



HURST GREEN NEWS

April 2020

May you live in interesting times (an old Chinese saying)



As we write this in mid-March we cannot know what the situation will be when you read this in early April and that has me thinking about the unpredictability of life.

We all like to think we can lay out our plans and follow them and we know where we are going but that is not the always the case. If we are realistic we will admit that life changing events can come along at any time and require us to rethink our plans. We experienced this ten years ago when my health changed and I had to stop working but the change could have been even more dramatic.

Over this winter many people have had dramatic changes due to the severe weather we have been having with homes and businesses flooded. Dramatic changes could happen to anyone, any day, perhaps in your health, by an accident, changes in your family or in changes in your personal situation. And it is from these changes the whole insurance industry has grown up as we try to protect ourselves against these unplanned events.

As we have prepared to move we have had a famous verse on our minds from Proverbs 19 'Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the Lord's will that prevails'. Whether you believe in God or fate or something else, we all need to be aware that our plans can have to change due to circumstances beyond our control.

As we go into an uncertain future we will probably all have to change our plans due to the coronavirus and the effect it will have on us, our society, our country and the world. We cannot give you any quick fixes any more than all the people being interviewed on the television can.

However one thing we can read from our history and the history of other countries is that to be successful in the face of adversity the answer lies in community and not in individuals. There is that old saying that the whole is more than the sum of the parts and that is especially true in society. If we come together and work for the common good then our community will come through whatever the future holds. And this is true for our village, our area and our nation.

So as we face these difficult times we ask you to work together and in particular to look out for the weak in our area who will need our help to bring them through whatever is in store for us all.

Steven Cox, Pastor, Hurst Green Evangelical Church

Love not Fear

We are living in worrying times and uncharted territory. The landscape is changing on an hourly basis. Such times bring out the best and the worst in people.

For Christians, the bible calls us to love and not fear. We must take all the necessary precautions of course, but at the same time care for our neighbours, those who are anxious, those self-isolating, those who might be ill.

Which is why it has been so heartening to see the surge in compassion and kindness during this time of uncertainty and fear. Various groups have popped up locally to help others. My number is listed here and on some local websites so that any, particularly those not online, can get in touch if they don't know where to turn and need practical help or just a listening ear.

I have a pool of people from local churches who are at the ready to help. If you need support in this way, do not worry at all about giving me a call.

I have no idea to what extent this will be taken up, but as a Christian, what I do know is that Christ would not have retreated but been a faithful, loving presence to all. So as your local church, that is what we seek to do too.

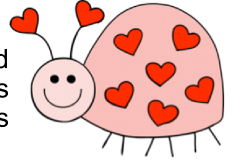
One other way we are doing this is to strengthen community, even while connections are under strain as we cease public worship in our building, meeting places are closed and events are cancelled. Each Sunday we will make an online service and prayers available and in time create other ways to keep people in touch with one another through phone calls and the web. Please visit our website: stjohnshurstgreen.org.uk, Facebook page: facebook.com/stjohnshurstgreen or give me a call to find out more: 01883 712674. Perhaps now is the time to get involved with your local church, from the comfort of your own home!

Finally, when you hear the church bell ring each day, it is to reassure you that clergy are saying prayers in church for you all. Also, churches throughout the land are encouraging those who wish to, to (safely) place a lit candle in their window at 7pm each evening. In this way we can show we are thinking about each other and remember Christ's light and love is always present, even in dark days. You might find this prayer useful too, written by the Dean of Southwark Cathedral.

Loving God, source of healing and comfort, fill us with your grace, that the sick may be made whole, that those who care for us may be strengthened, that the anxious may be calmed, and those most vulnerable be protected in the power of the Spirit in the faith of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

I pray that you will know Christ is close to you and never leaves us, now as much as ever.

Revd Anna Eltringham,
Rector, St John's Hurst Green
01883 712674



HURST GREEN CHURCHES WELCOME YOU

Sadly, all church services have been suspended for the time being. The contact details for the respective churches are shown below and you are invited to telephone any of these numbers if you need further details. Please also check websites.

