



HURST GREEN NEWS

December 2024



Hello darkness, you're really not my friend!

As I sit down to write this article, I can't help but reflect on the last few days, which have been utterly glorious. Blue skies, crisp autumn sunshine, and the trees showing off their best in shades of red, gold, and orange. Hurst Green looks like its auditioning for a spot in a nature documentary, and honestly, it's doing a great job. It gladdens my heart. But, as with all good things, autumn's grand finale is wrapping up. Today, many of the brilliantly coloured leaves have fallen, leaving the trees looking like they've had a bad haircut-bare, skeletal, and a bit drab. Winter is coming, and with it, those long, dark days when light and colour seem to vanish entirely. I'll be honest, this does not gladden my heart.

Winter always brings a certain sense of gloom for me. As the days get shorter, it feels like my enthusiasm, joy, and energy are packing their bags and migrating south. No, I don't have S.A.D. (Seasonal Affective Disorder) - though I fully empathize with anyone who does - I just really, really miss the light. And yet, even in the midst of this seasonal gloom, one thing never fails to cheer me up: the glow of a candle. There's something profound about that little flicker of light in the darkness. It's cozy, it's comforting, and, honestly, it gladdens my heart. I'm sure I'm not alone in finding comfort in candlelight - whether it's a fancy scented one, a birthday candle, or even that stubby one you keep around for power cuts. Candles have a special way of lifting our spirits.

As we move closer to Christmas - though, let's be real, it's been Christmas in the shops since September - candles seem to take on an even deeper significance. Their light is soft, warm, and alive, dancing and flickering in the darkness, reminding us that even in the gloomiest times, there's a spark of joy to be found. Compare that to the harsh glare of a streetlight or the soulless beam of your office LEDs, and candles offer something more than just illumination.

At Christmas, we celebrate light - not just any light, but Jesus as the Light of the world. This powerful image brings hope and purpose into our lives. In a world often marked by darkness - fear, brokenness, and sin - Jesus' birth shines as a divine light that dispels despair. John 1:4-5 tells us that in Him was life, and this life was the "light of all mankind", a light that darkness cannot overcome. Just as candlelight brings clarity, warmth, and direction, Jesus brings truth, love, and guidance, illuminating the path to God.

This Christmas, as we light our candles and reflect on their glow, let's remember the ultimate light that came into the world - not to condemn, but to save. Jesus invites us all into a relationship with Him, offering hope and purpose that extend far beyond the festive season. *Keith Dickson, Pastor, Hurst Green Evangelical Church*

Christmas Services at St John's Church, Hurst Green

1st December - 9.45am
All Age Christingle Service



1st December - 5pm
Advent Carol Service



22nd December - 5.30pm
Nine Lessons and Carols

Christmas Eve – 3.30pm and 5pm
Crib Services

Christmas Eve – 9pm
Holy Communion

Christmas Day – 8.30am and 10am



www.stjohnshurstgreen.org.uk

Oxted Band
Christmas Concert

Come and enjoy a selection of your favourite carols and festive music

Saturday 7th December 3pm




St John's Church, Hurst Green
Surrey RH8 9EA

Tickets £10 (children under 15: £5)
Available on the door
For any more details, please visit
www.oxtedband.co.uk or email
secretary@oxtedband.co.uk

Christmas Crafts, Sunday 15 December

2pm–4.30pm at Hurst Green Community Centre
Free event.

Drop in or come for the whole afternoon.
Make & take Christmas crafts.
Crafts for children with accompanying adults,
& for adults.

Includes a winter workshop with
Surrey Wildlife Trust. 
Everyone welcome. 
Hot drinks & snacks. 
Walk if you can, parking limited.

DON'T BE ALONE ON THE BIG DAY. JOIN US FOR FUN, FOOD AND FESTIVITIES!

Deb Shiner has put together a wonderful event at the Community Centre, back for the second year by popular demand. If you are alone and don't have plans for Christmas Day, join us for a free lunch and fun. Contact Kelly on kelly@hgcc-surrey.org.uk for more information.

Christmas Carols and Christmas Jumper night at The Diamond

With a bucket collection for charity

Thursday 19th December, 7pm
The Diamond Inn, Holland Road,
Hurst Green RH8 9BQ

Bring your singing voice and put on your favourite Christmas attire and join in the fun!

