



HURST GREEN NEWS

February 2023

New Year Blues?

We often hear the term 'January Blues' or 'February Blues'. I know that children can feel this more than ever at the start of the school term once the fun and sparkle of Christmas is boxed up again for another year. In fact, I think we can all feel quite low at times when daylight hours are few and the weather is damp and cold.



Although we no longer keep the Christmas tree up at St John's until February like I hear my predecessor Revd David Butlin did, we do keep the Christmas spirit going for a while. Firstly, we mark the visit of the Magi to the Christ child at 'Epiphany'. Then a few weeks later, usually at the start of February we celebrate Candlemas. This recalls the time when Joseph and Mary took the child Jesus to the temple to make an offering of thanks to God and is also traditionally the time when new candles are brought into church and blessed for the year.

This special festival is also called Candlemas because of what happened next that day in the temple. Two holy and devout people, who had worshipped all their lives in the temple waiting patiently for the Messiah, realised something when they set eyes on Jesus. One was Anna, my namesake, and one was Simeon who described what he saw in the Christ child as the salvation of all the world and a light to lighten all people.

Elton John wrote a song called 'I guess that's why they call it the blues' about two people who are waiting for the time when they'll be together again. Sometimes we can feel low and wonder when we'll feel brighter again. We too might be waiting for better days.

Unlike Anna and Simeon we no longer have to wait for Jesus. Those who are Christians dare to believe that Jesus is with us all the time, always there to lighten our darkness and warm our hearts by his reassuring presence and peace.

You are all always welcome to St John's or the Evangelical church on the green (or of course any of the Oxted churches too) to find out more, or do contact any of the local ministers if you are feeling the blues and fancy a chat. And if you'd like to come to a Candlemas service, why not try our 9.45am on 5th February at St John's? This is a beautiful service for all-ages and if you have a baptism candle for you or your child please bring that along too and we will light them to remind us Jesus is always with us, which he is, even when we have the blues.

With love and prayers,

Revd Anna, Rector, St John's Church

Windmill Manor Care Home has opened a new wing which will offer nursing care alongside its existing dementia care provision. The home currently provides care for those living with dementia but will now have the capacity to offer nursing care in addition, thanks to its new bespoke nursing wing.



On Thursday 19 January, staff and residents from Windmill Manor Care Home along with Councillor Brian Black came together to officially open the home's new nursing wing which will be named Willow Way. The name Willow Way was chosen by Ellie Sandover, who is in Year 5 at Holland Junior School. Ellie said she chose the name because the willow tree is a beautiful tree and the elderly are like willows. They are slightly bent over but still need to be nurtured, loved and deserve respect.



Holland Junior School

The new wing, which is already accepting patients, will increase the home's capacity to support the community with specialist nursing care for both the elderly and patients requiring complex care. For more information please go to: www.barchester.com

Save our frogs and toads

Over the next few weeks you may catch sight of frogs and toads crossing the road near St John's Church at, and approaching, the junction between Church Way and Oast Road.

What are the differences between frogs and toads? Frogs have smooth, moist skin, and they aren't slimy! They tend to jump rather than crawl. Toads, on the other hand, have drier skin. They don't need to spend their lives so close to water. They lumber about when they move instead of hopping.

Both frogs and toads are known as amphibians because they live partly on land and partly in the water and travel back each year to the pond where they were bred. This happens in late winter/early spring after it begins to get dark and often following a rainy day. They don't like the cold so the temperature needs to be reasonably mild otherwise they will stay put in someone's garden for a little longer in their snug spot in the undergrowth, or a woodpile, or a hole in the ground. Then when the conditions seem right, they set out on their journey – and they don't have any road sense!

So, from early or mid-February until early April there are likely to be frogs and toads in Church Way and in Oast Road near the T-junction in the hours after dusk. These little amphibians can be seen and avoided if we drive slowly and carefully in that area.

We have a Toad Patrol in place to help them on their journey, but sometimes we don't have enough people to cover the whole of an evening.

If you are interested in helping out, even just for an evening or two, please contact Adrian on 07974 171977.



Many thanks from the Toad Patrol!



