

HURST GREEN NEWS

December 2021

Looking forward

December again and nearly the end of 2021. Will it be a year you are glad to say goodbye to? Perhaps for many the answer will be 'yes' and we can turn our thoughts to 2022 and the hope that life will truly return to life as we knew it before Covid-19 struck in March 2020. So let's turn our thoughts to looking forward to what the last month of the year holds for us.



No doubt a list comes into your mind and probably very much revolving around Christmas. Most importantly though, this year, we hope we can plan for family and friends to be together. We will be in a waiting time until that special date of 25th December, Christmas Day and that waiting time is traditionally called Advent. How we use it will be in different ways depending on our varying situations. I imagine there is a whole range of emotions in the run-up to Christmas, particularly for those full of sadness because of the death of someone they loved and those who will find it a lonely prospect with families far away. The time of waiting and looking forward may be hard.

We look forward to Christmas every year. My research records that the origins of Christmas stretch back thousands of years to prehistoric celebrations around the winter solstice. Many of the traditions we cherish today have been shaped by centuries of changing beliefs, politics, technology, taste and commerce.

The unchanging factor is that Christmas celebrates the birth of Jesus, God's gift to the world and shows how much God cares for us and always will. I am sure we can reflect such care by caring also. Each of us will no doubt think of different ways to show our care and what seems right at the time. An act of kindness or thoughtfulness by giving our time in some way may well lift the spirits of someone in need. I find Christmas quite a reflective time. I have given some thought to what springs to mind when Christmas is mentioned and it's quite a long list and I am sure yours would be similar. Too much to list here, but surely it would include presents, cards, Christmas tree and decorations, Father Christmas, family get-togethers, parties and of course, carol services and children's nativity plays. A priority, not to be left off the list, happily for many, will be going to church, perhaps to the afternoon crib service or the late night service on Christmas Eve, or the morning service on Christmas Day.

Of course, we are all free to celebrate Christmas as we choose, but when you look at that list, then it's easy to realise that it is not possible for everyone to enjoy all that is listed for a variety of reasons. It's good to know that hospitals, care homes and prisons will still function and that those who will be working in them on Christmas Day, missing their own family celebration, do their best to make it a good day for those for whom they are caring.

Let Every Day Be Christmas by Norman W Brooks Christmas is forever, not for just one day, for loving, sharing, giving are not to put away like bells and lights and tinsel, in some box upon a shelf. The good you do for others is good you do yourself.

A poem worth remembering. Christmas may well have a special meaning this year in terms of being able to be together with family and friends and we trust with no restrictions, but the true meaning of Christmas does not change. It is ever present.

Monica Fenton, Southwark Pastoral Auxiliary

Christmas Shoe Boxes in aid of Tandridge Family Centre

Sure Start requests Christmas boxes (shoe box sized, but any small box could be used) wrapped festively but so the lid can be opened to check the contents.

Suggestions are - new toiletries, treats, toys, or non-perishable seasonal goodies. Label your box appropriately - adult, child (age) or family. Boxes can be dropped off at the Christmas Market at Hurst Green Community Centre on Saturday 4 and Sunday 5 December between 12 - 4pm or

at the Evangelical Church, 75 Hurst Green Road during the day. Call or text 07815 074236 for more information.



Trustees of Hurst Green Community Centre and The Evangelical Church

Can you help?

We need some volunteers to deliver Hurst Green News each month to Wolfs Wood (odd numbers), Williams Road, Carroll Way, Mill Lane and Mill Shaw.

Any offers would be greatly appreciated.



If you can help or would like to find out more, please contact June Thompson on 716335.

Oxted Team Ministry

Advent Carol Service St Peter's, Tandridge Advent Sunday, 28 November 6.30pm

My Lord is Coming



Come along to join in with this beautiful service of choral anthems, advent hymns and the experience of ancient antiphons, sung by the Oxted Team Choir

All are welcome

Retiring collection for One World Oxted charity

The January issue of Hurst Green News will be published on 18 December 2021. Please send material for that issue, no later than **FRIDAY 3 DECEMBER 2021** to The Compiler: hgncompiler@gmail.com or 26 Orchard Way, Oxted, RH8 9DJ. The Compiler reserves the right to edit copy. The Hurst Green News is published by St John's Parochial Church Council (Registered Charity 1133107) as a church and community newsletter. *It is financed by advertisements and St John's Parochial Church Council.*

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.

Minister:

At Hurst Green Evangelical Church, there are services at 11am on Sundays, with a Family Service on 28 November.

