



HURST GREEN NEWS

March 2025

The Joy of Gardening

When I lived near Beckenham, the man next door, Mr Binnie, was an avid gardener. His garden was unremarkable for most of the year, but one day in May, you could open the curtains and be dazzled by the sight of next door, which was a riot of bedding plants in pink, red, purple, blue, yellow, and orange. An abundance of busy lizzies, petunias and begonias, lobelia and verbena, nasturtiums, fuchsias, all manner of baskets and containers surrounding a manicured lawn.

I was just discovering my own joy and love of gardening, following in my mum's footsteps, starting out with seeds on very hard clay soil, never terribly successful except for clarkia and marigolds, but Mr Binnie and I often chatted over the fence, and his favourite saying was "You are nearer God's heart in a garden, than anywhere else on earth." I didn't know then that it was from a poem by Dorothy Frances Gurney (1858 – 1932) but the quote often came into my head in later years as my gardening skills improved, and I discovered how much being in the garden is therapy, improving my mood and satisfying my creativity.

There are many references in the bible relating to growing seed, fruit and trees, the most well-known being the story of Creation and the Garden of Eden, when God planted trees that were "pleasing to the eye, and good for food". Many of Jesus's parables used examples of growing things, which his listeners would easily identify with; the parables of the Mustard Seed, the Sower, the Fig Tree, and the Vineyard, pruning the branches back to bear more fruit, and in Luke 12, we read of the beautiful lilies of the field as Jesus tells his disciples not to worry about what to eat or what to wear.

My garden is emerging from its winter dormancy. On a recent sunny day my eyes alighted on the little pink noses of peonies pushing through fallen leaves, hyacinths and daffodils already showing, hellebores aplenty with pink, purple, and white flowers, camellia buds swelling, even a rose bud near the kitchen wall, and a beautiful patch of glistening snowdrops lightening a shady corner, all harbingers of the Spring to come. The days get longer, and our gardens reward us with new life. Whether we have a window box or a few acres, we can marvel at the cycle of life, death, and rebirth, as we look towards Lent and Easter, reminding us of God's care and compassion.

GOD'S GARDEN

*The Lord God planted a garden In the first white days of the world,
And he set there an angel warden In a garment of light unfurled.
So near to the peace of Heaven, That the hawk might nest with the wren,
For there in the cool of the even, God walked with the first of men.*

*And I dream that these garden-closes With their shade and their sun-flecked sod
And their lilies and bowers of roses, Were laid by the hand of God.*

*The kiss of the sun for pardon, The song of the birds for mirth, -
One is nearer God's heart in a garden Than anywhere else on earth.*

*For he broke it for us in a garden Under the olive-trees
Where the angel of strength was the warden And the soul of the world found ease.*

Hilary Dilnot, Musical Director, St John's Church, Hurst Green



Church service for little ones!

Bubble Church is a Sunday church service especially for babies, toddlers, and young families.



It's a puppet packed, Jesus centred, coffee-and- food- fueled, 30 minute kids and families adventure. Starting at:

**St John's Church, Hurst Green
27th April at 9am**

You can find out more on Bubble Church at www.bubblechurch.org and also keep an eye on the St John's website for specific details related to our Bubble Church.



JetStream Jazz Big Band

A relaxed afternoon of big band music with vocals from Georgie Fellows.

The band consists of 18 excellent musicians, dedicated to playing big band charts to a high standard, whilst having fun!

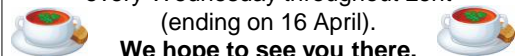
**Sunday 2nd March at 3pm
St Peters Hall Limsfield, High St, RH8 0DG**

Refreshments available.
Tickets £15 in advance or £18 on the door (cash only). U18s free.

Tickets from www.jetstreamjazz.com, or via jetstreamjazz@gmail.com.

Lent Mid Week Services at St John's

On 5 March, Ash Wednesday, there will be a service of Holy Communion at 12 noon at St John's Church, followed by a simple lunch of bread and homemade soup. This will continue every Wednesday throughout Lent (ending on 16 April).



