resident earlier on in her life. While Helen and Rosemary are still key helpers, it was Carolle who planned and led this year's project taking on the Wassail 'lead' role back in early autumn 2022. Carolle was pleased to also secure the photographic skills of Bob Matthews, well-known in the community as past Chair of Holland Sports and Social Club.

A further element in passing on the baton is the appointment of a new Limpsfield Community Orchard Committee and two new Wassail Masters. Will Turner is very excited to be taking over as Chair from Helen Ellson, while Barbara Forrest, another 'Hurst Greener', becomes Treasurer and Helen Dixon, Secretary. All three share a love of the outdoors in general, and apple trees in particular!



Picture credit: Helen Ellson



Picture credit: Bob Matthews

The two new Wassail Masters, James Reeves and Stephen Rapoport, talk about their connections to the area and give their thoughts on what they most enjoyed about that magical evening at Limpsfield Community Orchard:

James: 'I grew up in Bromley where my parents still live, and went to school in Croydon. After uni I moved to London, but was increasingly drawn to the countryside. Inspired by a visit to a friend living near Hever, I researched train lines into London from around here and settled in Hurst Green. 14 years later I still live here with my wife and twins. I particularly like the night-time procession from the start (the Royal British Legion Club, Limpsfield) to the orchard, through National Trust woodland, with the route lit by little electric lights, and the view of the distant bonfire through the trees. Then you arrive to see the great fire and the beautifully decorated king tree at the heart of the orchard. All to the drums of the North Downs Drummers.'

Stephen: 'I grew up in Woldingham, leaving for university and the obligatory decade in London. My wife and I moved back to the Oxted area when we had our first daughter and have had two more since. My sisters and parents are all local too and we have great friends in the area so it really feels like home. It's been amazing, just so much fun. By its nature, the event attracts a wide range of people and it's wonderful to see everyone coming together to celebrate something they have in common; an appreciation of nature and a mug of cider!'

The Limpsfield Community Orchard's funding comes mainly from the annual £10 donation made by the Friends of the Orchard. It is run entirely by volunteers. To learn more and to get involved visit: <http://orchardlimpsfield.blogspot.co.uk/>

Look out for the annual blossom viewing, a glorious occasion during April/May-you can check the blog for detail and timings.

Hurst Green Gardening Club This country has never been able to grow enough food for all of us who are privileged to live here. You may have a large garden but prefer to buy all your food at the supermarket or you may live in a newer home with a smaller garden but perhaps because of covid and the rising prices we may now be encouraged to grow our own, whatever our situation.

Our speaker on 8 February explained the history of allotments, the social changes, upheavals and violence needed to allow us the change to have some land to feed our families. We now know that even a small space of our own, or a shared one, can benefit us all in some way. Better health, social connections and the joy of seeing the results of our labour. If you don't believe me, just try it. Life is about making choices and having an addiction to gardening is not bad if you consider all the other choices. Our next club meeting is on 8 March, 8pm at Aggies where you can learn about plant propagation. *Brian Parrott, Hurst Green Gardening Club*

From 23-25 March 2023 the **Tandridge Handicraft Society** is hosting a display of work, with items for sale. The exhibition will be open daily from 10am to 4pm at the United Reformed Church, Bluehouse Lane, Oxted RH8 0AA. The Society meet every Monday at the Woodhouse Centre, Hoskins Road car park, opposite Tandridge Leisure Centre, Oxted RH8 9HT (postcode for Sat Nav RH8 9JQ). Come and join us, we are always keen to welcome new members with similar interests. Further details can be found on our website: www.tandridgehandicraftsociety.org.uk or contact Jenny Beal on 01883 620730.

 **PARISH REGISTERS** 
Holy Baptisms
We welcome into the family of God's Church
5 March 2023: Miley Grace Gooding
St John's Book of Remembrance
To have a name entered,
Email: office@stjhurstgreen.co.uk

Come and join us for
COFFEE and a CHAT
 **St John's Room**
St John's Church
Fortnightly on Thursdays
2nd and 16th March
10.30am-12 noon
Need a lift? **Ring Barbara**
on 01883 715636

Hurst Green Neighbours of the Month for March are
Michelle and Andy Wood who have been nominated by their neighbour, Elly Horrod, for their general kindness and willingness to offer help. On behalf of Elly we would like to say a huge thanks!
If you would like to nominate someone for being a great neighbour/friend or have witnessed an act of kindness please email us at: hgncompiler@gmail.com.

POP-UP COMMUNITY HUB

EVERY THURSDAY
13:00 - 15:00
St Agatha's Hall, Hurst Green
Need transport? Contact
Cerys Williams 07855 987077

Dates for your Diary 2023

1 March: Yo Yo's playgroup, every Wednesday in term time, St John's, 9.15-11.15am
1 March: Community Fridge, every Wednesday, St Agatha's Hall, 11.15am-12.30pm
2 March: Hurst Green Community Hub, every Thursday, St Agatha's Hall, 1-3pm.
 Contact: Abi Chapman, theaccessibilityprojectuk@gmail.com
6 March: Tandridge Handicraft Society, Woodhouse Centre, Oxted. Every Monday, 1.30pm-4.30pm. Contact: Jenny Beal (Chairman) 01883 620730
8 March: Hurst Green Gardening Club, St Agatha's Hall, 8pm. Contact: Brian Parrott, Programme Secretary, 01883 723916
9 March: Pollards Oak WI, York Rooms, St John's Church, 7.45pm. Members Social Time. Jan Ward, 01883 712143
13/27 March: Tandridge Club for the Visually Impaired, 2nd & 4th Mondays, 2.45- 4.15pm, York Rooms, St John's Church: Contact: Carol Leach 01883 382031

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**



LEARN, LAUGH and LIVE Come and join us at Westerham U3a

At our Open Meeting on Thursday 9 February we were entertained to a delightful talk by Jennifer Godfrey on "Suffragettes of Kent", their trials and tribulations, determination and resilience and their contribution to the cause of women's suffrage. We followed the stories of local women, particularly that of Iris Baldock, arrested for window smashing but saved from imprisonment by the intervention of an anonymous donor.

