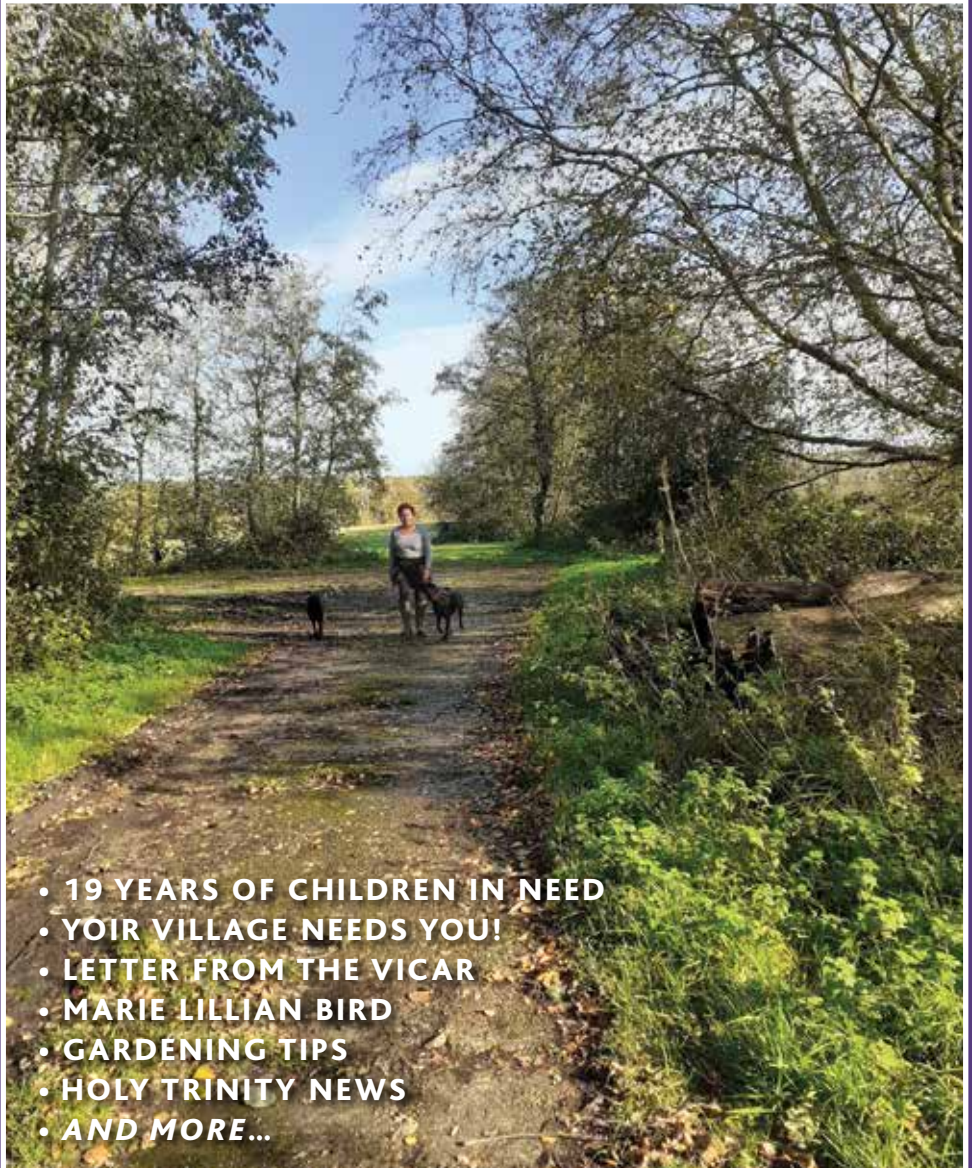


the **Hurst**

ISSUE 7

DEC/JAN/FEB 2019-20



- 19 YEARS OF CHILDREN IN NEED
- YOUR VILLAGE NEEDS YOU!
- LETTER FROM THE VICAR
- MARIE LILLIAN BIRD
- GARDENING TIPS
- HOLY TRINITY NEWS
- *AND MORE...*

What's going on in Hurst Green • News, views and information

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the 7th edition of *the Hurst*.

