



HURST GREEN NEWS

August 2023

Off on holiday?

A common question I have been asked recently is "Where are you going on holiday?"

HOLY-DAYS

You probably don't think of the Middle Ages as being a great time for holidays. In the popular imagination, it was about endless back breaking work, mud, praying a lot, more mud, and everyone dying a miserable death at 25. All this suffering was interspersed with war and plague for a fun diversion. That's of course unless you belonged to the nobility where there is more back-stabbing, chastity belts, and a fun opportunity to die horribly far away from home in the Crusades.

The word 'holiday' is derived from 'holy day', or a saint's day in the Christian calendar, and "holy days" were an important part of medieval life. This meant for the serf, an agricultural labourer in the Middle Ages, time off work and an excuse to eat, drink and be merry. Now, there were roughly nine Principal feasts, three Principal Holy Days and 26 other festivals and that's not counting the plethora of local feasts and festivals. So, all in all your average serf would have had more than 40 holy days a year. Not bad at all, as the average holiday entitlement is 28 days in the UK. The average serf's 40 plus "holy days" make the current American average holiday entitlement of 10 days look extremely parsimonious.

Now, if you are thinking that these ancient "holy days" were staycations, well you may well be wrong. Many of the feasts and festivals involved pilgrimages to holy sites. In many ways these pilgrimages were the precursor of our modern foreign holiday. These serfs seemed to have it pretty good, apart from the mud, infant mortality and feudal serfdom.

Sadly, these serfs had it better than many workers here in Britain today. I have talked to many who can't have a family holiday this year because their employer has refused their perfectly reasonable holiday request. Why? - because it is inconvenient for the employer. I wonder how many Christians are unable to attend worship on their "holy day" because the employer simply says no! I find it amusing, no appalling, that a feudal system of lifetime servitude had a more enlightened attitude in respecting a person and their beliefs than our supposedly enlightened capitalist system.

I leave you with a final thought. God rested on the seventh day and made it holy - literally a "holy day". Don't believe me? Well, read **Genesis 2: 1 - 3**.

Whilst God rested on the seventh day after His work of creation the Bible assures us that God never rests from loving us. **Lamentations 3: 22** "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end;" I pray wherever you go on your "holy days" you remember God is with you and God is for you. *Keith Dickson, Pastor, Hurst Green Evangelical Church*



On 19th July **Hurst Green's Community Fridge** celebrated its first birthday and everything it has achieved over the past year. Regular attendees, guests and volunteers celebrated in style enjoying a slice of birthday cake with their cuppa!

From the seed of an idea planted by Revd. Lotwina and seen to fruition by a team at Aggie's and the wider community, the initiative now welcomes approximately 70 people each week, some of whom are regulars and some who drop in every now and then. In addition to redistributing food donations, the Fridge has provided emergency food parcels, food bank referrals, and referrals to others for specialised support. It has been wonderful to see people having their needs met in the space at Aggie's, and watching people make connections with each other if they are feeling isolated. The team behind the Fridge are especially grateful to its regular donors, in particular Morrisons Oxted, Surrey County Council for the grant which kept Aggie's warm over the winter and early spring, Limpsfield Allotments, One Stop Hurst Green, Hurst Green Infant School, and Pollards Oak shop. The Community Fridge is every Wednesday, 11.15am-12.30pm at Aggie's Hall.

SAVE THE DATE! Hurst Green Village Fair Saturday 16 September from 1pm

The fair has been running for more than 40 years and will include stalls, performances, a bouncy castle, and a pet show.



Stalls, entertainment, food & drink

For more information on having a stall or volunteering please email: hgvfair@hotmail.co.uk

Join us for Afternoon tea and cakes

**Sunday 13 August
3-5pm
St John's Church, Church Way**

Delicious cakes and tea and coffee will be served in the church grounds if weather is good or in the York Rooms if rain is forecast.

This event is FREE, but donations towards church funds will be very gratefully received.



