



HURST GREEN NEWS

December 2023

"If music be the food of love, play on."

This quote from Shakespeare's play, Twelfth Night, is suggesting that an excess of music may relieve the heartache of the spurned, lovelorn young speaker, but is often taken out of context, to suggest that music can indeed inspire and feed the emotion of love.



Certainly the act of playing, singing, or listening to music touches parts of our inmost being, making us feel elated, sad, wistful, or charged up. Couples often have a special song that they heard when they first met, or a favourite hymn sung at their wedding which remains a shared memory. Listening to Ravel's 'La Valse' in the car recently, I suddenly realised I was driving faster than I intended, so engaged had I been with the wonderful whirling music. Oops!

The act of singing releases 'feel-good' endorphins in the brain, so whether you sing in the shower, or sing in a choir, you feel better after a good vocal work-out. Singing is a gift which we share with birds, and animals such as whales, a way of communicating and connecting with those around us. Many people feel they cannot sing, but enjoy listening to music, often selecting something which connects to their emotional mood.

The bible has many references to making music in order to praise God. Psalm 96 says "Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth. For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise."

There are many opportunities at St John's in December to praise God, as we await, and then celebrate Jesus's birth at Christmas, starting with an Advent Carol service on the 3rd, then our Café Church Christingle service on the 10th, 9 Lessons and Carols on the 17th, and 2 Crib services on the 24th, as well as our Christmas Eve and Christmas morning services.

We hope that you will be able to join us as we worship together, praising God through some wonderful music as we receive His gift of Love.

Whether you prefer to listen or join in, you will be warmly welcomed at this special time of year. Do come! *Hilary Dilnot, Organist at St John's*



BBC Children in Need For the past 20 years Matt Leadbetter has been fundraising for this great cause. You may remember the annual event held at Aggies which included Mel Johnson doing his Freddie Mercury tribute or his supermarket.com with high heels and skirt, Fame and so many more. We saw Jackie Wren doing a tribute to Tina Turner and Cameron Macintosh doing Uptown Funk. The charity event also featured lots of singers like Ryan Mac, Paul Hobbs as Rod Stewart, and the amazing Top Bananas.

Over the years local residents raised over £11,000. Unfortunately, this year Matt decided to hang up his CIN boots but would like to thank everyone for their support and encourage you to donate online if you haven't done so already at www.bbcchildreninneed.co.uk.



Christmas Carols and Christmas Jumper night at The Diamond

With a bucket collection for charity

Wednesday 20 December, 7pm
The Diamond Inn, Holland Road,
Hurst Green RH8 9BQ

Bring your singing voice and put on your favourite Christmas attire and join in the fun!

Saturday 9 December, 3pm
St John's, Hurst Green
Oxted Band

Christmas Music with carols

Featuring all your favourite Christmas carols and songs

More details at
oxtedband.co.uk



MONDAY | 25 DECEMBER | 12.30PM-4PM

Hurst Green Community Centre

4 Oak Close, RH8 0BA

DON'T CELEBRATE ALONE THIS YEAR!

FREE Christmas Lunch

RSVP

077 3295 2227

075 9261 0449

BY 11TH DECEMBER 2023

If you live within a 5 mile radius of our centre, join us for food and drinks (non-alcoholic), Santa, music and festive fun!

This event is brought to you by Alan Feesey and Deb Shiner, with support from Cameron Mcintosh, The Diamond Pub, Co-op, Morrisons and many more.

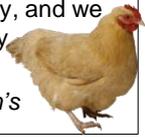
Harvest success for St John's Church

This year instead of bringing harvest produce to church for our harvest festival celebrations, we invited donations to buy a gift, through the charity 'The Ripple Effect', for families in rural communities in far off lands who are finding times tough at the moment. A simple gift can be life-saving. For example, the gift of a chicken will provide eggs to eat, any surplus can be sold and bring in vital income and the droppings will enrich the soil and so help crops to thrive.

