A just society?

As I write this there is a great deal in our newspapers about ‘justice’. Most of us, when we think about justice, think of our courts, judges, wigs and unusual procedures and, thankfully, most of us will never go near that justice system. For those who administer that justice, whether as an officer of the court or as a layman selected for jury service, you soon realise the difficulty of separating the facts from everything else that is said.

When the verdict is given, whichever way it goes, there are usually some who feel that justice was not done. Either the verdict was wrong or the sentence was too light or too much.

Yet we all want to live in a just society and while that needs the legal system, a truly just society needs far more than that. The Bible tells us to love justice but it also tells us to act justly which makes it rather more personal. We cannot all be involved in the legal system although when we are, we must act justly. However, we can all act justly in our day-to-day lives.

Mainly this will involve your dealings with other people. Ensuring you are honest and trying to ensure your conversations focus on encouraging each other and not bringing people down. If you enter into deals with people, ensuring the deal is fair and honest in terms of quantity or quality or cost.

While that is a good start, it goes further than that in that we must be concerned about the people all around us in our society and in this we all have something to offer. It may be a word of advice or helping someone in difficulties. It may even be offering to befriend someone who is lonely (see the Tandridge Befriending Scheme) or volunteering in other ways. This doesn’t line up with the culture our media pushes at us where you are the centre of the universe and it’s your rights and what is due to you, but it does makes for a much fairer society.

When you start to look at the world this way, the first thing that you see looks like a mountain too big to climb, and on your own it is. You will never solve all the world’s problems or even the problems in Hurst Green. But you are not alone because together we are our society, together we are our

For more information or to book your place in the choir, please e-mail: hurstgreensingers@gmail.com.

All proceeds to the St John the Evangelist fundraising programme for the lighting system.

www.hurstgreensingers.co.uk

Fauré Requiem - A Come and Sing Performance

Come and join Hurst Green Singers to sing one of the most beautiful works in the choral repertoire on Saturday 2 November in St John’s Church.

Registration for singers starts at 1.30pm, rehearsal starts at 2pm with a performance at 5.30pm. The cost is £15 per singer (£5 for students) and £5 for audience (tickets available on the door).

If you would like to be part of caring for the grounds so they continue to be a beautiful and important not just for the regular congregation, but for all the people of Hurst Green. Some may not come into the church but enjoy the haven of peace and space to think outside. As a church we spend time and money ensuring it is all well looked after for your use and reflection.

The December issue of Hurst Green News will be published on 30 November 2019. Please send material for that issue, including items for the diary, no later than FRIDAY 15 NOVEMBER 2019 to The Compiler: hgncompiler@gmail.com or 26 Orchard Way, Oxted, RH8 9DJ. The Compiler 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.
DEBT

Undeniably we live in an affluent part of the UK; however, many local people still struggle financially, facing hardship on a daily basis. We know that locally, people are struggling to secure local housing, stretching themselves beyond comfort, placing their financial security in a precarious position. Some people may think that avoiding debt is easy, it’s like weight management in reverse, simply don’t take out more than you put in. But there are many sets of circumstances that can lead to people being immersed in debt: illness, lack of budgeting, redundancy, separation, depression, a poor investment and bereavement - the list is endless. Some are within people’s control, whilst others are outside it.

For those who find themselves in debt, navigating a path through hardship can be an overwhelming challenge. When mounting charges and figures spiral out of control and attempts to reduce the impact can appear futile, it is easy to be defeated. Life can be overwhelming, everything overshadowed by looming overdue payments, the figure of which is insurmountable; it can feel as if all hope is lost. One major lending organisation is currently running a campaign to encourage people to talk about money. There is often a stigma attached to those in dept, which doesn’t encourage people to be honest and can leave people isolated, shouldering the burden on their own.

Although the Government has introduced a greater sense of accountability for lenders and financial institutions, with affordability assessments and clearer information about charges, I wonder what we can do to support those around us. We know that globally, nationally and locally, resources, wealth and opportunities are not evenly distributed and hopefully our awareness of this and our support of initiatives such as fair trade, local foodbanks and other charities are starting to close the chasm between those who have and those who do not have.

