Train of Thought

Many years ago at a church I attended, the monthly Church Magazine included a regular article called ‘Train of Thought’ written by a member of the congregation. Each month ‘Terry’ would offer his musings, which covered a myriad of different subjects, as he took his regular commute from East Croydon into London.

As I write I am sat in the waiting room at Clapham Junction. Due to Saturday engineering works, trains to East Croydon for my return to Hurst Green following a meeting are infrequent. I now have an enforced half an hour wait I would rather I didn’t have to endure, keen was I to get back in time to attend Hurst Green School’s wonderful Christmas Fair which I know finish at two.

However there is no other option but to sit and wait. Trains often impose on us the need to wait, to be patient, whether on a platform or in transit. So rather than get agitated and cross I have decided to take a deep breath and welcome what this unexpected half an hour brings. For starters the waiting room is quiet. Clearly more sensible people than I checked their National Rail app and took alternative routes. But six of us sit, at a distance from one another, in silence.

How often do we pause, to sit, be still and stop rushing onwards, onwards to the next thing we have to do? And also I write. I take the chance to do something I would have needed to do later today which will in fact give me another gift of time unexpectedly a few hours from now. Two unexpected gifts of time for the price of one perhaps?

As December starts we begin Advent, the season of waiting for Christmas and all we celebrate on that day… togetherness, gift, kindness, love. But rather than rush onwards, onwards agitated to get everything ready for the big day, might we find moments to pause and ponder what it is really all about and what is really important in this season? Some of you might even be bold enough to join the early Monday morning Advent Awakenings in Aggies hall at 6.25am to take some time out during the craziness to be still, prayerful and nurture our weary souls. As we wait this Advent, in ways that are either chosen or imposed, let us pause, take a deep breath and be ready to receive the gifts there might be for us from God or one another.

As my half an hour comes to an end the woman next to me begins to hum a gentle tune, others have entered the waiting room, some young boys laugh as they play a game on their phones and the lady on the tannoy announces my train. I am amazed how relaxed and content I now feel. How often do we pause, to sit, be still and stop rushing onwards, onwards aga

Follow the Star
Free event with mince pies

OUTDOOR NATIVITY
with a real donkey

Saturday 9 December
4pm at St Agatha's Hall

Children are invited to dress up if they wish as sheep, angels etc

Christmas Buffet
On Wednesday 13 December the annual Christmas buffet lunch will take place at Aggies-on-the-Green, the community coffee shop, from 12 noon.

Tickets (£10) are available each Wednesday at the coffee shop.

Carol Singing
at Hurst Green Station
Thursday 14 December
at 7.30pm

Get the festive season off to a musical start with Oxted Band and local churches.

A Creative Community event

Christmas Services
in Hurst Green

Full details are in the enclosed Christmas card.

Spiritual Spa Day: Saturday 13 January 2018, 9.15am at St John's Church

Fed up with the winter and craving some warmth? Exhau...
HURST GREEN CHURCHES WELCOME YOU

ST JOHN’S, CHURCH WAY
8am Holy Communion
9.30am Parish Eucharist
11.30am, 3rd Sunday Café Service, refreshments from 11am
12 noon Holy Communion, David Gresham House

Other services: details in church porch

Wednesday 12 noon Weekday Eucharist
Vicar: Anna Eltringham, 712674, 14 Oast Road (day off - Friday)
Assistant Priest: Mary Sellar - 715675, 11 Home Park
Southwark Pastoral Auxiliary: Monica Fenton - 715769

METHODIST CHURCH, HURSTLANDS
10.30am Morning Worship, Café Church 1st Sunday
4pm Messy Church - 4th Sunday of the month
Minister: Kathy Flynn - 01883 372096 (day off - Friday)

Please telephone any of these numbers for details of weekday worship and activities, to discuss baptism, marriage, or the arranging of a funeral, or if you want help in times of joy or sorrow.

EVANGELICAL CHURCH ON HURST GREEN
10.45am Family Worship
Pastors: Steven and Margaret Cox - 717510

ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH OF OXTED & WARLINGHAM
All Saints’ Church Chichele Road, Oxted - 627762
St Ambrose Church Warren Park, Warlingham
5.30pm Saturday First Mass of Sunday, All Saints’ Oxted
9am Sunday St Ambrose, Warlingham
11am Sunday All Saints’ Oxted
Parish Priest Fr Stephen - 713776

OXTED UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
The Church of the Peace of God
21 Bluehouse Lane, Oxted - 730406
oxtedurc@gmail.com
10am Sunday Service includes story-time for children, Junior Church, and communion monthly

Hurst Green and Holland Children’s Centre
Autumn is well underway now and the children have been having great fun at the Tuesday morning Stay and Play sessions exploring ‘Dear Zoo’ by Rod Campbell. This theme continued until mid November with many different zoo animals from the book running around the walls of the Centre! We have now started on Christmas activities. Sessions run from 9.30am to 11am on Tuesdays in term time. Come and join us to meet other mums, have a cup of tea/coffee, with a snack and drink for the children.

