



HURST GREEN NEWS

February 2022

Happy Ordinary Time!

Throughout January, I often start most of my correspondence and in person greetings with the words 'Happy New Year!' However, during February I phase out this jovial greeting as people are quick to remind me that the phrase 'Happy New Year!' sounds somewhat out of date as we are now a whole month in.



The firework displays around the world that signal the dawn of a new era have come and gone. Christmas lights and decorations are all boxed up and put away. Some of us are feeling slightly heavier having consumed one too many a mince pie, and many new year resolutions have already been abandoned. Some are worried about how their bank accounts will recover and so forth.

Considering these occurrences, combined with the backdrop of Covid, the lingering winter landscape of trees still bare and dark, short days, it is understandable that some may be feeling a little low during aspects of February.

In the Anglican Christian calendar for much of February 2022, we are in a period of time known as 'Ordinary time' The Christmas cycle (Advent, Christmas and Epiphany) has passed and the Easter cycle (Lent, Holy Week, Easter and Pentecost) is still to come. Ordinary time most likely gets its name from the word ordinal or numbered, and one might be tempted to think that due to its title and timing, 'Ordinary time' is a pretty much non-eventful, in-between time. However, I like to think of 'Ordinary time' as a time which reminds us that God is with us in the ordinary parts of our day to day life. God is with us through the ups when we are excited and lifted by events, but also when we come back down afterwards: the times when we are hurting or going through pain, sadness and loss. The times when we are afraid or fearful, when we are alone or with our friends and family. God is with us in the 'Ordinary time' when on the surface nothing much seems to be happening or we are waiting for change, the times when we are growing or developing but this might not be visible to those around us. Just as a bulb under the soil is changing before it sprouts above the ground, the Holy Spirit is always at work, even if it might not seem like it. The liturgical colour during 'Ordinary time' is typically green. You may notice this on many Sundays during February across many Anglican Churches including St John's, with the table cloth, priests' robes and hangings having turned to green, for green is a colour that symbolises life and growth.

Whether we observe the church calendar or not, I would like to encourage us that within the 11 months that lie ahead of us, there is so much to look forward to. Although we have stopped saying 'Happy New Year!' opportunities to find happiness and newness of life are still to be found as we look up and look around us. Spring will soon be here, bringing with it a change of both scenery and tempo. The daylight lasting a little longer, the weather becoming warmer and new life appearing in the form of baby lambs, and chicks. The trees will start to grow their leaves once more and jewel like crocus flowers, the cheeriest of daffodils, carpets of bluebells, frilly blooms of hellebore and colourful tulips will soon abound and there are many opportunities for reflection, change, and growth in our personal lives too.

Happy Ordinary Time!

Reverend Lotwina Farodoje, Curate, Oxted Team Ministry

Save our frogs and toads!

Over the next few weeks you may catch sight of frogs and toads crossing the road near St John's Church close to the junction between Church Way and Oast Road.

What are the differences between frogs and toads? Frogs have smooth, moist skin and they aren't slimy! They tend to jump rather than crawl. Toads, on the other hand, have drier skin. They don't need to spend their lives so close to water. They lumber about when they move, instead of hopping.

Both frogs and toads, known as amphibians, because they live partly on land and partly in the water, travel back each year to the pond where they were bred. This happens in late winter/early spring, after it begins to get dark, often following a rainy day. They don't like the cold, so the temperature needs to be reasonably mild, otherwise they will stay put in someone's garden for a little longer, in their snug spot in the undergrowth, or a woodpile, or a hole in the ground. Then, when the conditions seem right, they set out on their journey - and they don't have any road sense!

toads
on roads



So, from early or mid-February until early April there are likely to be frogs and toads trying to cross Church Way and Oast Road near the T-junction in the hours after dusk. While we have a Toad Patrol in place to help them on their journey,

we don't have enough people to cover the whole of each evening. These little amphibians can be seen and avoided if we all drive slowly and carefully in that area. Please help us to spare God's creatures.

If you are interested in helping out with the Toad Patrol, even just for an evening or two, please contact Adrian Hardingham on 07974 171977.

Many thanks from the Toad Patrol

Volunteer needed!

We need someone to deliver Hurst Green News to part of Mill Lane each month.

Any offers would be greatly appreciated.

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



HURST GREEN CHURCHES WELCOME YOU

At St John's Church 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

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

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The Church of the Peace of God
 21 Bluehouse Lane, Oxted, 730406
oxtedurc@gmail.com
 Graham Dadd, 07894 507467
www.oxtedurc.org.uk

HURST GREEN EVANGELICAL CHURCH

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

Minister:

Support St Agatha's Hall in the Tandridge Together Lottery



supporting



St Agatha's Hall is one of the good causes you can support through the Tandridge Together Lottery. We need your help so we can continue to offer and even expand our service!

