The Season of Love!

One of the subjects I studied at University in the 1990s was Business and Economics. We learnt how everything was moving towards a more globalised world with advances in production technology, the potential of the internet and the ease of international travel.

And yet today, on the global political stage, there are strong reactions against this, a seeming fragmentation and desire for self-sufficiency rather than collaboration.

One of the mantras emerging in my studies was ‘Think Global, Act Local’. Interestingly on a local level there is no less a desire to reach out, work together and help one another. It’s a natural instinct we have as human beings. During this last Christmas season I have been particularly struck by the generosity and kindness of so many people. At St John’s we have collected weekly for local food banks and the contributions from local people have exceeded our expectations.

Each week we have gathered many, many boxes and bags of products and the food banks (and those whom they help) have been very grateful indeed.

At the Christmas Eve services we collect gifts for the charity Welcare and the disadvantaged children and families it helps. I receive many phone calls in the days before from those who can’t make the service but still want to give something. Again, bags and bags were gathered and taken to those in need.

Also, there are fundraising efforts such as Christmas Jumper Day for Save the Children and local collections for the Children’s Society from Holland School’s collections for the Children’s Society from Holland School’s Save the Children and local food banks - please contribute at any time.

I recently came across this inspiring thought from Howard Thurman, an African-American Civil Rights leader, theologian and author, whose activism was based on non-violent Christian principles and who inspired and mentored others such as Martin Luther King. I hope in this Season of Love it inspires you too.

When the Song of the Angels Is Stilled
When the song of the angels is stilled, When the star in the sky is gone, When the kings and the princes are home, When the shepherds are back with their flocks, The work of Christmas begins: To find the lost, To heal the broken, To feed the hungry, To release the prisoner, To rebuild the nations, To bring peace among people, To make music in the heart.

Howard Thurman

Let’s remember all in need of love, both globally and locally and reach out where we can. Happy Valentine’s Day!

Revd Anna Eltringham, Vicar of St John’s Hurst Green and St George’s Crowhurst

St John’s Youth Choir
A relaxed and fun singing group for children from Year 3 upwards. We meet fortnightly on a Tuesday from 4 - 5pm at St John’s Church and contribute to occasional services and events at the church. All are welcome!

Email sarahnewbury1@gmail.com for more details, or come along to find out what we’re all about.

This month’s dates are: 12 & 26 February.

Reverse Advent

Many, many thanks to all those people who gave so generously to the ‘Reverse Advent’ at St John’s. All the donations were taken to the Caterham Foodbank, where they were gratefully received and subsequently distributed. Such was the success, we have decided to have a permanent donation box at St John’s Church.

As the storage space at Caterham is limited, it is proposed to donate regularly to the East Grinstead Foodbank. We will check with Caterham periodically, and take a batch there when they have capacity.

Please bring any food or toiletry items which are brand new, non-perishable and in date. The church is always open in daylight hours so you can leave your donations in the porch. Priorities change from time to time, but the items currently needed are: tinned carrots, peas and potatoes, jars of pasta sauce, tinned meatballs, tinned spaghetti hoops, surface cleaner, longlife milk (green, 1 litre), longlife fruit juice (1 litre), toilet paper (2s), small boxes of tissues, toothbrushes, small washing powder or liquid. They 

HOLLAND SPORTS GET FIT CLUB
FREE community training sessions by qualified Personal Trainers and Coachers Stretching and health advice using the new Trim Trail Meet at Mill Lane Recreation Ground, Hurst Green, RH8 9DF.

Sessions take place on Mondays at 2pm and 7.30pm and Fridays at 2pm.

For more information please go to: www.hollandsportsclub.co.uk/getfit/ or email getfit@hollandsportsclub.co.uk

The March issue of Hurst Green News will be published on 23 February 2019. Please send material for that issue, including items for the diary, no later than FRIDAY, 8 FEBRUARY 2019 to The Compiler: hgccompiler@gmail.com or 26 Orchard Way, Oxted, RH8 9DJ. The Compiler reserves the right to edit copy. The Hurst Green News is published by St John’s Parochial Church Council (Registered Charity 1133107) as a church and community newsletter. It is financed by advertisements and St John’s Parochial Church Council.
Carbon Monoxide Alarms

Winter is a time when we are all encouraged and reminded to look out for one another especially the vulnerable in our community. Are you aware of the risk from exposure to carbon monoxide from gas appliances? Carbon monoxide (CO) is a dangerous gas and we all know the risks of the colourless, odourless gas. Maybe you have a CO alarm which is out of date, maybe getting one has been on your ‘to do’ list for a long time. Whatever the reason for delay, CO alarms aren’t expensive or hard to install. Thanks to public safety campaigns we are all so much better at installing and testing our smoke alarms - can we extend this to cover CO alarms? A local heating company has shared details of two cases with us which may help spur you into action.

