



# HURST GREEN NEWS

## February 2024

### Will you give something up or take something up for Lent?

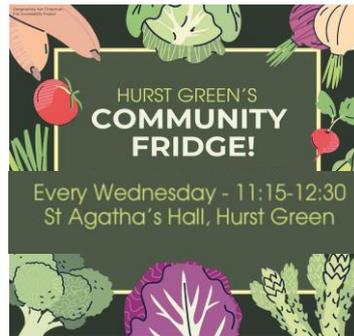
The middle of February will herald Pancake Day, as it is commonly known - or Shrove Tuesday, for those of us who remember that it precedes the day known as Ash Wednesday, which is the start of Lent. In majority Catholic countries, it is celebrated as Mardi Gras (Fat Tuesday) or Carnivale, a day of partying and excess before a solemn religious season which is traditionally accompanied by fasting.



Lent is a period of time which prepares us for Good Friday and for Easter. In this time, we do things which draw us closer to God; the reason for fasting is that it allows us to focus instead on prayer and notice our simpler blessings.

These days, very few people in this country will partake in a religious fast, though some may still think to 'give something up' for Lent - especially chocolate. In recent years, I have stopped giving something up, and instead taken something up. Personally, I find that doing something deliberate is a better way for me to draw closer to God and to the things which really matter to me.

I invite you all to join with me this season by giving to and finding solace in our local community. The Hurst Green Community Fridge, which runs out of Aggies Hall, is open to everyone each Wednesday for an hour, from 11.15. We have fresh and tinned food available for free which has been donated to us by supermarkets and individuals. We also serve tea, coffee and biscuits, and invite everyone who attends to sit for a while over a cuppa.



Perhaps the 'thing' you offer during Lent will be an hour of your time each week to chat with others, and share a cup of tea with others in the community who you might not otherwise encounter. If you don't have an hour on a Wednesday to visit us, you could think of other things which draw you closer - for example writing a letter, letting someone know you're thinking of them.

And, if it's pancakes you're after, do join us at St John's at 11am on Sunday 18th February for our monthly Community Brunch, where we will be serving pancakes with the traditional toppings - vegan and gluten-free diets catered for too!

*Ché Ramsden, Chair of Hurst Green Community Fridge*

**Join the First Community Network** - Use your voice to help shape and improve community healthcare services in east Surrey. You can be involved by taking part in surveys, reviewing patient information, joining focus groups or working groups to help improve services.



If you are interested, please e-mail [fchc.beinvolvedfirstcommunity@nhs.net](mailto:fchc.beinvolvedfirstcommunity@nhs.net) or call 01737 775450, text 07814 639034.

Please support St John's Church on Easy Fundraising, you can raise FREE donations when you shop online with over 8,000 brands. It's simple and only takes 2 minutes to sign up! This will make a BIG difference to us. Sign up here: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stjohnshurstgreen>



**MORE ACTIVE MORE OFTEN.**

**Holland Sport Get Fit Club need volunteers!** Are you a Personal Trainer who can give one hour per week to keep our free community training sessions going? We really need your help. Please contact: [GetFit@HollandSportsClub.co.uk](mailto:GetFit@HollandSportsClub.co.uk). We are also looking for a dynamic and enthusiastic Club Secretary to steer the club forward. Sessions are on Monday and Fridays at 2pm at Holland Sports, Mill Lane Recreation Ground, RH8 9DF



### Hurst Green Gardening Club

It's this time of year when people start turning their attention to their garden even if it's just to put new year enthusiasm to good use by cleaning pots and tools ready for the spring. It's also a good time to start planning what to do and what to grow in your garden and you can start to order seeds and plants from the comfort and warmth of your armchair. When it's frosty and wet it's best to avoid walking on your lawn to prevent damaging the grass underneath but do remember to put out bird food for hungry birds and leave some areas of your garden uncut for shelter until the spring.

If you are interested in gardening why not join Hurst Green Gardening Club on the second Wednesday of the month at 7.45pm in St Agatha's Hall? Everyone is welcome whether a beginner or an expert. View the full programme for 2024 at [www.hggardeningclub.blogspot.com](http://www.hggardeningclub.blogspot.com). Speakers already planned for this year include an introduction to microgreens and a talk on spice and Asian hornets. At the next talk on 14 February, Bob Evans will give a history of Hurst Green.

### YoYo's Toddler Group

Every Wednesday in term time

9.15-11.15am

St John's Church, Church Way



A friendly group for babies and toddlers for a stay and play session with crafts, snacks and songs.

