



# HURST GREEN NEWS

April 2023

## "One toot and you're oot"

My wife Gillian recently went out for breakfast and came back raving about a local café's "amazing" breakfast. I decided to visit said café last Saturday to experience this culinary delight for myself. I was sorely disappointed; I will not be returning to said café for their breakfast again. To use a colloquial Scots phrase my mum very much liked, "one toot and you're oot!" My "one toot and you're oot" attitude to the café reminded me of a conversation with the new CEO from my previous employment. He was very keen to let me know how much he valued me and that he would support me as an important member of staff, which was a nice carrot. Then came the stick - if I ever "disappointed" him in any manner that would be the end of my employment. A somewhat extreme management style I feel and a literal take on the "one toot and you're oot" school of thought. As I have started to prepare for Easter, I have realised that disappointment runs throughout the Easter narrative. Think on it. The crowds that welcomed Jesus as the conquering King quickly became disappointed when He refused to live up to their expectation. The religious authorities were very disappointed with Jesus that He refused to acknowledge their authority, intellect or importance. Both the crowd and the religious authorities certainly took the "one toot and you're oot" option which led to Jesus hanging on a cross at Golgotha. Yet the greatest disappointment must have been Jesus', betrayal, abandonment and denial by those closest to Him. Judas traded Jesus' life for thirty silver coins, Peter denied Him publicly three times and the rest ran for their lives and hid. On top of the physical torment and pain of the cross there was undoubtedly the emotional anguish of His friends utter betrayal. Jesus must have been very disappointed indeed with His friends and disciples. It would have been only reasonable for Jesus to have cursed them and railed against His friends and disciples, wouldn't it? Jesus would have been justified adopting a "one toot and you're oot" attitude with His worthless friends, wouldn't He?

Let's fast forward to a breakfast around three weeks after Jesus' crucifixion. The risen Jesus has just cooked breakfast for His friends on the shore of Galilee. This event in itself is remarkable but what Jesus does next is astonishing. Jesus restores Peter, the man who publicly denied Him, the man who ran and hid, the man who was notably absent from the crucifixion. Note that it is Jesus who calls Peter back to follow Him, it is Jesus who came to Peter, it is Jesus that reinstates Peter as His disciple. None of what happened was Peter's idea rather it was Jesus'. I am sure Peter felt that he had "tooted" and he was very much and forever "oot", but Jesus didn't.

I am thankful that with God it is never "one toot and you're oot". The true theme of Easter is not disappointment but hope. With God and through Jesus' life, death and resurrection there is always hope for those who have fallen like Peter, like me and like you. I may well give that local café's breakfast another try this Saturday.

*Keith Dickson, Pastor, Hurst Green Evangelical Church*

## LINK needs volunteer drivers

## Oxted and District Link Association

LINK is an independent charity founded in 1974 providing assistance to the community within the RH8 postcode. We offer transport to medical appointments to Oxted, East Surrey Hospital, Caterham and sometimes further afield for local residents without their own transport. There is no charge for this service but instead LINK relies on donations from those it is able to help to cover costs.

Do you live around the RH8 postcode and have a few hours to spare driving for a 'Good Neighbour' organisation? No fixed time commitment - drive when it suits you and travel and parking expenses reimbursed.

If you are interested in joining LINK to help provide this much needed service, please contact Paula Myers on 01883 713379 or email: [linkmyers@btinternet.com](mailto:linkmyers@btinternet.com)

HAPPY  
EASTER



# EASTER Fun Day

**SATURDAY 8th APRIL**  
10am - 12.30pm

For children, teens and adults

CRAFTS - OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES -  
PITCH & PUTT - MURAL PAINTING -  
EASTER BONNET PARADE - LIGHT LUNCH FOR  
CHILDREN - REFRESHMENTS FOR ADULTS

AT HURST GREEN EVANGELICAL CHURCH  
On The Green, 75 Hurst Green Road

Any questions please contact:  
[office@stjhurstgreen.co.uk](mailto:office@stjhurstgreen.co.uk) / 01883 712674

Organised by Hurst Green  
Fellowship and St John's

## Maundy Thursday Hot cross bun giveaway!

Join us or pray for us at Hurst Green Station,  
**6.30am on Maundy Thursday (6 April)**  
as we give hot cross buns and the gospel  
message to the Hurst Green commuters!

