

NEWSLETTER - APRIL 2022

St John the Evangelist, Hurst Green

Welcome All | Deepen Faith | Inspire Action

Welcome to St John's!

During Lent we have provided opportunities to come together 'As One in Christ'. I have particularly enjoyed the midday Eucharist on Wednesdays which have been followed each week by a simple Lent Lunch of delicious homemade soup and bread! It has been lovely to reconnect at the service with a good crowd and then have a chat over food afterwards.

As we look forwards into April we will soon begin our journey of Holy Week and remember a special supper that Jesus enjoyed with his friends. For me, the two most powerful services in our Christian Year are Maundy Thursday (8pm), when we recall that Last Supper (or first Holy Communion) which Jesus shared with his disciples followed by the darkness of Good Friday, when at our 9.30am service we go with Jesus to his death on the cross.

At this point, all those who had been with him deserted him and he was left completely alone. What an incredible contrast of being together and alone. The church holds both. So when you feel alone and need friends, we are here. Or when you feel crowded and need quiet space, we are here. Do feel welcome to step into any of our services during these most sacred days. And most of all, please do come and join any of our services on Easter Day when we come together triumphantly again and celebrate the most truth of Christ's risen life within us and with us all. With love and prayers for a Blessed Holy Week and Easter. Revd Anna, Rector

Services this month

Sunday 3 April <i>Lent 5</i>	8.30am: Said Eucharist 9.45am: Parish Eucharist (not All Age)
Sunday 10 April <i>Palm Sunday</i>	8.30am: Said Eucharist 9.45am: Parish Eucharist with palm crosses and reading of the Passion Sunday School
Thursday 14 April <i>Maundy Thursday</i>	8pm: Sung Eucharist
Friday 15 April <i>Good Friday</i>	9.30am: Liturgy for Good Friday
Saturday 16 April <i>Holy Saturday</i>	7pm: Compline (short said service)
Sunday 17 April <i>Easter Day</i>	6am: Sunrise Communion by Aggies 8.30am: Said Eucharist 9.45am: All Together (Parish) Eucharist
Sunday 24 April <i>Easter 2</i>	8.30am: Said Eucharist 9.45am: Parish Eucharist Sunday School



Choral Evensong for Palm Sunday St Peter's, Tandridge 10 April at 6.30pm

Service to conclude CTOD Lent Groups, music led by the Oxted Team Singers All welcome!

COFFEE and a CHAT

7 & 21 April, 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 May Newsletter will be available on Sunday 24 April.

Please send anything to be included by Sunday 17 April 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

EASTER EGG DONATIONS: St John's has teamed up with the Evangelical Church and local Children's Centre to give Easter Eggs to local families in need. To donate a chocolate Easter Egg, please place it in the collection box in the church porch on Sunday 3 April.

BREAK BREAD AND EAT TOGETHER: Wednesdays during Lent, 30 March, 6 & 13 April, there will be a Eucharist at 12 noon at St John's followed by a simple Lent lunch of delicious homemade soup and rolls. Donations to the Bishop's Lent Appeal.

FAIRTRADE STALL AT ST JOHN'S: Held over three days, this was very successful, raising an amazing total of **£1,338.53**: £454.79 following the World Day of Prayer Service; £620.29 after Janet Bradshaw's Thanksgiving Service and £263.45 after the 9.45am Service. Thank you to everyone who helped in any way, particularly Janet Bradshaw's grandchildren and Janet Fearn who organised everything, including the wonderful refreshments after the Thanksgiving Service, with her usual efficiency and enthusiasm.

MODERN SLAVERY: During Lent, Sundays have been special and different. On 13 March Chris Elliott of Reigate Archdeaconry Social Justice Focus spoke to the main congregation while Mark Tantam joined the 'Munch' group. There are estimated to be more than 125,000 people in the UK trapped in modern slavery, and nearly half are children. Not just in big cities, the third highest number by county is in Surrey, with victims in every town. It could be at a nail bar, car wash, building site or in domestic servitude, the most hidden form. Workers may look worried, avoid eye contact and be undernourished. If you suspect something, phone 999 for someone in immediate danger or contact Crime Stoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

ECO CHURCH CHOICES: On Sunday, 20 March, the Eco-Group gave a presentation on a large number of possible eco actions for St John's, falling under 11 broad headings and involving areas such as buildings (greener energy supplier, improved efficiency), travel to Church, consumables, supporting global neighbours suffering the effects of climate change, and linking and campaigning with others. Everyone had three votes to cast. Early results show the favourite area to be using our land, both at church and home. This could include a community orchard, bird feeders, insect homes, bee bed and wild flower bed. Also popular was the monthly provision at Church of facilities to **re-fill** (for example bathroom products like shampoo or home cleaning products) and **recycle** (for items like pens, pill blister packs and toothpaste tubes, for which recycling is not available locally). Votes are still arriving and the Eco-Group will meet later in April to discuss and agree how (and what) to take forward. Watch this space!

REPORT FROM THE PCC: The meeting on 17 March was the last before the annual meeting (22 May) when elections for new members will be held. St John's is not alone in struggling to get volunteers for church roles; most churches have lost over 70% of their volunteers during Covid. In future there will be a bucket collection at church and a 'Big Brekkie' for Christian Aid. Children's Society personal collection boxes will be discontinued. The two disabled car parking spaces are now completed. The electric piano's organ function has been tried through the sound system and could work well as an emergency option if the organ fails. The Oxted Team Youth worker position should be advertised soon. The Diocesan Anti-Racism Charter was adopted, with plans for a fuller conversation to come, and perhaps a speaker from the Diocese. The possibility of re-introducing café church in some form was discussed. Plans are emerging to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee with Oxted Team Singers.

OPENING AND CLOSING THE CHURCH: Janet Fearn organises this rota and has duties herself each week on Saturday, Sunday and Monday. A volunteer for one of these days would be welcome. Please call 722684 if you can help. Thank you.

Other Notices

EGGCELLENT EGGY EASTER FUNDAY! Saturday 16 April 2022 - Easter fancy dress strongly encouraged!

9.45-10.30am Join in any time with an Eggcellent trail quiz with Easter prizes at Hurst Green Community Centre in the Community Garden

10am-12 noon at St Agatha's Hall - Easter crafts for children to make / do including Easter Funday Bonnets

12 noon Eggcellent Eggy Easter Parade outside Aggies with prizes for the best bonnet and fancy dress costume, ending with a simple lunch for children in Aggies. Cuppa and hot cross buns available for adults throughout. *Brought to you by the churches and community halls of Hurst Green.*

OXTED & LIMPSFIELD CHORAL SOCIETY: The Easter Concert will be on Saturday 2 April, 5pm at the United Reformed Church (URC), Bluehouse Lane, Oxted. The programme includes Stainer's Crucifixion, Bach's Organ Prelude in G major and other European sacred choruses, with Jon English (tenor), Graham Dinnage (bass), David Thomas (organist) and Michael Burbidge (musical director) Tickets £12 from 01959 577749, any choir member or on the door.

OXTED BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP: You are welcome to join this open group, an initiative of Churches Together in Oxted & District (CTOD), 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. Just drop in, between 1 & 3pm at the URC, Oxted every other Thursday, this month on 14 and 28 April.

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st John's
HURST GREEN