



HURST GREEN NEWS

June 2021

Making a Difference

In April 2020 we were led to Hurst Green. If you'd asked us in 2018, 'Where will you be in two years' time?', I believe we would have said 'still in Cornwall and enjoying life. We love living in Penzance/Newlyn and certainly will never leave' - it was home and we loved it. Someone once told me 'God has a sense of humour. Never say you will never do something'. O that is so true! So to cut a long story short, our hearts were changed and here we are.

The position of Pastor at Hurst Green Evangelical Church appeared on the computer screen whilst Keith was on a telephone call. After looking a little more closely he decided to investigate further. From that moment everything seemed to fall into place with ease and we finally left Cornwall at the start of April at the beginning of lockdown. We certainly had no idea of what lay in store ahead; it has been very interesting to say the least.

As I write this we are still in lockdown, hopefully being lifted on 21 June if safe. We have now lived here for nearly 15 months in one form of lockdown or another. It is very easy to look at the negatives of this past year. Our freedoms have been curtailed, a lack of social interaction, loneliness, sadness etc. and of course generally missing what was. Everything has certainly been turned upside down this past year!

Charles Dickens could have said this about the last 15 months: *'It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of light, it was the season of darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair.'*

Though there have been many negatives, I would suggest that there have also been far more positives. We just need to look around and see the kindness and love that has been shown, how communities have come together to help one another. In the book of 1 Corinthians chapter 13 it says: *'Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.'*

I pray that when lockdown is lifted and normality returns, whatever that might be, we will remember to love one another and make a difference to someone else's life.

Gillian Dickson, Hurst Green Evangelical Church



Coffee Shop at Hurst Green Station

Those of you who are in the habit of catching the train from Hurst Green will have noticed that the coffee shop on platform one re-opened in mid-April. My wife Lorna, our son Will and I had been looking for an opportunity to start a small, family-run coffee shop ever since Lorna completed her Barista training in 2020.

After several fruitless enquiries, we received a call from the railway authorities in February advising us that a suitable unit had become available at Hurst Green.

The three of us made the short journey from our home in Purley to have a look and decided on the spot to take it.

We decided to call our new venture Track¹ then spent a couple of months refurbishing the room before finally opening our doors - actually more of a hatch - to the public on 12 April.



Within a few days, we knew that we had made the right choice. Everyone was incredibly friendly and welcoming, from Warren's station staff and the commuters, to the people of Hurst Green who regularly popped in to introduce themselves and wish us well. If you would like to come along and say hello, you'd be very welcome. *Jon Stubley*



St John's, Hurst Green: now a referral agency for Trussell Trust Food Banks

Are you, or is anyone you know, presently struggling to provide food for yourself and / or your family? Well you are not alone, because according to the Trussell Trust, food poverty now affects millions across the UK and continues to rise, exacerbated by the difficult economic climate created by the pandemic.

For this reason, St John the Evangelist, Hurst Green has recently become a Referral Agency for the Trussell Trust. This means St John's can now issue those in crisis with an Electronic food voucher for emergency food, which can be redeemed from any Trussell Trust foodbank including those

at Caterham and East Grinstead. Furthermore, from Wednesday 23 June, by which time we hope that Covid restrictions have been lifted, those with emergency food requirements will be able to collect their food parcels from St Agatha's on the Green, Hurst Green on Wednesdays between 11am and 2pm by prior arrangement, where you will be welcomed with a cup of tea and a friendly face.

Should you require an emergency foodbank voucher presently, please email Oxted Team Ministry Curate Reverend Lotwina Farodoye (Tuesdays to Thursdays between 9am and 4pm) who will take some details from you and email you an emergency food voucher, providing you meet the existing Trussell Trust criteria. Reverend Lotwina's email address is: lotwina@stjhurstgreen.co.uk

HURST GREEN CHURCHES WELCOME YOU

St John's is open for private prayer on Sundays and Wednesdays from 10am to 4pm. From Sunday 6 June there will be services of Holy Communion in the church at 8.30am (said) and 9.45am (with music, but no congregational singing).

For updates and the latest information on all services and events, please check church websites given below.

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

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

OXTED UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

The Church of the Peace of God

21 Bluehouse Lane, Oxted, 730406

oxtedurc@gmail.com

Minister: Graham Dadd, 07894 507467

www.oxtedurc.org.uk

Brand New Job Club Launching Soon!

Have you been searching for a job but to no avail? Do not worry, help is at hand with a new job club launching in June within the Oxted District organised jointly by Churches Together Oxted District (CTOD) and Titsey Rotary Club. As a member of the job club, you will be able to receive one to one mentoring from an experienced job club volunteer and also access small group seminars that will keep you motivated during your search for employment. Both the one to one mentoring and seminars are designed to help you to:

- Overcome the disappointment of being out of work
- Determine career direction based on personal strengths and preferences
- Research relevant sectors/companies
- Complete CV and job applications
- Prepare for job interviews
- Prepare for effective networking
- Negotiate job offers



For more information about how to join this free job club, please contact Richard Piskorz at jobcluboxteddistrict@gmail.com



Hurst Green Scout Group needs your help!

