

HURST GREEN NEWS

March 2024

LENTEN THOUGHTS

Lent means 'spring', but we usually associate this period with contemplation and penitential preparation for baptism into new life, by way of self-denial during the annual journey of remembrance towards the passion and death of



Christ on the cross. It begins with the time Jesus spent fasting in the wilderness, the 40 days between Ash Wednesday and Easter Day (not including Sundays, which were not fast days, so actually 46 days.)

We talk of giving up something for Lent: chocolate, alcohol, etc. as a token fast from temptation, but we could also treat this period as a time to prepare ourselves anew, to become changed, reborn, like the spring flowers pushing up through the soil, looking for light, which along with sunshine and rain, will fuel their growth and life cycle as they provide our delight in their beauty, and food for pollinators, before they return to the earth restored, to wait for the cycle to be repeated next year.

Similarly, we could explore a new skill or hobby, investigate a new walk, try a new recipe, sing a new song, cultivate a period of prayer or meditation, making time to rest and recuperate as we are refreshed for the year ahead, and in so doing, encounter God in a different way.

During this time, we celebrate Mothering Sunday on 10th March, when we remember and give thanks, not just for mothers, but for all those who have provided nurture during our lives. It is a joyous occasion at St John's, when we distribute daffodil posies, and hopefully partake of some Simnel cake after the service!

Returning to our Lenten theme, let us not view this time as a dismal and gloomy journey, full of self-deprivation, important though that is, but rather as a time of exploration and growth when we can find new life, a new colour, new enthusiasm for all that Christ can offer, as we journey with Him towards His triumphant and eternal resurrection on Easter Day.

Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth, Worship the Lord with gladness,

Come before him with joyful songs.

With every blessing and a prayer that you may find God is near during Lent. Hilary Dilnot, organist at St John's.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BECOMING A SCHOOL GOVERNOR?

If you have any skills you think you could bring (e.g. finance), we would love to hear from you. You don't need any special qualifications or experience and all training is provided. Potential candidates will be interviewed here at our school. For more information, please contact the school office: office@hurstgreenschool.org or 01883 712171. To find out more about our school, visit www.hurstgreenschool.org.

MAKING ENERGY ADVICE WORK FOR ALL OF US. Join a local Energy Advice Focus group and share ideas to feed into a new Surrey County Council energy advice service for Surrey. You will receive a £50 voucher for your time. To register contact: cat@surreyclimate.org.uk.

Monday 11 March, 6-8pm at Hurst Green Community Centre.



Edenbridge and District Astronomers are a friendly group of amateur astronomers in the Edenbridge and Lingfield area. They have regular viewing sessions, talks, meetings and special events which have recently been held at Edenbridge Rugby Club.

New members are always welcome and you can find out more about their events and the group at www.edenbridgeastro.org.uk.



St John's Church MOTHERING SUNDAY SERVICE 10 March, 9.45am St John's Church, Church Way



St John's Church CAFÉ CHURCH



Sunday 17 March 2024 Crafts - Coffee - Church band

Sunday 17 March, 5pm - St John's Church Short reflective service of music and readings for Passiontide, with music led by the chamber choir, Levante.

DOG FIRST AID TRAINING COURSE



SATURDAY 23 MARCH, 10AM-2PM ST AGATHA'S HALL, RH8 9DU

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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!



Holy Week and Easter Services at St John's Church :Hohn's

24 March, Palm Sunday

8.30am: Holy Eucharist with palm crosses and reading of the Passion

9.45am: Parish Eucharist with palm crosses and reading of the Passion

27 March, Holy Wednesday

12 noon: Eucharist, followed by simple lunch of soup and rolls

28 March, Maundy Thursday

7.30pm: Eucharist followed by short vigil

29 March, Good Friday

9.30am: Good Friday Liturgy remembering Jesus' final hours on the cross

> 30 March, Holy Saturday/Easter Eve **7pm:** Short Service of Night Prayer

> > 31 March, Easter Day

6am: Sunrise Service on the Green **8.30am:** Holy Eucharist 9.45am: All Age Eucharist

The April issue of Hurst Green News will be published on 23 March 2024.

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

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

HURST GREEN EVANGELICAL CHURCH

Keith Dickson, 01883 712 017

www.hurstgreen-fellowship.org

KING'S CHURCH

Pastor:

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

Simon Quincey, 01883 734 805, Contact: 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

OXTED UNITED REFORMED CHURCH The Church of the Peace of God

21 Bluehouse Lane, Oxted, 01883 730 406

oxtedurc@gmail.com

Church Administrator:

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



Hurst Green Tennis Club

have been able to offer free junior tennis lessons to children in Hurst Green as part of the LTA Youth Start Programme, free to local families. Initially this is for Years 1 - 3 but they hope to offer the Programme to other age groups later in the year. You can read more about the Programme that has been supported by Tandridge District Council at www.lta.org.uk/play/parentsarea/start/

The Programme has already started but if you would be interested in future sessions please email hurstgreentc@gmail.com, or call Patrick on 07791 841 270.