Mother Teresa said "I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples."

Glass bottles, loose veg and beeswax food wraps, reusable, sustainable, re-washable and eco-friendly. Sometimes the old ways were the best and maybe still are!

We have recently rediscovered glass milk bottles; due to a campaign launched by a charity we support, we were challenged to give up some form of single use plastic, so no more 4 pinters from the supermarket. It takes a little forward planning but helps clear the conscience a bit. Having already used the last of my clingfilm a few months ago and refusing to buy veg wrapped in plastic, we feel it is a small way to reduce the terrible pollution of the oceans and ultimately help save the planet.

As we come to the end of 2019, it is a time to reflect on events past and look ahead to what is in store for us. Globally, nationally and locally these are uncertain times. Mother Teresa also said "Yesterday is gone. Tomorrow has not yet come. We have only today. Let us begin." So, let's keep working together to make this village a safe and happy place to live. Every household will have received a copy of the Neighbourhood Development Plan 2030. If you feel inspired to get involved in the next step, please get in touch with Councillor Andrew Brown.

Annabelle Blackaby
thehurst.hg@gmail.com

The copy deadline for the next issue of *the Hurst* is 31st January

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USEFUL CONTACTS

Allotment Association 01580 860251

Breakfast Club (75+) 01580 860760

Brownies 01580 860742

Comedy Capers 01580 860221

Cricket Club 07796 976809

First Responders 07837 224905

Holy Trinity Church 01580 880282 (Vicar)
01580 860649

Hurst Green C of E School 01580 860375

Nursery School 01580 860375 x211

Parish Clerk 01580 860111

Rother District Council 01424 787000

Short Mat Bowling 01424 773478

Twinning Association 01580 860977

Village Hall Booking Agent
01580 860111/860425

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19 Years of Children in Need

Every year Comedy Capers produce their annual show for Children in Need and this year was no exception. Since this annual event was started by Phyllis Cowling back in 2000, hundreds of pounds have been raised for this worthy cause. At that time the cast were mainly made up of local children (see photo right). Maybe you can recognise some of them?

As usual, the cast of all ages performed their usual mixture of comedy, music and dance. The star guest was Pudsey who never disappoints the audience! I wonder who is 'throwing those moves' behind that yellow costume? With the added attraction of delicious home-made cakes and a licenced bar in the evenings, what's not to like?

Comedy Capers is passionate about keeping live theatre in the village, keeping their ticket price low so that everyone can have access to it.



Can you recognise any of these smiling faces?

If you are interested in joining Comedy Capers, we put on a pantomime in March as well as our annual Children in Need show. We welcome all ages from 7 to 90, all abilities with opportunities for performing as well as backstage production. Contact Janet Wright on 07557 932425. Rehearsals for the next production commence in January.



WHAT'S ON

Mondays	Tuesdays	Wednesdays
Brownies 6pm	Pilates 8:45 & 10am	Upholstery 10am
Short Mat Bowls 8pm	Jive 7pm	Fitsteps 6pm
	Parish Council Meeting 7:30pm (last Tue of month)	Historical Society 7:30pm 2nd Wed of month)
Thursdays	Neighbourhood Plan 7:30pm (3rd Tues of each month)	
Pilates 8:45am		
Short Mat Bowls 2pm		
Jump Squad 6:30pm		
Zumba 8pm		
	Saturdays	
	Yoga 10am	
	Sundays	
	Comedy Capers 10am	

HURST GREEN VILLAGE HALL

Hall is available to hire for parties, meetings and other special occasions.

Call 01580 860425 To Book.

Your village needs you!