### Lent Mid Week Services at St John's

Wednesday 14 February – 20 March (6 weeks) at 12noon followed by a light lunch.

There will be a collection for the Bishop's Lent Appeal.

We hope to see you there!



Join us for a Community Brunch at 11am followed by a relaxed, informal service for all ages, at 11.30am, where children and adults can flow freely around the church.



**Sunday 18 February 2024**  
**Crafts – Coffee – Church band**

# 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 12.30pm 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:** Reverend Sue Bosley, 07553 305087 (from Feb 2024)  
Church Way, Hurst Green RH8 9EA

**Assistant Priest:** Mary Seller, 01883 715675

**Southwark Pastoral Auxiliary:** Monica Fenton, 01883 715769

**Reader:** Wendy Hewitt, 07789 680653  
[www.stjohnshurstgreen.org.uk](http://www.stjohnshurstgreen.org.uk)

## HURST GREEN EVANGELICAL CHURCH

**Pastor:** Keith Dickson, 01883 712 017  
[www.hurstgreen-fellowship.org](http://www.hurstgreen-fellowship.org)

## KING'S CHURCH

**Contact:** King's Centre, 33 Amy Road, Oxted, Surrey RH8 0PW  
Simon Quincey, 01883 734 805,  
[www.kingschurchforyou.org](http://www.kingschurchforyou.org)

## ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH OF OXTED & WARLINGHAM

**All Saints' Church** Chichele Road, Oxted, 01883 627 762  
**St Ambrose Church** Warren Park, Warlingham  
**Parish Priest** Fr Stephen, 01883 713776  
[www.oxtedandwarlinghamparish.org](http://www.oxtedandwarlinghamparish.org)

## OXTED UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

**The Church of the Peace of God**  
21 Bluehouse Lane, Oxted, 01883 730 406  
[oxtedurc@gmail.com](mailto:oxtedurc@gmail.com)

**Church Administrator:** Claire Harris, 01883 730  
[www.oxtedurc.org.uk](http://www.oxtedurc.org.uk)



## Save our frogs and toads!

Well, it's nearly that time of year again, when a young toad's thoughts turn to love! Over the next few weeks you may catch sight of frogs and toads crossing the road near St John's Church at, and approaching, the junction between Church Way and Oast Road.



What are the differences between frogs and toads? Frogs have smooth, moist skin, and they aren't slimy! They tend to jump rather than crawl. Toads, on the other hand, have drier skin. They don't need to spend their lives so close to water. They lumber about when they move instead of hopping.

Both frogs and toads are known as amphibians because they live partly on land and partly in the water and travel back each year to the pond where they were bred. This happens in late winter/early spring after it begins to get dark and often following a rainy day. They don't like the cold so the temperature needs to be reasonably mild otherwise they will stay put in someone's garden for a little longer in their snug spot in the undergrowth, or a woodpile, or a hole in the ground. Then when the conditions seem right, they set out on their journey – and they don't have any road sense!

So, from early or mid-February until early April there are likely to be frogs and toads in Church Way and in Oast Road near the T-junction in the hours after dusk. These little amphibians can be seen and avoided if we drive slowly and carefully 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!

It is chilly out there! But fear not, you might be eligible for in-person energy advice from our Home Energy Advice Taskforce (HEAT), who can survey your home and tell you how to stay cosy in winter and cool in summer. We can help with remedial measures for draughts and point you towards energy efficiency funding.



Check if you're eligible for a FREE home energy survey by scanning the QR code or emailing:  
[energysurveys@zerocarbonguildford.org](mailto:energysurveys@zerocarbonguildford.org)



Around 1 in 14 homes suffer from water losses, like dripping taps, leaky loos and even outdoor taps and hoses. Colder temperatures and changeable weather can cause a leaky pipe to freeze and sometimes burst, which could mean a hefty repair bill and an impact to your water supply.



Prepare your home by checking for leaks and insulating pipes throughout your household. Reducing leaks could even save you money on your bill.

If you need extra support, **SES Water can help**. You may be eligible for one of its water support schemes, we can sign you up to our Priority Services for households that need extra help, we can support you in how to pay your bill and advise on water saving devices and meters.