Community Brunch And Café Church

3rd Sunday of the month
19 February, 11am
at St John's Church

Hurst Green Neighbour of the Month

Do you know someone who deserves a mention in the Hurst Green News? If you have a great neighbour or friend who lives in Hurst Green that has gone above and beyond to help you or someone in the community or there might even be someone you don't know that has done a kind deed please let us know so we can give them a great big thank you.



You can email us at: hgncompiler@gmail.com

HURST GREEN 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 noon 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, CHURCH WAY

Rector: Anna Eltringham, 01883 712674,
14 Oast Road (day off - Monday)
Assistant Priest: Mary Seller, 01883 715675, 11 Home Park
Curate: Lotwina Farodoye, 07553 305087
Southwark Pastoral Auxiliary:
Monica Fenton, 01883 715769
www.stjohnshurstgreen.org.uk

HURST GREEN EVANGELICAL CHURCH

Pastor: Keith Dickson, 01883 712017,
Pastor@hgec.org.uk / www.hgec.org.uk

ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH OF OXTED & WARLINGHAM

All Saints' Church Chichele Road, Oxted, 01883 627762
St Ambrose Church Warren Park, Warlingham
Parish Priest Fr Stephen, 713776
www.oxtedandwarlinghamparish.org

OXTED UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

The Church of the Peace of God
21 Bluehouse Lane, Oxted, 01883 730406
oxtedurc@gmail.com
Church Administrator:
Claire Harris, 01883 730406
www.oxtedurc.org.uk

The Christmas Community Giveaway - A Final Thank You!



The Christmas Community Giveaway was an initiative set up to embody the spirit of Christmas. It was an initiative for everybody. For young and old, families and singles. For those who would not see many people at Christmas, to those with health struggles or difficulties like grief or financial worries. And for those, who give their all for everybody else, never expecting thanks but never truly seen. The list is endless. It was an initiative that hoped to bring our community together and share some Christmas joy. To say we see you, we hear you, we love you. You are not alone. You are all an essential part of our community.

We exceeded our target by over £300 and thus raised £605 in total! We created 217 giftbags and had 15 brand new puzzles to gift! These giftbags were distributed at the Community Fridge, a Christmas Community Hub for families with the help of Father Christmas and in a variety of other ways. The puzzles were donated to the local care homes. We truly did achieve our aim, and we saw the community come together. We want to thank everybody who volunteers to keep the likes of Community Fridge, and Community Hub running, St John's Church, those who donated, those who helped pack, and help distribute. Everybody.

There is a final thank you I have to give. This initiative was set up in memory, of a young man that I had the pleasure to know who passed away in January 2022, Joe Geddes. Joe, through your life you showed us how to love, care, and accept everybody, for who they are. To always be a beacon of light in the darkness. You will always be that to me, and so many others, even now.

The Accessibility Project has many more community initiatives up its sleeves and we need the people power to man it! With that in mind, we are setting up a Community Volunteer Database which will be used by The Accessibility Project and St John's Church collaboration projects. If you are able to volunteer and would like to add your details to the database please email: theaccessibilityprojectuk@gmail.com.

Abi Chapman – Director of The Accessibility Project

Correction: Last month's article stated Joe Geddes' died in 2021 which should have said 2022 as above. We apologise for the error.

On 20 February 2023, the **Tandridge Handicraft Society** is hosting a talk with examples, on sheep, wool and spinning. "Romney Marsh Wools" will be presented by Kristina Boulden. Doors open at 1.30pm, talk starts at 2pm. Visitors are welcome. There is a £5 entry fee including tea and biscuits. The Society meet every Monday at the Woodhouse Centre, Hoskins Road car park, opposite Tandridge Leisure Centre, Oxted RH8 9HT (use RH8 9JQ for Sat Nav). Further details at www.tandridgehandicraftsociety.org.uk or Jenny Beal on 01883 620730.

Want to learn to crochet? On 25 February, 10am-3pm at the **Woodhouse Centre** there will be a workshop where you can learn the basic stitches to make bags, blankets and hats. Workshop costs £38. To book please email: thewoodhousecentre@gmail.com.