At the end of May 2020, visitors from our twinned village of Ellerhoop, in north west Germany are coming to visit. This visit will last for four days and the Hurst Green Twinning Committee are seeking volunteer families and households to host our visitors for this period.

Long term residents of Hurst Green will know that the village has been twinned for almost forty years, with residents of each village taking it in turns to visit the other every other year. 2020 is the turn of our German friends to visit and it would be great if we could host as many as possible. The last few years has seen a resurgence in interest in the twinning, with over 25 Hurst Greeners travelling to Germany this year for an amazing, enjoyable few days. Next year's visit will be just as successful and is planned to fall on the same weekend as the village fête, meaning our visitors can see Hurst Green in all its glory and experience its amazing hospitality.

So, what does hosting involve?

Hosting is a voluntary role, and involves you giving a bed (or two!) to a German guest (or two!) who will stay with you. You will also need to feed them, although often when our guests visit a destination like London you might need to make them a packed lunch, or they might choose to eat out. All our guests are incredibly polite and speak impeccable English, and range in age and experience from late teens to older people. It doesn't matter if you don't live in Hurst Green itself – any of the surrounding villages would be ideal. If you are able to be available to transport your guest to events, then great. If not, we will work with you to arrange to do that.

In return, as well as knowing that you have helped out your community and extended



the hand of friendship to our European neighbours, you will of course be making new friends – and in 2021 when Hurst Green return to Germany perhaps you'll choose to come with us?

The dates for the planned visit are from 28/05/2020 – 01/06/2020.

If you are interested in helping in any way, including hosting, please contact Joe Roper on 07496 390069 or via email at hurstgreentwinning@gmail.com

Free TV retuning

Since there has been a change in the transmitter for our area, several people have lost the ability to reach certain channels, especially 'Freeview'. If you are having problems just call 0808-100-0288 they will give you advice and try to fix the problem. If not, they will come to your house and reset everything and in some cases replace the antenna. There is NO CHARGE for this service, although you may have to wait a few days for an appointment. It is offered for 3 months after each retuning of the transmitter, so keep the number for future problems!

Letter from the Vicar

Hope Hope is all we have when we have nothing. It lives in loss, and in the thick of grief. Deep in dust, and beaten, barely breathing, Hope is a hidden heartbeat borne beneath.

Hope is fed on longing and remembrance. So look before you. See it waiting there. Lift it high and hold it like a herald For hope's an emblem empty arms can bear: A candle flame against a boundless darkness, A mustard seed against a barren land, A baby's smile against a world of mourning; Against all death, a dying stranger's hand; A whispered rumour, vanishingly small: hope is all we have. And hope is all.

Amy Scott Robinson

www.amyscottrobinson.com

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:13

The sonnet above was one of four written by my friend Amy for the anniversary of the Armistice last year. The Bible quote is from St Paul's letter to the church in Rome in the 1st century.

As I write this we are in the season of Remembrance, soon to be in the season of Advent, followed by Christmas and the New Year. These are all seasons to reflect on the themes of Hope, Peace and Joy. Maybe it is especially relevant to reflect on these things this year, as we face a general election in December at a time when our country is experiencing greater division than possibly ever before. Some people are finding it hard to find hope in these troubled times and it is hardly surprising. But we all need hope, we all need peace and we all need to have experiences of joy even in the hardest of times. I guess one would have to ask the question, where is hope to be found? If our hope is in politicians (of any party), then we are likely

to be disappointed. That is not to be cynical but realistic. Christians of course put both their faith and their hope in the person of Jesus, who is described as the Prince of Peace. And our faith is not at all about 'pie in the sky when you die'. Our experience is that we can and do experience peace, hope and joy in our lives as we walk day by day by faith.