Although all are good practical ways to support those struggling with debt, I think our non-judgmental compassion to those in need is also invaluable. We never know what set of circumstances has delivered people to the point in their lives where we meet them, but with a greater openness and understanding of others’ challenges, we can build our community into a strong and supportive environment for everybody. Louise Kirk

Get your non-drop Nordman Christmas tree from Holland School and we can deliver to your door. The profit goes to the children of the school.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Price</th>
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<tr>
<td>100-150cm</td>
<td>£25</td>
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<tr>
<td>150-180cm</td>
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<tr>
<td>180-210cm</td>
<td>£39</td>
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Delivery to a 4 mile radius on 7 December is £5 and collection from Holland school at 8.30am on 7 December is free.

To place an order, please e-mail Kellykent@hotmail.co.uk and include your name, contact number, the size you would like, your address and collection from Holland school at 8.30am on 7 December is free.

Scouser meets Trim Trail

I need two complete hip replacements but in March this year I was told to lose weight before they would begin. I was struggling to walk. This was due to the hip pain but also because of that pain I had decreased mobility and my weight had rocketed over the past few years. Sat in the Consultant’s room I felt devastated and defeated; how could I lose weight when I couldn’t even walk from the lounge to the kitchen without being in absolute agony? I discovered the Trim Trail in Mill Lane at the end of April this year through my physio.

The Trim Trail and free exercise classes given by personal trainers who give of their time to help the residents of Hurst Green have been a God send. The first time I walked the trail I couldn’t even get a quarter of the way round with my walking stick, without having to stop through pain in both hips and back, breathlessness and exhaustion. Now I go every morning. I walk 5 laps and complete approximately one hour on the gym and take part in the free keep fit class. So far I have lost 3½ stone. Due to the material the trail is made of, I am able to do this with little discomfort. My fitness level has increased hugely; my pain level when walking and exercising has decreased hugely. I am absolutely loving exercising (never would I have thought that was even possible) which I could not do without the Trim Trail, I’m loving my new fitness and obviously well chuffed with my weight loss. I still need my hips replacing but they are no longer stopping me from living and working well.

There is a great sense of community down there also with all the people running, walking, and exercising all of different ages, it’s a great place to make new friends. If you haven’t been down yet to the Trim Trail I hugely recommend it. Revd Kathy

Richard Durrant's Candlelit Christmas Concert

Guitarist and composer Richard Durrant heralds the start of the Christmas season with singer Amy Kakoura and Nick Pym. Richard Durrant's Candlelit Christmas concerts have become a seasonal tradition eagerly awaited by music lovers across the UK. Tickets, £15 and £9 (under 18s) available at www.wegottickets.com or 01883 712893. The Concert is in aid of the St John’s Lighting Project.

Richard Durrant's Candlelit Christmas Concert Friday 6 December, 7.30pm at St John's Church with special guests Amy Kakoura and Nick Pym
Hurst Green News can also be read on www.stjohnshurstgreen.org.uk

These boots are made for walking… and enjoying the beauty of Autumn! Exploring on foot is a great way to experience this magical time of year. What could be more uplifting than the joy of kicking a path through crisp, autumnal leaves and enjoying the kaleidoscope of colour that Mother Nature offers us. Autumn is no time to hibernate – boost your feel-good hormones with a walk! What are you waiting for? Come and join us, a friendly group that enjoys talking whilst walking in the countryside, making new friends and having pub lunches. We also enjoy various social events throughout the year and organise holidays together, both in the UK and abroad. Each week we offer a selection of walks for different abilities, ranging from 3 - 12 miles. There’s bound to be one that suits you and you are welcome to walk with us on one or two occasions before you decide whether to join East Surrey Walkers. We’d love to have your company…

