

# NEWSLETTER-APRIL 2024

## St John the Evangelist, Hurst Green

Welcome All | Deepen Faith | Inspire Action

### Welcome to St John's!

*During the early spring it's been a joy to see daffodils and tiny spring flowers come up from the ground in the garden. There was life hidden in the earth that we didn't know was there until it appeared. It's rather exciting to be in a new home and for the garden to surprise us. I know that there is still more to come as we move into late spring and the buds on the trees burst into colourful life.*

*On Easter morning we celebrated the new life of Christ bursting from the tomb. And now as we enter into Eastertide, the bible readings tell us the good news that Christ is alive.*

*Jesus Christ stands with his disciples, assures them that they are not alone and blesses them with his peace. Their encounters with the risen Lord prepared them to be sent out to share the good news that Christ had overcome the darkness of the world.*

*It's the season to rediscover our new identities as members of the resurrected body of Christ; the Church, and to do the same. Christ is risen! Alleluia!*

*Every blessing, Revd Sue*

### Services at St John's this month

#### Sunday 7 April: Easter 2

8.30am: Said Eucharist    9.45am: All Age Eucharist

#### Sunday 14 April: Easter 3

8.30am: Said Eucharist    9.45am: Parish Eucharist

#### Sunday 21 April: Easter 4

8.30am: Said Eucharist    9.45am: Parish Eucharist  
11am: Community Brunch followed by Café Church

#### Wednesday 24 April

12 noon: Eucharist in the Lady Chapel - followed by a simple lunch in St John's Room (4th Wednesdays)

#### Sunday 28 April: Easter 5

8.30am: Said Eucharist  
9.45am: Parish Eucharist - with Sunday School



### YO YOs

Playgroup for parents/carers with babies and pre-school children

**Wednesdays 9.15 - 11.15am**

(term time only)

in the York Rooms  
at the back of St John's Church

Tea, coffee, cake for the adults  
and snacks for the little ones



### Community Hub Thursdays 1-3pm at St Agatha's Hall

The group began as a Warm Hub at the end of 2022, but it was decided to continue as a Hub throughout the year as it provides companionship to people who may not get out much. On average there are 16 regular attendees, who enjoy tea or coffee, cakes, chocolate bars, biscuits and crisps.

Thanks must go Track 1 at Hurst Green Station, who regularly donate goods to the Hub; and to the volunteers who make it possible. If you may be able to assist, please contact **Liz Parker: 01883 715852 or 07806 500133.**

*The May Newsletter will be available on Sunday 28 April.*

*Please send anything to be included by Sunday 21 April to Janet Harman at [office@stjhurstgreen.co.uk](mailto:office@stjhurstgreen.co.uk), or phone 715301 (and leave a message if I'm out!) Thank you.*

# St John's Notices

 [facebook.com/stjohnshurstgreen](https://facebook.com/stjohnshurstgreen)

**GREAT IS THE COMPANY OF WOMEN:** It is 30 years since women were first ordained to the priesthood. Our own assistant priest, Mary Seller, was among them. On 23 March there was a service at Southwark Cathedral to mark this anniversary and to celebrate women's ministry in the Church. Mary trained for ordination once the decision was made by the Church and was ordained deacon in 1991. She had to wait another three years for the ordination of women to the priesthood to actually take place.

**REPORT FROM THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL:** The PCC met on 21 March which was Revd Sue's first time as Chair. This was the last meeting for Hilary Dilnot, Emma Kemp, Peter Langham and Charlotte Nicholls, although some may stand again at this year's elections. As usual, the PCC covered a wide range of topics:

**Lay Conference on 2 March** - Six people from St John's attended and reported on various workshops. Useful practical suggestions emerged on what could be provided for the older generation. Information on the prevalence of violence against women was alarming, with figures similar for a church congregation as elsewhere. Churches were advised on how to develop awareness and signpost how to get help. Some speakers offered to visit churches, including one happy to discuss initiatives with local eco groups.