We chose four different gifts, and between us, from the £1,325 raised, we have now bought 35 chickens, 9 goats, 10 beehives and 21 packs of 'super-strong' seeds - resilient seed varieties that withstand drought and flooding.

At harvest time we thank God for all that he gives us, not only our plentiful food supply, and we rejoice that it has been an opportunity to share with others God's gift of life.

Mary Seller, Assistant Priest, St John's



Join us for a Community Brunch followed by a Café Church Special with Carols, Crafts and Christingles with a collection for The Children's Society.

Café Church is a relaxed, informal service for all ages, where children and adults can flow freely around the Church, enjoy crafts, learn more about faith and chat with friends over coffee.

The January issue of Hurst Green News will be published on 23 December 2023.

Please send material for that issue by FRIDAY 8 DECEMBER 2023 to The Editor: hgncompiler@gmail.com. The Editor 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.

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 12.30pm 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, HURST GREEN

Vicar: Reverend Sue Bosley (from end of Jan 2024)
Church Way, Hurst Green RH8 9EA

Assistant Priest: Mary Seller, 01883 715675

Southwark Pastoral Auxiliary:
Monica Fenton, 01883 715769

Reader: Wendy Hewitt, 07789 680653
www.stjohnshurstgreen.org.uk

HURST GREEN EVANGELICAL CHURCH

Pastor: Keith Dickson, 01883 712 017,
www.hurstgreen-fellowship.org

KING'S CHURCH

Contact: King's Centre, 33 Amy Road, Oxted, Surrey RH8 0PW
Simon Quincey, 01883 734 805,
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

OXTED UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

The Church of the Peace of God
21 Bluehouse Lane, Oxted, 01883 730 406
oxtedurc@gmail.com

Church Administrator:
Claire Harris, 01883 730 406
www.oxtedurc.org.uk



CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

Oxted United Reformed Church RH8 0AA



18th 19th 20th December
4pm – 6:30pm

Adults £2 Children Free CASH ONLY
Entrance money donated to
Participating charities.
Children's craft table
Transform Trade stall
Refreshments
Please bring loose change to donate to
your favourite charities.

Adults £1 Children Free

All Welcome

PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR

Limpsfield School Christmas Fair

SATURDAY
2ND DECEMBER

Limpsfield C.E
Infant School

11AM
-2PM

Tombola, Games & Crafts,
Adopt a Teddy & Toy Stalls,
BBQ, Cakes & Mulled Wine

Oxted Parish Council



There are 10,500 residents in the Oxted Parish. Our aim is to increase our links with the community and to keep our parishioners fully informed of our work. Improving communication and involving residents in local issues enables the Council to work more closely with the residents of Oxted and Hurst Green. Your Parish Councillors are very proud of Oxted's heritage with its open spaces, community spirit, its excellent range of town centre and countryside housing, and its local facilities.

Please find below dates for Parish Council meetings which are all held at Oxted Community Hall.

- 5th December - Planning Committee - 5:30pm
- 2nd January - Planning Committee - 5:30pm
- 9th January - Council meeting - 6:30pm
- 16th January - Burial Ground Committee - 5:30pm
- 23rd January - Planning Committee - 5:30pm
- 13th February - Planning Committee - 5:30pm
- 13th February - Council meeting - 6:30pm
- 5th March - Planning Committee - 5:30pm
- 12th March - Council meeting - 6:30pm
- 19th March - Burial Ground Committee - 5:30pm
- 26th March - Planning Committee - 5:30pm
- 9th April - Council meeting - 6:30pm
- 16th April - Planning Committee - 5:30pm

The local Parish Council is currently looking for information about the circular bench around the oak tree on Hurst Green, near St Agatha's Hall. We are hoping to gather information regarding the bench so that we can help restore this local community facility. Please contact Louise Kirk at cllr.louise.kirk@oxted-pc.org.uk with any information about the history of the bench or if you know anyone who might recall any details.



HALLELUJAH – IT'S HANDEL'S MESSIAH!

