

# NEWSLETTER - APRIL 2023

## St John the Evangelist, Hurst Green

Welcome All | Deepen Faith | Inspire Action

### Welcome to St John's!

*As you read this newsletter we will just have put the hour forwards and we'll be enjoying those lighter evenings and longer days. For most of us our spirit lifts at this time of year as everything begins to bud, the dawn chorus reaches full voice and the temperature starts to rise. All this coincides with the rising hope of Easter, as we journey out of the darker, wetter, colder days.*

*During Passiontide, Holy Week and the Easter season our church services connect us with a range of human feelings - loss, sadness, despair. Peace, hope, new life. As we immerse ourselves in them we also touch God through Jesus in a palpable way as we hear the familiar words of the Eucharist spoken as Jesus did the night before he died (Maundy Thursday); or touch the wood of the cross and sense the emptiness of Good Friday; and then on Easter Day, especially at the Dawn Service outdoors on the Green at 6am, experience something of Mary Magdalene's early morning walk in the garden, 'while it was still dark', and know as she did, the risen Christ is near.*

*I hope you are able to join in and share this journey of Holy Week and Easter alongside others at some of the services and events on offer, and in this way know the risen Christ is near to you too.*

*With love and prayers for a Blessed Holy Week and Easter, Revd Anna*

### Services at St John's this month

**Sunday 2 April: Palm Sunday** (with Passion reading)

8.30am: Said Eucharist      9.45am: Parish Eucharist

**Wednesday 5 April**

12 noon: Eucharist followed by light Lent lunch

**6 April: Maundy Thursday**

8pm: Eucharist with stripping of the sanctuary and vigil

**7 April: Good Friday**

9.30am: Good Friday Liturgy, devotions at the cross

**8 April: Holy Saturday**

7pm: Night Prayer - short reflective service, vigil continues

**9 April: Easter Sunday**

6am: Sunrise Service with communion, near St Agatha's

8.30am: Holy Communion for Easter Day

9.45am: Eucharist for all ages, lighting of Easter candle

**Saturday 15 April**

11am: Baptism of Mia Rose Chandler

**Sunday 16 April: Easter 2**

8.30am: Said Eucharist      9.45am: Parish Eucharist

11am: Community Brunch followed by Café Church

**Sunday 23 April: Easter 3**

8.30am: Said Eucharist      9.45am: Parish Eucharist

11am: Baptism of Emilyrose Elizabeth Jones

**Sunday 30 April: Easter 4**

8.30am: Said Eucharist      9.45am: Parish Eucharist



On 10 March a trial Health Hub session was held in the York Rooms (above), with plans to continue monthly. Appointments offer a chance to raise concerns and 40 minutes are allocated for a good conversation about physical and mental health. Various checks are done and COVID boosters offered. There is tea and coffee and friendly faces in St John's Room while people wait. It was intended to offer the space without charge, but some funding has been secured to cover the rental cost.

The NHS community team was delighted with the facilities and it was great to see St John's opening up more to help and support local people. With mental health issues rising, it is wonderful to create space and time to enable people to speak to professionals.

**The May Newsletter will be available on Sunday 30 April.**

**Please send anything to be included by Sunday 23 April to Janet Harman at [office@stjhurstgreen.co.uk](mailto:office@stjhurstgreen.co.uk), or phone 715301 (and leave a message if I'm out!) Thank you.**

# St John's Notices

 [facebook.com/stjohnshurstgreen](https://facebook.com/stjohnshurstgreen)  
 [twitter.com/AnnaRevd](https://twitter.com/AnnaRevd)

**THE CROSSING THE THRESHOLD COMMITTEE:** (sub committee of the PCC, CTT for short) has been working over the past two years exploring how to make greater use of our church for community projects, especially during the week when the main part of the church is often empty. We started following a Church of England blueprint, 'Crossing the Threshold', which helps churches achieve this. After much thought, debate and prayer, we knew we could create a special space to serve the community in new ways that still kept the integrity of St John's as a sanctuary and place of worship. It would mean some remodelling of the church and for that we would need funds.

We also needed a project, a spark that would give us the drive to embark on such a big project. Then the Holy Spirit got to work, and St John's was approached by a local company seeking to establish a flexi-school in Hurst Green for children who struggle to access or thrive in mainstream education. The company is run by two passionate and dedicated childcare professionals who are committed to bringing much-needed family services to Hurst Green. They presented to the PCC their vision of how this would work perfectly in the York Rooms and St John's Room. The PCC is now negotiating a letting agreement with them and, although contracts are not signed yet, we are aiming for this to be up and running September 2023.