## Holy Week and Easter Services at St John's Church, Church Way, Hurst Green, RH8 9EA

st John's  
HURST GREEN

2 April, Palm Sunday

**8.30am:** Holy Eucharist with palm crosses and  
reading of the Passion

**9.45am:** Parish Eucharist with palm crosses and  
reading of the Passion

5 April, Holy Wednesday

**12 noon:** Eucharist, followed by simple lunch of  
soup and rolls

6 April, Maundy Thursday

**8pm:** Eucharist remembering Jesus' Last Supper  
and the night that followed

7 April, Good Friday

**9.30am:** Good Friday Liturgy remembering Jesus'  
final hours on the cross

8 April, Holy Saturday/Easter Eve

**7pm:** Short Service of Night Prayer

9 April, Easter Day

**6am:** Dawn Eucharist by St Agatha's

**8.30am:** Holy Eucharist

**9.45am:** All Age Eucharist

# 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 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 712 674  
Postal Address: 14 Oast Road  
**Assistant Priest:** Mary Seller, 01883 715675  
**Curate:** Lotwina Farodoye, 07553 305087  
**Reader:** Wendy Hewitt, 07789 680653  
[www.stjohnshurstgreen.org.uk](http://www.stjohnshurstgreen.org.uk)

## HURST GREEN EVANGELICAL CHURCH

**Pastor:** Keith Dickson, 01883 712 017,  
[www.hgec.org.uk](http://www.hgec.org.uk)

## KING'S CHURCH

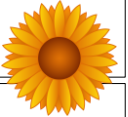
**Contact:** King's Centre, 33 Amy Road, Oxted, Surrey RH8 0PW  
Simon Quincey, 01883 734 805,  
[www.kingschurchforyou.org](http://www.kingschurchforyou.org)

## ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH OF OXTED & WARLINGHAM

**All Saints' Church** Chichele Road, Oxted, 01883 627 762  
**St Ambrose Church** Warren Park, Warlingham  
**Parish Priest** Fr Stephen, 01883 713776  
[www.oxtedandwarlinghamparish.org](http://www.oxtedandwarlinghamparish.org)

## OXTED UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

**The Church of the Peace of God**  
21 Bluehouse Lane, Oxted, 01883 730 406  
[oxtedurc@gmail.com](mailto:oxtedurc@gmail.com)  
**Church Administrator:**  
Claire Harris, 01883 730 406  
[www.oxtedurc.org.uk](http://www.oxtedurc.org.uk)



## Hosting a Ukrainian family in Hurst Green

We were lucky enough to welcome a lovely Ukrainian family into our home just before Christmas. The family had already been in the UK, based in Oxted for 6 months, so we are their second host family. Although we had looked at the scheme initially, to be honest we were put off by the finding and sponsoring process and the inevitable red tape of all these schemes. For us being a second host was the perfect solution enabling us to support a family whilst avoiding as much British bureaucracy as possible! The family, having been uprooted from their home in Ukraine, had worked so hard to establish themselves in the local area with school places, friends and jobs it seemed devastating to be rehoused, potentially out of area. And so our family of four extended to a family of 7.