ST JOHN'S, CHURCH WAY

Rector: Anna Eltringham, 712674, 14 Oast Road (day off - Monday) Assistant Priest: Mary Seller, 715675, 11 Home Park Lotwina Farodoye, lotwina@stjhurstgreen.co.uk Curate: **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



Club

Santa's back in town!



After missing out on last year's tour, Santa Claus and Rudolf will be back touring Hurst Green, Oxted and

Limpsfield in their sleigh starting on Monday 6 December. They will visit as many children (and parents) as they can, helped by Santa's elves (members of Titsey Rotary Club and friends) and Santa will be giving sweeties to the children while the elves collect loose change for charities supported by the Rotary Club. In 2019 our Santa's Sleigh elves collected over £3,000 for charity.

Santa hopes to visit the following streets in Hurst Green:

Monday, 6 December

5.30pm: Comforts Farm Ave (lower), Mill Shaw

5.45pm: Mill Lane, Warren Lane

6.15pm: Holland Road (south), Coldshott 7pm: Comforts Farm Avenue (upper)

Tuesday, 7 December

5.30pm: Juniper/Bramble Close/Hollies 6pm Four Oaks 6.15pm: Roseacre

6.30pm: Meridian Square, Barnfield Way

Thursday, 9 December

5.30pm: Pollards Oak Road/Pollards Oak Crescent 6.15pm: Chestnut Copse, The Greenway

7.15pm: Pollards Oak Crescent

Monday, 13 December

5.45pm: Wolfs Wood (lower) 6pm: Hazelwood Road, Boulthurst Way 6.45pm: Wolfs Wood (upper)



Please remember

to have some cash

ready for Santa's

charity buckets!

7pm: Home Park, Hazelwood Heights

Please note these timings are APPROXIMATE. Santa will put a TRACKER on Oxted Facebook and the Titsey Rotary Club website www.titsey.org.uk so you can follow his route, and listen out for his bell too! Santa's looking forward to seeing everyone again. Merry Christmas and stay safe! Ho Ho Ho!

Bucket collection for local charities licensed by Tandridge District Council Rotary Club of Titsey & District Charitable Trust - Charity no.1032237

The Oxted Rotary Christmas PLEASE Campaign



Following last year's success of our Christmas PLEASE campaign, we are running a similar campaign to help those in need this year. To help fund this initiative, we are asking you to 'Give a little' by text and we will once again have a Christmas tree outside Boots, thanks to Knights Garden Centre at Nags Hall, so maintaining our 50-year old tradition of erecting a tree in Oxted High Street at Christmas time.

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



(Details of other services before Christmas on next page) Christmas Eve, Friday 24 December, 9pm First Eucharist of Christmas ('midnight mass')

Christmas Day, Saturday 25 December 8.30am: Holy Eucharist

10am: Eucharist for Christmas Day -Family friendly service at a slightly later time Sunday 26 December - no services today

HURST GREEN EVANGELICAL CHURCH

Sunday 19 December, 11am - 12 noon Service for 4th week of Advent and Christmas Lunch

Thursday 23 December, 6 - 7pm Family Christingle Service

Christmas Day, Saturday 25 December, 10 - 10.30am Family Christmas Morning Service

Sunday 26 December, 11 - 11.30am on Zoom Contact Pastor@hgec.org.uk for the link to attend.



Have your say about CCTV in Oxted and Hurst Green



Oxted Parish Council and Limpsfield Parish Council, working with Tandridge District Council, the Oxted Business Improvement District and the Trustees of Master Park, are considering installing CCTV in the shopping areas of Oxted and Hurst Green.

They have set up a short survey to gather residents' views about the proposal to install cameras to cover Station Road East and West, Master Park and the shops in Hurst Green. The cameras would not be monitored on a 24 hour basis, but the recordings would help detect and prevent crime, disorder and antisocial behaviour.

The CCTV system would be jointly funded, with Oxted Parish Council providing a significant share of the funding from the Community Infrastructure Levy it receives.

To give your views, please complete the survey by 7 January 2022 at www.tandridge.gov.uk/cctv

We have also invited Santa himself to visit Oxted and he has agreed to drop in during the Oxted late night shopping event on Thursday 6 December, where he hopes to meet a lot of children. Elementz have kindly agreed to host Santa outside their shop and you will have the chance to 'Make a Wish to Santa and Give a little' by texting; PLEASE followed by your donation amount, to 70085. For example, to donate £2, send PLEASE 2 and your text will cost the amount of your donation plus one standard rate message. PLEASE help us to help others enjoy their Christmas.



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