ST JOHN'S, CHURCH WAY

Rector: Anna Eltringham, 712674, 14 Oast Road
(day off - Monday)

Assistant Priest: Mary Seller, 715675, 11 Home Park

Southwark Pastoral Auxiliary: Monica Fenton, 715769

The church will remain open during the day.
Please feel free to come and pray or just sit quietly.

www.stjohnshurstgreen.org.uk

ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH OF OXTED & WARLINGHAM

All Saints' Church Chichele Road, Oxted - 627762

St Ambrose Church Warren Park, Warlingham

Parish Priest Fr Stephen, 713776

www.oxtedandwarlinghamparish.org

METHODIST CHURCH, HURSTLANDS

Minister: Stephen Mares, 020 3719 4644

HURST GREEN EVANGELICAL CHURCH

Pastors Steven and Margaret Cox, 717510
www.hgec.org.uk

OXTED UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

The Church of the Peace of God
21 Bluehouse Lane, Oxted, 730406
oxtedurc@gmail.com
Graham Dadd, 07894 507467
www.oxtedurc.org.uk

Covid 19 Volunteers and Tandridge Voluntary Action



In response to government and NHS advice, Tandridge Voluntary Action is currently focusing on services to support communities during the Covid 19 outbreak. Our volunteering, charity and community support services will be adjusted to accommodate these new priorities.

If you know of someone who needs support, or your charity would like more volunteers to help, please get in touch.

Volunteer recruitment will be focused on seeking volunteers to support our community; potential volunteers can register their interest in joining a team of support volunteers in Tandridge. TVA will match volunteers with the organisations who need help. The link for Covid 19 volunteering opportunity is <https://tva.org.uk/opportunity/covid-19-response-team-td-5331/>

The Tandridge Befriending Scheme is moving to telephone befriending where possible. Reading Together, dementia friendly groups (Oxted and Caterham) are temporarily cancelled.

The TVA team based at the Oxted Community Hub will be at a minimum, but we are contactable in the usual way: info@tva.org.uk or 01883 722593. Forthcoming training sessions and Network Lunch events have been cancelled.

Please get in touch if you think we can help.

Aggies on the Green - a community asset

The Aggies Coffee Shop is closing and we would value your ideas as to what should replace it. We want to maintain the community ethos that went into the founding of Aggies on the Green and wish to benefit the whole community. We are considering a number of options including a community hub with WiFi and coffee, a repair cafe or a Chatty café where people can play board games or cards if they want.

So please email aggieshall@gmail.com with your ideas of how best to utilise the time between 8am and 3pm on a Wednesday. Obviously, we will have to put any socialising on hold for the time being, but it would be good to use this time to plan something for when the pandemic is over. We look forward to hearing from you.



Calling all Hurst Green News Deliverers!

If you're one of our regular Hurst Green News deliverers and you're not able to deliver your round, please either e-mail the compiler at hgncompiler@gmail.com or call 715748 so we can make other arrangements. At the time of writing, we don't know whether we will print future editions; it may be that we have to rely on posting them on social media and on St John's website www.stjohnshurstgreen.org.uk



'Closure'

The Community Coffee Shop will have to close permanently due to a lack of support over the last few months. 'Aggies-on-the-Green', as it was affectionately known, opened as a community facility in 1997 on a non-profit seeking basis and has been run by volunteers. A very big Thank You must go to all the volunteer cooks and daily helpers who made this possible for so long! Goodbye!

Farewell to Aggies on the Green Coffee Shop

Back in the mid-1990s, Christine Freeland, wife of Revd David Freeland (the then Minister at Hurst Green Methodist Church) had the idea of providing a focus for the local population. Her vision was for a place to meet for fellowship, light lunches and tea and coffee in our much-loved St Agatha's Hall. Together with help from members of the Methodist and St John's Parish Churches, the Aggies on the Green Coffee Shop opened its doors in 1997.

Run entirely by dedicated volunteers, the Coffee Shop has faithfully served the people of Hurst Green, providing a place of fellowship and refreshment for many. In recent years, the Coffee Shop cut back its opening to one day a week, but it still performed its role as a community meeting place.

Times change however and now the Coffee Shop has closed its doors for the last time after almost a quarter of a century of service. We are grateful to all who have served and used Aggies on the Green. Even though the Coffee Shop has closed, many activities still take place in St Agatha's Hall. Current improvements will ensure its future, and its contribution to building our local community is secure.



Dear Lord, we give thanks for the vision of the Coffee Shop; we are grateful to the many volunteers who served there and to the customers who supported it. May this spirit of our caring local community endure in Hurst Green for the benefit of all. Amen.