Scouting offers fun, challenge and everyday adventure to 400,000 boys and girls in the UK. But it's about fun & friendships for adults too! We run thriving Scout (aged 10-14) and Cub (aged 8-10) groups from our Scout Hut at Holland Sports Ground, Mill Lane, Hurst Green.

Can you help out? If you are a parent or any other local adult with some time to give, please do ask about helping us out. Demand for places is very heavy and greater than the capacity we have. The only way to **guarantee** your youngster can join us is to actively support the running of the Scout Group by becoming a uniformed Scouter.

We urgently require support for our one and only Cub Pack leader and we are looking to re-establish our Beaver Pack for local 6-8 year olds. We are really struggling to ensure the viability of this group without additional leaders and we don't want to let our local youngsters down. Volunteers are fully supported by a well established leadership team.

As lockdown eases and we restart our Scouting programs, there's no better time to get involved. Volunteering with us is easy, fun and flexible - how much time you give is completely up to you. If you are interested in joining us, please contact: Jane Hilson, Hurst Green Scout Leader: jdhilson@btinternet.com or Stephen Helm, Hurst Green Scouts Executive Committee Chair: sjwhelm@gmail.com



The Countryside Code

We've recently published some details of walks and, of course, East Surrey Walkers regularly contribute articles which encourage us all to walk. The Countryside Code has been updated recently and as many more of us are enjoying the local countryside, we thought it might be useful to include a summary:

Respect everyone

- Be considerate to those living in, working in and enjoying the countryside
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Do not block access to gateways or driveways when parking
- Be nice, say hello, share the space
- Follow local signs and keep to marked paths unless wider access is available

Protect the environment

- Take your litter home; leave no trace of your visit
- Take care with BBQs and do not light fires
- Always keep dogs under control and in sight
- Dog poo: bag it and bin it - any public waste bin will do
- Care for nature; do not cause damage or disturbance

Enjoy the outdoors

- Check your route and local conditions
- Plan your adventure; know what to expect and what you can do
- Enjoy your visit, have fun, make a memory

Know the signs and symbols of the countryside

- In some cases, additional higher rights of access or permissive access could exist.



East Surrey Walkers

Our programme of walks recommenced on 1 May. The current programme covers the period until the end of June. Please remember at present it is necessary to book on walks; booking opens a week in advance of the walk date.

Walk leaders are currently preparing the next walks programme for the period July - September. Our walks cater for all, ranging from ambles to strenuous.

Details of current walks and how to book are on our website: www.eastsurreywalkers.org.uk Please keep a look out for the new programme which will be published in late June.



Appeal for more LINK Drivers & Telephone Volunteers

Now Covid vaccinations are well underway, LINK, Oxted's Community Care Scheme, is seeking to recruit extra volunteer drivers to drive people, unable to access public transport in the RH8 area, to the local Health Centre and East Surrey Hospital appointments. Additional telephone volunteers are also needed to man their home phones on a rota basis on weekdays and Saturdays, to handle requests for transport.

Operations should start from late June. Since March 2020 LINK has been unable to operate and a number of previous volunteers have retired. A mileage allowance and extra telephone and parking costs are reimbursed. To volunteer, please phone Angela Williams 01883 714618, Derek Oakey 0188716735, or e-mail linkoxted3@gmail.com.





Hurst Green Gardening Club

By the time you read this, I will have picked my first few sticks of rhubarb. After a prolonged dry spell, at last we have some rain and everything is playing catch up. It is a pity I cannot do the same!

Planting in my very small space for veggies has been delayed, but by choosing seeds for the season, and planting at intervals of several weeks I can manage some sort of staggered production. For me, it's more a fun thing to pick each day for my modest needs. If you are lucky to have a large veggie patch or an allotment, the principle of staggering your sowing still applies if you hope to avoid a glut of one vegetable.

For those of you who discovered our Garden Club plant sale on 22 May, thank you for your support. After spending some time trying to set it up, it all became a last minute rush, but it was a chance to meet up after such a long time. We can now review our programme for the rest of 2021; watch out for more news.

In the meantime it looks like the Hurst Green Village Fair will resume in September, thanks to some dedicated folk. These events take a lot of work, so help in any way you can to help reconnect our Community. Nothing happens unless someone does it.

Brian Parrott

Hurst Green Village Fair - Hold the Date!

Following last year's cancellation of the village fair, the committee is working hard to ensure one takes place later this year, Covid restrictions permitting. The expected date is **Saturday 25 September**, from 1 - 4pm, so please put this in your diary. As usual, we're hoping to have live music and dance, a licensed bar, and Aggies will be selling their wonderful home baked cakes alongside teas and coffees. The ice cream van will also be there!