We hope to see you there.

World Day of Prayer 2025

On **Friday 7 March** this year's World Day of Prayer will be held with services at 10am at St John's and 7.30pm at St Mary's Oxted.



World Day of Prayer is a global ecumenical movement led by Christian women who welcome you to join in prayer and action for peace and justice. This year's service comes from the women in the Cook Islands and the theme: is 'I Made You Wonderful,' based on Psalm 139:1-18.

**10am at St John's Church, Hurst Green
7.30pm at St Mary's, Oxted
All are welcome. We hope to see you there.**



**YoYo's Playgroup, St John's Church, 9.15am-11.15am
Every Wednesday in term time.**

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

The April issue of Hurst Green News will be published on 29 March 2025.

Please send material for that issue by FRIDAY 14 March 2025 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 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
Reader: Wendy Hewitt, 07789 680653
www.stjohnshurstgreen.org.uk

ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH OF OXTED & WARLINGHAM

All Saints' Church Chichele Road, Oxted, 01883 627 762
St Ambrose Church Warren Park, Warlingham
Parish Priest Fr Stanislaw (Mycek), 01883 713776
www.oxtedandwarlinghamparish.org

HURST GREEN EVANGELICAL CHURCH

Pastor: Keith Dickson, 01883 712 017
www.hurstgreen-fellowship.org

OXTED UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

The Church of the Peace of God
21 Bluehouse Lane, Oxted, 01883 730 406
oxtedurc@gmail.com

KING'S CHURCH

Contact: King's Centre, 33 Amy Road, Oxted, Surrey RH8 0PW
Simon Quincey, 01883 734 805,
www.kingschurchforyou.org

Church Administrator:

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



Sponsored by Raising funds for (Charity Reg No: 272788)

International Women's Day Quiz Night
(mixed trivia)

SAT 8TH MARCH at 7pm
Hurst Green Community Centre
Entry: £12 pp | £60 table of 6
Bookings: events@hgcc-surrey.org.uk
Prize for winners / Raffle / BOYO food and booze

Patron Saints are chosen by Christians to be special protectors or guardians over all areas of life. England, Ireland and Scotland have their own patron saint, to whom they dedicate a day. In March people will celebrate two Saints – **St David on March 1st and St Patrick on March 17th**. St David is the Patron Saint of Wales and St Patrick is the Patron Saint of Ireland. There are many stories about miracles happening around St David. His last words to his followers before he died are thought to have been: "Be joyful, keep the faith and do the little things that you have heard and seen me do." The phrase gwnech y pethau bychain mewn bywyd - "Do the little things in life" - is still a well-known phrase in Wales. St Patrick is thought to have grown up in Britain, during Roman times, but was kidnapped and taken to Ireland as a slave. Once he was free again, he trained as a priest, and went back to Ireland to convert thousands of people to Christianity. Happy St David and St Patrick's Day!

What's on at the Arts Society Limpsfield

The Frick Collection and the Wallace Collection – their connection with Knole by Hilary Williams: Wednesday 26 March 2025

AFTERNOON LECTURE 2.15pm and EVENING LECTURE 7.30pm.
Refreshments served before each lecture at the Church Hall, Limpsfield, RH8 0UD.

The sumptuous collections at the Wallace Collection in London and the Frick in New York are linked by a circle of patrons, dealers and taste. Apart from Sir Richard and Lady Wallace and the American industrialist Henry Clay Frick, there was someone who worked for them all, who then left a related fortune to the mother of Vita Sackville-West. Therein lies a great story. More info at: www.theartsocietylimpsfield.org.uk. Guest entrance £10.



On 10th March 2025 the **Tandridge Handicraft Society** is hosting a talk entitled "Stitching the Forest Floor". The talk will be presented by Amanda Cobbett.
Doors open 1:30pm, talk starts at 2pm.
Visitors welcome, £5 entry incl. tea and biscuits.
The Society meet every Monday at the Woodhouse Centre, Hoskins Road, RH8 9HT.
Visit www.tandridgehandicraftsociety.org.uk or contact Jenny Beal on 01883 620730.