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The September issue of Hurst Green News will be published on 26 August 2023.

Please send material for that issue by FRIDAY 11 AUGUST 2023 to The Editor: hgncompiler@gmail.com. The Editor reserves the right to edit copy.

The Hurst Green News is published by St John's Parochial Church Council (Registered Charity 1133107) as a church and community newsletter.

It is financed by advertisements and St John's Parochial Church Council.

HURST GREEN & OXTED 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, HURST GREEN

Vicar: Vacancy at present
Church Way, Hurst Green RH8 9EA

Assistant Priest: Mary Seller, 01883 715675

Curate: Lotwina Farodoye, 07553 305087

Southwark Pastoral Auxiliary:
Monica Fenton, 01883 715769

Reader: Wendy Hewitt, 07789 680653
www.stjohnshurstgreen.org.uk

HURST GREEN EVANGELICAL CHURCH

Pastor: Keith Dickson, 01883 712 017,
www.hgec.org.uk

KING'S CHURCH

King's Centre, 33 Amy Road, Oxted, Surrey RH8 0PW

Contact: Simon Quincey, 01883 734 805,
www.kingschurchforyou.org

ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH OF OXTED & WARLINGHAM

All Saints' Church Chichele Road, Oxted, 01883 627 762

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Parish Priest Fr Stephen, 01883 713776
www.oxtedandwarlinghamparish.org

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The Church of the Peace of God
21 Bluehouse Lane, Oxted, 01883 730 406
oxtedurc@gmail.com

Church Administrator:

Claire Harris, 01883 730 406
www.oxtedurc.org.uk



Have you heard of The Surrey Family Information Service?

We are part of Surrey County Council, and we are here to help you find the information you need to benefit your family.

The Surrey Family Information Service (FIS) is a free, impartial, information and signposting service for families with children aged 0 to 18 or up to 25 if they have additional needs.

Every year we help families find the help and support they need by providing information and responding to their enquiries. This includes how to find childcare, paying for school uniforms, support for children who have special educational needs and disabilities, holiday playschemes, parents' courses, services for children under 5, support for teenagers, mental health support and family finances.

We have two easy to use online directories where you can search for services yourselves: Surrey County Council - Family information directory (www.surreycc.gov.uk) and for families with children who have additional needs: www.surreylocaloffer.org.uk/directory.

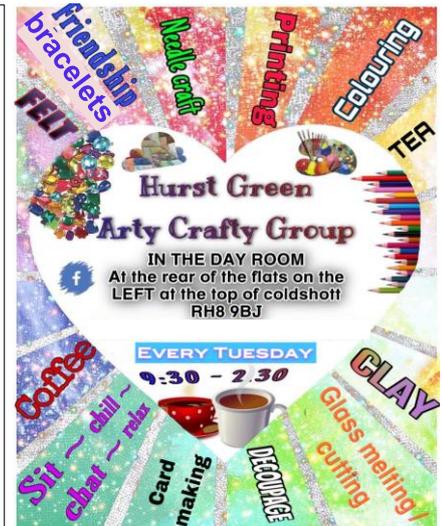
We offer an enquiry service where you can get in touch with the team, and we will find services for you – aiming to respond within 2 working days and often sooner. You can get in touch on the following email address: surrey.fis@surreycc.gov.uk.

You can also follow our popular social media channels, where you can stay up to date with all the latest information for families in Surrey.

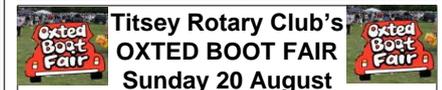
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www.facebook.com/SurreySENDLocalOffer
www.instagram.com/surreylocaloffer

Surrey Family Information Service, helping you to find the support you need - we look forward to hearing from you.

