



HURST GREEN NEWS

April 2021

In the midst of death

In December I received the sweetest mini living Christmas tree in the post from a friend. It had cute lights and decorations to make and colour and looked lovely on the kitchen table. Even better, the blurb claimed it could be re-potted after Christmas and would be a slightly less mini Christmas tree next year to bring indoors.



Well, I've only just got round to re-potting it. It's sat outside in the porch waiting for its owner to be so inclined to do a bit of gardening but now it is in a much bigger pot. My experience of Christmas trees in pots in the past does not give me much hope. Currently the top looks quite lush, but the bottom branches are looking a little sad. So we will see.

A few weeks ago I heard someone describing that the best time to plant a bare sapling was the start of the winter. And one thing that does give me a seed of hope is that the person said if the tree is doing what it should be doing, it will look dead. There shouldn't be buds on it or signs of new growth until the spring, because in the winter all the work and effort is going into the roots. I remember a neighbour planting a new hazel hedge a few years back. And it is true. The little trees didn't look up to much with a few stray, brown leaves. But now a few years later it is a flourishing hedge.

We are coming to the end of Lent, and Easter is on the horizon. Jesus was crucified on a dead tree and laid to rest in a cold tomb. But out of sight, when family, friends and followers had given up hope; something was stirring, because God's love is just so strong. So much so that the living Jesus burst forth from the tomb in the early hours of a new day, heralding a new dawn for all humankind and a new life for those who believe and put their faith in him.

This last year we may have felt like a bit of a dead tree without much sign of new life. But is that really the case? This Lent, and in the months that preceded it, I am sure the beginnings of something new have been stirring deep within, even if you know it not, or even when life has been like death for some. I believe that is God's Holy Spirit at work that will bring about some kind of new birth in you in the months to come.

So keep your eyes open for hints that something new is coming to birth. Just as we see tiny shoots and buds of new beginnings at this time of year, what new idea, venture, relationship or chapter is starting to bud into life in you? And perhaps you could do a bit more than I have with my mini Christmas tree to nurture and care for yourself and whatever is at work within you, that it may blossom and flourish into something exciting and beautiful.

With Easter love, life and prayers,

*Revd Canon Anna Eltringham, Oxted Team Rector
St John's Hurst Green and St George's Crowhurst*



Hurst Green Village Fair

For obvious reasons, the Village Fair could not take place last year – the first time there hasn't been a Fair for over 40 years! At the time of writing, it is still uncertain as to whether there will be a Fair this year in September, but if it is to have a chance, the committee needs to start working on the idea now. And this is where they need your help. A few members of the committee are hoping to step down and they therefore need some new volunteers. Is this something you may be interested in? The Village Fair is a wonderful opportunity to showcase our community and everyone who works on it says how much they enjoy it.

If this is something you may be interested in, please email hgvfair@hotmail.co.uk or leave a message on our Facebook page.



Can you deliver some envelopes on your daily walk?

Subject to COVID restrictions at the time, we would like to re-instate the collection for Christian Aid - a truly worthwhile charity. The difference this year is that we are JUST DELIVERING ENVELOPES and NOT returning to knock on doors to collect.

Therefore, we need volunteers to walk the streets of Hurst Green popping envelopes through doors from 3 to 17 May. The envelopes will be in a box on the doorstep by St John's Church together with a list of roads, a pencil and how many each road needs. There will be collection points around Hurst Green.



So, if you can help, let me know or just open the box, tick a road and get walking.

Many thanks, Debbi Harris
[01883 730364](tel:01883730364) / harris540@btinternet.com

Rubbish and recycling changes

From 5 April the recycling, rubbish and food waste collection is changing. The cycle will stay the same, with one week recycling and the next week general household waste - and food waste will still be collected every week.

For most households, food waste will be collected on the same day as recycling or rubbish but by a separate vehicle. The day your bins are emptied may change. You can check this at www.tandridge.gov.uk/checkmybinday

HURST GREEN CHURCHES WELCOME YOU

St John's is open for private prayer on Sundays and Wednesdays from 10am to 4pm.
See below for future plans, including Holy Week and Easter. Please check websites for other churches.

ST JOHN'S, CHURCH WAY

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

ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH OF OXTED & WARLINGHAM

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

METHODIST CHURCH, HURSTLANDS

Minister Stephen Mares - 020 3719 4644

HURST GREEN EVANGELICAL CHURCH

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www.hgec.org.uk

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Minister: Graham Dadd, 07894 507467
www.oxtedurc.org.uk



Holy Week and Easter at St John's Church

We hope very much to be able to have a phased return to services at St John's in the coming weeks and our plans are described here, but we hope you understand that these may have to be altered at short notice.

During the various lockdowns, we have collaborated with other churches in the Oxted Team (St Mary's in Oxted, St Peter's in Tandridge and St George's in Crowhurst) to create innovative and engaging online services which we stream on YouTube (just enter 'St John's Hurst Green' in the search field and you will see some of our recent services). The services go live at 9.30am on a Sunday but you can catch up at any time. These online services are going to continue until mid-May, so please do join us if you would like.