Some of our walks coming up in November…

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Distance</th>
<th>Details</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20 Nov</td>
<td>Wednesday 10am, Tatsfield</td>
<td>Leisurely 5 miles</td>
<td>Half price. Visitors welcome.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 Nov</td>
<td>Tuesday 10am, Oxted</td>
<td>Strenuous</td>
<td>£25, under 25s half price. More info: <a href="http://www.oxtedandlimpsfieldmusicsociety.org.uk">www.oxtedandlimpsfieldmusicsociety.org.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 Nov</td>
<td>Saturday 10am, Limpsfield</td>
<td>Leisurely 5 miles</td>
<td>Tickets £12 from any choir member or on the door, £3 entry on door.</td>
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<tr>
<td>14 Nov</td>
<td>Thursday 10am, Woldingham</td>
<td>Leisurely 5 miles</td>
<td>Moderate 9½ miles</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 Nov</td>
<td>Monday 10am, Warlingham</td>
<td>Easy</td>
<td>£3 entry on door.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Nov</td>
<td>Sunday 10am, Leith Hill</td>
<td>Moderate 9½ miles</td>
<td>Amble, Easy 3 miles</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 Nov</td>
<td>Monday 10am, Woldingham</td>
<td>Moderate 9½ miles</td>
<td>Leisurly 6 miles</td>
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<td>Leisurely 5 miles</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 Nov</td>
<td>Saturday 10am, Limpsfield Chart</td>
<td>Fast Fitness 3 miles</td>
<td>Strenuous, Fast Fitness 3½ miles</td>
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<tr>
<td>19 Nov</td>
<td>Tuesday 10am, Oxted</td>
<td>Moderate 10 miles</td>
<td>Leisurly 5½ miles</td>
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<tr>
<td>20 Nov</td>
<td>Wednesday 10am, Tatsfield</td>
<td>Moderate 10 miles</td>
<td>Leisurly 5½ miles</td>
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<tr>
<td>24 Nov</td>
<td>Sunday 10am, Woldingham</td>
<td>Moderate 10 miles</td>
<td>Leisurly 5½ miles</td>
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</tbody>
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Details of where to meet and our full programme are here: www.eastsurreywalkers.org.uk

Cancer Research UK
at the Bottle Store, Squerryes Winery, Beggars Lane, Westerham, TN16 10P
On Tuesday 5 November 6.30 - 8.30pm
CRUK Christmas cards, fresh produce, Christmas cakes and puddings, Christmas trees, olive oil from Olio di Piatello, and Squerryes sparkling wines. Entry is £10 (by advance ticket only) to include a glass of Squerryes and smoked salmon canapes. Tickets can be bought from debbieinne@hotmail.com.

On Wednesday 6 November 10.30am -1pm
Coffee morning and Christmas sale
Christmas cards, fresh produce, cakes and puddings, trees, olive oil and sparkling wines. £3 entry on door.

St Stephen’s CoE Primary School
Be the best you can be; the person God created you to be.
We look forward to welcoming you to our Open Day on Wednesday 20 November at 9.15am & 6.30pm
Address: Hunters Chase, South Godstone, Surrey RH9 8HR
Tel: 01342 892219 E-mail: Info@ststephens.surrey.sch.uk

St Agatha’s Hall
Booking Administrator
07586 863079 or aggieshall@gmail.com
stagathashall.weebly.com/contact.html

St John’s, Hurst Green
Sunday 17 November
Café Church band - crafts for children - creative ways of praying
For more info, call 01883 712674 or e-mail office@stjhurstgreen.co.uk

Come and join us for
COFFEE and a CHAT
Where? St John’s Room
St John’s Church
When? Fortnightly on Thursdays 7 and 21 November 10.30am - 12 midday
Need a lift? Ring Barbara, 715636

Families at Three
Join us for games, music, crafts and more! Drinks and snack are also provided. Please note that all children to be accompanied by an adult
Sunday 17 November, 3 - 4.30pm at Hurst Green Methodist Church
Hope to see you there!

Moor House School & College
www.moorhouseschool.co.uk
Leading specialist school for children with severe speech and language difficulties

Parents’ Open Morning
Wednesday 20 November 9.45 - 12.45
See what we can offer your child.
To reserve your place: 01883 712271 or info@moorhouseschool.co.uk

Oxted Area Artists Christmas Fair Saturday 23 November - free entry
10am - 3.30pm in Oxted Library

PARISH REGISTERS

Baptisms
We welcome into the family of God’s Church:
17 November Harvey Jones
23 November Jack Marshall

Funerals
Our sympathy goes to all their relatives and friends:
18 October Jim Shannon
St John’s Book of Remembrance
To have a name entered, please phone Diana on 712845.
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