

NEWSLETTER - FEBRUARY 2026

St John the Evangelist, Hurst Green

Welcome All | Deepen Faith | Inspire Action

Welcome to St John's!

As February unfolds, we begin to turn our thoughts towards Lent. The disciplines of Lent, prayer, fasting, generosity and self-examination, are tools that help us turn again towards God, clearing away what distracts us from love of God and neighbour.

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent. It's a day to be honest about our need for God, so that we may be open to his love and grace and walk more closely with Christ on the way to Easter.

To help us with this Lenten season we are offering a study course called 'The Final Week' in which we will explore the last few days of the life of Christ, through the Cross to the Resurrection.

I hope this newsletter helps you feel connected to what is happening at St John's Church and invites you to join in. Every blessing, Sue

Services at St John's this month

Sunday 1 February: Candlemas

(Presentation of Christ in the Temple)

8.30am: Said Eucharist 9.45am: All Age Service

Sunday 8 February: 2 before Lent

8.30am: Said Eucharist 9.45am: Parish Eucharist

Sunday 15 February: Sunday before Lent

8.30am: Said Eucharist (in the York Rooms)

9am: Bubble Church 10am: Parish Eucharist

Tuesday 17 February 11am: Funeral of Sylvia Russell
- further information over the page

Wednesday 18 February - see below

Sunday 22 February: Lent 1

8.30am: Said Eucharist 9.45am: Parish Eucharist

Communion Service for Ash Wednesday

18 February, 12 noon in the Lady Chapel

Everyone is welcome to stay for a homemade soup lunch afterwards in St John's Room.



Communion followed by lunch usually takes place on the 4th Wednesday of each month. The next one will be on 22 April.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Each year from 18 - 25 January all Christian traditions are invited to pray for the unity of the Church and to reflect on Jesus' prayer 'that they may all be one' (John 17:21). This year's theme is inspired by Ephesians 4: 4-6: 'There is one Body and one Spirit'.



The week ends with a Churches Together service to which everyone is welcome:

Sunday 25 January, 6pm at Oxted United Reformed Church
(Bluehouse Lane)

The March Newsletter will be available on Sunday 22 February.

Please send anything to be included by Sunday 15 February 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

COFFEE and a CHAT

St John's Room, 10.30am - 12 noon
Thursdays 5 and 19 February



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

SYLVIA RUSSELL RIP: We all have been shocked and saddened by the sudden death of our dear friend, Sylvia Russell. A really lovely person who was quiet and unobtrusive, Sylvia has been a regular worshipper with us for many years. She was a talented lady who was most interesting to talk to, and one who had strong opinions on most matters. She had been a nurse, and had worked at the old Oxted Hospital - of blessed memory - and would recount happenings from her time there. She had a rich and blessed marriage to John, but that was sadly ended by his early death while she was still at the hospital.

Sylvia's faith was strong, and her place in the very last row of the north aisle, Sunday by Sunday, was a reassuring presence. She was a gifted flower arranger, and a stalwart of our flower arranging team. When they had an especially long session preparing the church for a major festival, Sylvia always brought a newly baked cake to sustain them in their task. She had a friendly interest in what I was growing in my garden, and might tell me that I should dig something up because she did not like it, or I should move it because it would be better placed elsewhere!

Several of us knew that she was somewhat unwell before Christmas, but, typically, not wanting a fuss, she passed it off as 'just having some tests'. In fact, she was seriously ill, and her end came rapidly on 11 January. How we shall miss her! We thank God for all that she brought to us, and shared with us. May she rest in peace and rise in glory. We extend our love and condolences to her brother, Denis, and her niece, Sarah. Sylvia's funeral will be held at St John's on Tuesday 17 February at 11am, followed by cremation at the Bluebell cemetery. *Mary Seller*

THE SEASON OF LENT: Lent begins on 18 February, Ash Wednesday, and the 22 February is the first Sunday of Lent. Now is a good time to consider how you would like to spend the season of Lent during February and March. You might like to join in with a Lent group: St John's are offering an exploration of 'The Final Week' of Jesus, running on Wednesdays at 2pm in St John's Room or at 7.30pm on Zoom. This begins on 25 February and ends on 25 March. There is a copy of the sessions on the table in the church. Contact Sue Bosley if you would like to take part revdsue@stjhurstgreen.co.uk or phone 07553 305087. Sue will send a Zoom link if anyone wants to come in the evening.

Churches Together in Oxted District are offering a course called 'Living Hope'. Please sign up on the sheet in church for this. The GIFT group is running this course and anyone wishing to join them would be very welcome. Meetings are on Mondays at 10am in THE_SPACE, Oxted Community Hall, beginning on 23 February. Please contact Janet Harman for more information or if you would like to join this group. Contact details are overleaf.

CONFIRMATION: Please speak to Sue Bosley if you would like to find out more about what this involves. Following preparation, one option could be to join with others from across the Diocese for a service at Southwark Cathedral on Saturday 23 May at 4pm.

BUBBLE CHURCH lasts just 30 minutes and takes place on the 3rd Sunday each month at 9am, with refreshments from 8.45am. In January the first Bubble Church baptism took place as we welcomed baby Theo into the church.



PLANS FOR THE FUTURE OF ST JOHN'S: The mission day on 17 January, attended by 16 people, was creative and productive, with a variety of ideas emerging. These involve activities aimed at building and strengthening relationships and connections, both with other church members and the local community, and making St John's Church more visible. The Parochial Church Council (PCC) met on 22 January and discussed how to take these suggestions forward. Communication was a common theme.

Plans include repeating the successful beer and chilli evening and quiz night; open air service in June/July on the green by Aggies or in the churchyard; advertising St John's events in Oxted Local; Church open day; inviting a Gospel choir; slot on Radio Surrey; after service coffee at the back of the church; youth outreach; and strengthening the relationship with The Diamond Pub, starting with a ladies' meal and men's drinks. **WATCH THIS SPACE!**

NEW CABINET: Organised by the Crossing the Threshold group, this has now arrived and is in the church. It will replace the table used previously and is on wheels so it can be moved to clear a space for other activities. It also provides ample storage space.

Other Notices

FROGS AND TOADS: The migration season for our local frogs and toads will soon be upon us again. This is when they make their move to and from the pond where they were bred. It's weather-dependent because they are cold-blooded and won't usually venture out if the temperature feels like less than 5 °C. A mild, damp evening is ideal. Please drive carefully in the hours after sunset during February and March on the stretches of road leading to the T-junction between Church Way and Oast Road, and if you would like to help the Toad Patrol in keeping casualties to a minimum please contact Adrian on 07974 171977. Many thanks.

LUMOS CANDLELIGHT CONCERT AT ST JOHN'S: Friday 20 February with a string trio and musical theme of a Classical Hans Zimmer Tribute on. Tickets for the 7-8pm and 9-10pm sittings are sold out, but there is now an additional performance from 5-6pm with (at the time of writing) some tickets still available. You can read more and book tickets at <https://bit.ly/4pHybw0> Tickets cost £20 - £45 + fees, age restriction 8.

www.stjohnshurstgreen.org.uk

Revd Sue Bosley 01883 712674 / 07553 305087

St John's
HURST GREEN