Hurst Green Gardening Club

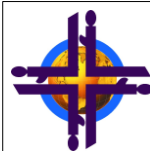
"Large or small, the garden should look both orderly and rich. It should be well fenced from the outer world. It should by no means imitate either the wilfulness or the wildness of Nature, but should look like a thing never seen except near a house." (William Morris)

This may be the opinion of William Morris, and maybe our speaker on January 11 will have quoted these few lines in his talk about Arts and Crafts Gardens, but my garden looks both wilful and wild, though the joy of snowdrops, hellebores, honeysuckle and cyclamen makes up for the lack of order I try so hard to create. Without any effort by me, the black leaf celandine will be everywhere by the time you read this, the dark leaves are a dramatic frame to the yellow flowers.

The soil in our gardens can vary a lot from street to street. If you have not already done this, get a simple testing kit to measure the acid level in several places in your garden. A plant in the right place will thank you – much better than trying to grow one in an unsuitable place. This applies to fruit and vegetables as well.

Brian Parrott, Programme Secretary

World Day of Prayer



On Friday 3 March the 2023 World Day of Prayer will be celebrated. World Day of Prayer is an international, inter-church organisation which enables us to hear the thoughts of women from all parts of the world: their hopes, concerns and prayers. This year people will gather to celebrate the service prepared by the women of Taiwan.

10am at St Andrew's, Limpsfield Chart

7.30pm at St Peter's, Limpsfield

All are welcome – we hope to see you there.



PARISH REGISTERS

Funerals

Our sympathy goes to all their relatives and friends

6 January 2023: Joan Rowlinson

St John's Book of Remembrance

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

Come and join us for
COFFEE and a CHAT



St John's Room
St John's Church

Fortnightly on Thursdays
2nd and 16th February
10.30am-12 noon

Need a lift? **Ring Barbara on**
01883 715636



Free Arty Crafty Group

Every Tuesday, 9:30am-2.30pm
in the communal room of the flats at
the top of Coldshott (back of the flats).

Painting, colouring, general arts and
crafts or you can bring your own
things to do.

Chat with a tea/coffee, meet new people
and make friends.

We are a friendly group.

Search for **Hurst Green Arty Crafty Group**
on Facebook

**POP-UP
COMMUNITY HUB**

**EVERY
THURSDAY
13:00 - 15:00**
St Agatha's Hall,
Hurst Green

Need transport? Contact
Cerys Williams 07855 987077

Dates for your Diary 2023

- 1 February:** Yo Yo's playgroup, every Wednesday in term time, York Rooms, St John's, Church Way, Hurst Green, 9.15-11.15am
- 2 February:** Hurst Green Community Hub, every Thursday, St Agatha's Hall, 1-3pm.
Contact: Abi Chapman, theaccessibilityprojectuk@gmail.com
- 8 February:** Hurst Green Gardening Club, St Agatha's Hall, 8pm. Contact: Brian Parrott, Programme Secretary, 01883 723916
- 9 February:** Pollards Oak WI, York Rooms, St John's Church, 7.45pm. Plant Passion – Flower Farming in the UK. Jan Ward, 01883 712143
- 13/27 February:** Tandridge Club for the Visually Impaired, 2nd & 4th Mondays, 2.45- 4.15pm, York Rooms, St John's Church: Contact: Carol Leach 01883 382031
- 20 February:** Tandridge Handicraft Society, Romney Marsh Woods, Woodhouse Centre, Oxted. Contact: Jenny Beal (Chairman) 01883 620730

St Agatha's Hall

To enquire about booking, contact the

Booking Administrator:

07769 001796 or

aggieshall@gmail.com

or complete the form on the website:

**stagathashall.weebly.com/
contact.html**



New You in 2023 with Matchpoint Tennis Club and Lifeline Gym

Matchpoint Tennis Club and Lifeline Gym is a family friendly tennis and fitness facility located on Holland Road, nestled within a stunning 10-acre country setting. Matchpoint Tennis Academy was founded in 2010. The family-orientated tennis club has 4 year-round floodlit hard tennis courts and hosts a vibrant and versatile coaching programme led by Graeme Livingstone, who holds a LTA Performance Coaching Award - the highest LTA qualification attainable.

LifeLine Gym offers indoor and outdoor training spaces with TechnoGym cardio and resistance machines and a wealth of functional fitness equipment. There is a variety of classes available including spin and pilates and membership options to suit everyone. Manager Max and his team also run LifeFit, a functional fitness small group personal training programme which focuses on providing a fun and supportive training community to enhance your emotional and mental wellbeing. Members receive expert tuition on technique and form, nutritional advice and tailored training sessions, and benefit from their coaches providing extra motivation, support and accountability.

