

NEWSLETTER-SEPTEMBER 2023

St John the Evangelist, Hurst Green

Welcome All | Deepen Faith | Inspire Action

Welcome to St John's!

'You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit – fruit that will last'. John's Gospel chapter 15 verse 16

This summer ushered into St John's, St George's and the Oxted Team a season of change. Revd Anna is now settled as Bishop of Ripon and Revd Lotwina moves into her first Parish as Vicar in West Wimbeldon. This period prior to the appointment of a new vicar used to be called interregnum – an old Latin word meaning a time between two reigns when normal government etc. is suspended! Because this is an archaic term, the CofE in its wisdom now prefers the word Vacancy.

I'm not sure either term gives us a very positive outlook. Vacancy suggests an empty space, nothingness, and this is far from the case with us! The root 'VAC' also suggests vacation, a time of freedom. This is a time when we are free to bear fruit for God, a time of harvest for each of us to flourish, bringing God's love into our community. Trees and plants don't bear fruit for themselves to enjoy, rather fruit is given away, giving nourishment to all, workers and passers-by and sowing seeds for the future.

Autumn is a time to clear away, refresh and renew, ready for winter waiting then spring's new life. Thanks to God we have a new Team Rector, Revd James Ashton.

He and Revd Mary will guide us with our hard-working churchwardens, Cathy and Henk, until we know who will join us in the future.

With hope and prayers, Wendy Hewitt, Lay Reader

Services at St John's this month

Sunday 3 September: Trinity 13 (Proper 17)

8.30am: Said Eucharist 9.45am: All Age Eucharist

Sunday 10 September: Trinity 14 (Proper 18)

8.30am: Said Eucharist

9.45am: Parish Eucharist - with Sunday School (tbc)

Friday 15 September

11am Funeral of David King, followed by reception

Saturday 16 September

12.30pm: Baptism of Harrison Langford Wynn

Sunday 17 September: Trinity 15 (Proper 19)

8.30am: Said Eucharist 9.45am: Parish Eucharist

Bishop Rosemarie Mallett is presiding and preaching at 9.45am and will join us for the Community Brunch.

11am: Community Brunch followed by Café Church

Sunday 24 September: Trinity 16 (Proper 20)

8.30am: Said Eucharist

9.45am: Parish Eucharist - with Sunday School

1pm: Baptism of Henry Andrew John Cook
and Caleb Geoffrey Wilson

Wednesday 27 September

12.30pm: Eucharist in the Lady Chapel - on the 4th
Wednesday of each month (later time, no lunch today)

Update from the Eltringham family



Anna, Nigel, Amelie and Isobel are pictured in front of Ripon Cathedral and send their love and prayers. New address: Redwood, New Road, Sharow, Ripon, North Yorks HG4 5BS. Email and mobile as before.

COFFEE and a CHAT

St John's Room, 10.30am - 12 noon

Thursdays 7 and 21 September


If you need a lift, please ring Barbara: 715636



The October Newsletter will be available on Sunday 24 September.

Please send anything to be included by Sunday 17 September 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

HELP WANTED! We need to make the garden at the vicarage presentable so that prospective candidates for the role of Team Vicar will think this is a great place in which to live! Parts of the garden are overgrown and we would be really grateful if a few volunteers could give us a hand to do some ruthless pruning and clearing. Absolutely no gardening expertise required! Just turn up with some gardening gloves and secateurs on **Saturday 2 September** any time between 9.30am and 12 noon. Even if you can only spare 15 minutes, that would be great. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided. Park in the church car park and come through the gate at the east end of the church. Hope to see some of you there!

FAREWELL TO LOTWINA: Oxted Team Curate Lotwina Farodoye, is leaving us soon to take up appointment as Vicar of Christ Church, West Wimbledon. Her last service for the Oxted Team will be at St John's Church on Sunday 3 September at 9.45am. There will be a leaving party on Saturday 9 September from 3 - 5pm in the York Rooms, St John's Church. Cake, tea and Prosecco will be served! Please come along to wish Lotwina and her family every happiness and success in their new parish.

