

HURST GREEN NEWS

December 2022

A story of Faithfulness

Faithfulness means "steadfastness, firmness, fidelity." Faithfulness is not seen by many today as a virtue. Indeed, many people would view faithfulness as an old-fashioned concept, no longer relevant to our modern fast paced, everchanging lives.



Yet, on Sunday 4th of December at 16:30 we will be celebrating God's faithfulness. A hundred years ago a man made a generous offer of some land in Hurst Green to a group of people who had been using his laundry as a place of prayer. The land fronted the village green and quickly a tin building was erected. This "tin tabernacle" became a place of worship and prayer for many from the village.

From one man's faithfulness in serving God and sharing the blessings that he himself had received from God, many, many people would be blessed over the next hundred years.

Those who worshipped at the "Tin Tabernacle" have experienced many highs and many lows over the last hundred years. There are the happy times of children's clubs with the Church and Manse garden overrun with up to a hundred children. There were the desperate times when the "Tin Tabernacle" ran out of money and faced closing. There have been happy times with countless marriages, baptisms and parties in the Manse garden. There has been a time when the handful of those who remained to worship in the "Tin Tabernacle" looked around at their diminishing numbers and despaired over the future.

The one constant in the highs and lows of the last hundred years has been God's faithfulness. That is God's steadfastness, firmness, fidelity to bless His children with many blessings. Also, God's steadfastness, firmness, fidelity to walk with His children to protect and care for them when life is hard, and the storms of life are threatening to overwhelm them.

It is fair to say that all that has sustained those who worshiped together over the years on that plot of land is God's faithfulness, that is God's steadfast, firm, unchanging decision to lavish His love on them.

So, on Sunday 4th of December at 16:30 we will be celebrating God's faithfulness and saying thank you. Why not come along and join us!

I leave you with the words of the fantastic Hymn *Great is Thy faithfulness*:

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father
There is no shadow of turning with Thee
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not
As Thou hast been, Thou forever will be

Great is Thy faithfulness
Great is Thy faithfulness
Morning by morning new mercies I see
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me (US)

Keith Dickson, Pastor, Hurst Green Evangelical Church

'Follow the Star' Outdoor Nativity Saturday 17 December at 4pm

Starting at St Agatha's Hall, with a real donkey and actors/actresses, with refreshments afterwards.



The Great Invitation – encouraging everyone to share the joy of gathering together to celebrate the birth of Jesus with their family, friends and neighbours – especially after two years where this has been impossible for many. We hope that you can join us.



Christmas Community Brunch And Café Church Special

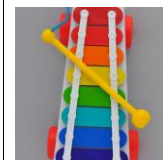
3rd Sunday of the month **18 December, 11am**



The Children's Society

Join us for a Community Brunch followed by a Café Church Special with carols, crafts and Christingles. Café Church is a relaxed, informal service for all ages, where children and adults can flow freely around the Church, enjoy crafts, learn more about faith and chat with friends over coffee.

There will be a collection for The Children's Society in this service.



Yo Yo's Toddler Group Christmas Party Wednesday 14 December 9.15-11.15am

The last session of the term, with party food, Christmas crafts and a story and songs in the Church to end.



Christmas Carols and Christmas Jumper night Wednesday 21 December, 7pm The Diamond Inn, Holland Road, Hurst Green RH8 9BQ

St John's Church and Friends will be there to lead you into song so put on your favourite Christmas attire and join in the fun!



St John's Christmas Carol Service Sunday 18 December, 5.30pm

Followed by mince pies and mulled wine with a collection for 'The Passage'.



We wish all our readers happiness and health for Christmas and the New Year. Thanks for your support and we look forward to sharing local news and events with you in 2023. If you would like to receive a digital copy of the HGN in 2023 please email hgncompiler@gmail.com.

