



HURST GREEN NEWS

January 2020

Welcome to a New Year!

Perhaps this will be the year when we see more clearly with 2020 vision? Last year has flown past at an alarming rate - or is this just because I am getting older? Christmas festive food; maybe family gatherings; New Year's Eve fireworks; kisses and music fade.



January is honestly a bit of an anti-climax. What makes it worse is that the weather is unkind, the earth is black and dead, leaves melt into the mud that glistens with a thin icing. Trees and plants sleep. Then we add GUILT to the gloom by aiming for New Year's Resolutions that we don't manage too well. Some hardy folk do achieve that visit to the gym, but in January the soul longs to stay warm under the duvet, or at least mine does.

I sang a song as a small child in the 60s, based on the story of the young women waiting for the bridegroom with their oil lamps. 'Sing Hosanna! Give me oil in my lamp keep me burning, keep me burning till the break of day'. Some modern hymn books have changed the words to read 'till the end of day'. I know that words of hymns have always changed, but this one particularly rankles for me. In the dark hours, the dark month of the year, I want to make sure that my lamp is burning brightly. I want to top up my oil of gladness. I don't want to feel guilty or anti-climactic. I want to be even more hopeful than ever.

The Jewish day has two parts, the first actually begins at sunset, or when three stars are visible. Twelve hours of the night are followed at sunrise by twelve hours of the day. My favourite Psalm is Ps 130. It speaks to me about how to live through the dark months or dark times in our lives.

⁵I wait for the Lord, my soul waits,
and in his word I hope;
⁶my soul waits for the Lord
more than those who watch for the morning,
more than those who watch for the morning.

If God tells me something, He will do so at least twice. That way I am less likely to miss it. I imagine the Night Watchman on his battlement, in the cold and dark. He is not gloomy. He KNOWS beyond a shadow of doubt that soon the horizon will start to turn grey, that the sky will lighten, the sun's journey will begin again. He is full of hope, expectation and ready to ring the bells, blow his trumpet, or shout to the sleeping town that a new day is here. Let's not be weary, even if we are snuggled under the duvet, let's keep our lamps burning ready for all that 2020 will bring. Wait in Hope.

Wendy Hewitt, Lay Reader St John's

YO YOs

York Rooms Youngsters, a friendly local playgroup for parents and carers with babies through to pre-school children
Wednesdays 9.15 - 11.15am (term time only)

Starting again after the Christmas break on 8 January 2020

York Rooms, St John's Church Church Way, Hurst Green, RH8 9EA

Tea, coffee and cake plus snacks for the little ones
Discretionary donations only

For more information, call 01883 712674 or email
office@stjhurstgreen.co.uk; find us on Facebook & Twitter

St Johns Hurst Green

@AnnaRevd



St John's Youth Choir

We would love to welcome new members to our youth choir! A relaxed and fun singing group for children from Year 2 to Year 7.

We meet fortnightly on a Tuesday at the church, 4-5pm, and sing various styles of music, often working towards a concert or to singing during the St John's services. There is no charge, it is a free activity supported by the church.

Our next sessions are:

**Tuesday 14 January and
Tuesday 28 January**

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



#InTheStory

Come and play your part in the giant nativity scene at St John's Church, on the green triangle of grass at the front of the church.

Visit with friends and family to put your 'head in the hole' and consider where you are in the story. Share your photos with us on Facebook with the #InTheStory hashtag and encourage others to have a go!



The nativity board will only be there until the end of December, so don't delay.

Hurry to Bethlehem!

Aggies-on-the-Green The Community Coffee Shop



Opening again after the break on

Wednesday 8 January 2019

...and every Wednesday

Coffee from 10.30am

Light lunches from 12 noon

A warm and friendly place to meet friends
Food is homemade, varying each week,
provided by a rota of loyal volunteers

All welcome!

HURST GREEN CHURCHES WELCOME YOU

ST JOHN'S, CHURCH WAY

8am Holy Communion
9.30am Parish Eucharist
 Crèche and Children's groups - all ages
11.30am, 3rd Sunday Café Service, refreshments from 11am (not August)
12 noon Holy Communion, David Gresham House
Other services: details in church porch
12 noon Weekday Eucharist
Wednesday Anna Eltringham, 712674, 14 Oast Road (day off - Friday)
Vicar:
Assistant Priest: Mary Seller - 715675, 11 Home Park
Southwark Pastoral Auxiliary: Monica Fenton - 715769

METHODIST CHURCH, HURSTLANDS

10.30am Morning Worship, Café Church 1st Sunday
3 - 4.30pm Families at 3, monthly - see box on next page
Minister: Stephen Mares - 020 3719 4644

Please telephone any of these numbers for details of weekday worship and activities, to discuss baptism, marriage, or the arranging of a funeral, or if you want help in times of joy or sorrow.

