

HURST GREEN NEWS

November 2021

Autumnal Changes

Autumn is well and truly upon us. The days are slowly getting shorter, and the leaves on the trees are turning beautiful shades of orange, gold and brown. We often experience the sound and sensation of crunching leaves underfoot as we walk along. The landscape has changed considerably now that fields have been harvested, and although the sun's rays are weaker, every sunny day that makes an appearance lifts one's mood and brings a smile. How blessed we are to have four seasons, each bringing its own natural beauty for us to feast our eyes upon.



Seymour, a character in the BBC's long running comedy of yesteryear 'Last of the Summer Wine' at the beginning of an episode entitled 'The Really Masculine Purse' spoke well in the opening scene when, standing in the beautiful Yorkshire countryside, he questioned: 'I'd like to know how anyone could look at that view without asking, is there a power behind the universe?' Christians believe that the power behind the universe is our loving, kind, generous creator, Almighty God, who seeks to draw us close to him through his son Jesus Christ who died for our salvation, and his Holy Spirit who seeks to invigorate, lead, guide and comfort us in our daily lives.

As with each changing season that we are blessed to enjoy, let us remember that we too are changing, growing and evolving and can ask for God's help in all that this entails. As a community, we are richer for our collective experiences, our shared joys and pains, in addition to our individual joys, pains, growth and development.

Change is not always easy even when we know it is coming. The beauty of the autumnal landscapes sometimes comes with the turning up of the heating and the pressure of paying for increased heating bills, a burden for some. With the engaging sound of the crunching leaves underfoot that we enjoy during our autumn walks, sometimes comes the dreaded announcement that the train you are hoping to catch to that all important occasion is cancelled due to 'leaves on the line!'

Some changes that we may experience are major, perhaps moving into a retirement home after being independent for so long, moving away from a community that we know, love and have belonged to for years, arriving into a new community, apprehensive as to how it will go. Starting a new job or career, or losing one. Starting afresh from a broken relationship or journeying through a significant health issue.

These and other changes are all challenges that many of us are in the process of navigating. As we do this, let us believe that God by his Spirit is there for us all if we call on him, to strengthen us, help us, comfort us and guide us on our way, and when we reach out to him, grant us that special peace which transcends all understanding.



Reverend Lotwina Farodoje, Curate, Oxted Team Ministry

Hurst Green News needs YOU!

Firstly: Cathy Booth, Compiler of Hurst Green News, is stepping down at the end of the year and we are therefore looking for someone to take on this role. It takes around 10 - 12 hours per month and involves contacting people for articles, reviewing and editing submissions, as well as the final draft edition which is assembled by the Administrator. There is a small committee of people who help and support. It's a lovely way to get involved with the local community and promote local events. If you would like more details or to have a chat, please contact Cathy: hgncompiler@gmail.com or phone 01883 715748.

Secondly: Can you help deliver Hurst Green News to The Greenway? It doesn't necessarily have to be the whole road; we can divide it into sections to reduce the load if that helps. Any offers would be greatly appreciated. Please contact June Thompson on 716335.


Remembrance Sunday, 14 November

 Because of continuing Covid restrictions relating to large gatherings indoors, St John's will not have a Remembrance Service in church this year. Instead, there will be the usual short dedication service in the churchyard, during which there will be prayers, the names commemorated on the War Memorial and in St John's will be read out, the two minutes' silence will be observed, and wreaths will be laid around the wooden cross. We will gather in the churchyard for this service from 10.40am to start at 10.50am. Everyone is welcome to attend and we hope that many will join us to mark this important national occasion. Earlier, at 8.30am, there will be a said Holy Communion service in St John's. 

Advertising in Hurst Green News

Hurst Green News is a great way to advertise your business. Our newsletter reaches over 2,700 local households and is a useful 'go to' for the many services provided by local companies. From personal care services, home and garden maintenance to piano tuning, computer repairs, sewing tasks and removal services, our back page offers and displays a huge choice. Costs to advertise start at £10 per issue for a small Ad. To enquire further, email: hgnnewsad@gmail.com

All Souls' Day Service at St John's Church on Sunday, 31 October at 3.30pm

 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 remain on the table at the back of the church until 11am on 31 October. The service will be followed by tea and biscuits in St John's Room.