With the York Rooms and St John's Room to be let during term-time on weekdays from 9am - 4pm, CTT is now working on how to re-order the church. The PCC has appointed a dedicated funding project manager. The proposal is to modify the church so that community groups and other services can take place in the nave and other new spaces to be created, whilst the flexi-school operates in the existing rooms. Proposals include a much larger, bright and airy atrium and entrance with a community café, enhanced kitchen and toilet facilities, sustainable heating, stackable and lightweight seating in the nave, step-free access and screens so that the Lady Chapel can remain open as a sanctuary for services and private prayer whilst the rest of the church is in use.

CTT will present the project in more detail at services on Sunday 26 March 2023 and we will issue updates going forward. We welcome your thoughts on the proposals and any questions. *Sara Bartolozzi*

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC)** met for the final time on 16 March before new members are elected at the annual meeting on Sunday 14 May at 11.15am. In addition to considering and approving the matters outlined by Sara above, the PCC agreed to install a defibrillator at St John's, possibly in the grounds. The Mission Action Plan (MAP) for 2023 - 2025 was adopted. To celebrate the Coronation of King Charles (on 6 May), there will be music after the 9.45am service on Sunday 7 May, similar to that marking the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June 2022. Strong feelings were evoked in the discussion on communion practices: Should we return to the 'common cup'? Are gluten free waters and non-alcoholic wine as options against Canon Law? Less controversial was the prospect of welcoming members of Hurst Green Evangelical Church to hold Sunday services at 11am in the York Rooms until their new building is finished - the work is due to start in early summer. Once a month they would join the St John's Café Church and Community Brunch.

**ST JOHN'S ART GROUP:** Monday 8 May, 10am - 12 noon in The York Rooms. Usually every 2nd Monday but not April due to Easter Bank Holiday. More information from Pearl Stephens 722343.

**FAIRTRADE RESULT:** At St John's on 26 February a total of £270.96 was raised for Fairtrade: £239.66 on the stall and £31.30 for the sale of cakes and tea/coffee. Thank you to everyone involved in organising this, particularly Janet Fearn and Moyna Bridge.

**THERAPEUTIC GARDEN VISIT:** St Mary's, Lewisham, to meet with their team, see what they've done, discuss and hopefully stimulate ideas about options for our own use of land. This rearranged visit is scheduled for Thursday 20 April (subject to train strikes). You are welcome to make your own way, but we will catch the 9.16 London Bridge train from Hurst Green (9.20 from Oxted), so can meet at the station for then, to get to Ladywell station around 10.30am. Please let Jon Macartney know if you can come: 07766 116009 or [jbmcartney@gmail.com](mailto:jbmcartney@gmail.com) or just turn up on the day! All are welcome.

**COFFEE and a CHAT**  
**St John's Room, 10.30am - 12 noon**  
**Thursdays 20 April, 4 May**

Do come and join us!  
If you need a lift,  
please ring Barbara 715636



## Other Notices

**HOW TO MAKE A BOUQUET:** Saturday 1 April, 10am - 12 noon at the Woodhouse Centre, £20 per person (includes light refreshments.) Experienced florist Hilary Dilnot will show you how to create a hand-tied bouquet for those special occasions, or just to have fun with flowers, with printed instructions to take away and try it at home. To book your place contact the Woodhouse Centre on 01883 715189.

**HOT CROSS BUN GIVEAWAY:** From 6.30am on Maundy Thursday (6 April) at Hurst Green Station. Please join us or pray for us as we give hot cross buns and the gospel message to Hurst Green commuters! More information from Wendy Hewitt.

**EASTER FUN DAY:** Saturday 8 April, 10am - 12.30pm at Hurst Green Evangelical Church on the green, for children, teens and adults. Crafts, outdoor activities, pitch & put, mural painting, Easter bonnet parade, light lunch for children, refreshments for adults.

**OXTED BAND SPRING CONCERT:** Saturday 15 April at 7.30pm at St John's Church. Refreshments served during the interval.

**WINDMILL MANOR CARE HOME EVENTS, ALL WELCOME!**

**Tuesdays 10.30 - 12.30:** Coffee and chat. Come along and meet friends over light refreshments in the coffee bar.

**Fridays 12.30pm:** Fish and Chip Club (please book). Enjoy a delicious meal in the cosy dining room, prepared by talented chefs.

**First Thursday of the Month 11-12 noon:** Community Choir.

We love to sing and invite local people to join our friendly choir.

**Last Friday of the Month 3pm:** Tea at the Manor. Enjoy scrumptious tea & cakes with live musical entertainment.

**UKRAINIAN UPDATE:** There was an amazing response to the recent request for donations of clothing, bedding and other items, resulting in not just one but three lorry loads. This brings the total of fully laden vans to 20 in the past 12 months, a true testament to the generosity from our local community.

Thank you also to all those who donated furniture and other items in response to the call out to help a Ukrainian family moving into a flat locally; this has now happened and they are very grateful.

[www.stjohnshurstgreen.org.uk](http://www.stjohnshurstgreen.org.uk)  
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**HURST GREEN**