As well as enriching our lives with lots of delicious new cuisines, we have enjoyed learning about the Ukrainian culture and traditions, especially over the Christmas period. However, the experience is also giving me a new opportunity to experience many of our systems through new eyes. And my overwhelming feeling, having dealt with the local authority and Universal Credit, is one of sadness and frustration. My experience is that our systems are convoluted and difficult to navigate, without the added additional challenge of English being your second language. I am often left to explain things to our guest that actually make absolutely no sense at all. I feel completely bemused and slightly embarrassed about how difficult we make everything. For example, the family of three are currently housed with us, under the Homes for Ukraine scheme, in two bedrooms however, when bidding on local authority accommodation there is no option to request anything smaller than a three bedroom. I understand that the two schemes are different, but I wonder at what point we take away someone's ability to decide for themselves about their living situation. For many cultures whole families sleep in one bedroom and yet despite a catastrophic shortage of housing we continue to insist that a family of three cannot share a one or two bedroom property. I just wonder if we are adding to the local housing problem. Without a guarantor or deposit for private rental, with many private landlords avoiding tenancies with people on Universal Credit and with over 700 local families waiting for council accommodation ahead of our guest, I think that continuing to be housed under the Homes for Ukrainians scheme may well be the only option for many families.

I know that for some it may seem challenging to be a host family but if you have a spare room I urge you to consider being a second host. Not only do you have the added benefit of being able to meet the visitors ahead of agreeing to host, you can also talk to their previous host and really try to find a match that fits with your own family.

As a community, I am always so warmed by Oxted's generosity and kindness. I wonder if we could challenge ourselves to try and maintain some sort of continuity for these families who have already arrived in the area.



## Creative Community - 'Buzz' project

**Bulbs** - Last Autumn we started our new 'Buzz' project. With the brilliant support of other local groups, we kicked off by planting bulbs in the triangle of grass (with red post box) on Hurst Green. 27 volunteers worked together in the pouring rain and by lunchtime, lots of bulbs were planted. In the mix are bulbs attractive to pollinating insects including bees and butterflies. Look out now for the bulbs coming up, and hopefully some buzzing insects will check them out too!

Special thanks to: Titsey Rotary Club, HG Gardening Club, HG Infants School, HG Scouts & Cubs, HGV Fair, Holland Sports, Oxted Health Centre, St Johns Eco Church, and TDC Parks & Open spaces team.

**Sunflowers** - We'd love as many people as possible to sow sunflower seeds this Spring. How about creating your own 'Buzz Box' with sunflowers or grow them directly in the ground in a sunny spot? We'll be sowing sunflower seeds this Spring, so keep an eye out for details if you'd like to join in with us. Bees love the flowers in the Summer and birds love the sunflower seeds in the Autumn. So, be part of the buzz bringing colour to Hurst Green with flowers attractive to pollinating insects. *The Creative Community Team*

**Have you got Voter ID?** If you want to vote in a polling station at the local elections on Thursday 4 May, you'll need to bring photo ID with you, otherwise you won't be able to vote. This is a new requirement following changes to the law.

Your ID needs to be the original (not a photocopy), and can be a passport, driving licence (including provisional licence), Blue Badge, identity card with PASS mark (Proof of Age Standards Scheme), certain concessionary travel cards, biometric immigration document, defence identity card, or a national identity card. If you have one of these IDs, but it is out of date, you can still use it to vote at a polling station if the photo on it still looks like you. You don't need to provide photo ID to vote by post.

If you don't have any of these items, you need to apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate by 5pm on 25 April.

Find out more online about the Voter ID requirements at [www.electoralcommission.org.uk](http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk) or call 0800 328 0280.

Bring photo ID to vote



### Holy Baptisms

*We welcome into the family of God's Church*

15 April: Mia Rose Chandler  
23 April: Emilyrose Elizabeth Jones

### St John's Book of Remembrance

To have a name entered,  
Email: [office@stjhurstgreen.co.uk](mailto:office@stjhurstgreen.co.uk)

*Come and join us for*  
**COFFEE and a CHAT**



**St John's Room**  
**St John's Church**

**Fortnightly on Thursdays**  
**(meeting only once in April)**

**20th April**

**10.30am-12 noon**

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

**Hurst Green Neighbours of the Month** for April are Jorge & Cid who have been nominated by Sepha Brook, for being great neighbours because they always give her unexpected treats and indulge her cat. Sepha said 'she couldn't wish for better neighbours!'