Local choir, Hurst Green Singers, is busy rehearsing for its Christmas concert when it will perform what has become one of the most iconic pieces of the festive season: Handel's Messiah. Featuring the joyous 'Hallelujah' chorus, the timeless masterpiece tells the story of the birth of Jesus and speaks of hope and new beginnings following his resurrection.

Music Director, James M Meaders, will conduct a choir of 65 singers accompanied by organ, string quintet and oboes. The solo voice parts in Handel's most enduring work will be performed by accomplished guest singers Ellen Mawhinney (soprano); Clover Kayne (mezzosoprano); George Curnow (tenor) and Johannes Moore (bass), so the audience can sit back and enjoy both the arias and rousing choruses of the famous oratorio.

The performance will take place on **Sunday 10th December at 5.30pm at the Bawtree Hall, Hazelwood School, Wolfs Hill, Limpsfield.** Put the date in your diary as the concert promises to be a memorable evening of wonderful music to kick start the Christmas festivities.

Tickets cost £15 (no charge for under 18s) and are available to purchase online at www.hurstgreensingers.co.uk or on the door.



Come and join us for
COFFEE and a CHAT
St John's Room,
St John's Church

Fortnightly on Thursdays (only one in December)

21 December 2023, 10.30am-12 noon
Need a lift? Ring Barbara on 01883 715636



PARISH REGISTERS

Funerals

Our sympathy goes to all their
relatives and friends

7 November: Brenda Cole
14 November: Pat Conquest

St John's Book of Remembrance

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



Oxted & Limpsfield Choral Society Christmas Concert Saturday 2 December, 5pm

United Reformed Church,
Bluehouse Lane RH8 0AA

Featuring Te Deum, Henry Purcell
Gloria, Karl Jenkins

A selection of Christmas songs & carols
Tickets £15 (including wine and mince pie)
www.olcs.org.uk

Hurst Green Gardening Club For those of you that came to our meetings last year I hope that you enjoyed listening to our speakers and learnt something new.

Our first speaker meeting next year is on 10 January, 8pm at St Agatha's Hall. I have filled some but not all of the speaker slots for 2024. After many years in this role my own circumstances and health have continued to hamper me, and I have decided to step down from my role as Programme Secretary. Others have stepped in and between us I am sure we can provide a full programme for 2024. I will remain on the Club Committee.

We look forward to seeing you at meetings in 2024. Please feel free to bring plants to sell as all money raised goes towards supporting the club's running costs.

For more information: www.hggardeningclub.blogspot.com
Brian Parrott, Programme Secretary

Dates for your Diary October 2023

11 December: Tandridge Club for the Visually Impaired, Christmas poems and readings, 2.30-4.30pm, St Agatha's Hall, Hurst Green. Call for info and transport: Chair, Diana Drysdale, 01883 742708.

11 December: End of Term Christmas Cheer. Tandridge Handicraft Society, Woodhouse Centre, Oxted. Every Monday, 1.30-4.30pm. Contact: Jenny Beal (Chairman) 01883 620730.

13 December: Yo Yo's playgroup, Christmas Party, Wednesdays in term time, St John's Church, 9.15-11.15am.

13 December: Community Fridge, every Wednesday, St Agatha's Hall, 11.15am-12.30pm.

14 December: Hurst Green Community Hub, every Thursday, St Agatha's Hall, 1-3pm.

Need a lift? Call Cerys Williams, 07855 987077.

14 December: Pollards Oak WI, Members Christmas Party, York Rooms, St John's Church, 7.45pm. Call: Jan Ward, 01883 712143.

15 December: Oxted Country Market, Friday mornings, 9.30-11.30am, Woodhouse Centre, Oxted

St Agatha's Hall

To enquire about booking, contact the

Booking Administrator:
07769 001796 or
aggiesshall@gmail.com

or complete the form on the website:
**stagathashall.weebly.com/
contact.html**

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Santa, Rudolph and the Titsey Rotary Elves will be back in Oxted, Hurst Green and Limpsfield this month! Starting on Monday 4 December, Santa Claus and Rudolph will be touring the streets, playing festive songs, distributing sweets to the children and collecting cash for the charities that Titsey Rotary Club supports.