HURST GREEN CHURCHES WELCOME YOU

At St John's there are services of Holy Communion on Sundays at 8.30am (said) and 9.45am.

The 9.45am service is sung (service also available via Live Stream) - you are requested to wear a mask.

The church is open every day from 10am to 4pm. For updates and the latest information, please check websites below.

ST JOHN'S, CHURCH WAY

Rector: Anna Eltringham, 712674, 14 Oast Road
(day off - Monday)

Assistant Priest: Mary Seller, 715675, 11 Home Park

Curate: Lotwina Farodoye, lotwina@stjhurstgreen.co.uk

Southwark Pastoral Auxiliary:

Monica Fenton, 715769
www.stjohnshurstgreen.org.uk

HURST GREEN EVANGELICAL CHURCH

Pastor: Keith Dickson, 71201, Pastor@hgec.org.uk
www.hgec.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

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

Hurst Green Village Fair - a message from a resident

When I first moved to Hurst Green in the early 80s with a young child, in order to get to know people I volunteered to deliver the Hurst Green News, and also to help at the Community Centre playgroup stall at Hurst Green Fair. As the children grew, I graduated through the schools, Cubs, Scouts and now David Gresham House stalls at the fair.

The children are now men with families of their own, and my little granddaughter loved her first Hurst Green Fair this year. This Saturday was the best ever - it was so special, with the lifting of many Covid restrictions and, despite all the recent upheavals, it was wonderful to see so many people enjoying the many local organisations' stalls, music, sideshows, things to see in the sunshine and catching up with old friends in the happy atmosphere.

Thank you Hurst Green Fair Committee for all your hard work organising a great day for all the village. *Sally Miller*

Hurst Green Village Fair - a message from the organisers

This was the first year I took an active part in organising the fair and there were some nerves, but it is such an established event, and has been so well run in the past, that coming back after missing a year wasn't too onerous. This is due to the committee members who have been quietly getting on with it for several years: Geoff Booth, Jane Smith and up until last year, Sudarshan Soar. There was also a lot of work done by Catriona, who worked tirelessly on Facebook keeping everyone updated and well-informed about the fair and my partner Michael who worked really hard helping out with everything.

We had our regulars, with their arts and crafts, fun tombola stalls, games, penguins, plants, unrideable horses, bric-a-brac and interesting information stalls from local Hurst Green businesses and churches. Some couldn't make it this year such as the BBQ and Hops and Bubbles for a cheeky beverage, but our new pizza van from Stoked Eats and the local ice-cream van run by Enti took up the mantle and I don't think anyone missed a drink too much - there were plenty of tombolas to win a bottle or two on anyway!

I mustn't forget the team at Aggies who ran a fabulous and much needed Tea Room with lovely cakes and biscuits much of which were provided by Hurst Green residents, and, if I can be indulgent, my son William who helped out in the Tea Room for most of the day... I'm sure it wasn't JUST to sample the wares.

We had some new stalls this year, hand-made clothes and soft toys, ornaments and some rather scary looking Halloween decorations to mention a few, along with fantastic cupcakes and a newly run dog show courtesy of Sallipets, a rescue centre in Godstone and the Scouts with the edgy and exciting axe-throwing for all the thrill seekers. The puppet show and bouncy castle were excellent and provided great entertainment for the younger children. Bastet School of Dance and the Taekwondo displays were just brilliant and Oxted Band kept things lively with their rousing music. Even the weather came through in the end! Thank you to Fred Smith, Kate, Matt and Deb Shiner who also helped setting things up and getting things ready for the day and a massive cheer to everyone for coming along and making it such a great day.

Amanda and the Hurst Green Fair Committee

A Special Mention!

Shown below are Revd Anna Eltringham and Geoff Booth in front of the bouncy castle in the St John's on Sea area at the Village Fair, receiving a 'special mention' and small cup from the Fair organisers.