To contribute to a collection you can pay by card online at https://bit.ly/StJohnsHG_Lotwina, place cash or a cheque payable to 'The PCC of the Ecc Parish of St John's Hurst Green' in the lower wall safe in the porch or post to 6 Orchard Way, Oxted RH8 9DJ, marked 'Farodoye collection'. There is a book at the back of church in which to write messages, which will also be available at the party. Please sign the sheet to help setting up, clearing away and cake making.

ANNUAL CRICKET MATCH, SUNDAY 10 SEPTEMBER, 1.30PM: St John's v St Mary's, at Master Park, Oxted. This 30th anniversary game will be the last in its current format. Bring a chair and come to support the St John's team, to include David Butlin and Phil Harris. Have a cup of tea and join in with sandwiches and cake at teatime!

INVITATION: You are warmly invited to the collation and induction of Revd James Ashton as Team Rector in the Oxted Team Ministry on Monday 11 September at 7.30pm at St Mary The Virgin, Oxted, RH8 9NB, followed by a reception at Oxted Community Hall. The presiding Bishop will be The Rt Revd Rosemarie Mallett, Bishop of Croydon.

INTERREGNUM UPDATE: The appointment (see above) on 11 September of James Ashton (former Team Vicar in the Oxted Team Ministry) as Team Rector of the Oxted Team Ministry, creates a vacancy for a Team Vicar who will be responsible for St John's and St George's. A parish profile which describes the sort of church we are and the sort of vicar we would like has been written and adverts have been placed on the Church of England recruitment website and on the Diocese of Southwark's website. Your elected parish representatives, Cathy Booth and Chris Johns, will be interviewing shortlisted candidates on Monday 25 September. Assuming we find someone appropriate, they will probably have to give three months notice from their current post and so it is unlikely that we will have anyone in place before early January 2024.

HURST GREEN VILLAGE FAIR: Saturday 16 September, 1 - 4pm, on the green by St Agatha's Hall. This year's theme is 'Magic'. For children, St John's will offer colouring sheets and the chance to make bird feeders; a free drink and biscuit to any child who litter picks for 10 - 15 mins (hi vis and litter picker provided) and the usual bouncy castle - please sign the rota if you can help with supervision!

DEFIBRILLATOR: As you know, Anna asked for some of the monies raised from her collection to go towards the cost of a defibrillator. We're delighted to report that we have raised enough money to make this happen and the defibrillator has now arrived and will be installed in a lockable cabinet in the church grounds.

CHANGES: From September Keeta Flexi-school will be hiring the York Rooms during term time in school hours; after Christmas they will also use St John's Room. Evening bookings are not affected but yoga classes and Tandridge Club for the Visually Impaired will transfer to St Agatha's. Yo Yos, the baby and toddler group, will be in the church (Wednesdays 9.15 - 11.15am) and need time to clear up, so the 4th Wednesday Eucharist will be at the later time of 12.30pm. The soup lunch following the service will resume in St John's Room on 25 October (cook unavailable in September!) and move to the church after Christmas, made possible by the installation of a kitchenette in the servers' vestry. The Fortnightly coffee morning will continue to meet in St John's Room until Christmas and after that will meet in the church. Anyone using St John's Room before Christmas will not have access to the York Rooms lobby toilet. Thank you to Sue Fox for her generous donation to the cost of a new communications board to keep congregation and visitors updated with the progress of 'Crossing the Threshold' plans.

Other Notices

THREADS THROUGH CREATION: This astonishing, uplifting Bible-based textile art exhibition at Rochester Cathedral, is only on show until Sunday 3 September. It is open daily, Monday - Saturday 10 - 4; Sunday 1 - 3. Admission free - it's well worth a visit! See below and rochester cathedral.org or jacqui-textile.com/creation



LIMPSFIELD AIR RAID SHELTERS: Friends of Limpsfield Common recently invited members of the public for a guided tour of the air raid shelters which were built in 1940 to protect children at Limpsfield School. Volunteers, dressed in military uniforms, took groups down into a shelter and talked about how it must have felt for young children. The next Open Afternoon is on Sunday 17 September, 2 - 4.30pm. To book, email lorna@chartcroft.com.

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st John's
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