This year’s Stay and Play Christmas Party is on Tuesday 5 December 10 - 12 noon in the York Room at St John’s Church, Church Way. Tickets are £3 per child or £5 for 2 children (babies are free) and are on sale at the Centre.

Our Drop In Health Clinics are on Wednesday mornings from 9.30 - 10.45am when you can come and weigh your baby and talk to the Health Team. We also have a breastfeeding consultant at this session every week. Please note: no session on 27 December.

For further details of all the other services we provide visit our website: www.hurstgreenchildrencentre.co.uk. Contact us on: 01883 723496 or e-mail from the website. You can also now follow us on Facebook.

YO-YOs
York Rooms Youngsters, a friendly local playgroup for parents and carers with babies through to pre-school children.

Wednesdays 9.15 - 11.15am (term time only)
York Rooms, St John’s Church
Church Way, Hurst Green, RH8 9EA

Tea, coffee and cake plus snacks for the little ones. Discretionary donations only.

Last meeting 20 December, starting again 10 January 2018

More information call 01883 712674, email office@stjhurstdgre.co.uk or find us on Facebook and Twitter:

St Johns Hurst Green @AnnaRevd

Rhyme Time at Windmill Manor

There have been some interesting initiatives televised in recent months, combining residential care for older people and pre-school provision in one place. We thought we’d try something similar on a smaller scale here in Hurst Green.

Earlier this month, residents of Windmill Manor Dementia Care Home enjoyed a visit from local mums and their babies and toddlers for a Rhyme Time session, for all to join in singing everyone’s favourite nursery rhymes. The session was enjoyed by all, especially the dancing toddlers, and it was everyone’s favourite nursery rhymes. The session was

twice a week. Please note: no session on 27 December.

Christmas Tree Festival 2017
Oxted United Reformed Church, Bluehouse Lane
Wednesday 20th - Saturday 23rd December, 4 - 7pm

You are warmly invited to join us for this Fourth Festival. See all the decorated trees lit up in very subdued lighting, with Christmas Carols playing gently and hot mince pies and non-alcoholic mulled punch for refreshment, as we are about to celebrate the Birth of Jesus. The effect on a December evening just makes Christmas quite magical. There is also a Traidcraft stall. Admission £1 for adults (to support local charities and organisations) and £3 for 2 children (babies are free) and are.

For further details of all the other services we provide visit our website: www.hurstgreenchildrencentre.co.uk. Contact us on: 01883 723496 or e-mail from the website. You can also now follow us on Facebook.

Santa’s coming to town!

Starting on Monday 11 December, Santa Claus and Rudolph will tour Hurst Green, in their sleigh. They’ll visit as many children (and parents) as they can, helped by Santa’s elves (members of Titsey & District Rotary Club and friends) and Santa will give sweeties to the children while the elves collect loose change for charities supported by the Rotary Club. Santa hopes to visit the following streets in Hurst Green (times are approximate):

**Monday, 11 December**
5.30pm: Comforts Farm Ave (lower), Mill Shaw
5.45pm: Mill Lane, Warren Lane
6.15pm: Coldshott, Holland Lane, Bromford Close
7pm: Comforts Farm Avenue (upper), Orchard Way

**Tuesday, 12 December**
5.30pm: Holland Road (south of Holland Lane)
5.45pm: Barnfield Way, Meridian Square
6.15pm: Roseacre, Meadowlands
6.45pm: The Hollies, Juniper Close, Four Oaks

Check Oxted Facebook and the website www.titsey.org.uk in case the weather forces changes.

Nine Lessons and Carols

St John’s, Hurst Green
Sunday 17 December
at 5.30pm
following by mulled wine and mince pies

There will be a collection for the the Wi’am Center in Bethlehem, which helps to resolve conflict: www.alaslah.org
Dates for your Diary 2017
13 Dec Oxted and Limpsfield Floral Design Club, 1.30 for 2pm, St Peter's Hall, Limpsfield - AGM & talk, Wilf Cooper - Met Police dog handler. Competition - Your favourite hobby
14 Dec Pollards Oak WI, Methodist Hall, 7.45pm: Members' Christmas Party
18 Dec Tandridge Club for the Visually Impaired, 2.45pm, Methodist Hall - Christmas Entertainment, Hurst Green First School. Contact: Carol Leach, 01883 382031
5 Jan 10-12 Coffee Morning, Windmill Manor Care Home, 1st Friday of month, all welcome!