Hurst Green Gardening Club

The Hurst Green Fair was special to all of us, whether on a stall or just enjoying good company. Thanks to those who visited our stall to buy plants or just meet old friends or make new ones. Most of all a very big thank you to all the organisers who made it possible. I am sure that others may be encouraged to take part and help out next year.

As if that wasn't enough, we had our last speaker meeting for this year in October, and what a way to finish. Rosy Hardy of Hardy Garden Plants presented us with a collection of unusual plants for this season, giving tips and advice on how to plant and care for them. I learnt more in that hour from one of the top experts than from half a lifetime of my own efforts. We were also able to buy plants which was a bonus, as they are not likely to be found in most garden centres.

Our next and last meeting for 2021 will be our AGM on 10 November at Aggies Hall at 8pm. I am working on our programme for 2022 and I look forward to meeting new friends and old in January.

Brian Parrott, 01883 723916



The Friends of Holland School are back selling Christmas trees!

We have secured premium Christmas trees to be picked up from the school or delivered on 4 December. 100% of the profit goes to enriching the children's education. Prices are: 3-5ft £28; 5-6ft £35; 6-7ft £41 and 7-8ft £49.

More information from Kellykent@hotmail.co.uk

Dates for your Diary 2021

- 5 Nov ...and every Friday, Oxted Country Market, Woodhouse Centre, Oxted, 9.30-11.30am cakes & savouries, vegetables, eggs, crafts. Order in advance: 01883 623273
- 8 Nov Tandridge Club for the Visually Impaired, 2nd & 4th Mondays, 2.45- 4.15pm, York Rooms, St John's Church: Jon Fox sings. Contact: Carol Leach 01883 382031
- 10 Nov Hurst Green Gardening Club, St Agatha's Hall, 8pm: AGM - see separate article
- 11 Nov Pollards Oak WI, York Rooms, St John's Church, 7.30pm: Annual Meeting
More information from Jan Ward, 01883 712143
- 22 Nov Tandridge Club for the Visually Impaired (details above) General Knowledge Quiz
- 27 Nov Oxted & Limsfield Music Society Concert, Bawtree Hall, Wolfs Hill Oxted, RH8 0QU with pianist Samson Tsoy. More info at www.oxtedandlimpsfieldmusicsociety.org.uk

St Agatha's Hall

To enquire about booking, contact the
Booking Administrator:
07769 001796
(Please note new phone number)

or aggieshall@gmail.com

or complete the form on the website:
stagathashall.weebly.com/contact.html

Remembrance

One of my favourite comedienne is Sandi Toksvig. She is a fascinating woman and comes from a remarkable family. She is Danish and her father and most of the family were involved in running a resistance cell as the Nazis took over Denmark.

For the last 45 years, I have been involved with Remembrance Day services. One of the lesser known but remarkable stories comes from Denmark. When your country is occupied by foreign troops what do you do? As a nation, Denmark decided to ignore the occupation as much as possible. Their King went out each day for his daily bike ride around Copenhagen. This puzzled the Germans who asked who guarded the King? They were expecting troops, mounted escorts like we have for our Queen. They were told that all the Danes protect the King!

Denmark was lucky that for most of the time the occupying soldiers were either men over 50, or young lads out of school. For a long time they just existed side-by-side until the Nazis ordered all the Jews in Denmark to wear yellow stars. There were about 7,000 of them. The next day the King went out for a bike ride wearing a yellow star stitched to his jacket. Soon all the Danes began to do the same. Bishop Fuglsang-Damgaard had a letter read out in all his churches reminding everyone that Jesus was Jewish and no Christian could be involved in anything anti-Semitic.