The Fair always showcases local charities and voluntary organisations, as well as local people who have been working on hobbies and crafting etc. If you would like a stall at this year's Fair to show us what you've been doing during lockdown, please email hgvfair@hotmail.co.uk. We still have spaces available starting at only £15 for the whole afternoon. Initial applications close on 31 May, so book early.

The Fair is always a fantastic community event to mark the end of summer. Let's all make it one to remember!



Art Exhibition

Artists from all over the South East will be opening their studios for three weeks in June. This will be our first year taking part and we will be exhibiting in a Covid safe garden studio. There will be a selection of artwork on display and for sale including patchwork, decorative ceramics, fabric art, etching and prints, handmade bags, fabric necklaces and bracelets and greeting cards.

We will be open from 10am to 5pm on the following dates: 5 & 6 June; 11, 12 & 13 June and 18, 19 & 20 June at 41 Chestnut Copse, Hurst Green RH8 0JJ. For more information and to see other studios that will be open, please check out www.artinjune.org. We look forward to seeing you. *Robert Moroney*

Fundraising Sale

In aid of the Mavis House Orphanage in Zimbabwe on **Saturday 19 June** from 10am to 2pm in the Evangelical Church car park, just off the village green

You will be able to buy plants, cakes, marmalades, pashminas from Nepal and T shirts ranging in size from baby to adult.

There may be other things too but these have not been confirmed at the time of writing. Hope to see you there.

St Agatha's Hall

To enquire about booking, contact the **Booking Administrator:**
07586 863079 or
aggieshall@gmail.com
or complete the form on the website:
stagathashall.weebly.com/contact.html

Track¹ Cafe - Hurst Green Station

Freshly ground coffee, a selection of teas, cold drinks and other snacks

We are open 0540-1400, Mon - Fri and 0900-1400 on Sundays.

The platform gate is always open so just pop in!

Facebook: Track1

Instagram: Track1_Hurst_Green

Email: jonathanstubble@yahoo.com

Moor House School & College

Leading specialist school for children with speech and language difficulties



Parents' Open Morning

Via Zoom

Friday 18 June
10am - 12.30pm

To reserve your place, please phone 01883 712271 or email: kearonv@moorhouseschool.co.uk
www.moorhouseschool.co.uk

Illyria presents 'The Further Adventures of Doctor Dolittle'

by Hugh Lofting, on Friday 2 July at 7pm
at Moor House School & College, RH8 9AQ

Gates open at 6pm. Performance approx. 1hr 40min (incl 20 minute interval)

Following the phenomenal success of 2018's tour of The Adventures of Doctor Dolittle, Illyria is delving back into Hugh Lofting's amazing stories to bring you a brand new musical adaptation of the Doctor's FURTHER adventures with Jip the Dog, Dab the Duck, Gub the Pig and Polynesia the Parrot.



Where in the world will they go? Will they even stay on this world?! Which new animals will they help along the way? Find out in a show that features a fully orchestrated score, amazing puppets and a plethora of songs that our audiences will be singing along to for years to come.

Seating is on the grass in front of the stage and customers are advised to bring low-backed chairs or rugs to sit on. Performances will take place in all weather conditions so please prepare for any eventuality. Picnics are welcome and there will be a bar at the venue serving confectionery, drinks and a BBQ. Parking on site is limited - please share, come by foot or use public transport where possible.

Family fun for ages 5+ Adult: £12.50; 65+ & Under 16s: £10; Family of 4: £40
Book tickets at <https://www.moorhouseschool.co.uk/events>

PARISH REGISTERS

Baptisms

We welcome into the family of God's Church:

12 June Clara Rosalie Wynne

Funerals

Our sympathy goes to all their relatives and friends:

15 April Frank West
(Interment of ashes)

5 May Susan Steptoe
28 May Roger Hinton

St John's Book of Remembrance

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

Hurst Green Community Centre: www.hgcc-surrey.org.uk

We have an exciting opportunity to obtain some public funding for our community centre and we therefore need your views on the use of the building. All are invited to our Annual General Meeting on **Monday 28 June at 8pm**.

Email lisa@hgcc-surrey.org.uk or phone 07504 104084 to reserve a place at the meeting. We can't yet be certain where the meeting will be, as this depends on numbers and, of course, Covid restrictions. It will be in the hall itself (in Oak Close behind the parade of shops), in the newly landscaped garden, or possibly via Zoom.

Please feel free to contact me for further information. We want our community centre to be at the heart of our community and we want you to have your say about its use in the years ahead.

Carmen Lambert Singer, Chair of Trustees for HGCC
07815 074236 or Carmen@hgcc-surrey.org.uk

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