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](mailto:hgncompiler@gmail.com).

**The Solem Quartet** are performing in Oxted on **15 April at 7.30pm** in the Bawtree Concert Hall of Hazelwood School, Oxted in a programme including Beethoven's great string quartet in A Minor.



Tickets are £30, with free entry for under-25s  
[www.olms.org.uk](http://www.olms.org.uk)

## Dates for your Diary 2023

**3 April:** Tandridge Handicraft Society, Woodhouse Centre, Oxted. Every Monday, 1.30-4.30pm.

Contact: Jenny Beal (Chairman) 01883 620730.

**5 April:** Community Fridge, every Wednesday, St Agatha's Hall, 11.15am-12.30pm.

**6 April:** Hurst Green Community Hub, every Thursday, St Agatha's Hall, 1-3pm.

Contact: Abi Chapman, theaccessibilityprojectuk@gmail.com.

**12 April:** Hurst Green Gardening Club, St Agatha's Hall, 8pm. Contact: Brian Parrott, Programme Secretary, 01883 723916.

**13 April:** Pollards Oak WI, York Rooms, St John's Church, 7.45pm. Deaf Awareness & Hard of Hearing services by a Sight for Surrey representative. Call: Jan Ward, 01883 712143.

**19 April:** Yo Yo's playgroup, every Wednesday in term time, St John's, 9.15-11.15am.

**24 April:** Tandridge Club for the Visually Impaired, normally 2nd & 4th Mondays but only one meeting in April, 2.30 - 4.15pm, York Rooms, St John's Church. Call: Carol Leach 01883 382031.



## Silver Swans dance classes at Aggie's Hall

Research undertaken by the Royal Academy of Dance\* demonstrated many benefits dance can have on our wellbeing, particularly as we age. In response to this, Silver Swans ballet classes were born, with sessions specifically designed for older adults. Welcoming experienced dancers, those who dabbled as children but found the opportunity slipped away, and those who are donning their ballet shoes for the first time, the classes are full of people in their 40s, 50s, 60s, 70s and 80s who are growing in elegance, confidence and poise. While the physical benefits are fantastic, with dancers reporting better balance, better posture and feeling less likely to fall in their daily lives, the positive mental aspects are, perhaps, an even more pleasing addition. Many describe leaving class "uplifted" and others find a peaceful, mindful element to their hour of dance.

"I enjoy all aspects of the classes, including the wonderfully supportive classmates. When we are able to dance together there is such good humour. Lucy, the teacher is so understanding of creaking joints and other health aspects of being a more senior dancer. I do believe that while being far from perfect, I have become more graceful over time. There is a lovely feeling about being able to move to the music in an expressive way."

"When I was thinking about whether or not to join Silver Swans, I hesitated because I thought that, in my late seventies, this was a bit ridiculous. I am so glad I overcame this hesitation. Lucy's classes are inclusive for anyone who is interested, regardless of age, ability or experience. I would absolutely recommend them!"

Classes take place every Friday at St Agatha's Hall in Hurst Green. To take part, please just contact Lucy on 07920 181454 or enquiries@inceptiondance.co.uk.

\*<https://www.royalacademyofdance.org/dance-with-us/dance-for-lifelong-wellbeing/>



**East Surrey Walkers** are in full swing organising their 40th Anniversary Festival which takes place between the 22<sup>nd</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> April. Walks are planned every day during this period including a walk from Hurst Green to Crowhurst and back.

There are other walks in Surrey in Godstone, Bletchingley and Coulsdon and in Crockham Hill, Dryhill, Hosey Hill and Marbeech in Kent.

To see the full list of Anniversary Festival walks please go to:

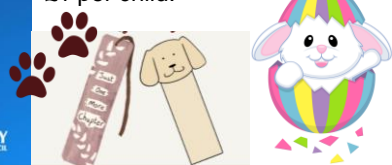
[www.eastsurreywalkers.org.uk](http://www.eastsurreywalkers.org.uk)



## Crafternoons at Oxted Library 2.30-3.30pm

5 April - Easter Bunny craft  
15 April - Dog bookmark craft

For ages 5+.  
No need to book just drop in.  
£1 per child.