Unlock More Time with Surrey Libraries

Super Access! Oxted library is excited to introduce Super Access, a new service designed to make Surrey Libraries even more accessible and convenient for you. Whether you have a busy schedule or simply want more flexibility, Super Access gives you the freedom to visit beyond regular staffed hours, letting you use library spaces whenever it works best for you.



How does it work?: New technology has been installed which means that Super Access library members can enter the library outside normal opening hours, using just their library card and individual PIN code. Then they can use library services independently when staff are not present.

- With Super Access you can:-
- o Explore shelves filled with bestsellers and new titles
 - o Easily manage your books with Self-Service kiosks
 - o Access free Wi-Fi and library computers
 - o Print with ease
 - o Create your perfect work or study space



How can I get a Super Access library membership?:

To upgrade any Adult / Young Adult (16 plus) library membership to Super Access, a short introduction is required. This will ensure that customers have a safe and thorough understanding of how the technology works. Just book your introduction through the Super Access Eventbrite page.

By extending our opening times, we're unlocking the full potential of our library buildings, providing more opportunities for everyone in the community to enjoy these valuable spaces. With Super Access, you can use the library your way, because we believe that everyone should have the chance to benefit from all that our libraries have to offer!

Visit www.surreycc.gov.uk/superaccess for further details or pop into Oxted library and ask a member of staff.

St John's Church
MOTHERING SUNDAY SERVICE
30th March at 9.45am
St John's Church, Church Way

PARKPLAY- 9.30AM AT HOLLAND JUNIOR SCHOOL
Fun and games for all the family **FREE** at Holland Junior School every Saturday. Under 14s must be accompanied by an adult. Any questions please contact Carmen on 07815 074236 or go to: www.park-play.com.

Come and join us for
COFFEE and a CHAT
St John's Room, St John's Church
Fortnightly on Thursdays
6th and 20th March 2025
10.30am-12 noon
Need a lift? **Ring Barbara on 01883 715636**

Dates for your Diary March 2025

2 March: Tennis for all adults (members/non-members). 10am-12pm. Hurst Green Tennis Club.

3 March: Tandridge Handicraft Society. Weekly meetings on Monday. Woodhouse Centre. www.tandridgehandicraftsociety.org.uk.

10/24 March: Tandridge Club for the Visually Impaired, 2.30-4.30pm, 2nd & 4th Mondays of the month, St Agatha's Hall. Call for info and transport: Chair, Diana Drysdale, 01883 742708.

12 March: Hurst Green Gardening Club, St Agatha's Hall, 7.45pm. 2nd Wednesday of the month. Contact: hggardeningclub@gmail.com or go to hggardeningclub.blogspot.com.

13 March: Pollards Oak WI, York Rooms, St John's Church, 7.45pm. Members Social. Call: Jan Ward, 07776 310093.

18 March: Meno meet up, 3rd Tuesday of the month, Tandridge Heights, 6.30-8pm.

Every Wednesday in termtime: YoYo's playgroup, St John's Church, 9.15-11.15am.

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

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

Every Friday: OXTED COUNTRY MARKET – 10am to 12 noon at the Woodhouse Centre - for artisan crafts, produce and a hot drink.



St Agatha's Hall

To enquire about booking, contact the

Booking Administrator:

aggieshall@gmail.com

07769 001796

or complete the form on the website:

stagathashall.weebly.com/contact.html

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The London Welsh Male Voice Choir

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with Special Guests

St Mary's Primary School Choir

Saturday 1st March 2025 at 6.30pm

St Mary's Church, Oxted

Tickets from £15 on Eventbrite

Frogs and toads on the move

It's the time of year when the thoughts of a young toad, or frog, turn to love. But the quest for love is fraught with danger, because of the traffic on our roads.