Obviously, Easter is a very important part of the church year and last year we were in full lockdown and it felt very strange. This year, we are planning a number of events including:

Palm Sunday, 28 March: A box containing palm crosses will be available outside the church and we invite you to come along and help yourself to one.

Holy Week, 28 March - 4 April: The church will be open each day from 10am - 4pm for private prayer. There will be some artwork stationed around the church with prayer cards to enable you to reflect and pray. There will also be opportunities for daily prayer online during the week; please see our website or email office@stjhurstgreen.co.uk for details.

Maundy Thursday, 1 April, and Good Friday, 2 April: There will be short online reflections available via YouTube at 9.30am on these days. Please email office@stjhurstgreen.co.uk for the link (or just search on YouTube). They will be available to view at a later date should you wish.

Easter Day, 4 April: We are planning to hold an outdoor service in the grounds of St John's which will start at 10.30am. It will be short, but please bring a chair with you if you are not able to stand for half an hour or so. Parking may be restricted (so that we can safely space people in the grounds, so please walk if you can).

Some time after Easter, we hope to be able to resume our 8am Holy Communion service together with an outdoor service for all ages at 10.30am. And we hope to be able to return to indoor services at 9.30am from mid-May. Obviously, things can change at short notice, so please check our website www.stjohnshurstgreen.org.uk or email office@stjhurstgreen.co.uk for the latest developments.

Hurst Green Gardening Club

By now you may have realised that I know very little about gardening. For me, it is all about being in the garden - what you do there is secondary. The endless magazines and articles are prepared long before you can read them, so just pretend you are Prince Charles and the plants will tell you what they need and when. You are just the middle man. My enjoyment from moving potted plants into my reorganised front garden on a warm, spring-like day was somewhat spoilt by an overnight frost of minus 3 degrees. And, perhaps I was too hasty in removing the garden tap insulation.

Plants want to grow, so wait until the weeds are showing (I quite like celandines, the black leaf brazen hussy variety in particular). Keep your compost bags and full watering cans in a warm spot. You may like a cold bath, but your plants don't.

I have two compost bins of the plastic dustbin type. It takes our small household about a year to fill one with domestic stuff. Now that it is full, I have emptied the second bin which will now be ready for spreading. The contents of the first bin are then moved into the empty second bin, which will break up the partially rotted contents to be ready next year. I do much the same with the masses of oak leaves which cover my garden. If you know anyone who keeps pigs I will have lots of acorns in the autumn.

Last month, I mentioned the purple crocuses which were out around the village. I hope you may have seen some in your lockdown walks. Several of you ask me about them. So what has this to do with Rotary? In 1985 Rotary International Clubs throughout the world started a fundraising programme to eradicate Polio and they raised \$2.1 billion, with help from Bill Gates and others, to vaccinate children around the world. In 2020 Africa was declared polio free. There are still pockets in other countries, mainly those where armed conflict prevents access for humanitarian teams.

When each child is vaccinated, a purple mark is made on their finger as a record. Thus the purple crocuses planted by Rotary Clubs around the UK are a reminder of this significant achievement. *Brian Parrott*



HURST GREEN SINGERS

Hurst Green Singers will be hosting four choral sessions via Zoom after Easter.

We have a lovely programme of music which we will be singing that includes standards of the choral repertoire (Parry - I was Glad, My Soul, There is a Country; Stanford - Beati Quorum Via; Vaughan Williams - Linden Lea and Holst - Nunc Dimittis). These sessions will run like rehearsals in that our musical director will be teaching and conducting. Singers, however, will be on mute when singing because of the latency issues, but at least you don't have to worry that anyone can hear you!

We start on Tuesday 13 April at 8pm for four weeks and each session lasts approximately one hour. We can provide copies of the music for you either to print or use on your tablet. The cost for the four sessions is £10.

If you are interested in participating, please email hurstgreensingers@gmail.com for further details.

Crowhurst Almshouse Vacancy

A one bedroom, self-contained, single storey, terraced cottage suitable for single occupancy, is available from spring 2021 in Crowhurst, Lingfield. Applicants should either be living in the Parish of Crowhurst or surrounding Parishes or have links to the area. Unfortunately, the cottage is unsuitable for wheelchair users. It should be noted that the cottage is in a rural area with very limited public transport so the successful resident will need their own transport. It has a shared garden. Applicants must be able to live independently.

In the first instance, please contact the Clerk to the Trustees for an application form: crowhurstcharities@yahoo.com or in writing to 1 Brick Kiln Cottages, Crowhurst Lane End, Oxted RH8 9NT.

Applications will be reviewed and then suitable applicants will be called for interview with the Trustees.

The Woodhouse Centre



A Special General Meeting was held in February in which new Trustees and Officers were elected.

The centre will be celebrating its 50th anniversary this year and hopes to be able to put on several events once the pandemic restrictions are lifted. Details will be published in due course.