**Come and meet us at
The Community Fridge, St Agatha's Church Hall
on 2nd August at 11.15am -12.30pm.**



Follow us on Facebook for dates of kids groups: arty crafty group



If you fancy having a clear-out at home, why not book a pitch and make some cash? Or just come along and grab some fantastic bargains! All profits made by the organisers are used to support charities and good causes. Full details and booking forms are at www.titsey.org.uk.

Thank you to everyone who contributed towards the collection for Anna Eltringham. As you know, she wanted monies raised from this to go towards the cost of a defibrillator to be installed outside the church.



We're delighted to let you know that we have raised enough money to make this happen and the defibrillator will be ordered soon and installed in a lockable cabinet in the St John's Church grounds.

Digital Surrey

www.digital-surrey.co.uk

Being able to use digital services is part of our everyday lives. It can save us previous time, expand our skills and knowledge and connect us with people. If you would like to use more digital services but are facing barriers, Digital Surrey may be able to help.

The Digital Surrey website is a one stop shop of information including digital skills sessions, technology support and laptop loan schemes, as well as access to free sim cards and data.

If you would like help or know someone who would like digital support, you can refer them by contacting Digital Surrey via their website.



PARISH REGISTERS



Holy Baptisms

We welcome into the family of God's Church

20 August:

Cody Jayden Kabir
Teddy James Kabir

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
10th and 24th August
10.30am-12 noon**

Need a lift? **Ring Barbara
on 01883 715636**



Need a lift?
Contact
Cerys Williams
07855 987077

Find St John's Church on social media:

Facebook: [stjohnshurstgreen](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnshurstgreen)

Instagram: [@stjohnshurstgreen](https://www.instagram.com/stjohnshurstgreen)

Website: www.stjohnshurstgreen.org.uk



Dates for your Diary 2023

- 2 August:** Community Fridge, every Wednesday, St Agatha's Hall, 11.15am-12.30pm.
3 August: Hurst Green Community Hub, every Thursday, St Agatha's Hall, 1-3pm.
Contact: Abi Chapman, theaccessibilityprojectuk@gmail.com.
4 August: Oxted Country Market, every Friday mornings, 9.30-11.30am, Woodhouse Centre, Oxted. Homemade cakes, savouries, jam, local honey, vegetables, plants, crafts, tea and coffee.
7 August: Tandridge Club for the Visually Impaired, fish & chip lunch, 12.30pm for 1pm lunch, York Rooms, St John's Church. Call: Carol Leach 01883 382031.
9 August: Hurst Green Gardening Club, St Agatha's Hall, 8pm. Summer supper/social.
Contact: Brian Parrott, 01883 723916.
TBC August: Pollards Oak WI, York Rooms, St John's Church, 7.45pm. Social get together.
Call: Jan Ward, 01883 712143.
4 September: Tandridge Handicraft Society, Woodhouse Centre, Oxted. Every Monday, 1.30-4.30pm. Contact: Jenny Beal (Chairman) 01883 620730. Autumn term begins.
6 September: Yo Yo's playgroup, Wednesdays in term time, St John's Church, 9.15-11.15am.

Hurst Green Gardening Club

At our next meeting on 9th August there will be a speaker talking about drought tolerant plants, and you will also be able to buy some plants too. We only have to look at our own gardens to see what cannot survive with little water.

On Sunday 3rd September at Aggies Hall, we are hosting our annual show. Do come along and see what members get up to. You may even feel like bringing something of your own to show. You don't need to be a member, but please take a look at our gardening club's website (www.hggardeningclub.blogspot.com) to see the various classes of plants. If you can't come to any of these dates, you will also be able to visit our stall at the Hurst Green Fair on 16th September.

Brian Parrott, Hurst Green Gardening Club



Don't be alone this Christmas...

Hurst Green Community Centre is working together with Alan Feeseey, representative for Oxted Parish Council and Deb Shiner representative for Tandridge District Council, with the support of Cameron Macintosh (County) to provide a free hot meal at Hurst Green Community Centre.

If you are on your own on Christmas Day and you live in Hurst Green or Oxted, then book a place with us, for a free hot meal among friends!