There are 'Beware of the Toad' signs installed at three different points which are all about 100 metres from the T-junction between Church Way and Oast Road, and they will be uncovered from the beginning of February. These are the stretches of road where you are likely to come across the amphibians as they slowly make their way, up until about the beginning of April. Please, if you can, slow down as you drive there if it's between dusk and about 10pm during the migrating season.

We have a Toad Patrol, of all ages, to help the frogs and toads on their journey, and if you do drive slowly this will be safer for us too. Volunteers for the Toad Patrol are always most welcome. You just need a torch, a clean bucket and some (unpowdered) plastic or rubber gloves. Please contact me if you're interested. Many thanks, Adrian 07974 171977.

u3a is a charity that provides an opportunity for people who are no longer in work to come together and learn for fun. The Westerham u3a meets on the second Thursday of each month in Westerham Village Hall, Quebec Avenue, Westerham at 2pm. We also hold a coffee morning at the same venue at 10.30am on the first Wednesday of the month.

On March 13th, Mark Bathurst will be presenting the History and Restoration of Paddle Steamer Medway Queen. You can visit us at www.westerhamu3a.org.



FREE Talk by SES Water

Want to find out how our water supply works? Hosted by Friends of the River Eden Ecosystem, SES Water will be giving a talk and answering questions.

St John's York Rooms on Monday 7th April at 19:30pm.

Places are limited, so please RSVP to Jacqueline at HelloFREESurrey@gmail.com.



In February 2025, **Surrey Wildlife Trust** launched their actions for Nature Competition - complete and report one or more actions for Nature at home or in your community and **Hurst Green Infant and Nursery school** will be in with a chance of winning a £500 funding grant towards outdoor learning equipment or tools for school grounds improvement.



How to take part:

1. Complete one or more actions for nature at home or in the community.

2. Record your actions at:

www.surreywildlifetrust.org/nature-actions-map.

Actions could include walking to school, planting some flowers, leaving your garden to go wild, or litter picking. You can find more ideas on the Surrey Wildlife Trust website.

Why take part: If we all take action for nature, we'll make a difference for Surrey's wildlife. Competition close on 31st May 2025.



Hurst Green Tennis Club

Hurst Green Tennis Club (HGTC) is delighted with their refurbished clubhouse. There is now a changing area, modern kitchenette and comfy seating. This was achieved with funding support from Oxted PC and Cameron Mackintosh Surrey County Councillor's Small Community Fund. We thank them for their help. Courts were refurbished recently and will be repainted again this Spring.



We are a small friendly club and always welcome new members, it really doesn't matter if you're a beginner or an old pro, 5 or 65 years old, you would be welcome to come and meet us and see what we have to offer. There's junior coaching, adult coaching and lots of friendly mix-ins and competitions to help you get involved.

Please see our website www.hurstgreentennisclubco.uk or our Facebook page or give Patrick a call on 07791841270.

Neighbour of the month for March goes to Phil Slegg. Every morning without fail, Phil goes out with his litter-picker and collects litter along lengthy stretches of Oast Road and Church Way. This is particularly appreciated when there is glass, as it could be a danger to children and pets (not to mention tyres). Phil's hard work and efforts not only improves the environment for his neighbours but also for those walking to or from St John's Church or Hurst Green Station.

If you would like to nominate someone or being a great neighbour/friend or have witnessed an act of kindness please email us at: hgncompiler@gmail.com.



PARISH REGISTERS

Holy Baptisms

We welcome into the family of God's Church

9 February: Tillie Peachey-Hicks

Funerals

Our sympathy goes to all their relatives and friends

14 February: Pamela Mills

St John's Book of Remembrance

To have a name entered, Email: office@stjhurstgreen.co.uk

FAMILY FRIENDLY

Take part: Explore the bible story
Praise: God cares for you
Hands on: Plant some seeds

ALL AGE SERVICE

Sunday 2nd March at 9.45am
St John's Church

stjohn's
HURST GREEN

www.stjohnshurstgreen.org.uk

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