Whether we are Christians or not, we can all be a part of the healing from division that our country and communities so desperately need. Whichever way we vote, whatever our individual beliefs about Brexit, we can respect each other and be peacemakers. Where healthy, open and non-heated discussion is possible, great. Whenever possible listen to others and try to accept their point of view even if you don't understand it. Others' views are as honestly and passionately held as our own and are equally valid. When feelings run too high for discussion to take place then it is better to hold our peace in order to be peacemakers. Jesus said, "Blessed are the Peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God", and we all need to be people of peace and heralds of hope, especially in these seasons of peace and in these troubled times.

God bless, **Rev Annette**

annette@jhbd.co.uk 01580 880282/07900 332791

If you would like to talk to me then please catch me at The Royal George 10-12 noon on 2nd and 4th Thursdays, or ring or email at any time.



Marie Lillian Bird 1930 – 2019

Marie Cronk was born in South London, Kennington, within the sound of the 'Bow Bells' on 18th November 1930, she was the younger sister of Eileen. Sadly, their Father died when Marie was very young.

During the war they were bombed out of their home twice and evacuated with their mother first to Yeovil and then to Cullompton in Devon. Marie went to school at Notre Dame Convent in Kennington, she was very bright, and the nuns wanted her to move on to further education, but Marie just wanted to go out to work. Marie's first job was in a bank, where she met George a strapping young man keen on Rugby and the outdoor life. They were soon to be married and, never interested in keeping up with others, their life was hard working but fun. Marie loved to dance and this was also one of their favourite pastimes together.

"Marie's happy presence will be missed by everyone who knew her"

Shortly after they were married they became parents with the arrival of Anne. Whilst still living in London they were dealt a devastating life changing blow. When Anne was just 2 years old George contracted polio. The family were told to expect the worst but George and Marie were having none of it. George spent 2 years in hospital recovering although he would be paralysed for life. When George was discharged from hospital they moved to St Paul's Cray. There, along with many other families who were relocating, they were part of a building a new community and making life-long friends.

Marie's support and love through those years was unbelievable. The hardship



bringing up a young family was stressful enough but to have a husband hospitalised for such a long time and so far away made her stronger than ever. This strength of partnership was to mould the family for ever and the values installed at this time have been passed on to future generations. There was a further addition to the family in 1959 when Steve was born.

Marie and George always tried to have family holidays, caravanning in the countryside and venturing further afield to places such as Portugal, Spain and France, always a big adventure. George now became a builder along with his father and a new chapter of Marie's life began.

The next house move was to Orpington where Sandra was born in 1966. In 1988 the family made a move much further afield to the countryside of Hurst Green. This home was the start of new beginnings, new friends and becoming part of a whole new community.

Marie and George were lucky enough to see all their children happily married, the joy of grandchildren who then moved on

to happy marriages, relationships and great grandchildren. One of Marie's greatest pleasures was her grandchildren!

After George passed away in 1996, Marie's strength and fun-loving kind heart kicked in once more. She didn't give up, her friendship with Morag became stronger, both serving as Comedy Capers tea ladies! Marie made many new lifelong friends in the village, being part of the community and was often seen playing bowls, at coffee mornings and playing games at one another's houses. Her love of music and dance together with some of her lady friends culminated in the formation of 'The Scrubbers' song and dance act which brought much joy to all who saw it whilst raising much needed funds for charity.

Marie's 80th Birthday was an occasion she really enjoyed, friends and family coming together to have a wonderful evening that none of us will forget especially when the Comedy Capers gang sang happy birthday. Marie spent many happy times with friends in the village hall which was an important place in her heart. It is only fitting that her wake was held there and supported by the whole family, many of her friends and local people.

The family would like to thank everybody for their kind support and messages in a very difficult time. It is warming to see that Marie was loved as much by the local community as she was by us. Marie's happy presence will be missed by everyone who knew her.