The January issue of Hurst Green News will be published on 19 December 2022. Please send material for that issue, no later than FRIDAY 9 December 2022 to The Editor: hgncompiler@gmail.com - hard copies to The Vicarage, 14 Oast Road. 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 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 noon 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, CHURCH WAY

Rector: Anna Eltringham, 01883 712674,
14 Oast Road (day off - Monday)
Assistant Priest: Mary Seller, 01883 715675, 11 Home Park
Curate: Lotwina Farodoye, 07553 305087
Southwark Pastoral Auxiliary:
Monica Fenton, 01883 715769
www.stjohnshurstgreen.org.uk

HURST GREEN EVANGELICAL CHURCH

Pastor: Keith Dickson, 01883 712017,
Pastor@hgec.org.uk / www.hgec.org.uk

ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH OF OXTED & WARLINGHAM

All Saints' Church Chichele Road, Oxted, 01883 627762
St Ambrose Church Warren Park, Warlingham
Parish Priest Fr Stephen, 713776
www.oxtedandwarlinghamparish.org

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oxtedurc@gmail.com
Church Administrator:
Claire Harris, 01883 730406
www.oxtedurc.org.uk

East Surrey Walkers www.eastsurreywalkers.org.uk

An enjoyable walk in fresh air provides a perfect antidote to the excesses that many of us will indulge in during the festive season. ESW offer guided walks on various days. Please see our website where you will find a walk suitable for your ability and maybe help keep you fit.



Following the article on Sergei Stepniak I was grateful to receive information regarding the circumstances in which he and his wife came to be short term residents in Limpsfield. May I begin with a puzzle? What is the connection between Stepniak, a tortoise, a Roman General, Limpsfield and Scotland Yard? The answer is The Fabian Society. This is a British socialist organisation whose purpose is to advance the principles of democratic socialism and it was founded in 1895 at The London School of Economics. One of the founder members was Edward Pease. The Society was named in honour of the *Roman general Quintus Fabius Maximus Verrucosus*. His military tactic was to win conflict by wearing down the opposition as opposed to battle confrontation hence his nickname the *Cunctator*, meaning the Delayer. This chimes with the Fabian Society principle of non revolutionary change which is exemplified by their logo, a tortoise. In spite of his revolutionary history Stepniak joined the Fabian Society. In 1890 Stepniak founded the Society of Friends of Russian Freedom and Edward Pease became the Secretary. Pease lived in Limpsfield and it appears that he was the catalyst for The Stepniaks presence in the Limpsfield area. An interesting aside is that The Garnett family were also residents of Limpsfield and members of The Fabians. Stepniak assisted Constance Garnett in her translation of Russian works into English. Constance was the first person to translate the works of Tolstoy, Dostoevsky and Chekhov into English.

The Scotland Yard connection? Robert Fabian (Bob) was a well known and successful Scotland Yard detective.

Thanks to Tony Pearson, ESW member and Limpsfield resident, for his valuable contribution to this article. Tony occasionally leads interesting local history walks which are listed on the website. ESW wish you happy walking and an enjoyable festive season.

Stephen Hanks

Titsey & District Rotary Club Santa's back in Hurst Green!

Santa, Rudolph and the Titsey Rotary Elves will be back in Hurst Green and Holland on three evenings during December! Starting on Monday 12 December, Santa Claus and Rudolph will be touring the streets, playing festive songs, distributing sweets to the children and collecting cash for the charities that Titsey Rotary Club supports. (Most of these charities are local ones!)

You can see Santa and Rudolf on the following evenings between 5pm and 8pm – check local Facebook Groups for exact times:

Monday 12 December – Holland

5.00pm: Juniper Close/Bramble Close/Hollies, 5.30pm: Four Oaks, 5.45pm: Roseacre, 6.00pm: Meridian Sq, Barnfield Way, 7.00pm: Coldshott

Tuesday 13 December – Hurst Green

5.00pm: Pollards Oak Road/Pollards Oak Crescent
5.45pm: Chestnut Copse, The Greenway, 6.45pm: Pollards Oak Crescent

Monday 19 December – Hurst Green

5.15pm: Wolfs Wood (lower), 5.30pm: Hazelwood Road, Boulthurst Way, 6.15pm: Wolfs Wood (upper), 6.30pm: Home Park, Hazelwood Heights

Santa will be putting a TRACKER on Oxted Facebook page and the Titsey Rotary Club website www.titsey.org.uk so you can follow his route and listen out for Santa's bell too!