Learn for fun, develop an interest, meet new friends, listen to interesting speakers, join outings and events, make best use of your spare time!! The U3A is a charity, run by volunteers. Membership is just £20 per year (£35 per couple). We welcome

you to join us on the first Wednesday of the month for coffee and chat at 10.30am and on the second Thursday of the month at our Open Meeting at 2pm both at Westerham Village Hall. We charge a nominal £2 per head for events to cover the cost of hiring the hall. There are lots of interest groups you can join from Archaeology to Yoga, full details of which are on our website: www.westerhamU3A.org, or call 01883 723207 for further information.

On March 14, Ian Currie will be talking to us about Gales, Greenhouses and Global Warming which promises to be appropriate for our present climate! Ian is a Fellow of the Royal Meteorological Society and can be heard regularly on BBC Radio Surrey and Sussex with forecasts for gardeners and growers, and for 18 years was a columnist for the national magazine Garden News. Stuart Robinson will be with us on April 11 to talk about Curiosities of the City of London, and on May 9, Ray Hale will be talking about the man who lived in Darwin's shadow – Alfred Russel Wallace – who lived at the same time as Darwin and arrived at the Theory of Evolution independently, but his importance is now forgotten. Sarah Slater will make a welcome return after her talk on the scandals of the Royal Court and will doubtless have amusing information about Kirtles, Corsets and Curtains on June 13. We also have two trips to invite you to join - a coach trip to Wales in April - contact garyaz100@gmail.com and a visit to Brighton in May with an optional visit to the Pavilion - contact pabrook1@gmail.com. There is plenty to look forward to and we shall be delighted if you can join us.

Take two exotically-clad **Wassail** masters, a princess for the day, candle-lit drummers, and one of Limpsfield's stranger experiences was ready to start. And although the destination was the Limpsfield Community Orchard, Hurst Green folks were at the heart of the events, behind the scenes and others centre stage. Shortly after dark, on Sunday 14 January, an excited crowd of about 200 gathered for initial refreshments in the Limpsfield Royal British Legion premises. A dozen members of the North Downs Drummers led the torch-lit procession across the Chart golf course, through the lantern-hung wood towards the distant bonfire. There we gathered for the ceremony around the splendid King tree, a noble Bramley cooking apple, festooned with bunting and coloured lights.

Wassail is a curious tradition that is intended to banish evil spirits and ensure a fruitful harvest in the coming autumn season. It was certainly conducted with great gusto in the Limpsfield Community Orchard. Our two local

Wassail Masters, Stephen Rapoport and James Reeves who live in Hurst Green, led the proceedings. The Wassail Princess poured the libation in a beautifully turned wooden bowl at the root of the tree, while James and Stephen placed toast, salt and cider in the boughs, and bade the trees bear well and with fecundity. The assembled throng sang lustily, and with the aid of some vigorous drumming, a suitably raucous din was made on whistles, saucepans and sticks to frighten away any lurking ne'er-do-well spirits.

Stephen said, Wassail is essentially an opportunity for the community to celebrate and connect with Mother Earth, and to give thanks to nature for all the bounty that it offers us. When hearty cheers had been given, mulled cider and apple juice were provided for all the visitors, young and old alike, while the drummers continued their rousing entertainment. Thanks are due, in particular, to Carolle Stent for her indefatigable organisation, and to photographer, Bob Matthews, both of whom have strong Hurst Green ties. And the enthusiastic team which tends the orchard all year round also contains Hurst Green residents. If you haven't been to the event previously, why not put a date in your diary now for the January 2025 Wassail? And before then, do pay a visit to the Community Orchard which is best accessed on the signed footpath winding through the ancient woodland off Grub Street.

Limpsfield Community Orchard's funding comes mainly from the annual £10 donation given by the Friends of the Orchard. It is run entirely by volunteers and more are always welcome - visit http:/orchardlimpsfield.blogspot.co.uk. That will have details of forthcoming events which include the glorious blossom viewing in the spring, as well as a public tasting session in the autumn. Robin Masefield



PARISH REGISTERS siJohn's **Funerals**

Our sympathy goes to all their relatives and friends

23 February: Diana Bush

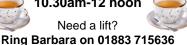
St John's Book of Remembrance

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 7th and 21st March 2024

10.30am-12 noon Need a lift?