Sarah's books

Sarah is our local children's book lady and she says, "My Pop-Up Children's Bookshop is available for local events such as fetes, fundraisers, children's activity sessions and markets. I can also provide a basket of books to put in the workplace and offer commission on any sales/orders. I have a wide selection of gorgeous Usborne books including fiction, non-fiction and gift sets. I am always happy to bring along colouring and magic painting activities to events where space allows.

I offer free local delivery and always have a selection of books at home for those last minute gifts!"

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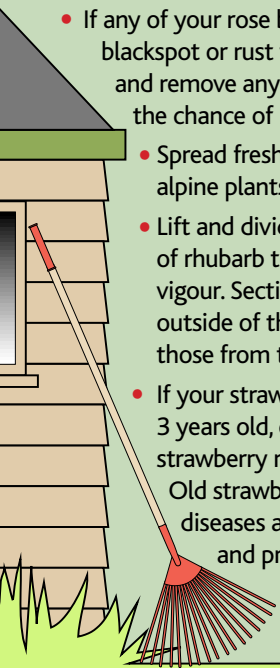
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Gardening Tips for the Winter

by *The Gardener*

- Dig over empty borders and prepare your soil for next year's planting.
- Group potted plants together in a sheltered spot in the garden to protect them from the harshest winter weather.
- Get pruning – wisteria, fruit trees, roses and acers and vines are just some of the plants that benefit from a winter prune.
- Look after the birds – clean feeders, stock up on fat balls and make sure they have access to fresh water.
- Leave the faded flower heads on your hydrangeas until spring, as they provide frost protection to the swelling buds further down the stems.
- If any of your rose bushes suffered from blackspot or rust this summer, gather up and remove any fallen leaves to reduce the chance of infection next year.
- Spread fresh gravel or grit around alpine plants.
- Lift and divide established clumps of rhubarb to renew the plant's vigour. Sections taken from the outside of the plant are better than those from the centre.
- If your strawberry plants are over 3 years old, order some new strawberry runners to replace them. Old strawberry plants can harbour diseases and tend to lose vigour and productivity.



Holy Trinity News



What happens at HTC?

There are a variety of Sunday services, all of which are fairly informal and always followed by refreshments and a chance to spend time chatting. The first of the month is a traditional Holy Communion at 9am, second Sunday is Breakfast Church also at 9am where we sit around the table and eat together, share a thought or two about a topic from the Bible and have an open discussion. Third Sunday is at 4pm and is very relaxed and interactive and the fourth is Holy Communion. If there is a fifth Sunday in the month, we sometimes do something a bit different. At present we are a congregation of around 20, friendly and welcoming and looking to increase our understanding of the Christian faith. Come and check us out!

Some dates for your diary:

Village Lighting of Tree and Carols at 5pm on Sunday 1st December

Alpha Course Introduction evening on Monday 9th December 8-9.30pm at Planters

Carols by Candlelight at 4pm Sunday 15th December

Christmas Day service at 9am Wednesday 25th December

February Holiday Club Monday 17th–Wednesday 19th at the school

Harvest

At the recent Harvest Thanksgiving service we heard how our gifts of tinned and packet food for Hastings Foodbank will be used to help families who are struggling to feed themselves. There has been an increase in the uptake of this service over the past year or so and the need is growing among working families on low incomes or Universal Credit.

Hastings Foodbank is part of The Trussell Trust's network of 428 foodbanks, working to tackle food poverty and hunger in our local communities, as well as across the UK.

The Foodbank Network was founded in 2004 after four years of developing the original foodbank based in Salisbury. Since then The Trussell Trust has helped communities work together to launch foodbanks nationwide in a wide range of towns and cities.

In 2018/19, The Trussell Trust's Foodbank Network provided 1,583,668 three-day emergency food supplies and support to UK people in crisis. Of these, 577,618 went to children. To find out more about The Trussell Trust visit www.trusselltrust.org

At Holy Trinity, we are supporting this by continuing to collect food items in a box along with hygiene products which we will pass on to the Food and Hygiene Banks. Donations can be added on Wednesday mornings at the Renew Café or at a Sunday service.

