

NEWSLETTER-FEBRUARY 2024

St John the Evangelist, Hurst Green

Welcome All | Deepen Faith | Inspire Action

Welcome to St John's!

Welcome to our February Newsletter. Having got through the month of January which always seems to me to be almost endless with its long, dark days, and 31 of them too, this year, we are faced with a longer than usual February because it is a leap year!

It always appears odd to me that because the earth does not orbit the sun in precisely 365 days (it takes 365.2422 days) the calendar year can be synchronised with the astrological year simply by adding a whole extra day every four years.

But let us look on the bright side: in the month of February the days are ever lengthening and we will experience more and more daylight; those born on 29th February can actually celebrate their birthday this year; we have an extra day to enjoy AND we have a new Vicar!! On 30 January the Revd Sue Bosley was licensed as Team Vicar of the Parishes of Hurst Green and Crowhurst in the Oxted Team Ministry. She and her husband and son have moved into the vicarage in Oast Road so she lives amongst us. We welcome her, and we look forward to getting to know her.

With love and blessings, Mary

Services at St John's this month

Thursday 1 February:

2pm: Thanksgiving service for Stacey Powe - see over

Friday 2 February:

2.30pm: Thanksgiving service for Douglas Winchester

Sunday 4 February:

Presentation of Christ in the temple (Candlemas)

8.30am: Said Eucharist 9.45am: All Age Eucharist

Sunday 11 February: Sunday before Lent

8.30am: Said Eucharist

9.45am: Parish Eucharist - with Sunday School

Sunday 18 February: Lent 1

8.30am: Said Eucharist 9.45am: Parish Eucharist

11am: Community Brunch followed by Café Church

Friday 23 February:

10am: Funeral of Diana Bush followed by reception in the York Rooms - see following page

Sunday 25 February: Lent 2

8.30am: Said Eucharist

9.45am: Parish Eucharist - with Sunday School

COFFEE and a CHAT

St John's Room, 10.30am - 12 noon

Thursdays 8 and 22 February

If you need a lift, please ring Barbara: 715636



STOP PRESS! Large numbers are expected at Revd Sue Bosley's licensing service on Tuesday 30 January at 7.30pm. Please walk or car share if possible. Contact Cathy if you can help with refreshments and clearing away afterwards: 715748.

Croydon Episcopal Area **LAY CONFERENCE**
SATURDAY 2 MARCH 2024
9.30AM TO 5PM

Magnificat! From Praise to Passionate Action

The Diocese of Southwark



The conference will be a day of uplifting worship with inspiring talks and workshops (choose 2 from a range) about the Christian response to today's challenges.

The keynote speaker is Dr Elaine Storkey. The £10 cost includes refreshments and lunch and you must register by **Sunday 11 February**.

Register online or call the Croydon Area office 020 8256 9630. More info on the poster in the porch.

Lent lunches at St John's Church

There will be a Eucharist at 12 noon in the Lady Chapel on Wednesdays during Lent

From Ash Wednesday, 14 February, until 20 March
Followed by a simple lunch of delicious home made soup and rolls in St John's Room



All are welcome
Collection for the
Bishop's Lent appeal




The monthly midweek Eucharist and lunch will continue at its original time of 12 noon on 4th Wednesdays from 24 April; please note this will not take place on 27 March.

The March Newsletter will be available on Sunday 25 February.

Please send anything to be included by Sunday 18 February 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

WELCOME TO REVD SUE BOSLEY who becomes our new Team Vicar after her licensing service on 30 January. You will be able to contact her on 07553 305087 and the familiar landline number will also be retained for now: 01883 712674. Her e-mail address is revdsue@stjhurstgreen.co.uk and her usual day off will be Saturday.

LENT GROUPS: This year's CTOD Lent course is 'The Gift of Christ' written by Olivia Amartey. There are 5 sessions and groups will start in the week commencing 18 February. There will probably be a service on Palm Sunday 24 March to celebrate what has been learnt. More information and a sign up sheet are on the table in church. Please sign up as a leader, host or member, by **Sunday 4 February**.

If you are interested in joining a group on Monday mornings at 10am for 10.15am at The_Space, Oxted Community Hall, starting on 19 February, please speak to Janet Harman.

