The Promise of New Life

They say that winter is one of the hardest times for people, well this winter has certainly been that. On a personal note, my little dog who moved here with me died in October. My tenant moved out of my property back home and has not left it in good repair. The church house, the oven broke, the heating broke and the shower flooded the office twice.

So why am I sharing all this with you? Life can throw at us stuff that is painful, hard and at times overwhelming. There may be moments where we feel as though it’s never going to end, but don’t give up. Just as winter gives way to spring, our pain, our sorrow give way to hope and even joy. The promise of new life is all around us in nature, in the plants shooting up, the trees and shrubs beginning to bud, the sun’s warmth beginning to break through and the days drawing out. As we continue through Lent, we look to the promise of new life that Easter brings. *The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.* John 1.5  Revd Kathy Flynn, Hurst Green Methodist Church

Are you good with roses?
The church grounds provide a lovely setting for St John’s and at their centre is a wonderful rose bed containing around 80 rose bushes. They provide a colourful display for many months of the year and are much admired.

We need some help with their pruning, feeding, weeding and deadheading. Is there anyone out there who could help us? Tools and training can be provided! If you are interested, please contact Roger Lugg 01883 717473.

Community Art Exhibition at St John’s Church

*Come and see the wonderful community art exhibition in St John’s Church which will be on display until Easter.*

The exhibition has been created by a number of the local schools, community groups and care homes and each of the fourteen works of art depicts a word which you may associate with Lent e.g. tears, fear, judgement, forgiveness and hope. We hope the display will help visitors connect their spiritual and emotional lives with the struggles we see in the world and in our lives today. The church is open every day during daylight hours and all are most welcome. Do come along!

Aggies the Community Coffee Shop

will be closed at Easter on 28 March and 4 April

Back for coffee/lunch on Wednesday 11 April at 10.30am

A Happy Easter to all our friends!

The Oxted United Charities

The Oxted United Charities receives money principally from the Henry Smith Charity (which dates from 1628) to be used to ‘relieve the hardship and distress’ of the ‘the poor and needy’ who live in the ancient civil parish of Oxted, that is, residents of Oxted and Hurst Green. We offer small grants to those in serious financial difficulty for essential items such as white goods, furniture, school uniforms, or help with utility, and other bills.

If you are experiencing financial problems and believe you fit our criteria, we might be able to help. Please contact: The Clerk to the Oxted United Charities, 9 Paddock Way, Oxted RH8 0LF.

Creative Community update

In the Station ticket office we continue to organise exhibitions of artwork by local children, young people and adults. The current display is by pupils at Holland Junior School. Their watercolour paintings of tropical scenes bring a bit of warmth at this chilly time of year.

Do take a look as you rush for your train.

Our charity bookshelf is popular with books given being swapped for donations to charity. So far £227.84 for St John’s Hospice and £188.31 for Breast Cancer Care have been raised.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed.

Bulbs planted by our volunteers during the last couple of years are coming up and our planter is looking colourful. Thanks to Hurst Green Gardening Club for their continued help with this.

At Hurst Green Community Centre our ‘Community Garden’ project continues. You may have noticed a few more improvements over the last few weeks - a very large storage container has been moved back to create a more useful space and a bin store installed. This was a real team effort with help from local tradesmen.

We organised green woodworking and willow weaving workshops for some of our volunteers including members of ‘Men in Sheds’ Oxted. They made benches, willow plant supports and butterflies that will all be installed in the community garden.

We are planning more creative and gardening activity as part of our ‘Community Garden’ project over the coming months, so do keep an eye out for details.

You can now follow us on Facebook! facebook.com/creativecommunityhurstgreen

If you would like to join in please get in touch at creativecommunity@btinternet.com.

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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)
Note: last meeting before Easter, 28 March
Back after Easter on Wednesday 18 April
York Rooms, St John’s Church
Church Way, Hurst Green, RH1 RH5
Tea, coffee and cake plus snacks for the little ones. Discretionary donations only.