The first case concerns an elderly gentleman. His daughter contacted the company and asked them to service the boiler at his property. Many may see this as interfering; some may see it as caring. The reality is that when the engineers carried out the work, their tests revealed dangerously high levels of CO emissions. The boiler was not safe to be left on until remedial work was carried out. The property did not have a CO alarm and the elderly gentleman could have died if he’d been exposed to the CO emissions.

The second case involved a family home, parents with young children. The service of their boiler was overdue, but they’d simply overlooked it as they tackled the daily grind. When the engineers arrived they detected high readings. In this circumstance they were able to make adjustments to lower the emissions; however a CO alarm was fitted in case of future problems. A couple of weeks later they called to say that the alarm had activated, warning them to shut down the appliance and vacate the property, essentially saving their lives.

Do you know someone, a neighbour, friend or relative that may need help testing or installing a CO alarm? There are many local organisations who can help - it’s not expensive (and some organisations will fit an alarm for free if other work is being undertaken). So don’t delay - get one fitted today!

Tennis Xpress at Hurst Green Tennis Club

Mill Lane, Hurst Green, RH9 9DF
(next to Holland Sports Club)

Hurst Green Tennis Club is offering Tennis Xpress, for adult beginners and rusty racquets to get into tennis at your friendly local club. If you have never played tennis before, or haven’t played in a long time, then Tennis Xpress is for you. It is an easy and fun way for adult beginners to get into the game. During the six or nine week course you will be taught new skills and be shown how to serve, rally and score, so by the end, you will be able to enjoy fun matches with friends, family or other people you meet.

It will take place on Saturday 9 -10am from 9 February for 9 weeks (3 x 3 week blocks) OR Monday 6 - 7.30pm from 11 February for 6 weeks (2 x 3 week blocks). The cost is £30 for the 6 or 9 week course (we need a minimum of 4 players for each course).

For more information or to book your place, please contact hurstgreentc@gmail.com.

www.hurstgreen-tennis-club.co.uk/home

Community Cinema

Save the date! St John’s is planning to show occasional family films for the Hurst Green community.

The first is scheduled for the afternoon of Saturday 9 March. Entrance will be open to all and will be free - although donations will be welcome! The film title will be decided in the coming weeks … so watch out for our posters!

Wing mirrors in Woodhurst Lane

Anyone who has lived for any time in Hurst Green has probably lost, or nearly lost a wing mirror as they drive along Woodhurst Lane. Looking back over past editions of Hurst Green News, this appears to have been a feature of life for over thirty years and isn’t likely to improve any time soon. We’ve now been made aware that this problem is also affecting pedestrians who use the very narrow pavement, presumably because vehicles are getting wider. A couple of pedestrians have recently been struck by wing mirrors of vehicles, something which is quite painful and could potentially be very serious, depending where you’re struck. The authorities have been notified but in the meantime, if you could keep an eye out for the pedestrians - and cyclists - and slow down as you go past them, that would be much appreciated!
Easter Eggstravaganza
Saturday 30 March 2019
Raffle, silent auction, tombola, games and crafts

Hurst Green Busy Bees Forest School and Preschool
For children aged 2, 3 and 4 years
The Evangelical Church, 75 Hurst Green Road, RH8 9AJ

Hurst Green Busy Bees

FREE TENNIS SESSION
Hurst Green Tennis Club, Mill Lane, Hurst Green
Sunday 3 February, 10am - 12 noon
...and on the 1st Sunday of every month
Open to all - for more information contact: hurstgreente@btinternet.com or 01883 714324

Café Church band ~ crafts for children ~ creative ways of praying
Meetings every Monday 1.30-4.30pm

East Surrey Rural Transport Partnership
Part-time Minibus Drivers and Passenger Assistants needed
Monday - Friday, term time only
Drive: To cover a school run in the Oxted area in the morning and afternoon. 5 hours a day: 7 - 9.30am and 2.45 - 5.15pm. D1 entitlement on driving licence essential for minibus driver, or the right candidate can be put through the taxi licence process. £9.61/hour inc. holiday pay
Passenger Assistant: Hours as above.
Experience of working with children and young people an advantage. £8.77/hour including holiday pay.

Action on the World Day of Prayer
On Friday 1 March the 2019 World Day of Prayer will be celebrated.
This service is put together by the women of Slovenia whose stories reflect the political and economic situation of the past and the present country. Services are:
10am - St Mary’s, Tatsfield
7.30pm - All Saints, Oxted
Refreshments afterwards.
All are welcome - please come!

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Bradley Stoke Community Church

East Surrey Handicapped Society
www.tandridgehandicappedsociety.org.uk
Monday 18 February, 2pm
Woodhouse Centre, Hoskins Road car park, Oxted
‘THE CHESS SET’
Illustrated talk by Mavis Walker
Meetings every Monday 1.30-4.30pm
More info: Jenny Beal, 01883 620730

East Surrey Electrical Services

Parish Registers
Funerals
Our sympathy goes to her relatives and friends:
4 January Margaret Mummery
St John’s Book of Remembrance
To have a name entered, please phone Diana on 712845.

Hurst Green Busy Bees

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West End
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