

NEWSLETTER - OCTOBER 2021

St John the Evangelist, Hurst Green

Welcome All | Deepen Faith | Inspire Action

Welcome to St John's!

Welcome to our October newsletter which provides details about our activities to any visiting the church and to those at home who are not on email. For everyone else this is an extra which supplements the information in the weekly email. I hope you enjoy this little snapshot into our life at St John's.

A few updates. We had a wonderful All-Age service at the start of September - it was great to see so many children back. At the Climate Change service on the 3rd Sunday Mary helped us respond to current challenges in the context of our Faith, and as an experiment we invited older children to be involved in the service, in place of Sunday School, which went really well. St John's lost the cricket match...just. But as always it was a wonderful community and Oxted Team event, even when it drizzled!

We now begin our journey into a season of remembering which may have new nuances for us this year. All Souls and Remembrance Sunday will soon be upon us and details for how you can remember loved ones who have died at the All Souls service are in this newsletter. A season of remembering reminds us God never forgets. We can feel lost and forgotten sometimes - and perhaps there are also some that come to mind who we have forgotten - but like the parables of the lost sheep or the lost coin, Jesus will do anything and everything until he finds us again and we find him.

This may be your first time at church for a long time, or you may be reading this as yet still to attend. Whatever your situation, you're not forgotten and God has a very special place for you in his heart. Do come to St John's any time to rest in him. With love and prayers, Revd Anna

Services this month

Sunday 3 October	8.30am: Said Eucharist 9.45am: Harvest Thanksgiving, All-Age Eucharist - <i>see separate notice</i>
Sunday 10 October	8.30am: Said Eucharist 9.45am: Parish Eucharist with Sunday School
Sunday 17 October	8.30am: Said Eucharist 9.45am: Parish Eucharist - <i>no Sunday School, but we hope our young people will take a bigger role in the service</i>
Sunday 24 October	8.30am: Said Eucharist 9.45am: Parish Eucharist with Sunday School
Sunday 31 October	8.30am: Said Eucharist 9.45am: Parish Eucharist 3.30pm: All Souls' Service - <i>more information overleaf</i> 6pm: Churches Together 5th Sunday Service, All Saints Oxted (time tbc)



Mid week Eucharist

PLEASE NOTE: We have moved our weekly Eucharist back to Wednesdays at 12 noon. It is a lovely quiet and reflective service which gives a helpful pause mid-week.


COFFEE and a CHAT


14 and 28 October, 10.30 - 12 noon
Fortnightly on Thursdays in St John's Room, St John's Church. Please come and join us!
If you need a lift, ring Barbara, 715636

The November Newsletter will be available on Sunday 31 October.

Please send anything to be included by Sunday 24 October to Janet Harman at office@stjhurstgreen.co.uk, or phone 715301 (and leave a message if I'm out!) Thank you.

St John's Notices

 facebook.com/stjohnshurstgreen

 twitter.com/AnnaRevd

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT: The PCC met on 13 September and seemed to cover a lot of ground! This was particularly in the 'Emerging from Covid' discussion. We are in an unsettling transitional period which has a strange tension. Perhaps we need to take a step back. People are unsure what to expect, how can we encourage them to return? The possibility of a healing service was discussed. Communication is now mainly online, but some missed the weekly pewsheets, particularly for the diary and pastoral updates. It felt right to stick with the new service times of 8.30 and 9.45am - but we won't change the notice boards yet! The church organ has already lasted longer than expected and is in serious need of attention. A detailed and exciting proposal for updating it, involving much recycling, is being prepared for the next PCC meeting. Volunteers are in very short supply in every area of church life. Progress is being made in recommitting St John's as a Fairtrade church.

ALL AGE HARVEST THANKSGIVING AT ST JOHN'S: on Sunday 3 October at 9.45am. This year there will be five stations around the church giving information about things we might buy through Send A Cow, to help the third world people, three of which also deal with climate change. Those chosen are: super strong, climate smart seeds; top notch trees; super stoves; chickens and goats. People will be invited to give money to whichever one they like best.

ALL SOULS' DAY SERVICE: St John's Church at 3.30pm on Sunday, 31 October, followed by tea and biscuits in St John's Room. We will remember by name all those from this parish known to us who have died during the last two years, and any other loved ones you would like to be remembered. You will be able to light a candle if you wish and place it in front of the altar. Names can be added to the list which will be on the table at the back of the church from Sunday 17 October until 11am on 31 October.

CHRISTIAN AID: The last Christian Aid event under the auspices of the Harrises occurred on 17 September. The gentlemen of the church were invited to an evening of loud music, darts and home brewed beer. Mrs Harris vacated the premises and went to the cinema to watch the film she wanted to in peace. She returned to find out that a splendid evening had been had by all - no darts, no table tennis (couldn't find the bats or balls), excellent sausages and bread and cheese, a warming fire pit and lots of beer and man-chat. An excellent £150 was raised, which, added to the usual May collection, brings the total in 2021 to £1,129. Appropriate warnings were made to the neighbours about the possible noise intrusion - they all switched their hearings aids off and no complaints have been received. *(We thank Debbi and Phil Harris for their magnificent achievements over the years in raising so much money for this cause, in most innovative ways.)*

DAVID GRESHAM HOUSE RESIDENTS have been delighted at the return of ministers from St John's to lead their communion service each Sunday at 12 noon.



Other Notices

ALPHA COURSE: Please join us for a meal, video and time for discussion if you've ever asked any big questions (like Why am I here? Do I have a purpose? Does God exist?) Thursdays at 7.30pm from 23 September at a home in Oxted. Sign up at stmaryoxted.stpetertandridge@gmail.com

HARVEST CELEBRATIONS: St Mary's, Tatsfield, on Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd October - 'All Good Gifts Around Us', with display of harvest flowers, produce and art. The Church is open Saturday 9am-5pm and Sunday 11am-5pm; refreshments in the Millennium Hall 3pm-5pm. At 5pm on Sunday there is a reflective service of prayer, scripture & music for God's creation with the St Ambrose Singers from Warlingham.

QUIZ NIGHT IN HURST GREEN: Friday 8 October at 7.30pm in Hurst Green Community Centre (behind the Pollards oak shops) organised by Oxted Rotary Club. You are welcome to bring your own food and drink. There is a maximum of six in any team and profits will go to Oxted Rotary Charities. For tickets (£5) contact John on 07711 306543 or Neil on 07808 078570.

SOUTHWARK DIOCESE SPIRITUALITY DAY: Wells of Salvation, Saturday 9 October, 10am-1pm, Southwark Cathedral, £5. This morning of prayer, worship, reflection and restoration in many styles and traditions takes its inspiration from Isaiah 12:3: *'The Lord God is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation. With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.'* Tickets from spirituality-day.eventbrite.co.uk.

OXTED BAND plan to hold their Autumn Concert on Saturday 23 October at St John's Church, COVID and government restrictions permitting. Details will be circulated nearer the time, but in the meantime, please e-mail Ben to reserve tickets or register your interest in attending on engagements@oxtedband.co.uk as they will have to limit audience numbers in the church.

www.stjohnshurstgreen.org.uk

01883 712674 office@stjhurstgreen.co.uk


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