Our next Open Meeting is on Thursday 9 March at 2pm when our very own Ann Lovelace MBE will be talking about the work of the Orpheus Centre in Oxted, set up by Richard Stilgoe to increase the skills and build up the confidence of young disabled adults through the performing arts.

You could also come along to one of our first Wednesday of the month coffee mornings at 10.30am in Westerham Hall and meet new friends and discover new interests.

Another exciting new group is Line Dancing which has been arranged for Monday afternoons at 2.30pm in the Hall for £2 per person.

Annual membership is £20 or £35 per couple and you can join one of more of our many and varied interest groups, or even start one of your own, as well as enjoying social events and outings. Have a look at our Facebook page and our website at www.westerhamu3a.org.

Wynne Gifford, u3a Westerham

Meldrum Pond: The Downlands Partnership (established in 1988), part of Surrey County Council's countryside division have been working to restore Meldrum Pond. This work is being carried out by volunteers and is funded by Tandridge District Council.



Some of us may not have realised there was a pond at the end of Meldrum Close as it has been so overgrown and therefore not visible from the pavement. The volunteers have visited a few times and are now working on thinning out some of the trees around edges of the restored pond so you can see it as you walk from the green towards the railway station. This is allowing more light into the area which will increase the overall health of the pond and attract more wildlife. It is widely accepted that one of the most beneficial things we can do for wildlife is to create a pond and so this is a great opportunity for us to observe and learn about local wildlife.

Unfortunately, each time the group visit they have to remove vast amounts of litter from the site. Now that wildlife is returning, it would be lovely if we could all keep this as a safe haven for them.

The Arts Society Limpsfield was founded in 1975, making them one of the oldest societies that is affiliated to The Arts Society. They are an active Society with 9 lectures a year (afternoon and then an evening repeat), 12 visits (including 2 Study Days) to exhibitions and places of interest (at reduced group rates) plus social events.



Thursday 16 March: A covid-postponed visit to the Royal Opera House - behind the scenes. Enjoy a guided tour and a talk about the long and eventful history.

Wednesday 29 March at 2pm and 7.15pm: Patricia Law will tell us about Emeralds - one of the top four precious gems - how and where they are produced and how they are used by top jewellers. Plenty of luscious examples will be shown - on the screen.

For more details go to the The Arts Society Limpsfield website. To join in as a guest or become a member go to the "Join us" tab.

John Holmes, Chairman, The Arts Society Limpsfield

The **East Surrey Walkers** (Ramblers) footpaths maintenance team make access improvements to various types of footpaths. They are funded by the Ramblers group, Parish Councils, and other donations, and clear paths, reinstate blocked paths, replace derelict stiles with kissing gates, refurbish/rebuild bridges, build flights of steps, and replace finger and waymark posts.



East Surrey Walkers (Ramblers) footpaths maintenance team, have recently cleared footpath 225, from Warren Lane, Hurst Green, all the way to Stockett's Manor. There is still some standing water at two points, but SCC Rights of Way are going to contact the landowner about clearing the culvert and ditches. If walkers start to use it again it will likely stay clear and be a benefit to the community.

If walkers do see defects while they're out and about, please report them to:

<https://rightsofway.surreycc.gov.uk/StandardMap.aspx>

Please also include a photo and What3Words, for accurate location details. Defects are then automatically added to the SCC Rights of Way task list.

My First Holy Communion

At St John's Candlemas service on 5 February 8 children received Holy Communion for the first time. One of the children, Tabby Layton, has told us about her experience:



I was very excited to be receiving my First Holy Communion because I now understand why we have bread and wine as part of the church service. In preparation, before the actual day, Revd. Lotwina, Revd. Anna and Wendy from St John's helped me a lot with understanding how receiving communion helps me be a stronger member of God's family. We learnt about the Last Supper and why the bread is flat, as well as what the different foods represent. We thought about our hands and what characteristics our fingers have and how they make us stronger members of God's community.

On the day itself I was nervous and excited because my family were there to watch and there were a lot of other people too! Revd. Anna and Revd. Lotwina were kind though and helped us through the service. When it came to receiving the bread, it surprised me because it tasted strange! However, I felt grown-up and stronger. It was a special day and I feel closer to God.

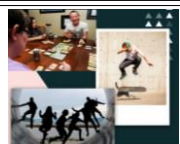
Dear Neighbours,

Our parish priest, Fr Stephen, has been indisposed for some weeks and unable to serve us at All Saints Catholic church in Oxted. Visiting priests have come in to celebrate Holy Mass at weekends but we do miss our own pastor. It would be appreciated if, in the spirit of Churches Together, you were to remember Fr Stephen in your prayers.

On behalf of Hurst Green RC's.



The Oxted Team Youth Group come together to ask questions about faith every other Sunday. The next Youth Group session will be on **Sunday 5 March, St John's, 6pm-7:30pm.** Children aged 10+ are very welcome.



We will build friendships with each other and learn about God and what a friend we have in Jesus. We will build this sense of fellowship together with activities like playing games, eating together, practical work for the community and by encouraging discussion on friendship issues and connecting this with our friendship with God.

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