CHRISTMAS NEWS: Mary Seller heard from a number of former parishioners at Christmas, and they all asked to be remembered to those at St John's who remember them: Sue and John Olver, Maggie Short, Annette Capps, Yvonne Cook, Kath McCarthy, Janet and Frank Hutchings, Neville Jacobs, Richard Kinnibrugh, Ruth Vowles and Dorothy Sanders. Hilary Gerard-Pearse has dementia but remains stable. Sadly, Dorothy Sanders' son, Richard, died at the end of November. He caught Covid, and was especially vulnerable as he had Down's syndrome, and he eventually succumbed, aged 54. Otherwise, everyone else reported being well, despite the ravages of the ageing process!!!

JEFF TUCKFIELD passed away peacefully on 22 December. He and Brenda had only recently moved into a home in Ipswich to be near to their daughter and his funeral was on 26 January in Ipswich. For many years, Jeff was the resident police officer for Limpsfield Chart, came to live in Home Park when he retired and he and Brenda became members of our church. They contributed greatly to our life together. Brenda led the flower arranging team, and Jeff undertook many odd jobs, as well as being regular worshippers and joining in all the social events. Brenda would love to hear from anyone who remembers her. Do write to her at: Henley Care Home, 333 Henley Road, IPSWICH IP1 6TB

DIANA BUSH RIP: We are saddened by the news of the death of Diana Bush at the age of 93. We have lost a wonderful friend and a tireless worker for St John's. Her service to God here went on for years and years. She was part of the flower arranging team, she sang in the choir, she was a member of both the serving and sacristan teams. She always supported all our activities and events. On a wider front, she will be remembered by countless boys, now men, as an industrious cub leader, for which she was honoured nationally by the award of the prestigious silver wolf. Diana was always cheerful, always smiling, and never had a moan or a groan. She was an inspiration. Above all, she was in church Sunday by Sunday and on holy days without fail, faithfully worshipping the Lord, and receiving the sacrament. Dear, dear Di, good and faithful servant, rest in peace and rise in glory.

A THANKSGIVING SERVICE FOR STACEY POWE will be held at St John's on Thursday 1 February at 2pm followed by refreshments in the York Rooms. Stacey died peacefully on 30 December in a nursing home in Banstead where she spent her last days. She was our organist at St John's many years ago and an extremely gifted

musician, accompanist, teacher and friend to many. After living for some time in Grants Lane, when her husband died she moved to The Hoskins. Stacey requested a private cremation, followed by a thanksgiving service for her life to be held at St John's.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER: 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.

A big thank you to Shirley Dare who has been the St John's representative for this event (previously called the Women's World Day of Prayer) for many years, and is now standing down. Please consider if you could undertake this role; this is especially important because, in March 2025, it will be the turn of St John's to host the annual event. Talk to Shirley (phone number 712304) to see what it involves. It is not normally an arduous task, simply a meeting in November and then circulating information about the event in March, but in 2025, it will involve a little more around the meeting time.

Other Notices

LENT CLIMATE PILGRIMAGE, SATURDAY 17 FEBRUARY: 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, led by Revd Helen Burnett (Vicar of St Peter and St Paul, Chaldon) is on Saturday 17 February 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. You will need to register to join at bit.ly/3ROkDPy. Please contact Janet Harman for more details and if you need help in registering. A map on the porch noticeboard shows the dates and locations of all six walks..

SAVE OUR FROGS AND TOADS! Well, it's nearly that time of year again, when a young toad's thoughts turn to love! From early/mid-February until early April there are likely to be frogs and toads trying to cross Church Way and Oast Road near the T-junction in the hours after dusk. We have a Toad Patrol to help them on their journey. These little amphibians can be seen and avoided if we all drive slowly and carefully in that area. Please help us to spare God's creatures. If you can help, please contact Adrian, 07974 171977.

OXTED BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP: Drop in between 1pm and 3pm at Oxted United Reformed Church, alternate Thursdays, this month on 1, 15, and 29 February. Bereaved people can come on their own or with a friend to meet others and discuss ways of coping. Trained volunteers are on hand. This group is an initiative of CTOD and provides a great way to chat and share experiences.

MUNCH WITH MUSIC: St John's Church, Clareville Road, Caterham Valley, Wednesday lunchtime 7 February, 12.15pm: coffee, tea, biscuits; 12.45pm: Chamber Music Ensembles from Caterham School, performance approx 45 minutes. Free admission, donations welcome. Bring your own Munch!

www.stjohnshurstgreen.org.uk
01883 712674 office@stjhurstgreen.co.uk


st John's
HURST GREEN