YoYo's Playgroup, St John's Church, 9.15am-11.15am
Every Wednesday in term time
Last YoYo's before Christmas – 18th December

A friendly group for babies and toddlers for a stay and play session with crafts, snacks and songs.

HURST GREEN & OXTED CHURCHES WELCOME YOU

At St John's Church there are services of Holy Communion on Sundays at 8.30am (said) at 9.45am (sung) and at 12.30pm on the 4th Wednesday each month, followed by lunch. The 9.45am service is available via Live Stream. The church is open every day from 10am to 4pm. For updates and the latest information, please check websites below.

ST JOHN'S, HURST GREEN

Vicar: Reverend Sue Bosley, 07553 305087
Church Way, Hurst Green RH8 9EA
Assistant Priest: Mary Seller, 01883 715675
Reader: Wendy Hewitt, 07789 680653
www.stjohnshurstgreen.org.uk

ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH OF OXTED & WARLINGHAM

All Saints' Church Chichele Road, Oxted, 01883 627 762
St Ambrose Church Warren Park, Warlingham
Parish Priest Fr Stanislaw (Mycek), 01883 713776
www.oxtedandwarlinghamparish.org

HURST GREEN EVANGELICAL CHURCH

Pastor: Keith Dickson, 01883 712 017
www.hurstgreen-fellowship.org

OXTED UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

The Church of the Peace of God
21 Bluehouse Lane, Oxted, 01883 730 406
oxtedurc@gmail.com

KING'S CHURCH

Contact: King's Centre, 33 Amy Road, Oxted, Surrey RH8 0PW
Simon Quincey, 01883 734 805,
www.kingschurchforyou.org

Church Administrator:

Claire Harris, 01883 730
www.oxtedurc.org.uk



Santa's back in Hurst Green!

Santa and the Titsey Rotary Elves will be visiting children young and old in Hurst Green. Santa will have sweets for the children, while Santa's elves will be collecting money for the local charities supported by Titsey Rotary Club. (Please have cash handy for their collection buckets!)

Santa's routes will be:

Monday 2 December: 5pm Mill Shaw/Mill Lane, 5:45pm Warren Lane, 6.15pm Coldshott, 6.30pm Holland Road, 6.45pm Comforts Farm Ave.

Thursday 5 December: 5pm Hurstlands, 5:15pm Home Park/Hazelwood Heights, 6pm Paddock Way, 6:30pm Meldrum Close.

Friday 6 December: 5pm Pollards Oak shops, 5:15pm Pollards Oak Crescent (S), 5:30pm The Greenway, 6pm Chestnut Copse, 6:30pm Pollards Oak Crescent (N).

Monday 9 December: 5pm Juniper Close/Bramble Close, 5:30pm Four Oaks, 5:45pm Roseacre, 6pm Meridian Square, 6:30pm Barnfield Way, 6:45pm Holland Crescent.

Thursday 12 December: 5pm Pollards Oak shops, 5:15pm Wolfs Wood, 5:30pm Hazelwood Road/Boulthurst Way, 6pm Pollards Oak Road (from Red Lane towards PO shops).

Santa will also be in Morrison's car park every day from Monday 16 to Friday 20 December between 10am and 4pm so, if Santa and his Sleigh aren't passing down YOUR road, this is an ideal **chance** to bundle the kids into the car and see Santa at Morrisons!

Last Christmas our Santa's Rotary Elves collected over £6500 for charity..Santa will be putting a TRACKER link on local Facebook groups and the Titsey Rotary Club website www.titsey.org.uk so you can follow his route – and listen out for Santa's bell too!

Thank you for supporting TITSEY ROTARY CLUB'S Santa's Sleigh Christmas Collection.



St Silvan's Area Charity

It can be hard to ask for help sometimes, but St Silvan's Area Charity is a very local charity that's here for Hurst Green residents at times of need.



Run entirely by volunteers, they offer a fast response to applications, helping clients who need a hand.

From urgent utility top-ups to school shoes and uniform, electricals and white goods, furniture, disability aids and emergency food parcels – if your family or someone you know is in need then drop them an application online at www.stsilvans.org.uk or call or text 07570 117279.

This charity has been active in the local area since 2001 – helping hundreds of local residents. Its volunteers welcome your call.

Oxted Country Market is a weekly local community market held in the Woodhouse Centre, opposite the Leisure Centre in Oxted. It has been in existence for almost 50 years and is one of a network of 150 markets across England and Wales whose business ethos is HOME-MADE, HOME-GROWN, HAND-CRAFTED.