Hurst Green News can also be read on www.stjohnshurstgreen.org.uk

East Surrey Walkers
December Walks, all starting at 10am

*Fast Fitness walk
www.eastsurreywalkers.org.uk

Men in Sheds
The Woodhouse Centre is looking for retired men (or women) with an interest in DIY and woodwork to come and join our Men in Sheds group in Oxted. If you would like to learn or improve your woodwork skills in a friendly group environment, please pop into the Centre (Monday - Thursday 9.30am - 12.30pm) and talk to Dee Graham or Sarah Spires, or call us on 01883 715189.
We would also welcome anyone who has woodworking knowledge and would like to pass on their skills on a regular basis to our members. You can find us in Hoskins Road, Oxted, opposite Tandridge First School.

As with Madness
by Janet Lees
As with madness we prepare
For this festive time of year,
As we rush and count the days,
Advent passes in a haze,
For this festive time of year,
As we rush and count the days,

As with madness we collapse
In our armchairs to have naps,
As we eat too much and then
Fill our plates right up again,
As with madness we keep on
Trying to ignore your Son,
Timely God now takes a risk,
Trying to ignore your Son,

As with madness we weep
so it is every few weeks.
Tune: Dix
'The Lament'

PARISH REGISTERS
Holy Baptism
We welcome into the family of God’s Church:
26 Nov Ruby Kingshott
Maya Kingshott
St John’s Book of Remembrance
To have a name entered, please phone Diana on 712845.

HURST GREEN SINGERS
This year’s Christmas concert promises to be very special.
Michael Barlow, our conductor has led Hurst Green Singers for over 30 years and is standing down next summer making this his last Christmas concert with this choir.
We are performing Handel’s Messiah, with excellent soloists and organist Alec Crowe.
Sunday 10 December 7pm St John’s Church
Conductor: Michael Barlow
Organist: Alec Crowe
Soloists - Soprano: Anna Cavaliero
Mezzo-soprano: Anna Prowse
Tenor: Hiroshi Amako and Bass: Paul Grant
Tickets £10 from any choir member or hurstgreensingers@gmail.com or at the door.
www.hurstgreensingers.co.uk

Oxted Band’s Christmas Concert
Saturday 9 December, 3pm St John’s Church, Hurst Green
Christmas music and plenty of carols for an audience sing-along, featuring our Training Band.
You will still be home for Strictly Come Dancing in the evening!
Tickets, £5 for adults (children under 15 free) available on the door. Refreshments and mince pies served at the interval
More details at www.oxtedband.co.uk

Sing along Carols
(and Christmas Jumper Night)
at The Diamond Pub
Thursday 21 December, 7.30pm

Christmas Crib Services
St John’s, Hurst Green
Christmas Eve, 3.30 and 5pm (Sunday 24 December)

You are invited to bring a present wrapped and labelled, saying for what age (0 - 16 years) and sex the gift is appropriate.
No soft toys please.
This year gifts will be shared between Welcare (Strengthening Families) and East Surrey Domestic Abuse Services.
Children - please come dressed as shepherds, angels or kings to take part in the service.

St Agatha’s Hall
Booking Secretary
Marjorie Walker, 714492 or www.stjohnshurstgreen.org.uk/st-agathas-hall/make-an-enquiry

CAFÉ CHURCH
St John’s, Church Way
11 for 11.30am
Sunday 17 December
(3rd Sunday of every month)
A relaxed and informal service
Fresh coffee and croissants
~ Band ~ Crafts ~ For all ages ~
Hope to see you there!
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 December
10.30am - 12 midday
Need a lift? Ring Barbara, 715636

Age Concern Oxted, Limpsfield and District
Have you a few hours to spare to drive our minibus to take mature people shopping to Morrisons or to two lunch clubs, one in Oxted and the other in Caterham? We work on a rota system so it is every few weeks.
If you could help, please contact Ann Koelz 01883 715322

St John’s Room, Church Way
Sunday 17 December
4.30pm – 5pm
Join us for our Christmas Crib Services

Christmas Crib Services
St John’s, Hurst Green
Christmas Eve, 3.30 and 5pm
(Sunday 24 December)

You are invited to bring a present wrapped and labelled, saying for what age (0 - 16 years) and sex the gift is appropriate.
No soft toys please.
This year gifts will be shared between Welcare (Strengthening Families) and East Surrey Domestic Abuse Services.
Children - please come dressed as shepherds, angels or kings to take part in the service.

PARISH REGISTERS
Holy Baptism
We welcome into the family of God’s Church:
26 Nov Ruby Kingshott
Maya Kingshott
St John’s Book of Remembrance
To have a name entered, please phone Diana on 712845.