

NEWSLETTER - MARCH 2025

St John the Evangelist, Hurst Green

Welcome All | Deepen Faith | Inspire Action

Welcome to St John's!

The season of Lent begins this month with a service on Ash Wednesday on 5 March, when we will be marked with ashes and remember that 'we are dust and to dust we shall return'.

Lent beckons us on a journey of self-examination and repentance; by prayer, reading and meditating on God's holy Word. These are the practices that lead us away from self-reliance and independence from God to a renewed and restored relationship with him.

'To dust you shall return' is not God's threat or punishment, neither is it just about bodily decay after death. It is a statement of God's faithfulness to us. It is a statement of God's love and desire for us. It is the promise of resurrected life.

Whether you choose to take this journey by yourself or with others, may God bless you, lead you and guide you to this wonderful truth.

With every blessing, Sue

Services at St John's this month

Sunday 2 March: Sunday before Lent

8.30am: Said Eucharist 9.45am: All Age Service

Wednesday 5 March: Ash Wednesday

12 noon: Eucharist followed by lunch - *see below*

Friday 7 March: World Day of Prayer

10am: Service at St John's - *more details overleaf*

Sunday 9 March: First Sunday of Lent

8.30am: Said Eucharist 9.45am: Parish Eucharist
1pm: Baptism of Tillie Peachey-Hicks

Sunday 16 March: Second Sunday of Lent

8.30am: Said Eucharist 9.45am: Parish Eucharist

Sunday 23 March: Third Sunday of Lent

8.30am: Said Eucharist 9.45am: Parish Eucharist

Sunday 30 March: Mothering Sunday (Lent 4)

8.30am: Said Eucharist 9.45am: All Age Service

Eucharist at 12 noon in the Lady Chapel

Every Wednesday during Lent:

From 5 March until 16 April

followed by a simple lunch of delicious
homemade soup and bread in St John's Room



*(Usually the 4th Wednesday of each month
but please note, not on 23 April)*

Church service for little ones!

Bubble Church is a Sunday service especially for babies, toddlers, and young families. A team from St John's attended Bubble Church training in February. We have been awarded a grant for the kit and we aim to begin a monthly service on Sunday 27th April. More details coming soon.....



COFFEE and a CHAT

St John's Room, 10.30am - 12 noon

Thursdays 6 and 20 March

Do come and join us! If you need
a lift, please ring Barbara: 715636.



The April Newsletter will be available on Sunday 30 March.

*Please send anything to be included by Sunday 23 March 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](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnshurstgreen)

LENT begins on Ash Wednesday, 5 March and leads up to Easter Day on 20 April. In addition to the services mentioned overleaf, see below for other activities on offer at St John's and beyond.

LIVING HOPE, A LENT JOURNEY: This is ideal for your own daily reflection. The booklet explores the theme of hope from a different angle each week, with daily readings, reflections and challenges. To order your booklet, add your name to the sign up sheet in church or email office@stjohnshurstgreen.co.uk

MARY'S LENTEN DIVERTISSEMENT

During Lent, Mary will be holding a weekly 'get-together' 2 - 4pm in the York Rooms and showing slides of her travels.



Thursday 13 March - Iceland
Tuesday 18 March Tuesday 1 April
Tuesday 25 March Tuesday 8 April

We may also visit: Alaska, Norway, the Panama Canal, The Galapagos Islands, the United Kingdom from Faroes to Guernsey, New York and Cape Cod... Each show will be followed by a cup of tea and biscuits.

LENT GROUPS: Churches Together in Oxted & District (CTOD) have now decided to offer a Lent course called 'Journeys' which tackles the subject of modern slavery. Please sign up on the sheet on the table **by Sunday 23 February** if you would like to take part. Groups will begin in the week commencing 10 March.

There will also be a group using the course advertised in the February Newsletter (*The Sacraments: Responding to God's Loving Invitation*, by Jane Williams) running at The Space, Oxted Community Hall, at 10am **starting on Monday 3 March**. Please speak to Janet Harman if you would like to join this group. You are very welcome to come whenever you can, even if not every week.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER, FRIDAY 7 MARCH: There are services at 10am at St John's and 7.30pm at St Mary's Oxted. This global ecumenical movement is 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 of the Cook Islands. The theme is 'I Made You Wonderful,' based on Psalm 139:1-18.