For more information, please text your name and number to: 07504 104084. (Your details will only be used for this event).



DO YOU ENJOY SINGING? THEN FIND YOUR VOICE AND JOIN US!

Hurst Green Singers is a friendly group of enthusiastic amateurs who enjoy making wonderful music together. We are a well-established choir keen to keep a good balance of male and female voices to make the best possible overall sound, and as such, we wish to encourage those with lower pitched voices into choral singing. After being over-subscribed for some time, the popular choir now has some places to fill and wishes to welcome new members – particularly those with alto, tenor, baritone or bass voices.

Under the inspiring musical direction of James Meaders, the choir performs a variety of major works by the great composers as well as an eclectic mix of choral pieces by a wide range of contemporary composers at two successful concerts a year, in May and December.

The choir meets every Tuesday evening to rehearse in St John's Church, Hurst Green at 8.00pm. There are no auditions, and there is no requirement to read music, but you must have a willingness to learn, sing on pitch, blend with other voices and attend regular rehearsals to maintain the high standard of the choir. Don't worry – you won't be asked to sing solo and there is an element of voice training each week in the warmup which will help you sing better. You are welcome to join us for a few rehearsals to see if you enjoy singing in our group before you need to commit to joining the choir.

So, if you've enjoyed singing in the past, then why not give it another go! Making music is stimulating, good for your health and fun. You'll be with a great bunch of men and women who care about what we do and aim to make the best sound possible to entertain others. Our new term starts on 5th September when we commence rehearsals for Handel's Messiah which we will perform in December. If you are interested in potentially joining us, please contact hurstgreensingers@gmail.com for further information.



We are a locally based charity who support families with children under the age of 11 who are having some difficulties in their life, whether that be disabilities, mental health issues, bereavement, domestic abuse etc.

Our home-visiting volunteers provide emotional and/or practical support. We are running a new volunteer training course starting in September at our offices in Redhill.

Next prep course starts:

Thursday 28 September – 20 November, 9.30am-2pm.

We would particularly welcome volunteers from local BAME communities.

Call Home Start on 01737 770220 or

Email: info@home-starteastsurrey.org.uk

Thanks for being good neighbours

Thanks to all of you who take the time to look out and care for your neighbours and the area we are lucky to live in. July was antisocial behaviour (ASB) awareness week which raised awareness of the impact of ASB and how to tackle it. ASB is behaviour by a person which causes, or is likely to cause, harassment, alarm, or distress to people in different households. In an emergency always call 999, but for other issues contact the council at www.tandridge.gov.uk/Report. They will listen to you and stay in regular contact until the issue is resolved. If you would like to nominate/highlight someone who is a great neighbour for neighbour of the month please email us at: hgncompiler@gmail.com.



As part of their 100th Anniversary Celebrations, the **Oxted Rotary Club** are running their 1st ever online prize-giving youth competition! Young people's views matter, so what better way to encourage the next generation than to involve them in the thought process that will help Rotary develop and evolve into a new and kinder future?

So, if you are at school and live in the Oxted & Limpsfield area, this is for you – a chance to win a fantastic prize by writing a Futuristic Essay on how you would like to see Rotary in your town evolve in the future using the strapline;

Fun, Friendship and Fundraising in our Rotary Club.

The winner and runner-up will be offered a fantastic prize designed to give a fun family experience, such as a visit to a restaurant, cinema, theatre, coffee house, bookshop, etc. The winners will receive vouchers up to the maximum value of £100 and £25 for the runner-up.

Your essay should be between 500 and 750 words, and should be submitted by email to competition@oxtedrotary.org.uk giving your name, age at 1st July 2023, school, telephone number and a declaration of parental consent for you to enter. The closing date for entries is 31st August 2023 and if you have any queries in the meantime, please send them by email to the same address. For more information please go to www.loveoxted.co.uk/rotary-oxted



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