Hitler was furious with the Danes so he sent in the Gestapo to take matters in hand. News got out that the following day the German army was going to round up all the Jews and intern them. So the night before, school children went around the towns taking down the Jewish names on door phones and replacing them with Danish names. All Jews were warned to leave their homes and move into the homes of their friends and neighbours. To cover the movement of the Jews out of Denmark they organised an enormous funeral procession that gradually picked up the Jews from their hiding places. At that point the German commandant Richard Canman ordered all his German coast guard ships to go into their naval base, thus allowing the Jews to be transported by over 300 fishing boats to neutral Sweden. The result was that fewer than 2% of the Danish Jews were found and arrested. Of the 7,000, 447 were sent to their deaths, and the rest escaped. At the end of the war the Jews returned to their homes to find them exactly as they left them. *Revd Charles Bradshaw*

Army Chaplains

I was very fortunate in the chaplains I served with in National Service in the early 1950s. I had been to Bagshot Park before joining up to register my interest in being ordained and that must have got passed down the line. Our chaplain in the 1st Battalion Queens Royal Regiment in Malaya was a lovely man, Peter Mallet, who went on to be Chaplain General much later. I have a feeling that he had gone down the mines at one stage to avoid military service, but this did not stop him being an excellent Padre(!) always with his charges, often in the jungle with us. After months of serving as a Platoon Commander on patrol, he arranged a break for me (a form of Retreat) on Blakang Mati island in the Singapore roads. This was led by Mark Green, later Bishop of Selby, I think. That was a hugely influential few days in my formation, in this idyllically beautiful spot, after all the sweat and tears and danger of life in the jungle and kampongs with my platoon. Only recently I learnt that the island had earlier been a Japanese POW camp, associated with atrocities. These were two outstanding men, who helped me at a crucial stage. *Revd Neville Jacobs*

St John's Harvest Appeal

St John's Church continued its 'new' tradition of celebrating the bounty of our Harvest by contributing money to help Third World families help themselves.

Instead of bringing harvest produce to church, the congregation raised a total of £1,115 in thanks to God for all that he gives us in every way, not only in our plenteous food supply. Through the charity, Send-a-Cow, this has purchased 27 chickens, 8 goats, 16 packs of climate smart super seeds, 8 top notch trees, and 9 super stoves for Third World families. The last items are specifically designed to combat climate change, so that important concern has been supported too. *Mary Seller*



Come and join us for COFFEE and a CHAT

St John's Room, St John's Church, fortnightly on
Thursdays 11 and 25 November, 10.30am - 12 noon
If you need a lift, ring Barbara on 715636



HURSTGREEN SINGERS

Hurst Green Singers will perform The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace by Karl Jenkins on Saturday 13 November 2021 at 7.30pm in the Bawtree Hall, Hazelwood School, Wolfs Hill, Limsfield RH8 0QU. Dr James Meaders will conduct a choir of 65 singers, soloist Laura Fowler and 14 professional instrumentalists including double string quartet and trumpets to regale with fanfares and the solemnity of the Last Post. After a period of 18 months of not being able to perform together, this promises to be a wonderful evening and we would be delighted if you could join us. Tickets are £15 and can be purchased from hurstgreensingers@gmail.com or on the door.

PARISH REGISTERS

Holy Baptism

We welcome into the family of God's Church:

- 29 August Ruby Jane Ruthie Kay
Finley George Forster Kay
- 7 November Willow Faye Lewis

Funerals

Our sympathy goes to all their relatives and friends:

- 5 October Pat Morgan
- 15 October Geoffrey Spittles

St John's Book of Remembrance

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

WORKSHOPS AT THE WOODHOUSE CENTRE

Hoskins Road, Oxted (opposite Leisure Centre)

To book a place, contact: 715189 or thewoodhousecentre@gmail.com

Christmas Embroidery Workshop, £20

Saturday 20 November, 1.30 - 4.30pm
Includes all materials and light refreshments.

Make this cute robin Christmas decoration at a beginners' workshop led by Suzi Morris



Christmas Wreath Workshop, £30

Saturday 27 November, 10am - 1pm
No experience required for our festive workshop led by florist Naomi Crage
Includes all materials and light refreshments.
Please bring your own scissors or secateurs.

Sharing Christmas

What are your plans for Christmas this year? Students at our local boarding schools from Hong Kong and China have 21 days quarantine so cannot go home for Christmas. This presents a unique opportunity for young people to experience Christmas in a UK home.

We are planning events for them but are also looking for kind people to accommodate 1 to 3 students during the school holidays and include them in simple activities like decorating the tree or making mince pies. Please contact us for full details if you are able to help:
English Country Guardians
07831 865530