East Surrey Walkers



The restrictions in place at the time of writing still preclude ESW from implementing our walks programme. However,

the Government 'Road Map' gives us cause for optimism that our group walks will recommence in the near future.

We will publish details on our website www.eastsurreywalkers.org.uk

Request for articles

If you've ever fancied writing a short piece (say around 250 words - or shorter if that's too daunting) or a poem, we would love to hear from you. The subject is entirely up to you.

Send your article to

hgncompiler@gmail.com.

There is no deadline as we will use the articles as and when there is space.



PARISH REGISTERS

Funerals

Our sympathy goes to all their relatives and friends:

1 March Lilian Staples
30 March Marion Heasman

St John's Book of Remembrance

To have a name entered, please email office@stjhurstgreen.co.uk

Pollards Oak WI



Wow, we will be 70 years old in June! Pollards Oak are part of the Surrey Federation of WIs and were formed in 1951. Our home has always been in Hurst Green and just recently we have moved to lovely new premises, the York Rooms in St John's Church in Hurst Green. We are very much looking forward to meeting up again on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7.45pm when we are 'allowed'. Until that time we are embracing zoom with all that it entails. Our monthly meetings are on zoom as are our social meet-ups. And 'yes' dare I say 'we are getting very good at it'!

We are a lively, but warm and caring group of women with a wide variety of age ranges and interests. Our aim is to provide a group that meets to hear interesting speakers and demonstrators, socialise and have outings. We were very close to finalising an outing to 'Beyond the Seams', a look behind the scenes at the costume Studios of Strictly Come Dancing. Sadly the Covid pandemic cancelled that. Maybe again in the future. We have additional small groups who meet for theatre trips, dining out, books, scrabble and craft.

Visitors and new members are always welcome to join us at any meeting. If you have been thinking about it, why not contact me, Carole Wade, 01883 713867 / 07961 486853 or Jan Ward, 01883 712143 / 07776 310093, Treasurer. It would be nice to meet you.
Carole Wade President

Why I belong to WI

I do not bake, I don't make jam
Can't remember the words to 'Jerusalem'
I'm not too fond of drinking tea -
More a glass of wine or a coffee for me.
So what am I doing in WI?

For growing plants I have no skill.
My knitting needles have long lain still.
I couldn't invite you round to sup -
I don't own a single china cup!
So what am I doing in WI?

My image of what I ought to be,
And be able to do, was all wrong you see.
I don't fit the stereotypical frame
Of a busy and talented domestic dame.
So what am I doing in WI?

I love the camaraderie,
The warmth and laughter, the company,
The underlying caring shown
For one another. How I've grown
To love being part of WI!

I enjoy hearing speakers on topics various.
Some are informative, others hilarious
I enjoy being one of the 'ladies who lunch'
I've made lots of friends so thanks a bunch
For welcoming me to WI.

So if you're a lady like me out there
Who thinks WI is not for her,
Just give it a try and you will see
That it's well worthwhile and then, like me,
You'll know what you're doing in WI.

Watery walks



Whilst our local rivers would not interest the kayaker, the walker can find a number of delightful brooks that will not fail to entrance, especially in late spring and summer. Here are five of my favourites, in reverse order. Each of these can be incorporated into a longer walk.

5. Crooked River and Kent Brook

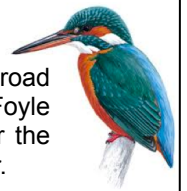
How many know that we have the splendidly named Crooked River on our doorstep? On the road to Moat Farm from Grants Lane, take the footpath south towards Stockenden Farm and in 600 metres you arrive at a bridge and ford crossing Crooked River. You can continue for a 3-mile circular walk taking in the beautiful Stockenden Farm, across Crooked River again at Couldens Farm and then crossing the county boundary as you pass over Kent Brook on the path to Guildables Park Farm. Then head north towards Trevereux, crossing Kent Brook once more before turning west and passing Moat Farm back to your starting point.

4. The River Eden between Foyle Farm and Pound Farm, Crowhurst

Take the ancient farm track that heads south from Foyle Farm towards Crowhurst. After the track comes to an end you enter a field where a bridge crosses the River Eden now faster moving and with delightful sandy banks. A perfect spot for a summer picnic.

3. The River Eden between Popes Lane and Foyle Farm

Just over half a mile from Merle Common along Popes Lane as the road turns sharp right, a footpath on your left takes you south towards Foyle Farm. Hidden in the far corner of the large field is a footbridge over the River Eden at a spot full of wild flowers where you may spot a kingfisher.



2. The River Eden on the footpath between Bombers and Oldhouse Farms

Splendidly remote and as far from roads as it is possible to be in our area. The nearest parking of sorts is at Crowhurst church, one mile away. An idyllic spot in summer.

1. Gibbs Brook, Tandridge

My favourite is also one of the most accessible. Walk south from Tandridge village passing the school on your right. Just behind the village sign you will find a footpath on your right. Follow this for 200 metres into a quiet copse where a footbridge crosses Gibbs Brook. A perfect place to spend a lazy summer afternoon with a good book and the water passing underneath your feet.
Michael Harman

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