

NEWSLETTER - MARCH 2022

St John the Evangelist, Hurst Green

Welcome All | Deepen Faith | Inspire Action

Welcome to St John's!

In March we begin our journey through Lent towards Holy Week and Easter. I'm sure you have already decided how you might observe Lent - what you might give up or what extra devotions or acts of kindness you might take up. Lent primarily is a time for drawing close to God afresh and walking with Jesus the way of the cross and the usual practices of Lent help us to do that. But it also feels appropriate this year, after so much time being scattered and disconnected as a church family, to take time to be more intentional about coming to church and reconnecting as the body of Christ.

To 're-member' - to come back together - and rediscover how 'good and how pleasant it is for brothers and sisters to dwell together in unity' (Psalm 133).

So whatever your focus as an individual, that is our vision as St John's this Lent. To come back together as One in Christ and realise the joys and benefits of worshipping and serving God together.

To equip you for your journey through Lent we have various events and services coming up and an invitation to join in with Tearfund's 'One' devotionals which offers a bite size daily reflection.

*More details are in this newsletter or our Lent leaflet. With prayers for a blessed Lent,
Revd Anna, Rector*

Services this month



Wednesday 2 March <i>Ash Wednesday</i>	12 noon: Ash Wednesday Liturgy with Holy Communion and imposition of ashes (also at St Mary's, Oxted at 8pm)
Friday 4 March	10am: World Day of Prayer Service - see box below
Saturday 5 March	12 noon: Thanksgiving Service for Janet Bradshaw - see over
Sunday 6 March <i>Lent 1</i>	8.30am: Said Eucharist 9.45am: All Age Eucharist, followed by Fairtrade Stall in the York Rooms
Sunday 13 March <i>Lent 2</i>	8.30am: Said Eucharist 9.45am: Parish Eucharist with visiting speaker on modern slavery Sunday School and Sunday Munch for Year 6+
Sunday 20 March <i>Lent 3</i>	8.30am: Said Eucharist 9.45am: All Together (Parish) Eucharist. The Eco Team will lead an interactive service and invite us vote for our top eco actions for 2022.
Sunday 27 March <i>Mothering Sunday</i>	8.30am: Said Eucharist 9.45am: All Age Eucharist with posies, treats, simnel cake and sherry!

Break Bread and Eat Together



Wednesdays during Lent
from 9 March to 13 April
12 noon Eucharist at St John's
followed by a simple
Lent lunch of soup and rolls
Donations to the Bishop's Lent Appeal

World Day of Prayer

Friday 4 March, 10am at St John's
and 7.30pm at St Mary's, Oxted
'I know the plans I have for you'

All are welcome to attend this ecumenical service, planned this year by the women of England, Wales and Northern Ireland.



The April Newsletter will be available on Sunday 27 March.

Please send anything to be included by Sunday 20 March 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

THANKSGIVING SERVICE FOR JANET BRADSHAW: Charles' and Janet's family invite you to join them on Saturday 5 March at 12 noon to thank God for Janet's life. Family and friends will share a little of Janet's life and the service will be followed by a light lunch in the York Rooms to which everyone is invited. Guests will also be able to browse and buy from the Fairtrade stall run by Janet's grandchildren. Janet was a great supporter of Fairtrade and you may like to support fairtrade on this day in her memory.

Janet Fearn is organising the refreshments and would appreciate some help in setting up, from about 10.30am, and after the service to serve tea and coffee: If you could help, please call 722684.

YO YOS started again on 23 February and will continue to meet weekly on Wednesdays, from 9.15 - 11.15am during term time in the York Rooms at St John's. This friendly local playgroup is for parents and carers with babies and pre-school-children. There is tea, coffee and home-made cake for the adults and snacks for the little ones, with a discretionary donation of £1 per family. Call 01883 712674 for more information.



GATHER TO TALK about the ONE Lent Devotions from Tearfund (short daily poems, prayers and reflections available in a handy booklet) after coffee on a Sunday during Lent at St John's or with others from local churches at 10.45am on Mondays in the York Rooms at St John's, starting on 7 March.

AN EVENING OUT: It's been a while and although some will be abstaining, pubs do offer non-alcoholic beverages! It's a great opportunity to re-connect.

Ladies' Drinks from 8pm on Tuesday 15 March at the Haycutter and **Men's Drinks** from 8pm on Thursday 31 March at the Haycutter.



DISABLED PARKING SPACES: We should soon have two disabled parking spaces marked out in the grounds at St John's. Look out for them by the main entrance!

HELEN AINSWORTH who has been a member of St John's Church for many years, attended the Deanery Synod meeting on 23 February, to speak about her new role as an elected member of the General Synod, which makes high level policy decisions for the whole church and can pass laws or 'measures'. Helen said she had been very impressed that everything is steeped in prayer and mission and this runs through all the discussion and debates; God pervades it all. When asked to sum up her experience in three words, Helen offered 'humbling, challenging and a bit lonely'. There is quite a weight of responsibility.

Other Notices

GATTON COMMUNITY THEATRE: There are opportunities for all ages from 8+ to get involved in The Passion, a large community event, as a participant or in other aspects of the production. To find out more, come along to a free drama workshops at 2.30pm on Saturday 5 and/or Sunday 6 March, at All Saints Church, South Merstham, RH1 3HA. Open air promenade performances (a total of 8) will take place at Gatton Park, Reigate, between 14 and 23 July. More information at: www.gattontheatre.org.uk

OXTED BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP: You are welcome to join this open group, an initiative of Churches Together in Oxted and District, where bereaved people can come on their own, or with a friend, to meet others who are in a similar situation. It is a great opportunity to chat, share experiences and discuss ways of coping. Trained volunteers will be on hand for emotional and bereavement support. We look forward to welcoming you. Just drop in between 1pm and 3pm at the United Reformed Church, Bluehouse Lane, Oxted every other Thursday: 3, 17 and 31 March.

AGE CONCERN GODSTONE: It's back! Home-made Soup & Sandwiches. Join us for lunch, 12.30 for 1pm, Tuesday 29 March at The White Hart Barn, Godstone. Lunch £3, raffle and entertainment. It is necessary to book your place! Please ring Diana on 01883 742708 or Pat on 01883 742625 by Wednesday 23 March, if possible. Local transport can be provided if required.

TRAIDCRAFT SALE: Friday 4 March, 2 - 4pm at Oxted United Reformed Church, to mark Fairtrade Fortnight with tea, coffee and cakes. We do hope that you are able to join us for a chance to catch up with friends and to buy some Fairtrade goodies.

LEARN TO CROCHET WORKSHOP: Saturday 26 March 10am - 3pm, at the Woodhouse Centre, Hoskins Road, Oxted. £35 per person to include all materials; light refreshments available but please bring your own lunch. No experience is required. Crochet is easy to learn and the skills from the workshop will enable you to make blankets, bags, hats, toys and more. More info: Sue Farrell 07966 023908 or zen142338@zen.co.uk

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