**Church grounds** - St John's is very fortunate to have extensive and beautiful grounds which are enjoyed by church members and the community, but hours of work are required to maintain them. We are grateful for the volunteers who help but the bulk of the work is undertaken by a paid gardener. He is honest and reliable and charges a preferential rate, but it still involves considerable expense when the church is facing a deficit. There are also ideas to incorporate more 'eco' aspects, and perhaps other ventures such as growing fruit which could be used by the Community Fridge. Henk, churchwarden, offered to come up with an alternative plan to be brought to the next PCC meeting. This could involve keeping the visible parts neat and trim and not worrying so much about those other areas out of sight. Working parties for specific tasks could be organised when necessary. It was noted that a number of people turned up to clear the Vicarage garden before a new Vicar arrived!

**The Crossing the Threshold Group** is exploring options for hosting community projects, such as a DWP Job Centre drop-in service; creative art sessions for people with dementia and Café Milk, for new mothers to meet, share experiences and receive breast-feeding support. There will be an update on progress in the May Newsletter.

**Fundraising events** suggested, to help increase income but also as social occasions, include a quiz night, beer tasting and chilli, barn dance, afternoon talks with tea and cakes. Further ideas are welcome, as are offers of help in organising events.

**The importance of safeguarding** Safeguarding Officers, Charlotte Nicholls and Sam Strolz, spoke on this subject. They will wear badges in future so you can identify them, and let them know if you have any safeguarding concerns. It is proposed to explore this area more fully at the next PCC meeting with the new PCC on 24 June.

**IF YOU ARE EXPERIENCING DOMESTIC ABUSE:** Women can call the free national helpline 0800 200 247 at any time. Men can call the men's advice line 0808 8010 327, Monday to Friday 10am - 8pm.

**ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING:** This will take place on Sunday 12 May at 11.15am in the church after the Parish Eucharist. There will be elections for PCC members and Deanery Synod representatives. Please consider whether you would like to stand for election to serve your church in this way. To find out more, speak to a current PCC member; names (with photos) are in the porch.

**ARE YOU ON THE ELECTORAL ROLL?** This is the basic list in every parish of all those entitled to become a sidesperson and vote in, or stand for, elections within the church. If you are not already on the electoral roll and would like your name added, please complete an application form, from the table at the back of church, and return it to Barbara Richards, Electoral Roll Officer (either by hand or via the 'R' pigeon hole in the porch). The closing date for additions is 24 April and names may not then be added until after the APCM.

## Other Notices

**MUNCH WITH MUSIC:** St John's Church, Clareville Road, Caterham Valley, Wednesday lunchtime 3 April, 12.15pm: coffee, tea, biscuits; 12.45pm: Double Duos, performance approx 45 minutes. Free admission, donations welcome. Bring your own Munch!



**AN EARLY END TO THE FROG AND TOAD MIGRATION:** A big thank you to everyone who has for the past few weeks helped out with the Toad Patrol at the junction of Church Way and Oast Road, and to those drivers who slowed down for us. The number of rescues was markedly down on previous years: 47 this year, compared with 164 last year and 104 the year before. It's likely that the very mild and very rainy February accounts for this, with many of our clients having made their move 2-3 weeks early and, to a great degree, when no humans were about. It's been an unusual season, but fortunately one with very few known casualties. *Thanks again Adrian*

**OXTED BAND SPRING CONCERT:** St John's Church at 7pm on Saturday 13 April. The Band was founded in 1902 and you can read more about its history at <https://oxtedband.co.uk> The website also has a number of videos of the Band playing at St John's.



**OXTED BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP:** Drop in between 1 and 3pm at the United Reformed Church, Oxted every other Thursday, this month on 11 and 25 April. Bereaved people can come on their own or with a friend to meet others and discuss ways of coping. Trained volunteers are on hand. This group is an initiative of CTOD and provides a great way to chat and share experiences.

**COFFEE and a CHAT**

**St John's Room, 10.30am - 12 noon**

**Thursdays 4 and 18 April**

If you need a lift, please ring Barbara: 715636



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

**Revd Sue Bosley 01883 712674 / 07553 305087**

  
st John's  
HURST GREEN