You can see Santa and Rudolf on the following evenings, between 5pm and 7.15pm.

Monday 4 December

Hurst Green: Mill Lane, Warren Lane, Coldshott, Comforts Farm Ave.

Tuesday 5 December

Limpsfield: Bluehouse Lane (E), Park Road, Granville Road, Stanhopes, Padbrook.

Thursday 7 December

Hurst Green: Hurstlands, Home Park, Hazelwood Heights, Paddock Way.

Friday 8 December

Hurst Green: Pollards Oak Cres (S), Greenway, Chestnut Copse, Pollards Oak Cres (N).

Sunday 10 December

Limpsfield Chart: Santa will be outside The Carpenters Arms.

Monday 11 December

Hurst Green: Juniper Close, Four Oaks, Roseacre, Meridian Sq, Barnfield Way, Holland Crescent.

Tuesday 12 December

Oxted: Eastlands Way, Chalkpit Lane, Westlands Way, Central Way, Greenacres, Silkham Rd.

Thurs 14 December

Hurst Green: Pollards Oak Rd, Wolfs Wood, Hazelwood Rd, Boulthurst Way, Pollards Oak Road (from Red Lane towards PO shops).

Santa will be putting a TRACKER on local Facebook groups and the Titsey Rotary Club website www.titsey.org.uk so you can follow his route – and listen out for Santa's bell too!

Santa at MORRISONS

Santa, Rudolph and the Sleigh will be in Morrisons Car Park between 10.00am and 4.00pm on Monday 18, Tuesday 19, Wednesday 20, Thursday 21 and Friday 22 December. Pop over and have a sing-along to Santa's festive tunes! AND – if Santa and his Sleigh aren't passing by your house, this is an ideal chance to bundle the kids into the car and see Santa at Morrisons!

Last Christmas our Santa's Sleigh elves collected over £4200 for charity. We hope to match or beat that this year.

Thank you for supporting TITSEY ROTARY CLUB'S Santa's Sleigh Christmas Collection.



Advent Carol Service, Sunday 3 December at 6pm at St John's Church

A service of readings and music, for choir and congregation, to begin the season of Advent as we look forward to Christmas. **All welcome.**



Come and join us at
St John's Church this Christmas
www.stjohnshurstgreen.org.uk

Sunday 3 December - First Sunday of Advent

8.30am Said Eucharist

9.45am All Age Eucharist

6pm Advent Carol Service

Sunday 10 December - Second Sunday of Advent

8.30am Said Eucharist

9.45am Parish Eucharist

11am Christmas Community Brunch followed by Café Church Special with Christingles, Crafts and Carols with a collection for The Children's Charity.

Sunday 17 December - Third Sunday of Advent

8.30am Said Eucharist

9.45am Parish Eucharist

5.30pm Nine Lessons and Carols,

followed by mince pies and mulled wine with a collection for Crisis

Sunday 24 December - Fourth Sunday of Advent

Christmas Eve

NO 8.30am SERVICE

9.45am Parish Eucharist

3.30 & 5pm Crib services

At these services we will be supporting Welcare

9pm First Eucharist of Christmas ('midnight')

Monday 25 December - Christmas Day

8.30am: Holy Eucharist

10am: Eucharist for Christmas Day

– family friendly service

Wednesday 27 December

NO Midweek Eucharist



The Children's Society



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THANKYOU!

TO ALL OUR READERS,
ADVERTISERS,
DISTRIBUTORS
AND CONTRIBUTORS.
WE WISH YOU A MERRY
CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY
NEW YEAR!



This month's neighbour(s) of the month goes to all the volunteers who deliver the Hurst Green News to nearly 3,000 houses in Hurst Green. Without you the residents of Hurst Green would not receive their monthly newsletter and local organisations and events would not be able to tell readers useful information. There are 53 volunteers who hand deliver the HGN each month to designated roads. We thank you and Distribution Coordinator, Julian Taylor, for all your hard work.

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.



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