If Santa and his Sleigh aren't passing down your road, you can come and see Santa at Morrisons on Monday 19-Friday 23 December, between 10.00am and 4.00pm.

Thank you for supporting TITSEY ROTARY CLUB'S Santa's Sleigh Christmas Collection. THANK YOU to Morrisons, Waitrose and Sainsburys, who have provided the sweets – this allows us to channel even more money to charities and good causes.

PARISH REGISTERS

Funerals

Our sympathy goes to all their relatives and friends

3 November: John Lugton
8 November: Joan Matthews
11 November: Janet White
21 November: John Mills
24 November: Peter Tompkins
25 October: Shirley Barnett

St John's Book of Remembrance

To have a name entered,
emailoffice@stjhurstgreen.co.uk

POP-UP COMMUNITY HUB

EVERY THURSDAY
13:00 - 15:00

St Agatha's Hall,
Hurst Green

Air Ambulance Kent Surrey Sussex

Home Park Christmas Lights



For the 3rd year running there will be a special light show in Home Park in aid of charity. This year donations will go to KSS Air Ambulance and Last Chance Animal Rescue.

The light display, at numbers 74 and 76, will last 25 minutes and will take place every Friday and Saturday in December at 7pm. The show costs no more than £1.30 per show to run 8000 low voltage LED's. You can find out more information and how to donate at: www.facebook.com/HomeParkLightsOxted

Please note: The hosts ask that visitors do not block any driveways and please take home any rubbish with you.

Dates for your Diary 2022

2 December: Oxted Country Market, every Friday, Woodhouse Centre, Oxted, 9.30-11.30am, cakes & savouries, vegetables, eggs, crafts. To order in advance call 01883 623273
7 December: Yo Yo's playgroup, every Wednesday in term time, York Rooms, St John's, Church Way, Hurst Green, 9.15-11.15am
8 December: Pollards Oak WI, York Rooms, St John's Church, 7.45pm. Members' Christmas party. Jan Ward, 01883 712143
12 December: Tandridge Club for the Visually Impaired, 2nd & 4th Mondays, 2.45- 4.15pm, York Rooms, St John's Church: Contact: Carol Leach 01883 382031
14 December: Rhyme Time, every 2nd Wednesday of the month, 11am, Windmill Manor Care Home, 2 Fairviews, Hurst Green RH8 9BD
29 December: Tandridge Handicraft Society, End of term and Christmas cheer, Woodhouse Centre, Oxted. Contact: Jenny Beal (Chairman) 01883 620730

St Agatha's Hall

To enquire about booking, contact the

Booking Administrator:

07769 001796 or

aggieshall@gmail.com

or complete the form on the website:

**stagathashall.weebly.com/
contact.html**



Sunday 27 November

First Sunday of Advent

8.30am Said Eucharist

9.45am Parish Eucharist

6.30pm Advent Carol Service
at St Peter's, Tandridge

Sunday 4 December

Second Sunday of Advent

8.30am Said Eucharist

9.45am All Age Eucharist

Saturday 10 December

3pm Oxted Band Christmas Music
with carols

More details at www.oxtedband.co.uk

Sunday 11 December

Third Sunday of Advent

8.30am Said Eucharist

9.45am Parish Eucharist

Wednesday 14 December

9.15-11.15am Yo Yo's Christmas Party
The last session of the term, with party
food, Christmas crafts and story and
songs in the church to end.



Advent & Christmas at St John the Evangelist, Hurst Green

Saturday 17 December

4pm 'Follow the Star' outdoor nativity
starting at St Agatha's Hall, with
refreshments afterwards.