EVANGELICAL CHURCH ON HURST GREEN

10.45am Family Worship
Pastors: Steven and Margaret Cox - 717510

ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH OF OXTED & WARLINGHAM

All Saints' Church Chichele Road, Oxted - 627762
St Ambrose Church Warren Park, Warlingham
5.30pm Saturday First Mass of Sunday, All Saints' Oxted
9am Sunday St Ambrose, Warlingham
11am Sunday All Saints' Oxted
Parish Priest Fr Stephen - 713776

OXTED UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

The Church of the Peace of God
 21 Bluehouse Lane, Oxted - 730406
 oxtedurc@gmail.com
 Service includes story-time for children, Junior Church, and communion monthly
10am Sunday Graham Dadd
Minister:

Appeal for volunteers to help fold Hurst Green News

On the last Saturday of each month, a small team meets from 9 - 10am in the York Rooms at St John's Church to fold the Hurst Green News for the following month. Several of our folders have retired recently and we could do with some more help.

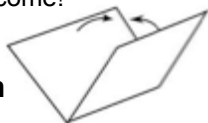
Hurst Green News has been published in a variety of formats over many years and in its current form for over 30 years. We strive to ensure it remains a community newsletter and around 2,700 copies are delivered FREE each month throughout Hurst Green, by around 75 people. Although it is financed by St John's Church, the whole process is supported by a large network of volunteers from both the church and the local community. We are very grateful to those who have responded in the past to appeals for help, we couldn't manage with you.



Don't forget we would also love to hear from you if you feel inclined to put pen to paper on a local issue, or if you wish to promote a charitable event. We do make a small charge for businesses and you may have found the list on the back page useful.

So, if you would like to join our group of folders, please don't worry if you can't commit to every month as any help would be greatly appreciated. If you have any queries, you can contact the Compiler on hgncompiler@gmail.com, or you could just turn up next time and give it a try. You will be very welcome!

**Saturday 25 January 2020 at 9am
in the York Rooms at St John's Church**



For many people, January is one of their least favourite months. The joy and sparkle of Christmas is well and truly over, the credit card bills are starting to arrive, and winter feels as if it is going to go on forever. So, what do we know about January? Here's some fun trivia for you:

- January is named after the Roman god, Janus, who was always shown as having two heads. He looked back to the last year and forward to the new one. This is why we think about casting out the old and bringing in the new - a month known by many as the start of a new year which brings new opportunities.
- The birth stone for January is the garnet, which represents constancy. The flower is the carnation.
- The first recorded reference to a 'January sale' in the UK was in 1865.
- Daytime temperatures in January make it the coldest month of the year in the UK. February nights are colder in England (but not Scotland).
- January was originally the 11th month, not the first, until at least 153BC.
- It used to have only 30 days but Julius Caesar added one more day to January in 46BC.
- According to the International Standards Organisation's ISO 8601, week 1 of any year is the week including 4 January.
- With the exception of leap years, January always begins on the same day as October. In leap years, January always begins on the same day as April and July.

Gardening tips for the New Year



I do hope you have enjoyed the festivities and are looking for a form of worthwhile exercise; perhaps getting out into the garden will satisfy you despite the garden looking somewhat bleak so early in the year. However, evergreen shrubs and the coming up of snowdrops and daffodils may well start to inspire you. If you have a vegetable patch and you haven't already rough dug it, it isn't too late as there most likely will be more beneficial frosts yet. Rose trees should be tied up to guard against 'root rock'. Indoor plants only need minimal watering but kept in a light position.

If you are a new resident to our area and would like to be inspired with some gardening tips, why not come along to the Hurst Green Gardening Club for varied and interesting garden speakers through to the coming year. Our first Meeting is on Wednesday, 8 January 2020 at St Agatha's Hall, Hurst Green when the speaker will transport us to the Himalayas with a slide show about its spring flowers, a great start on a winter's evening!

We meet at St Agatha's Hall at 8pm (always on the second Wednesday of each month) and do make yourself known to the Committee or Jane who will be chairing the meeting. Oh, and just a reminder to look after our feathered friends....

Jane Firmin, Hurst Green Gardening Club

**RSPB -
The East
Surrey
Group**



**giving
nature
a home**

Do you enjoy watching the birds in your garden? Or take part in the Big Garden Birdwatch? We are fortunate in having so many different bird species in our local area. The East Surrey Group of the RSPB meets on the second Wednesday evening of each month (at 8pm) at the White Hart Barn in Godstone. We have a varied and interesting programme of speakers throughout the year and a field trip each month led by an expert guide. Members and non-members of the RSPB are very welcome to come along. Full details of the meetings can be found in Dates for your Diary 2020 on page 3 of Hurst Green News.