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

Two opportunities to ask the big questions

1. **Alpha Course** - a globally renowned Christian Basics course where no question is a stupid question and no one claims to have all the answers. We are running a ‘try it and see’ introductory session (including meal) on Thursday 15 March at St John’s from 7.30pm.

   Do come and find out more; to register your interest email office@stjhurstgreen.co.uk or call 712674.

2. **Confirmation** - after Easter at St John’s we will be holding a series of sessions to explore the Christian Faith. Those involved may wish to proceed to Confirmation in June 2018 (but are under no pressure to do so). Children (10+) and adults who are interested should email office@stjhurstgreen.co.uk or call 712674.

Volunteering made simple with new online process

Tandridge Voluntary Action (TVA) is delighted to announce the launch of their new website www.tva.org.uk. This provides information and services to support local charities and communities, and incorporates a new online volunteer platform, Volunteer Plus, which enables potential volunteers to find suitable volunteering opportunities quickly and easily.

Anyone considering volunteering can visit the website and simply enter the type of volunteer work they are interested in, together with a radius in which they would be prepared to travel and they will be able to find information on the volunteering roles which fit their criteria. If any opportunities appeal, potential volunteers can then contact the TVA Volunteer Centre for additional information. Voluntary organisations can also register their volunteering vacancies.

Visit www.tva.org.uk to see if there is a voluntary role to suit you!

Was Sunday, 4 February a Special Day?

Well it was at St John’s, when seven children took communion for the first time, the culmination of a period of preparation before this special day. Not everyone who comes to church wishes to take communion, but these children, all aged seven plus and all part of Sunday school, had reached an enquiring stage. They were eager to know more about it and learn what it means and whether they would be able to become a communicant.

Anna, the Vicar, assisted by others, spent part of the time during Sunday mornings in preparation sessions for them. When you are only aged seven or eight it is a decision that needs to be very thoughtfully talked through and that is what they were able to do in the sessions. The children understood that it would be a serious and important step they would be taking, not something to be undertaken lightly. As a group they were able to exchange their own ideas and have their questions answered, technical terms were explained and their growing understanding was often revealed in the various ways they were asked to express themselves, in particular by making a model, drawing a picture, perhaps writing. They enjoyed being part of a group and sharing learning together.

When the special day arrived they sat in the front of the church with family and friends. When they stood in the chancel to take communion for the first time it was a significant moment for them. They felt welcomed by the church, part of the family of the church. They had been curious about the wine and at this young age they are encouraged to intincture the wafer in the wine, rather than taking a sip from the chalice. To celebrate they had all made cakes for everyone to share after the service. Yes, Sunday, 4 February was a special day for them and, of course, a day for everyone there to reflect on what communion is about.

Monica Fenton Southwark Pastoral Auxiliary

North Downs Community Orchestra Concert

Change of venue: The second anniversary concert will now take place on Sunday 25 March at 7pm in St John’s Church, Hurst Green (and not at Hazelwood School as previously advertised).

Tickets are on sale now at £5 (under 18s free) from any member of the orchestra or on the door.

Charity Concert, St Peter’s Church Tandridge

Saturday 17 March at 8pm

English Folk Singer Songwriter Kathryn Williams has released 14 studio albums, written and arranged for a multitude of artists, and was nominated for the 2000 Mercury Music Prize. Tickets, £18 and £9 (under 18s), can be purchased online at www.wegottickets.com or from 01883 714263.

In aid of Parkinson’s UK and St Peter’s Church, Tandridge
Hurst Green News can also be read on www.stjohnshurstgreen.org.uk

Rhyme Time at Windmill Manor
Following some recent initiatives about children keeping their local care homes young and fun, we thought we’d try setting up something here in Hurst Green, combining residential care for older people and pre-school provision in one place.