Local artisan producers support the Market and create beautiful displays of their work for sale. On the home baked food stall, there is a wide range of homemade cakes and other sweet delights, plus savoury foods, preserves and honey. Also available are seasonal home-grown fruit & vegetables, plants and local farm eggs. Other stalls include a variety of handmade crafts, from hand-turned wooden items, to jewellery, knitted toys, creative embroidered fabric items, quilled artwork and decorations, plus cards and seasonal flower arrangements.

The Market offers a catering service and creates bespoke celebration cakes to order. It runs a weekly food ordering service which offers main meals, desserts, cakes, freshly made sandwiches and other options. The menu changes frequently and is available on request. Orders can be collected each Friday from the Market.

The Market is currently open from 9.30 to 11.30 am on a Friday morning, but from Friday, 6th December, it will be open from 10.00 to 12 noon. The Market has tea, coffee and cake available and entry is free. Christmas is nearly here and there will be lots of gift ideas for all the family at the Market, so come along and see what is on offer. We would be delighted to welcome you.

PARISH REGISTERS

Holy Baptisms

We welcome into the family of God's Church

23 November Sophia Violet George

Weddings

We wish them every happiness in their future lives together

9 November Amanda Starr and Michael Saunders

14 December Sophie Cross and Sam Hawkins

St John's Book of Remembrance

To have a name entered,
Email: office@stjhurstgreen.co.uk

Oxted & Limpsfield Choral Society Christmas Concert

A selection of Christmas songs & Carols

Saturday 7 December @ 5pm

United Reformed Church,
Bluehouse Lane, R8 0AA

Tickets £15 / www.licsinfo@aol.com



Come and join us for
COFFEE and a CHAT



St John's Room, St John's Church
Fortnightly on Thursdays

12th December 2024 with an extra one
on 19th December 2024

10.30am-12 noon

Need a lift?

Ring Barbara on 01883 715636

1st Hurst Green Guides



have spaces available for Girls aged 10-14 year old. Please contact firsthurstgreen@gmail.com for details.

We meet at Aggies hall on Monday Nights 7.30-9.00pm, term time only. Guides is a relaxed, welcoming space where you can have fun, learn and be yourself with good friends from 10 to 14 years old.

Guides is a place where you can explore the things you love and do stuff you've never done before. Where else can you think up a new sport, make a new perfume, cook over a campfire, design an advertising campaign, have a mocktail party or raise money for a charity you believe in? At Guides, you can do all of this and loads loads more..

Dates for your Diary December 2024

1 December: Tennis for all adults (members/non-members). 10am-12pm. Hurst Green Tennis Club
9 December: Tandridge Club for the Visually Impaired, 2.30-4.30pm, 2nd & 4th Mondays of the month, St Agatha's Hall. Call for info and transport: Chair, Diana Drysdale, 01883 742708.
12 December: Pollards Oak WI, York Rooms, St John's Church, 7.45pm. Members Christmas Party. Call: Jan Ward, 01883 712143..
16 December: Tandridge Handicraft Society. Weekly meetings on Monday. End of Term & Christmas Cheer. www.tandridgehandicraftsociety.org.uk.
17 December: Meno meet up, 3rd Tuesday of the month, Tandridge Heights, 6.30-8pm.
Every Wednesday in termtime: YoYo's playgroup, St John's Church, 9.15-11.15am.
Every Wednesday: Community Fridge, every Wednesday, St Agatha's Hall, 11.15am-12.30pm.
Every Thursday: Hurst Green Community Hub, every Thursday, St Agatha's Hall, 1-3pm.
Every Friday: Oxted Country Market, Friday mornings, 9.30-11.30am, Woodhouse Centre.
8 January: Hurst Green Gardening Club, St Agatha's Hall, 7.45pm. Contact: hggardeningclub@gmail.com.

Volunteers needed to support the Tandridge Access Group

TAG, a local charity dedicated to making the district more accessible and inclusive. TAG is run by volunteers, works to improve access for people with disabilities and raise awareness of access challenges in the district.

The group meets at the Council Offices in Oxted every two months and is looking for more volunteers to get involved to work on projects or help raise funds. If you are not able to attend the meetings in person, you can join online. For more information or to get involved, please visit the Tandridge Access Group website or e-mail tandridgeaccessgroup@gmail.com.