ELECTORAL ROLL: The Electoral Roll is a list of church members who wish to be identified with St John's as their church. It is quite separate from the Electoral Register (used for national and council elections etc). Those on the Roll may vote at annual church meetings and inclusion on it is a requirement for some roles in the church. The Electoral Roll has to be completely renewed every six years when all those already on it must reapply and others may join it for the first time. This was last done in 2019 so this year we need to run the exercise again.

Please look out for an envelope with your name on it which will be in church from the beginning of March. This will contain various pieces of information including an Electoral Roll application form for you to complete. The deadline for return of the form will be **Monday 14 April** so as to allow time for the new Electoral Roll to be drawn up before the church annual meeting in May. Please do seriously consider joining the Roll if you are not already on it. *Barbara Richards, St John's Electoral Roll Officer*

GENERAL SYNOD REPORT: The General Synod is the national assembly of the Church of England. It considers and approves legislation affecting the whole of the Church of England, formulates new forms of worship, debates matters of national and international importance, and approves the annual budget for the work of the Church at national level. Helen Ainsworth, our representative on the General Synod, has provided a report of the recent meeting which received enormous coverage in the press and on television, not all of it strictly accurate. Please take a copy of her report from the table in church, which explains clearly some of the detail of the challenging subjects covered, such as safeguarding, and gives a flavour of the respect and care taken with these difficult decisions.

REMEDIAL WORK ON TREES: Last year, St John's arranged for a tree survey to be carried out in the church grounds as we had some concerns about some of the trees. The survey identified a number of issues and we have therefore engaged a local tree surgeon, Chartford Trees Ltd, to carry out the remedial work. This includes felling two diseased copper beeches and reducing the crowns of some of the other trees and removing deadwood from others. The work is scheduled to take place on Tuesday and Wednesday, 11 and 12 March.

The work will be noisy at times and there will be parts of the church grounds that will be temporarily cordoned off while the work is being carried out. If you need to attend the church during that time, please be guided by the contractors as to where you should park. If you have any concerns or would like to find out more about the work that is being undertaken, please speak to Jon Macartney and he will be pleased to help.

FROGS AND TOADS - UPDATE! Please continue to watch out for frogs and toads. At the time of writing (mid February) it has been too chilly for our amphibian friends to put in an appearance. Once the weather becomes milder, they'll probably leave it a day or two and then start the migration. Because the season will have begun later than previously, it could extend through to the end of March. Do remember to drive slowly on the roads approaching the church, particularly on mild, murky evenings from dusk until about 10pm, to avoid frogs and toads heading back to the pond where they were bred. To join the Toad Patrol call Adrian: 07974 171977.

ART IN JUNE: (6 - 22 June): For the first time this year St John's will be a venue for this initiative. The church will be open from 13 - 15 and 20 - 22 June. See www.artinjune.org for more information. There will also be art workshops from 2 - 4pm in St John's Room on Saturdays 14 and 21 June.

Other Notices

ORGAN RECITAL: Sunday 2 March at 4.30pm at Lingfield Parish Church. Come and enjoy an organ and piano performance and musical talk given by the Director of Music of St Peter and St Paul, Sara Skyrme. Free of charge but there will be a voluntary retiring collection towards the organ fund. See poster in the porch.

MUNCH WITH MUSIC: St John's Church, Clareville Road, Caterham Valley, Wednesday lunchtime 5 March, 12.15pm: coffee, tea, biscuits; 12.45pm: Robyn Jones, mezzo soprano, Aida Rodriguez Ramos, piano. Performance approx 45 minutes. Free admission, donations welcome. You are invited to bring your own 'Munch'.

www.stjohnshurstgreen.org.uk
Revd Sue Bosley 01883 712674 / 07553 305087

st John's
HURST GREEN