

NEWSLETTER-NOVEMBER 2025

St John the Evangelist, Hurst Green

Welcome All | Deepen Faith | Inspire Action

Welcome to St John's!

In November we notice how much earlier the nights begin to draw in and we close the curtains by early evening. Where did those long summer nights go?

We have entered a season of remembrance in the church year. It is a time to draw inwards and reflect upon the contribution that others have made in our lives and that of the nation.

On 2 November at the All Souls' Service we remember by name loved ones we have personally loved and lost. On 9 November we gather with the local community to commemorate and to honour fallen British and Commonwealth military and civilian servicemen and women in the two World Wars and later conflicts.

Advent begins at the very end of November. During the next four Sundays we will reflect on our need for the love and care of God in anticipation of the birth of his son, Jesus Christ.

With every blessing, Sue

Services at St John's this month

Sunday 2 November: All Saints' Sunday

8.30am: Said Eucharist 9.45am: All Age Service
3.30pm: All Souls' Service - *more info adjacent*

Sunday 9 November: Remembrance Sunday

8.30am: Said Eucharist (3 before Advent)
10am: Service of Remembrance - *the service (not communion) will begin in the church. The Act of Remembrance and wreath laying will follow in the churchyard, with two minutes' silence at 11am.*

Thursday 13 November, 2.30pm:

Thanksgiving Service for Margaret Bamford followed by a reception in the York Rooms
more information overleaf

Sunday 16 November: 2 before Advent

8.30am: Said Eucharist (in the York Rooms)
9am: Bubble Church **10am:** Parish Eucharist

Sunday 23 November: Christ the King

8.30am: Said Eucharist 9.45am: Parish Eucharist

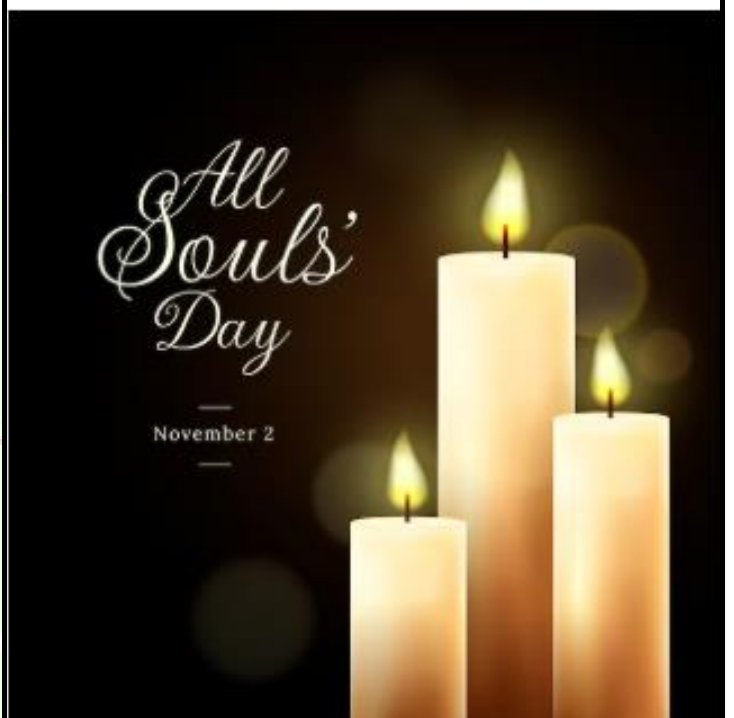
Wednesday 26 November, 12 noon: Eucharist, then soup lunch (*usually every 4th Wednesday*)

Sunday 30 November: Advent Sunday

8.30am: Said Eucharist 9.45am: Parish Eucharist

All Souls' Service, Sunday 2 November, 3.30pm

We will remember by name those we know of who have died in the last two years. Other names can be added to the list which will remain on the table in church until 11am on the day of the service. The service will last about 45 minutes, with hymns, prayers, readings and the opportunity to light a candle. It will be followed by a cup of tea in St John's Room. The collection will go towards the upkeep of the Memorial Garden.



The December Newsletter will be available on Sunday 30 November.

Please send anything to be included by Sunday 23 November 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

COFFEE and a CHAT

St John's Room, 10.30am - 12 noon
Thursdays 13 and 27 November

If you need a lift, please ring Barbara: 715636.



MARGARET BAMFORD RIP: It was a shock for Margaret's many friends when she became unwell, then seriously ill and died within a relatively short time. We were suddenly faced with the realisation that we shall never enjoy her vibrant company again.

