HURST GREEN NEWS

June 2024

It is in the eye of the beholder! Obi-Wan Kenobi once advised Luke Skywalker to not trust his eyes, because "*your eyes can deceive you.*" Most of us can recall an instance from our own non-Jedi lives when these words rang true. How many of us have looked at the clouds and seen dragons, sailing ships or even faces of loved ones there? This phenomenon, called motivated perception, has been explored in psychological research for decades. Indeed, the world as we conceive it in our awareness is not exactly an accurate representation of what it truly is. Our perception is often biased, selective, and malleable. I have discovered this over the last year in my own life.

Many people have mentioned the progress of the new church building currently going up on the Green. I have found it strange that there appear to be wildly differing views on how the building process is going. Some remark how quickly the new church has "sprung up". Others will, just as sincerely, remark on how slowly the whole thing is going. Same building but very different views.



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This divergence of opinion on the speed of construction remarkably mirrors the divergence of opinions about the value of the new church. I have had some people liken the knocking down of the existing Manse and church to an act of egotistical vandalism; in other words it is a vanity project. A point made with great vigour and no little emotion. Others have remarked on how marvelous it is to see the new church rise as a sign of hope, as a new community resource, as a wonderful addition to Hurst Green. Same building but very different views on its value.

I think this quote by Miguel Ruiz explains why there is such a divergence of opinion about the value of the new church building; "We only see what we want to see and hear what we want to hear. We don't perceive things the way they are. We have the habit of dreaming with no basis in reality. We literally dream things up in our imaginations. Because we don't understand something, we make an assumption about the meaning, and when the truth comes out, the bubble of our dream pops and we find out it was not what we thought it was at all."

Whatever your stance on the construction or the purpose of the building I would urge you to consider this old proverb, "*The proof of the pudding is in the eating*." This expression means that the value of anything is best appreciated by experiencing.

Therefore, I cordially invite you to come along in late December of this year as the building is officially opened, God willing, and find out for yourself what the value of the new church building is.

In the meantime, I leave you with the words that all at Hurst Green Evangelical Church felt as we, with great trepidation, started considering the redevelopment of the church site three years ago;

Isaiah 43: 18 – 19

"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland." Keith Dickson, Pastor, Evangelical Church, Hurst Green



Creative Community: Blooming Marvellous Open Afternoon



Sunday 23 June, 2.30pm – 5.30pm Drop by to see our Community Garden in full bloom. Open afternoon, everyone welcome. Find out about volunteer opportunities such as helping with our creative workshops, gardening and more... Arts & craft table, tea & cake. Very limited car parking,

so please come on foot if possible. facebook.com/creativecommunityhurstgreen

SAVE THE DATE – 16 NOVEMBER St John's Church – Autumn Fair We appreciate that we haven't even started summer and yet our thoughts are already turning to autumn as we start the initial planning for our Autumn Fair! This year it will take place on Saturday 16 November from 11am-3pm.

If you're a local craftsperson and would like a table to sell your products, please let us know. Last year we had a great variety of stalls selling lovely things such as pottery, jewellery, fabric art, toys for children, cards, decoupage, and knitted items all of which made great Christmas presents. If you're interested, please email office@stjhurstgreen.co.uk.

The Hurst Green Gardening Club meets every 2nd Wednesday of the month at St Agatha's Hall at 8pm. On 12th June, Venessa Jones will be talking about a not so welcome guest – the Asian hornet.

Our Summer Flower Show will also be online from 8th-15th June. For more information please go to: www.hggardeningclub.blogspot.com.

SAVE THE DATE Saturday 21 September, 1-4pm Hurst Green Village Fair

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

We have new joiners to the planning team (always space for more if you are interested!) who are already getting plans in place for September.

If you are a local food maker, craft creator, business or charity we would love to have your stall there. Please email hgvfair@hotmail.co.uk for more information.

The July issue of Hurst Green News will be published on 29 June 2024.

Please send material for that issue by FRIDAY 14 JUNE 2024 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 12.30pm 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





FAIR on Sunday 9 June.

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