Tickets cost £1 per week and each ticket has a 1 in 50 chance to win a prize each week, with a top prize of £25,000. 50% of tickets sold via our page go to St Agatha's Hall to help us continue to support our community in our 126th Year. Please do support and share with your friends. You can purchase tickets via our page:

www.tandridgelottery.co.uk/support/st-agathas-church-hall

Thank you for your support and good luck!

World Day of Prayer 2022

At 10am on Friday 4 March this year's World Day of Prayer will be held at St John's Church, Hurst Green, and at 7.30pm at St Mary's Church, Oxted. All are welcome to attend this ecumenical service, planned this year by the women of England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Do come!

The UK has witnessed many changes during this last year with Covid and the challenge of staying in touch with family and friends, but on Friday 4 March we unite with people throughout the world, beginning in the Pacific Islands and New Zealand, all using the same service.

In 1930 the first UK service was held in Scotland, in England in 1932, in Wales in 1933 and only in 1943 in Northern Ireland - and every year since! Each year a different country plans the service to be used. It will be Taiwan next year.



East Surrey Walkers



ESW will be pleased to welcome you on any of our planned walks. Our current programme is published on our website www.eastsurreywalkers.org.uk and additional walks are routinely added, so please do visit the site to ensure you don't miss out.

Most readers will be aware of the word 'the dole' which is (now) defined as a benefit paid by the state to the unemployed. How does the dole form a link with ESW?

The term the dole is derived from the use of dole stones, tables or ledges. They were usually sited in church porches and occasionally churchyards. During medieval times through to the 17th century these sites were used as facilities where contracts were arranged, and debts, bequests and church dues were settled. Significantly they were also points at which bread or money was given (doled) to the needy of the parish and on occasions to travellers. Few dole stones survive today and there are even fewer dole tables.

What is the link with ESW? We are fortunate that one of the few surviving dole tables can be found in the churchyard of St John the Baptist Church in Penshurst in Kent. Several of our walks start or pass through Penshurst, providing great opportunities to enjoy a walk in beautiful countryside and view this fine example of an historical and rare artefact. The routes of the Penshurst walks also often include the grounds of the nearby imposing Penshurst Place.

The Penshurst dole table is in the shape of a chest like tomb it is formed of slabs of 'ashlars', a now little used term to describe squared facing stones.



Hurst Green Gardening Club

Whatever you read or whatever the experts say, you will find your plants will naturally respond to the conditions they find themselves in.

My hellebores and snowdrops are out and the clematis have been in flower for weeks. The freezing conditions of earlier years have yet to appear and threaten new shoots (but as I write it's getting colder!). The flock of redwings which normally strip my hollies haven't been seen for two years. At least I have a chance to clear some epimediums which will soon be labelled as weeds and you'll be able to see the results at one of our plant sales. And if the temperature stays warm, I can move some plants to a new position which they may prefer.

My excellent garden leaf shredder is no more, so if anyone knows of a replacement that will deal with wet oak leaves for more than five minutes, do let me know.

Our Club meeting for January was via Zoom at the request of our speaker, but we are hoping that our February meeting (on the 9th) will be at Aggies.

Brian Parrott

Goldfinches

Leave out tasty sunflower hearts in your garden feeders and there is a good chance you will attract goldfinches to your patch.

Once an exotic sight in British gardens, the UK now has an estimated 1.65 million breeding pairs according to the British Trust for Ornithology.



Dates for your Diary 2022

- 4 Feb ...and every Friday, Oxted Country Market, Woodhouse Centre, Oxted, 9.30-11.30am cakes & savouries, vegetables, eggs, crafts. To order in advance, call 01883 623273
- 9 Feb Hurst Green Gardening Club, St Agatha's Hall, 8pm Contact: Brian Parrott 723916
- 10 Feb Pollards Oak WI, York Rooms, St John's Church, from 7.45pm: Tales of a Scotland Yard Detective, Steve Roberts. More information from Jan Ward, 01883 712143
- 14 Feb Tandridge Club for the Visually Impaired, 2nd & 4th Mondays, 2.45 - 4.15pm, York Rooms, St John's Church: Their Voice (Modern Slavery), Carolyn Thom Contact: Carol Leach 01883 382031
- 28 Feb Tandridge Club for the Visually Impaired, Alix Lewer and The Include Choir

St Agatha's Hall

To enquire about booking, contact the

Booking Administrator:

07769 001796

or aggieshall@gmail.com

or complete the form on the website:

**stagathashall.weebly.com/
contact.html**



Valentine's Day

Candlelit dinners, cards, red hearts, flowers and romance - all the things we traditionally associate with Valentine's Day, but how did this come about?