## 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](http://stagathashall.weebly.com/contact.html)**

**Hurst Green Scouting** - Scouting offers fun challenges and everyday adventure to 400,000 boys and girls in the UK. But it's also about fun and friendships for adults too!

1<sup>st</sup> Oxted Scouts are running a thriving Hurst Green group for Scouts (Tuesday evenings, 19:30 - 21:00 aged 10-14) and Cubs (Wednesday evenings 18:30-20:00, aged 8-10) from our Scout Hut at Holland Sports Ground, Mill Lane, Hurst Green.

We would love to make the same provision for younger children in Hurst Green by re-establishing our Beaver Colony. Beaver Scouts are young people aged between 6-8 years old, and The Beaver Colony is the first, and youngest, section of the Scout Group.

Can you help out? If you are a parent or any other local adult with some time to give, please do ask about helping us out. There's no better time to get involved. Volunteering with us is easy, fun and flexible - how much time you give is completely up to you. Since lockdown eased, we have been unable to re-start our Beaver Colony due to a lack of leaders. We are now actively looking to re-establish our Beaver Colony for local 6-8 year olds and would be interested to hear from you if you can help.

- Volunteers are fully supported by an established Leadership team
- Improve your CV and put your skills to good use
- Try new things and gain qualifications
- Become an active member of your community
- See your son or daughter in a different environment
- Fast track your child into the Scout Group

If you would like to volunteer or are a parent who would like to add your child to our growing waiting list for entry into cubs you should contact us at: [scoutshurstgreen@gmail.com](mailto:scoutshurstgreen@gmail.com).

Finally, the Scout Hut on Mill Lane is available at reasonable rates for hire for regular club and community activities. You can drop us an email at [scoutshurstgreen@gmail.com](mailto:scoutshurstgreen@gmail.com)



**Oxted Musical Theatre Company** are looking for new members. You don't need to be the best singer, actor or dancer, you just need to love musical theatre and want to be involved on the stage or supporting off stage. If you're interested, please contact: [info@oxtdmtc.co.uk](mailto:info@oxtdmtc.co.uk).

We are a welcoming group so don't be scared to come along and join in the fun!

OMTC's next production of 'Is there Life after High School' is being performed at The Barn Theatre, Oxted, from 19-22 April.

If you haven't been to a show before by OMTC, or you've come to every single one, why not come along and enjoy a wonderful performance and fun evening out? Tickets can be booked at [www.barntheatreoxtd.co.uk](http://www.barntheatreoxtd.co.uk).

## Hurst Green Singers Summer Concert

The Bawtree Hall, Hazelwood School, Oxted, on **Saturday 13 May at 7pm**. Tickets are £15 on the door or from [hurstgreensingers@gmail.com](mailto:hurstgreensingers@gmail.com). A great evening of memorable music featuring the Nelson Mass by Franz Josef Haydn, thought by many to be his greatest single composition.



## Summer Fair

**Saturday 13 May 2023 12-3pm**

**Moor House School & College, Mill Lane, Hurst Green FREE ENTRY**

[moorhouseoxtd.co.uk/events](http://moorhouseoxtd.co.uk/events)

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**www.sycamorecourt.co.uk** **01883 723500**

### T.C.HILLIER, Lawn Mower &

Garden Machinery service and repair  
Local family run business  
**t.c.hillier@btinternet.com** **01883 712355**

### TLC @ HOME

Local Care at Home provider based in Church  
Way, Oxtd offering hourly, overnight or  
live-in support to older people in the area  
**tlc4homecare@gmail.com** or **01959 528538**

### DO YOU NEED STORAGE?

Barn and garage space available at Merle Common,  
south of Hurst Green.  
**07831 578359**