Dates for your Diary 2020

- 6 Jan Tandridge Club for the Visually Impaired, 2.30pm, Methodist Church Hall - New Year party and present exchange, with entertainment from the Rotary Singers. Contact: Carol Leach 01883 382031
- 8 Jan Hurst Green Gardening Club, St Agatha's Hall, 8pm: Speaker, Dr John Nathan - Flowers of the Himalayas. Contact: Brian Parrott, 01883 723916
- 8 Jan East Surrey RSPB, White Hart Barn, Godstone, 8pm: Brian Nobbs - 'Food for the birds, eat-in or take-away?'. Admission £3 adults, £1 fledglings. Visitors welcome.
- 9 Jan Pollards Oak WI, Methodist Church Hall, 7.45pm: Speaker, Charlie Jarrett - 'Four forges and a coffin shop'. More information from Jan Ward, 01883 712143
- 14 Jan Carers' Support Group meeting, 10.30am - 12 noon (2nd Tuesday in the month) Community Room, Eastlands Close, Oxted. Contact: 01883 745057
- 27 Jan Tandridge Club for the Visually Impaired, 2.30pm, Methodist Church Hall - 'Bees and the amazing produce from the Hive Louise Camby' (also chocolate cake day)

Hurst Green News can also be read on www.stjohnshurstgreen.org.uk

These boots are made for walking... and making resolutions to keep fit!

Christmas is over - time for making New Year Resolutions! Walking helps more people connect with others locally, discover beautiful winter landscapes and feel better along the way. THE TIME IS NOW. What are you waiting for? Come and join us, a friendly group that enjoys talking whilst walking in the countryside, making new friends and having pub lunches. We also enjoy various social events throughout the year and organise holidays together, both in the UK and abroad. Each week we offer a selection of walks for different abilities, ranging from 3 to 12 miles. There's bound to be one that suits you and you are welcome to walk with us on one or two occasions before you decide whether to join East Surrey Walkers. We'd love to have your company...

Some of our walks coming up in January...

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 Jan Wednesday 1.30pm, Oxted | Leisurely afternoon walk, 5 miles |
| 6 Jan Monday 10am, Chelsham | Easy, Amble, 3 miles |
| 7 Jan Tuesday 10am, Caterham | Strenuous, Fast Fitness, 3.7 miles |
| 11 Jan Saturday 10am, Woldingham | Leisurely, 6 miles |
| 19 Jan Sunday 10am, East Grinstead | Leisurely, 5.2 miles |
| 25 Jan Saturday 2pm, Godstone | Easy afternoon amble, 3 miles |



For details of where to meet and our full programme: www.eastsurreywalkers.org.uk.
Pamela Cunliffe, Publicity Officer



Have you ever thought of volunteering?

Tandridge Voluntary Action (TVA) is a charity supporting voluntary, community and faith organisations in the Tandridge district of East Surrey. Currently it has more than a thousand volunteering opportunities available. Whatever your interests, wherever you live, whether you have a lot of time or a little, you will be giving your time

to help charities and community groups improve lives. Not only will you have the satisfaction and achievement of making a difference, volunteering can also provide other benefits including: the opportunity to make new friends, develop your job and career prospects and learn new skills, whilst having fun doing something new and gaining a greater sense of well-being and increased confidence.

Before you start to volunteer, it is important to consider what you want to do, how much time you can commit and how often you can do it; there is usually a volunteer role to suit everyone. There is more information at <https://tva.org.uk/volunteering/> or get in touch by phone 01883 722593 or e-mail info@tva.org.uk. The address is The Community Hub, 1st Floor Library Building, 14 Gresham Road, Oxted.

Help for Local Residents from the LINK Porter Trust

The LINK Porter Trust has recently issued a hand-out leaflet to publicise the support it has available for local residents of RH8 who, through no fault of their own, have fallen on hard times. Although not making outright cash payments, the Trust does make grants to needy residents who cannot afford to buy items such as household equipment, school uniform or access to transport.

The Trust was founded in 1992 with a legacy left to LINK and, although part of LINK, is managed by a separate Board of Trustees. The income from the legacy, together with further donations received by the Trust has enabled around £140,000 to be paid in grants to individuals and organisations since 1992.

Applicants to The Link Porter Trust may call its Hon. Secretary on 01883 723370 to apply for help. They must be prepared to disclose their full financial situation so that a prudent assessment can be made by the Trustees. If applicants need to buy or pay for essential items (e.g. a cooker) and are in real need, the Trust will be delighted to help.

St Agatha's Hall
Booking Administrator
07586 863079 or
aggieshall@gmail.com

You can check the availability of the hall by logging on to the website:
stagathashall.weebly.com/contact.html

and going to the 'what's on' calendar.

Come and join us for
COFFEE and a CHAT

Where? **St John's Room**
St John's Church
When? **Fortnightly on Thursdays**
9 and 23 January
10.30am - 12 midday
Need a lift? **Ring Barbara, 715636**



Join us for **CAFÉ CHURCH**

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St John's, Hurst Green
Sunday 19 January
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children ~ creative ways of praying



For more info, call 01883 712674
or e-mail office@stjhurstgreen.co.uk

Families at Three

Join us for games,
music, crafts and more!
Drinks and snack
are also provided.



Please note all children to be
accompanied by an adult

Sunday 19 January, 3 - 4.30pm
at Hurst Green Methodist Church
Hope to see you there!

FREE TENNIS SESSION

Hurst Green Tennis Club, Mill Lane
Sunday 5 January, 10am - 12 noon



...and on the 1st Sunday each month
Open to all

For more information contact:
hurstgreentc@gmail.com or 714324

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