If you see an **Asian Hornet** please report it as it can be dangerous, and it is an aggressive predator of native insects posing a significant threat to honey bees and other pollinators. Normally seen between April - November they can be identified by their yellow legs. If you think you have spotted one please take a photo and contact: alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk or visit www.nonnativespecies.org/asianhornet for more info and to download a free app to make any sightings easier to report. Keith Masters, Westerham Beekeepers Association



Dates for your Diary March 2024

1 March: Oxted Country Market, Friday mornings, 9.30-11.30am, Woodhouse Centre, Oxted

6 March: Yo Yo's playgroup, Wednesdays in term time, St John's Church, 9.15-11.15am.

6 March: Community Fridge, every Wednesday, St Agatha's Hall, 11.15am-12.30pm.

7 March: Hurst Green Community Hub, every Thursday, St Agatha's Hall, 1-3pm.

Need a lift? Call Cerys Williams, 07855 987077.

11/25 March: Tandridge Club for the Visually Impaired, 2.30-4.30pm, 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month, St Agatha's Hall. Call for info and transport: Chair, Diana Drysdale, 01883 742708.

13 March: Hurst Green Gardening Club, St Agatha's Hall, 7.45pm for 8pm start. Talk by Rory Drvburgh on Renovations – They never stop.

14 March: Pollards Oak WI, York Rooms, St John's Church, 7.45pm. Members Social. Call: Jan Ward, 01883 712143.

18 March: 'The Liberty Archives', Tandridge Handicraft Society, Woodhouse Centre, Oxted, RH8 9HT. Every Monday, 1.30-4.30pm. Contact: Jenny Beal (Chairman) 01883 620730.



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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. The service was devised by the Christian women of Palestine 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.

All are welcome - we hope to see you there.

We have been asked to tell readers the sad news of the passing of Dawn Haskins, 1930 - 2023. A funeral service was held on 5th February 2024.

Are you thinking about schools for your child to start in September 2025?

Do you want your child's first years at school to be memorable and exciting?

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Find out how our lovely school can meet your needs:

OPEN MORNINGS

Tues 24 September; Wed 16 October; Wed 20 November

OPEN EVENINGS

Tues 15 October: Tues 19 November

SCHOOL TOURS

Wed 3 July; Tues 3 December We look forward to welcoming you soon.

For more information email info@stpetersinfant.org or go to www.stpetersinfant.org.



Neighbour of the month for March goes to Tara Thomas. Tara has been involved in lots of youth projects over the years and is currently Group Leader at Mighty Oaks Youth Club at the Hurst Green Community Centre on Friday nights. Thanks for all your hard work and everything you do!

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.

Come and learn hand embroidery stitches with Jenny Beal.

No experience necessary, all levels catered for, just bring your scissors and your enthusiasm. All materials will be supplied to enable you to make an Easter card using several different embroidery stitches. Instructions will be given to complete your card after the course.

Saturday 9th March, 10am to 3pm, £45 per person.

Light refreshments will be available but please bring your own lunch. The workshop will be held at The Woodhouse Centre, Hoskins Road, Oxted RH8 9HT To book your place contact the Woodhouse Centre on 01883 715189 or workshops@thewoodhousecentre.org.uk.

On 18th March 2024 the **Tandridge Handicraft Society** is hosting a talk with examples. "The Liberty Archives" will be presented by Karen Protheroe. Doors open 1:30, talk starts at 2pm. Visitors are welcome, £5 entry including tea and biscuits. The Society meet every Monday at the Woodhouse Centre, Hoskins Road car park, opposite Tandridge Leisure Centre, Oxted RH8 9HT (postcode for Sat Nav RH8 9JQ). Further details on our website at: www.tandridgehandicraftsociety.org.uk or contact Jenny Beal on 01883 620730.

A night of Honky Tonk, Country & Rock 'n' Roll

An evening of barnstorming, country style rock 'n' roll is coming to the Hurst Green Community Centre this April, as The Oxted Sessions welcomes Sara Petite from San Diego, California.

After a triumphant tour of the UK last summer - which included a headline slot at Maverick Festival in Suffolk - Sara returns to British shores this spring to play a string of full band shows. A winner of three San Diego Music Awards, Glide



Magazine says of Sara: "She can get you to dance while delivering lyrics that reach right into your soul".

Support comes from Wyatt Riot (aka former Oxted resident Steve Gamble) whose sound is influenced by early Americana, such as Hank Williams, Johnny Cash and Woody Guthrie.

Sara Petite and her band, with support from Wyatt Riot, are at the

Hurst Green Community Centre on Friday 5th April.

Tickets - priced at £15 in advance (£18 on the door) - are available from wegottickets.com/oxtedsessions.

The Oxted Sessions is a series of live music events, featuring artists from around the world. Please search for 'The Oxted Sessions' on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram to stay up to date with all upcoming events.



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.

East Surrey domestic abuse etc. Our home-visiting volunteers provide emotional and/or practical support. We are running a volunteer training course starting in April at our offices in Redhill.

Next prep course starts: Thursday 18 April- 20 June, 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.

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