Back in November, residents of Windmill Manor Dementia Care Home enjoyed their first visit from local parents and their babies and toddlers for a Rhyme Time session, for all to join in singing everyone’s favourite nursery rhymes. Since then we have held ‘Rhyme Time’ once a month at Windmill Manor. Sessions are relaxed and include songs for both the young and old, led by Wendy Hewitt and her banjo! After all the singing and dancing we have time for a biscuit / snack and to chat to the other parents and little ones, residents and their carers.

Sessions take place at 3.30pm on the second Thursday of every month at Windmill Manor Care Home, off Holland Road. The next session will be on Thursday 8 March.

For more information or if you would like to come along with your pre-schooler/s, please contact Kelly: kellyvandenberg@hotmail.co.uk.

St John’s, Hurst Green MOTHERING SUNDAY
11 March at 9.30am
All age service with posies
Simnel Cake and sherry to share afterwards

Holland Junior School EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA!!
Saturday 24 March from 1pm
Come along for a “Cracking time” at the school's biggest annual fundraiser taking place at the school, filling classrooms, the school hall and playground with fun things for all ages.

Plenty of games - Arts & Crafts - Tea & Cakes - Hotdogs - Tombolas - Grand Raffle - Silent Auction and lots of EASTER FUN.

If you are a local business or organisation wishing to donate a prize to our very popular Raffle and Silent Auction, or you require further information, please contact johnandkath00@gmail.com

Moor House School & College
Leading specialist school for children with severe speech and language difficulties
Parents’ Open Morning Thursday 22 March, 9.45 - 12.45
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www.moorhouseschool.co.uk
Registered charity 311871

Holy Week and Easter Services, 25 March - 1 April 2018
St John’s Church
25th Palm Sunday
8am: Holy Eucharist
9.30am: Parish Eucharist with palm crosses and reading of the Passion, children welcome
8pm: Eucharist and Reflection, with music
26th Holy Monday
27th Holy Tuesday
28th Holy Wednesday
29th Maundy Thursday
30th Good Friday
31st Holy Saturday
1st April Easter Sunday
6.30am: Dawn Eucharist by St Agatha’s
8am: Holy Eucharist
9.30am: All age Eucharist
Hurst Green Methodist Church
29th Maundy Thursday
8pm: Communion, Revd Kathy Flynn
1st April Easter Sunday
10.30am: Café Church / Communion
Hurst Green Evangelical Church
28th (Wednesday)
1 April Easter Sunday
Passover Meal, all welcome, call 717510
10.45am: Easter celebration
Churches Together
30th Good Friday
12 noon: Walk of Witness, from Council Offices

St John’s Church Way
11 for 11.30am
Sunday 18 March
(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
8 and 22 March
10.30am - 12 midday

Need a lift? Ring Barbara, 715636

Hurst Green Methodist Church
Our next Messy Church is on Sunday 25 March, 4-6pm (4th Sunday of each month)
A free event for the whole family!
Children must be accompanied by an adult.

More info Shirley: 07747 497713

HOT CROSS BUNS!
On 29 March (Maundy Thursday) the Hurst Green churches will be giving away hot cross buns to early morning commuters at Hurst Green Station from 7am.

Oxted & Limpsfield Inner Wheel
Coffee Morning, White Hart Barn Godstone Saturday 10 March at 10.30am
Cakes, preserves & plants on sale in aid of the Purple Community fund. This gives work to very poor people in the Philippines who transform waste products such as ring pulls into handbags, to be sold worldwide.

Oxted and Limpsfield Music Society Concert Saturday 10 March at 8pm
Bawtree Concert Hall, Hazelwood School
Recent winners at the Wigmore Hall String Quartet Competition, the marvellous Piatti Quartet is in high demand worldwide.
The programme includes works by Frank Bridge, Ravel, Webern and Mendelssohn.
Tickets can be bought at the door or at www.eventbrite.co.uk: £20, under 25s FREE.
More information from www.oxtedandlimpsfieldmusicociety.co.uk
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