Bob Evans, Hurst Green Methodist Church

HERE FOR YOU - No dates for your diary

As you can imagine, all usual events which take place at this time of year have been cancelled. We've listed below a number of local organisations who would normally be running events in case you might like to contact them:

Organisation	Telephone	Website
Carers Support Group	01883 745057	escsa.org.uk
Caterham Oxted and Godstone Lions	01883 335945	coglions.co.uk
East Surrey Walkers		eastsurreywalkers.org.uk
Harry's Social Bridge Club	01883 719900 or 714432	
Hurst Green Busy Bees	01883 722796	hurstgreenbusybees.com
Hurst Green Gardening Club	01883 723916	hggardeningclub.blogspot.com
Hurst Green Singers	01883 715748	hurstgreensingers.co.uk
Hurst Green Tennis Club	01883 714234	hurstgreentennisclub.co.uk
Moor House School and College	01883 712271	moorhouseschool.co.uk
Oxted Band		oxtedband.co.uk
Pollards Oak WI	01883 712143	
Rotary Club of Oxted and Limpsfield		rotary-ribi.org
Rotary Club of Titsey and District		rotary-ribi.org
Tandridge Club for the Visually Impaired	01883 382031	
Tandridge Handicraft Society	01883 620730	tandridgehandicraftsociety.org.uk
Woodhouse Centre	01883 715189	thewoodhousecentre.org.uk

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

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.



New Facebook page

If you have access to social media, a new page has been set up on Facebook called Hurst Green and Oxted Self Isolation Assistance. They are collecting details of all the people who live locally who might be able to help you if you have to self-isolate. For example, helping with shopping, collecting prescriptions etc. Please check it out - either to volunteer to help, or if you need help.

Compassion

I would consider myself to be a compassionate person. I try to be kind to those around me; I often look for people needing support and try to offer it.

When friends make mistakes or struggle, I forgive and support as best I can. Yet I don't seem to show the same compassion to myself. I berate myself for the smallest misdoings, criticise myself for omissions or failures, in a way I would never treat a friend. So why are we harder on ourselves than others? Is it because we don't feel worthy of the same understanding?

As a girl guide I was taught to 'think of others before myself' and I have woven this into my daily life. However I often find myself urging a friend to rest and take time for themselves, whilst I continue to neglect my own exhaustion. I don't seem to take my own advice. Taking time for oneself can seem indulgent and unnecessary. However, the older I get, the more important I realise it is. I can only continue to support my friends and family effectively when I am replenished. I give the very best I can to the voluntary roles I fill when I am energetic and focussed.

When a friend approaches me with a problem, I listen patiently. Sometimes I offer advice, sometimes just a space for them to unpick their situation. When I reach breaking point I tell myself to 'pull it together, dig deep'. I mustn't wallow in self pity, after all there are always people whose situations are more difficult and who face bigger challenges.

The word selfish is often viewed with a negative connotation, but sometimes I think we have to be selfish to be more selfless. Giving of ourselves, to our families, our jobs, our community is most effective when we are refreshed, both mentally and physically. I am refreshed in a Sunday Church service. Others find rest in a good book or an evening out with friends. Whatever your preference, start by taking care of yourself. Life might not be an emergency situation, but it is worth taking heed of advice that you should always put your own life jacket / oxygen mask on before helping others with theirs.

Louise Kirk



Local businesses

We hope that you will be able to support our local businesses as much as possible in these difficult times. We've been in touch with our advertisers and many of them are adapting the ways in which they work so that they can continue to offer some form of service.

Many have indicated that they are prepared to help out in other ways too, so it's worth asking them if you are getting in touch with them. Here's one specific example which we've received from an advertiser and we're sure that others will operate in similar ways (we ran out of time before our deadline to get all their responses):

RH Heating provide essential support, rectifying urgent heating and plumbing problems for our clients. The reality is we cannot and would not shelve clients until this difficult time has passed. Therefore, we are committed to ensuring that we maintain a service that people can access. The health of our clients, many of whom are elderly, is paramount. To protect our local community, we ensure that our engineers wash their hand before and after they visit each property. We are happy to cancel appointments, without clients incurring a charge, if they are unwell and would prefer to postpone non-essential and routine servicing. We are sensitive to people's anxieties and are happy for clients to remain in a different room and communicate with the engineer over the phone during the visit. Some minor faults, such as low system pressure, can be undertaken by the householder, with telephone support from our trained engineers, mitigating the need for home visits. We are committed to supporting our local community.

PARISH REGISTERS

Funerals

Our sympathy goes to all her relatives and friends:

10 March Barbara Hunt

St John's Book of Remembrance

To have a name entered, please phone Diana on **712845**.



Foodbank Collection

It is even more important than usual that we can collect donations for the foodbank. St John's Church will be open during the day and you can leave any donations in the boxes in the porch. These will be collected regularly. Please check eastgrinstead.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/ for the latest priorities. If you can't access the Internet, then please donate any food or toiletry items which are brand new, non-perishable and in date.

Crisp packet collection



Please note this has been suspended for the time being due to issues with the recycling process.

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