St Valentine was a priest at a time when the Roman Emperor Claudius II was persecuting Christians. The Emperor had issued an edict which prohibited the marriage of young people because, it was believed, unmarried soldiers fought better than married soldiers who might be afraid of what might happen to them or their wives or families if they died. But Valentine encouraged the young people to marry and did this secretly within the Christian church. He was eventually caught, imprisoned and finally put to death. He has since become known as the patron saint of lovers.

The romantic nature of Valentine's Day may have been started by the medieval English poet, Geoffrey Chaucer. In a poem, which he wrote in 1375, 'Parliament of Foules', he links a tradition of courtly love with the celebration of St Valentine's feast day. The poem refers to 14 February as the day birds (and humans) come together to find a mate. When Chaucer wrote, '*For this was sent on Seynt Valentyne's day / Whan every foul cometh ther to choose his mate,*' he may have invented the holiday we know today.

Hurst Green - Village Names

There were once apple trees in Orchard Way,
But was Comforts Farm so very comfortable?
There is a mill in Mill Lane - still there today.
And there is an ice house in Ice House Wood,
Hidden in what might once have been a quarry.
Were rabbits once kept by villagers in Warren Lane?
And were there pollard oaks along the road,
Or did the oaks perhaps belong to Mr Pollard?
'Hurst' of course meant 'hillock' or 'a wooded rise';
The 'Green' perhaps came later.



Most roads and tracks round here run north and south;
Cows and sheep spent summer in the valley,
Then driven north in winter on to higher ground.
Pigs snuffled acorns in the woods year round.
Then what about those wolves in Wood and on the Hill?
There may have been a tannery in Tanhouse Lane,
But why is Red Lane 'red', not blue or even purple?
And was Farmer Robin really such a blackguard?
Names are strange, but often steeped in history,
Just lying there to be uncovered.

Stephen Mills (from the St John's Poetry Book)

Thank you from Welcare

Although many Christmas services and events at St John's were cancelled, the two crib services on Christmas Eve went ahead, but in a slightly different way due to rising concerns about Covid. Those attending were asked to book a (free) ticket in advance to limit numbers. Christmas carols were led by a band and the nativity story took place in a less interactive way, with children invited to come already dressed in their own costumes.

It wasn't possible to accept gifts as has happened in the past and instead, there was a retiring collection for Welcare. This raised an amazing £450 and Welcare have written to thank you all for your generosity.

Welcare is a charity working with families and children in East Surrey.

They strive to empower families to change lives for the better, offering practical and emotional support for challenges faced.

welcare
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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.

Come and join us for **COFFEE and a CHAT**

St John's Room, St John's Church, fortnightly:

Thursdays 10 and 24 February, 10.30am - 12 noon



Our get-togethers are a great way to make new friends and catch up on local news. It would be lovely if some others felt able to join us. We serve 'real' coffee, tea with biscuits (and occasionally cake if we're lucky!) in convivial surroundings. We do, of course, comply with covid-related requirements.

If you need a lift, please ring Barbara on 715636.

PARISH REGISTERS

Holy Baptism

*We welcome into the family
of God's Church:*

6 February Ruby Meade Eagar

Funerals

*Our sympathy goes to all
their relatives and friends:*

6 January Eileen Lynam
11 January Brenda Tompkins
24 January Christine Padgham
3 February May Lacey
11 February David Tillier

St John's Book of Remembrance

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



Foraging wrens

Most small insectivorous birds have migrated or switched to eating fruit or seeds, but the wren finds enough invertebrates to survive the winter by foraging nonstop. This tiny 10g bird can lose as much weight during a cold night as it puts on the previous day as it burns through energy to stay warm.

Brighter Days Ahead....

By the end of February the sun won't set until 5.40pm.

By the end of March

it will be 7.32pm,

April, 8.21pm,

May, 9.06pm

and June, 9.21pm.

There are brighter days ahead.



Oxted and Limpsfield Music Society

On Saturday the 26 February at 7.30pm, the Society will host a recital by the internationally acclaimed Sacconi Quartet at the Bawtree Concert Hall, Hazelwood School, Wolfs Hill, Limpsfield.

The programme will consist of music by Rachmaninov, Shostakovich and Elgar and for the Shostakovich and Elgar Piano Quintets the Sacconi will be joined by the marvellous pianist Emma Abbate. More details of the players, their programme and ticketing are at www.oxtedandlimpsfieldmusicsociety.org.uk.



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