

NEWSLETTER- JANUARY 2024

St John the Evangelist, Hurst Green

Welcome All | Deepen Faith | Inspire Action

Welcome to St John's!

The frenetic run-up to Christmas is over; the Christmas celebrations are a memory; the left-over turkey is no more. With the arrival of January, we enter a quieter phase in our lives. How good it is each evening to be able to retreat from the dark and the wintry weather into our bright, warm homes. But the days are beginning to lengthen, light is returning from darkness, there is hope of something new in the air.

In church, since Advent we have been on a journey. It started with a beautiful Advent Carol service that evoked the great themes of darkness journeying to light, and of waiting in anticipation for the coming of the Christ-child. Then we travelled with awe through the wonder of Christmas, and its many joyful festivities. Now, as we begin a new year, we celebrate the Epiphany. The Magi discover the baby Jesus, so we understand that God has come for all, for us and for everyone in the whole world. The journey continues through the rich season of Epiphany, as the ministry of Jesus unfolds and his good news is revealed, news of transformation, new life and light.

For us at St John's this is especially pertinent because new things are definitely about to happen. At the end of the month we will welcome our new vicar, the Revd Sue Bosley, and our journey enters a new phase of life together as a church. We travel onwards in hope and expectation and in prayer, looking forward to the new things that God will bring to us in the coming year.

My love and blessings, Mary

Services at St John's this month

Sunday 7 January: Epiphany

8.30am: Said Eucharist 9.45am: All Age Eucharist

Sunday 14 January: Epiphany 2

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

Sunday 21 January: Epiphany 3

Former Vicar of St John's, Revd David Butlin, presiding and preaching at 8.30 and 9.45am services today
8.30am: Said Eucharist 9.45am: Parish Eucharist
11am: Community Brunch followed by Café Church

Wednesday 24 January

12.30pm: Eucharist in the Lady Chapel - followed by a simple lunch in St John's Room (4th Wednesdays)

Sunday 28 January: Epiphany 4

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


Tuesday 30 January

7.30pm: Service of licensing and installation for Revd Sue Bosley - see overleaf for more information



***The February Newsletter will be available on Sunday 28 January.
Please send anything to be included by Sunday 21 January 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

ALL AGE SERVICE FOR EPIPHANY, SUNDAY 7 JANUARY: While everyone else has put away the decorations, festive celebrations continue in the church as we remember the visit of the three wise men and their precious gifts for the baby Jesus. Come and join this relaxed family friendly service, with craft for children and adults.

THE OXTED TEAM YOUTH GROUP will start again after the break on Sunday 7 January, 6 - 7.30pm at St John's Church.

RETURN TO THE YORK ROOMS: From January 2024 Yo Yos and the St John's Art Group will meet in the York Rooms, at least for this term. The Art Group is usually monthly on the 2nd Monday 10am - 12 noon. More information from Pearl Stephens on 722343.

Yo Yos, a playgroup for parents/carers with babies and pre-school children, meets on Wednesdays, 9.15 - 11.15am in term time. Crafts, songs, tea, coffee, cake, plus snacks for the little ones - starting again on 10 January after the Christmas break.

WEEKLY AT ST AGATHA'S HALL:

Community Fridge - Wednesdays 11.15am - 12.30pm. This free service helps lessen food waste and is open to everyone. We rely on donations from local shops, organisations and individuals. Collect some food and stay for a cuppa and a biscuit or two!

Community Hub - Thursdays 1 - 3pm, returning on 11 January. All are welcome to come along to enjoy tea, coffee, cake and company.

DEFIBRILLATOR TRAINING has been arranged for Saturday 27 January at 9.30am in the York Rooms for a maximum of 20 attendees. Places will be offered to PCC members and sidespersons initially (please look out for an e-mail soon!) If fewer respond, it will be opened to the wider congregation. Further training may be organised at a later date if there is sufficient demand. Please contact Janet Harman for further information.

THE LICENSING SERVICE of the Reverend Sue Bosley as Team Vicar of the Parishes of Hurst Green and Crowhurst in the Oxted Team Ministry will take place on Tuesday 30 January 2024 at 7.30pm in St John's Church, Hurst Green.



The Right Reverend Rosemarie Mallett, Bishop of Croydon, will be leading the service and preaching. This service is where we formally welcome Sue as our new vicar. There will be refreshments in the York Rooms after the service.

All are welcome; if you are going to attend, please notify Cathy Booth, Churchwarden either by email: cathy.booth17@gmail.com or phone 01883 715748 by 19 January 2024. This is important as we need an idea of numbers, both for seating and refreshments. Car parking will be limited so please car share if possible.

HARVEST GIFTS: Following our financial gifts at Harvest, we received a handwritten letter of thanks from Ripple Effect, through whom we donated 35 chickens, 20 packets of super seeds, 8 goats and 10 beehives to families in Africa as our harvest gifts. They said: *'It was a truly giant gift. We have never received 73 individual gifts in one go before. Thank you to everyone who contributed - your generosity makes an enormous difference.'* Isn't that a lovely acknowledgement? Well done again everyone!!! *Mary*

COFFEE and a CHAT

St John's Room, 10.30am - 12 noon
Thursdays 11 and 25 January 2024



The fortnightly coffee morning continues to be enjoyed by a regular band of attendees. Just before Christmas we were also joined by a couple of new people who we hope to see again. This time we enjoyed sausage rolls and mince pies as well as our usual coffee and biscuits and we also had gifts from a 'secret Santa'. Although this picture shows only ladies, men are also very welcome to join us (and sometimes do).

If you need a lift, please ring Barbara: 715636



Other Notices

OXTED BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP: Drop in between 1 and 3pm at Oxted United Reformed Church, every other Thursday. Come on your own or with a friend to meet others and discuss ways of coping. It is a friendly and positive gathering where anyone recently or long ago bereaved is welcome to share tea, biscuits and chat in a relaxed environment. Anyone will be sure to feel able to speak or share and be understood. There are usually fewer than a dozen people, and conversation veers from laughter to emotional release that is much appreciated by all. Lesley Bunce, an extremely experienced lay helper sponsored by St Catherine's Hospice, leads the group with volunteers. An initiative of Churches Together in Oxted & District, OBSG meets this month on 4 and 18 January.

LENT CLIMATE PILGRIMAGE: The Rt Revd Dr Martin Gainsborough Bishop of Kingston, lead Bishop for the Environment, is undertaking a pilgrimage over six separate days during Lent 2024 to shine a spotlight on the climate and ecological crisis and to encourage personal and systemic change. Walks will be 5 - 7 miles long, beginning at 10am and finishing around 4.30pm, in different parts of the Diocese on different days, finishing at Southwark Cathedral on 28 March ahead of the Maundy Thursday Chrism Eucharist where pilgrims will be met by Bishop Christopher.

The first walk is in the local area of Reigate and Tandridge on **Saturday 17 February** and will be led by Revd Helen Burnett, Vicar of Chaldon. It is 7 miles long starting at Reigate railway station and ending at Chaldon. Helen is hoping to provide a minibus and driver so those who might struggle with the steeper bits of the route can join in for the gentle bits! More information will follow and it will be possible to register online, but for now, please save the date.

www.stjohnshurstgreen.org.uk

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st John's
HURST GREEN