Margaret was highly respected and greatly loved. She will be remembered by a succession of students of Moor House School as their kindly and caring Matron. She and husband, John, were stalwarts of Hurst Green Methodist Church, Margaret was a Pastoral visitor, and they were saddened by the church's closure a few years ago. Margaret was a valued Trustee of the Oxted United Charities. Deeply thoughtful and knowledgeable, her favourite words were, 'It has occurred to me that we might do x, y, or z,' and they were always good ideas because she thought laterally. Above all, there was her practical help for neighbours in need. She and John were a formidable team, transporting people to the health centre or to hospital appointments, collecting prescriptions or doing shopping. Wherever there was a need, they were there.

We are so lucky to have known this active, sociable, cheerful and 'full of life' lady. She was a real treasure. May she rest in peace. A thanksgiving service for Margaret's life will be held at St John's Church on Thursday, 13 November, at 2.30 pm.

RUTH VOWLES RIP: We were sorry to hear of the death of Ruth Vowles. Ruth endeared herself to us when she moved here some years ago as partner to John Mills. She cheerfully engaged in many of our activities – services and coffee mornings, and thoroughly enjoyed being 'one of us'. She died peacefully in her Nailsworth home surrounded by her family in September.

GIFT (Gathering in Faith Together): This ecumenical home group meets on Mondays in term time from 10 - 11.30am, usually in members' homes. Our programme includes Bible studies, discussion on topical issues, visiting speakers, worship sessions etc. Recently we met in the York Rooms for a presentation by Mary Seller on questions about God, the Bible and life, from a scientist's viewpoint. We opened this to others and over 30 people attended. Thank you, Mary, for a very interesting, thought-provoking session (and for some delicious lemon drizzle cake!) Please speak to Janet Harman for more information on the group or a copy of the current programme.

DON'T FORGET THE AUTUMN FAIR! Saturday 15 November, 11am - 3pm, with many items on sale which would make great presents: crafts, cards, toys, pictures, photographs, pottery, jewellery, candles. There will also be face painting, creative workshops, tea, coffee and homemade cakes. Admission is £1 (under 18s free).

If you can help on the day or donate a cake, please add your name to the appropriate list on the table at the back of church.

FOSTERING FILM FESTIVAL: This will take place in the York Rooms at St John's Church at **6pm on Monday 17 November**. Join us for a relaxed and inspiring community screening as part of Surrey's Fostering Film Festival Tour.

 **Just 45 minutes** of powerful short films

 **Free popcorn** for all guests

 **Ask questions** and chat with our friendly team & foster carers
Whether you're curious about fostering, want to support your community, or just love a good story, this event is for you. No booking required: just come along and enjoy an evening of film, conversation, and connection. Flyers about the event and booklets with more information on fostering are on the table in church.

MISSION IDEAS GROUP: On Monday, 13 October a dedicated group met to discuss the future of St John's. We shared our hopes and dreams for the church and brainstormed fresh ways to share the Christian faith with our community.

This inspiring discussion led us to identify three key areas for development, and we formed a small working group for each to develop an action plan:

1. **Putting St John's on the Map:** Focusing on enhancing our visibility and outreach in the wider community.
2. **Connecting with [Young] Adults:** Reaching those who are seeking guidance and assurance in today's uncertain and stressful world.
3. **Exploring Services at St John's:** Ensuring our worship services offer something meaningful for all age groups and people from all walks of life.

Get Involved - We'd love you to contribute your ideas and energy! If you are interested in joining a working group for any of these areas, please contact Henk at vandenberg.h@daikin.co.uk.

Other Notices

HOME-START: This local charity based in Redhill supports families with young children in the Tandridge, Reigate & Banstead and Dorking areas. They are currently recruiting volunteers for a home-visiting training course starting in January 2026 (Wednesdays 21 January - 25 March excluding half term). If you have a few hours a week and would like more information, call 01737 770220 to chat, or e-mail info@home-starteastsurrey.org.uk

MEET THE BEAT! Tuesday 11 November at Oxted Library, 3.45 - 4.45pm. Come and meet your local community officer and chat about issues of concern, receive crime prevention advice or just pop in and say 'Hello'.

PRIVATE PASSIONS: Prime Minister, Sir Keir Starmer is Michael Berkeley's guest on 'Private Passions', on **Sunday 26 October, 12 - 1.30pm** on BBC Radio 3. As some people may know, Keir grew up in Hurst Green in a house in Tanhouse Road. His mother, Jo, who was disabled, was a member of St John's. His father, Rod, would bring Jo to services each Sunday in her wheelchair. Keir was last in St John's when he gave the address at his father's funeral, a few years ago. The family connection continues as we see Keir's sister, Katy, every other week at our 9.45am service, when she brings some of the residents of Champions Place, Limsfield Chart, where she works as a carer. If you don't manage to hear the programme live, it will be available afterwards on BCC Sounds.

www.stjohnshurstgreen.org.uk

Revd Sue Bosley 01883 712674 / 07553 305087

st John's
HURST GREEN