Hurst Green Run Club

Holland Sports, Mill Lane, RH8 9DF



Looking for a friendly, supportive community to help you stay active and hit your running goals? We've got you covered! Our Run Club welcomes all abilities, whether you're a beginner or an experienced runner. There's a place for everyone here, and we believe that running together makes every step easier and more fun!

Weekly Runs:

- Thursday Interval Sessions at 6:30 AM: Start your day strong with a mix of challenging intervals – a great way to boost your pace and fitness.
- Sunday Casual Run at 9:00 AM: A laid-back run to enjoy the weekend! Each week, we switch up the route, so there's always something new to explore.



Oxted Library is proud to be a collection point for **Stripey Stork's #SantaStork!**

Drop off your gifts at the library & help families in need. Make this Christmas extra special for local children where the community comes together to spread some Christmas magic, warmth & comfort. To find out more about the items that are needed please visit: www.stripeystork.org.uk

Carol Singing

Tuesday 17 December, 6.30pm (45 mins)
 In Courtyard, (outside Pollards Oak shops)

Join with Creative Community and Oxted Band to sing Christmas carols in the new Courtyard.

Everyone welcome (including Father Christmas!)

Hot drinks available.

Walk if you can, parking limited.



Children's Hospital Pyjamas are a UK charity which collects donations of brand new pyjamas, from the public, which we then donate to hospitals, hospices and women's refuges across the UK.

These are then given to poorly or less fortunate children who are in-patients. You can drop them into a Collection Point : Costcutter/post office, Pollards Oak Road or Beauty Box, Oxted. www.childrenshospitalpyjamas.co.uk



The One Stop Shop in Holland Road is holding a Christmas Raffle in aid of two charities, one local and one national, one for needy children, the other, for needy adults. There are some amazing prizes, and the draw will take place in the middle of December. Please support our local community shop by buying as many tickets as possible, they are priced at £2 each.



St Agatha's Hall

To enquire about booking, contact the

Booking Administrator:
aggieshall@gmail.com

07769 001796

or complete the form on the website:

stagathashall.weebly.com/contact.html

Surrey domestic abuse helpline



01483 776822

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Neighbour of the month

for December goes to Christine Harwood. Christine is responsible for all the great work that Creative Community do around Hurst Green including displays at the station, installing and planting bulbs outside Pollards Oak shops as well as at other locations around Hurst Green and if that wasn't enough Creative Community also look after the Community Garden next to the Community Centre. Thank you to Christine for all that you do!

If you would like to nominate someone for being a great neighbour/friend or have witnessed an act of kindness please email us at: hgncompiler@gmail.com.



Hurst Green Infant School

Come along to one of our OPEN MORNINGS!

Wednesday 4 December 2024: 9.30am or 10.30am

Wednesday 8 January 2025: 9.30am

Contact 01883 712171 or office@hurstgreenschool.org



Moor House School & College Speaking up for DLD

Students, staff and parents and carers at Moor House, a specialist School & College for children and young people with language disorders in Hurst Green, have been Speaking up for DLD on Developmental Language Disorder (DLD) Day which was on Friday 18th October 2024.

DLD is a hidden but common disability that affects 2 children in every class of 30, causing difficulties understanding and using language for no known reason.

Since it opened in 1947, Moor House has led the way in teaching and therapy methods for children with speech and language disorders, including DLD, with students making outstanding progress due to the life-changing and research informed education and therapy on offer. Through the work of their Research and Training Institute, they continue to be at the forefront of global research and training, taking the benefits of their work out more widely through published research, training and resources for professionals.

Now in its eighth year, #DLDday, coordinated by RADLD (Raising Awareness of Developmental Language Disorder), is celebrated across the world. This year's theme was 'Speak up for DLD', and so the Moor House community came together to do just that.

In a special Podcast, some of their amazing students spoke up for DLD, with insights from two DLD experts, Sue Marr and Dr Susan Ebbels, based at the Moor House Research and Training Institute. Other activities to speak up and raise awareness included:

- Some incredible student displays and artwork
 - Themed classroom activities and assemblies
 - A special DLD parent workshop
 - Sharing DLD information with our local community at Hurst Green Station
 - Decorations around the school and a non-uniform day, with staff and students wearing the RADLD colours, purple and yellow
- Moor House Research and Training Institute Director Dr Susan Ebbels says: "It's been wonderful to see and hear our young people at Moor House speak up for DLD, and their enthusiasm to raise awareness is really inspirational."



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