Sunday 18 December

Fourth Sunday of Advent

8.30am Said Eucharist

9.45am Parish Eucharist

11am Christmas Community Brunch and
Café Church Special with carols, crafts and
Christingles. With a collection for The
Children's Society.

The Children's Society

5.30pm Christmas Carol Service,
followed by mince pies and mulled wine.
With a collection for 'The Passage' who offer
services and accommodation to meet the
needs of homeless people on London streets.



Wednesday 21 December

4pm Christmas Carol Service at Windmill
Manor – come and join in!

7pm Carol singing at The Diamond Inn pub
with a bucket collection for charity.
Christmas Jumper night, so please dress
accordingly.



Saturday 24 December
Christmas Eve

3.30pm and 5pm Crib services

At these services we are supporting
Children's Hospital Pyjamas. Please donate
brand new pyjamas (newborn to 18 years) or
money (card reader available) for poorly
children in hospitals, hospices and
women's refuges.



9pm First Eucharist of Christmas
(‘midnight’)

Sunday 25 December

Christmas Day

8.30am Holy Eucharist

10am Eucharist for Christmas Day.
A family friendly service.

Hurst Green Evangelical Church services over Christmas

25 December 2022

Christmas Day Worship, 10am

01 January 2023

New Year's Day Worship, 11am

We will also be singing Christmas carols at Morrisons on 18 Dec at
11am, joining St John's for carols at Windmill Manor and The
Diamond Inn pub and for the live nativity at St Agatha's Hall.



Hurst Green Singers Christmas Concert

Local choir, Hurst Green Singers, will be performing
a Christmas concert on Sunday 11th December at
7pm in the Bawtree Hall, Hazelwood School, Limsfield RH8 0QU.

The varied programme of music will include Taylor Davis's 'Magnificat',
Randol Bass's 'Gloria' plus a selection of Christmas carols with some
audience participation.

The popular choir of approximately 65 singers will be conducted by its
music director, James M Meaders, accompanied by Alec Crowe with
soloist Laura Fowler.

Tickets are £15 from hurstgreensingers@gmail.com or on the door.
Wine and mince pies will be available to purchase after the
performance.

For further information, visit the website www.hurstgreensingers.co.uk



Choral Society Christmas Concert

Saturday 3 December, 5pm

United Reformed Church, Bluehouse Lane, RH8 0AA

Tickets £12, available on the door or on 01959 577749

www.olcs.org.uk

Why not join Westerham u3a?

www.westerhamu3a.org

Westerham u3a has members in Oxted & Hurst Green
as well as Westerham and Biggin Hill. In December we have our
usual Coffee Morning on Wednesday 7 December at 10.30am at
Westerham Hall, Quebec Avenue, which is a good opportunity to
come along and find out what u3a is all about. Then we have our pre-
booked Christmas lunch on 8 December, so the next open meeting is
on Thursday 12 January, 2pm at Westerham Hall when Pat Bryer will
be talking on the theme of A Woman of a Certain Age, a light-hearted
look at the ups and downs of life as we mature (physically, at least!),
told through comic verses and songs. These include poems and a
song by the wonderful Victoria Wood, as well as humorous verse by
Pam Ayres, Roald Dahl, A A Milne and Jenny Joseph.

The u3a movement has been learning, staying active and having fun
for 40 years, showcasing what it means to have a positive later life
for those who are no longer in full time employment.

Westerham u3a has a choice of over 40 different interest groups as
well as social events and outings. With over 300 members we are
fulfilling the u3a motto of Learn, Laugh and Live!



Mulled wine, mince pies & tennis at Hurst Green

Tennis Club, Mill Lane

Sunday 4 December, 11am-2pm

(juniors welcome between 10am-11am)

American tennis tournament with
prizes! For more information visit
our Facebook page

@HurstGreenTennisClub

or email hurstgreentc@gmail.com



Come and join us for COFFEE and a CHAT

**St John's Room
St John's Church**

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1st and 22nd December
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