Holiday Club

For three mornings in October half term we ran a Holiday Club in the school which was great fun and enjoyed by 21 children and a handful of leaders. Our next one will be in **February half term Monday 17th–Wednesday 19th**. On the back of this we are planning to start a monthly Sunday Club in the church for children aged 5-11. It will be every 1st Sunday from 9-10am. Our vision is to let children know about the Christian faith and beliefs by looking at the Bible and learning what God has to say to us today.

Café Renew

We continue to run our Café every Wednesday from 10am-12. Do pop in and sample the wonderful homemade cakes, fresh coffee or tea and lively chat!!

Alpha

There will be an Alpha course starting in the New Year with a taster session at **Planters Farmshop** on Monday 9th December 8–9.30pm.

theHurst This quarterly publication, produced by Holy Trinity Church with the Parish Council, and partly funded by the advertisers, will be available on the church website: www.hurstgreenhtc.org

Harvest Thanksgiving service



The Royal George

It's been six months since The Royal George reopened, and it has been received very well. We have listened to what people have been saying, and where possible, have tried to accommodate.

The Malaysian menu is still very popular, and now we are offering a Malaysian/Chinese Buffet every Saturday evening, from 6pm until 9pm, where you can choose five different items for £8.50, or go large and choose 10 items for £15.

Our kitchen is also providing its traditional menu including fish and chips, and Wagyu beefburgers which are becoming legendary. The Seniors Menu (for the over 60's) on Thursday and Friday lunchtimes, 12pm to 3pm is great value, only £6.50 for two courses, which can't be bad. Come and give it a try.

We now have a regular Quiz Night, on the first Monday of the month from 7.30pm, so if you're feeling clever, why not pop along. Teams of up to six welcome. Talking of feeling clever, have you ever played Mah Jong, or wanted to learn, because the last Monday of every month is Mah Jong night. To book your seat, you can call us on 01580 860200.

Thursday night is Prosecco night; for every 70cl bottle bought, choose a dish



from our small plate menu with our compliments.

If you haven't noticed, Christmas will soon be upon us, and by the time you read this, our Christmas menu will be available, so book early to avoid disappointment.

We also welcome Zoe, once of this Parish, who works tirelessly in the kitchen, and keeps the Facebook world up to date with what's going on at The Royal George, check out her photos and comments on our pages and our website, www.theroyalgeorge-hurstgreen.co.uk, or even better come and see us.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, from everyone at The Royal George.

Some helpful local services

Plumber Aaron Plumbing & Heating Ltd (Aaron Rowsell) 01580 230330

Electricians Tim Russell 07771 687636 trussell.5@btinternet.com

Ian Moore-Rushworth 07703 021767

Building and renovations Mark Roby 07453458836. Pioneeringcarpentry@yahoo.com

Leather repairs Zip replacement, leather stitching etc. Kay Lloyd, Wealden Saddlery 01580 860860

Plastering and tiling Edd Ripley 07875 494493.

Dog minder Holiday and day care. Lorely Watson 01580 880061 / 07796 392653

If you or anyone you know would like to be included in this list of recommended local trades people, please email thehurst.hg@gmail.com This is a free listing. For a more comprehensive advert, the cost for 1/4 page is £25 per issue or £90 for a year (4 issues), payable in advance.

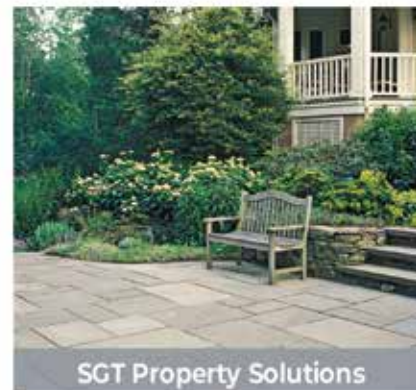


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