For more information follow matchpointlifeline on social media, email admin@matchpointlifeline.co.uk or pop in for a chat and enjoy one of their coffees or specialist teas.



What is Lent? Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, which this year is on Wednesday 22 February. Lent is a period of six weeks (40 days not including Sundays) leading up to **Easter**. Lent is in spring, when the days begin to get longer and is an old English word meaning 'lengthen'.

What is the story of Lent? Jesus went into the desert to fast and pray before beginning his work for God. Jesus was tempted several times by Satan, but was able to resist. Lent allows Christians to remember Jesus's fasting in the desert. It is a time of giving things up and a test of self-discipline. There are many foods that some Christians do not eat in Lent, such as meat and fish, eggs, and milk. Some Christians give up something they really enjoy, such as cake or chocolate.

How do people celebrate Lent? Some Christians start celebrating Lent the day before Ash Wednesday on Shrove Tuesday. You may have heard this called pancake day. This is because this day was traditionally the time when Christians would use up food they would not be eating during Lent. On Ash Wednesday many Christian churches hold services during which Christians are marked on the forehead with a cross of ashes. This is a sign of saying sorry to God for any wrong-doing.

Lent Mid Week Services at St John's start on Wednesday March 1st at 12noon weekly for six weeks followed by a light lunch. We hope to see you there!



Transport from Hurst Green to The Friday Night Project

Night Project. Freedom Leisure are researching transport issues for young people accessing local activities like the Friday Night Project, a youth club for 11-16's at Tandridge Leisure Centre. Working with East Surrey Rural Transport there may be funding if there is demand. Please let them know if your child would come to sessions like the Friday Night Project if there was a minibus service from Hurst Green by contacting juliet.mason@freedom-leisure.co.uk. To find out more go to: www.freedom-leisure.co.uk

East Surrey Walkers We'd be delighted if you should join us on an ESW walk, there are distances and levels to suit everyone. Please go to our website for details: www.eastsurreywalkers.org.uk

I'm starting this article with some clues – if you've got local knowledge, or you are of a certain age, you'll know the answer!

The clues - a precious stone, port conflict, a Tandridge village location and a river to the east. The answers are HMS Amethyst, a confrontation with communist forces, St Peter's church, Tandridge and the Yangtze river in China. Together, they form the Yangtze Incident. This took place on 20th April 1949, when the frigate, HMS Amethyst, steamed up the Yangtze river to relieve HMS Consort at Nanjing, as she prepared to evacuate British and Commonwealth citizens caught up in the advance of the Chinese communist forces.

HMS Amethyst came under fire from communist shore batteries and received over 50 hits. Holes below the waterline were plugged with hammocks and bedding. HMS Consort steamed at high speed in a rescue attempt but then also came under fire. Return fire disabled some of the enemy shore batteries and Consort attempted to tow Amethyst to safety. However, this attempt had to be aborted. Consort also sustained heavy damage casualties and fatalities. Six days later under cover of darkness, Consort successfully towed Amethyst off the mud to a point upriver. HMS London and HMS Black Swan then attempted to rescue Amethyst but came under fire and further fatalities and casualties resulted. At this point Lt. Cmdr. Kerans took command and started negotiations and the wounded were evacuated by sampan. Negotiations continued for many months. The Chinese insisted that Kerans sign a statement that Amethyst had wrongly invaded Chinese national waters and had fired upon them first; Kerans declined to sign and ultimately decided to make a break for open waters.

On July 31st under cover of darkness, Amethyst steamed downstream and began a 104-mile escape. She came under heavy fire but putting down thick black smoke confused the communist gunners on the shore. At full speed they broke through the boom at the mouth of the river and made contact with HMS Consort. 46 men were killed, and they are remembered at the National Memorial Arboretum.

Lt. Cmdr. Kerans, DSO RN, subsequently served as an MP (Conservative for Hartlepool). He died in 1985. The connection to Tandridge village? Kerans is interred in St Peter's churchyard in Tandridge. Several ESW walks pass through or nearby the churchyard.

ESW wish you Happy Walking.

Stephen Hanks, ESW



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