Find out more at [seswater.co.uk/hereforyou](http://seswater.co.uk/hereforyou) or call our dedicated team on 01737 785606 or email [hereforyou@seswater.co.uk](mailto:hereforyou@seswater.co.uk)



**FREE! Osteoporosis prevention clinic**



Contact: [anita.asghar@freedom-leisure.co.uk](mailto:anita.asghar@freedom-leisure.co.uk)

**Tuesdays 1-2pm**  
8 week courses running throughout the year

## Would you be interested in joining an adult ADHD Support Group?

Are you an older woman (over 25) with ADHD? Newly diagnosed or waiting for a diagnosis? We're thinking about starting a Monthly meeting at Oxted Library to connect with others, share experiences and get support. Please let us know if you are interested with your contact info and availability by emailing [oxted.library@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:oxted.library@surreycc.gov.uk)



## PARISH REGISTERS Funerals

*Our sympathy goes to all their relatives and friends*

**1 February:** Stacey Powe  
**5 February:** Maureen Bashford

**St John's Book of Remembrance**  
To have a name entered,  
Email: [office@stjhurstgreen.co.uk](mailto:office@stjhurstgreen.co.uk)

*Come and join us for*  
**COFFEE and a CHAT**  
**St John's Room, St John's Church**  
**Fortnightly on Thursdays**  
**8th and 22nd February 2024**  
**10.30am-12 noon**



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

## Lent Climate Pilgrimage, 17 February 2024

Lead Bishop on the environment, Bishop Martin, is organising a series of six walks in Southwark Diocese on different days during Lent, to shine a spotlight on the climate and ecological crisis and to encourage personal and systemic change, finishing at Southwark Cathedral on 28 March.

The first walk is on **Saturday 17 February at 10am from Reigate to Chaldon**, a 7-mile semi-rural walk on the North Downs. It is mainly off road, with two steep climbs and a minibus option for those who may find these difficult. The theme of this walk is biodiversity, farming and transport, with part of the walk crossing the M25, and plans for a farm stop on route. The route starts at The Yard at Reigate Station: 3a The Facade, Holmesdale Road, Reigate, Surrey RH2 0BB. (entrance Gates Opposite China House Restaurant). You will need to register to join at [bit.ly/3ROkDpY](http://bit.ly/3ROkDpY)



For more information contact Revd Helen Burnett at [vicar@chaldonchurch.co.uk](mailto:vicar@chaldonchurch.co.uk) who will lead this walk, or [office@stjhurstgreen.co.uk](mailto:office@stjhurstgreen.co.uk)

## Dates for your Diary February 2024

- 2 February:** Oxted Country Market, Friday mornings, 9.30-11.30am, Woodhouse Centre, Oxted
- 5/19 February:** Tandridge Club for the Visually Impaired, 2.30-4.30pm, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays of the month, St Agatha's Hall. Call for info and transport: Chair, Diana Drysdale, 01883 742708.
- 7 February:** Yo Yo's playgroup, Wednesdays in term time, St John's Church, 9.15-11.15am.
- 7 February:** Community Fridge, every Wednesday, St Agatha's Hall, 11.15am-12.30pm.
- 8 February:** Hurst Green Community Hub, every Thursday, St Agatha's Hall, 1-3pm.  
Need a lift? Call Cerys Williams, 07855 987077.
- 8 February:** Pollards Oak WI, York Rooms, St John's Church, 7.45pm. Women who have improved the female status, Talk by Mary Forlenza. Call: Jan Ward, 01883 712143.
- 12 February:** 'Thyme to Create', Tandridge Handicraft Society, Woodhouse Centre, Oxted, RH8 9HT. Every Monday, 1.30-4.30pm. Contact: Jenny Beal (Chairman) 01883 620730.
- 14 February:** Hurst Green Gardening Club, St Agatha's Hall, 7.45pm for 8pm start. Talk by Bob Evans on The History of Hurst Green.

## St Agatha's Hall

To enquire about booking, contact the

**Booking Administrator:**  
**aggieshall@gmail.com**

or complete the form on the website:  
**stagathashall.weebly.com/  
contact.html**

## Surrey domestic abuse helpline



01483 776822

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## World Day of Prayer 2024



On Friday 1 March this year's World Day of Prayer will be held with services at 10am at the United Reformed Church in Oxted, and at 7.30pm at St Peter's Church, Limpsfield. Everyone is welcome to attend. The service was devised by the Christian women of Palestine long before the current conflict began, and in which they speak of a people deeply rooted in the country, of rich heritage with the hope always to return to Palestine.

**10am at the United Reformed Church, Oxted**  
**7.30pm at St Peter's, Limpsfield**  
**All are welcome – we hope to see you there.**

On Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2024 the **Tandridge Handicraft Society** is hosting a talk entitled "Thyme to Create". The talk will be presented by Sonja Galsworthy, a graduate of the Royal School of Needlework. Doors open 1:30, talk starts at 2pm. Visitors are welcome, £5 entry including tea and biscuits.



On Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2024 the **Tandridge Handicraft Society** is hosting a workshop on Bojagi – the Korean textile art technique – led by Sara Cook. The course will run from 10am to 4pm. Places are limited, and cost £55 (£45 for members). To reserve your place, please contact Sara Morrison by email or phone sara\_lamb@msn.com or 07766 554605.



Both events are at the Woodhouse Centre, Hoskins Road car park, opposite Tandridge Leisure Centre, Oxted RH8 9HT (postcode for SatNav RH8 9JQ).

The Society meet every Monday at the Woodhouse Centre, Hoskins Road car park, opposite Tandridge Leisure Centre, Oxted RH8 9HT (postcode for Satnav RH8 9JQ).

For more details go to: [www.tandridgehandicraftsociety.org.uk](http://www.tandridgehandicraftsociety.org.uk) or contact Jenny Beal on 01883 620730.

Collect your **FREE TREE** 1.2M trees!

**SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**

**OXTED LIBRARY (COUNCIL CAR PARK)**  
**Saturday 3rd February 2024**  
**9.30am-12pm**

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**Warm Welcome venues**  
Safe and friendly places for everyone in Surrey

**Oxted Library is a Warm Welcome Venue**  
We're a safe place to relax & keep cosy, have a cuppa, read a book, and more...

**Find out about any roadworks, road closures, and public events around the local area, visit Surrey County Council's Roads and transport webpage:**  
[www.surreycc.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/roadworks-and-maintenance/roadworks](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/roadworks-and-maintenance/roadworks)

## Parish Council News

Hurst Green Infant School has asked us to encourage residents of Hurst Green and parents to register for Surrey Environment Partnership's new waste reduction scheme Rethink Waste.

By taking part, you can donate to charities, earn rewards or win prizes whilst making Surrey a greener place to live. It's great for small schools such as Hurst Green Infant School and others to benefit from this initiative. Please do register and support our schools. Here's the link: <https://rethinkwaste.co.uk/register>



## Neighbour of the month

The neighbour of the month for February goes to Marie Ashton. Marie has been nominated by many of her neighbours who have all said she is a great friend and neighbour who is always happy and kind. Marie also does great work for Last Chance Animal Rescue Centre, regularly raises money for the charity and collects donations of blankets and towels to give to the centre. Last Chance was founded in Edenbridge in 1986 and they are always looking for volunteers. If you can help please visit [www.lastchanceanimalrescue.co.uk](http://www.lastchanceanimalrescue.co.uk). They couldn't exist without people like Marie so thank you Marie and thanks for being a fab neighbour too!

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](mailto:hgncompiler@gmail.com).



On Sunday, 26 November 2023,

## The North Downs Community Orchestra



held a concert in the Bawtree Hall at Hazelwood School, titled 'Christmas Capriccio'.

We were lucky enough to receive two reviews from our audience members, as follows:

"The North Downs Community Orchestra delivered a captivating Christmas performance showcasing their exceptional musicianship and interpretative skills in an eclectic program that ranged from the likes of Mamma Mia to the classics including Tchaikovsky and Strauss. The conductor, Sara Young, guided the ensemble with precision and passion, bringing out the nuances of each composition and not to mention a beautifully sparkling jacket! Standout moments included a vocal rendition of Habanera by Laura Carew Gibbs, leaving the audience in awe. The orchestra's collective sound was powerful, creating a simply captivating atmosphere which resonated with the audience. The Polar Express and Frozen were perfectly executed and brought some Christmas cheer to us all at this concert which was so perfectly placed to brighten the winter months. This was a wonderful evening spanning both classical and modern music, which would appeal to just about anyone." *Romy Ellis-Doyle*

The second review was from one of our younger audience members:

"I thought the concert was really great! The orchestra is amazing. I think it must be fun to be a conductor and hold the stick and tell people when to play. It looks a bit like a magical wand from Harry Potter. My favourite part of the concert was the Christmas songs and watching my nan play the trumpet and the lady who sung to everyone. I really like coming to the concerts and I wish they had a piano in the orchestra because that's what I play" *Samuel, Age 10*

Our next concert will be on **Sunday 26 May 2024** at Woldingham School.

Visit [www.thefunorchestra.co.uk](http://www.thefunorchestra.co.uk) for more details and to register your interest!

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