

Boost For Village Hall

The committee of the Memorial Hall have very recently received confirmation that their application for a grant of £10,000 from Awards for All has been successful.

The grant, together with money from Memorial Hall funds, will go to providing new curtains and fittings for the main hall and the Jubilee Room, and refurbishing the ladies toilets.



New Era For St Joseph's

How many new churches or chapels are opened these days? Not many. But Hurst Green and its village school now have a beautiful new place of worship.

On 25th May, the Right Reverend John Arnold, Bishop of Salford presided over the blessing of the new St Joseph's Chapel.

The first chapel was built in 1859 by Fr James Walker SJ (Missioner from 1850 to 1861) alongside the school at Hurst Green.

In 2012 it became apparent that there were serious problems with the old schoolroom and chapel. The Jesuit Trustees, supported by the parish and school, committed substantial resources to redevelop these noble old buildings aiming to renovate the old upper-room as a new chapel, and to create a new classroom on the footprint of the former chapel.

On the day, in addition to Bishop John Arnold, the Jesuits were represented by Fr Dermot Preston SJ and eleven other priests, including Fr Adrian Porter, the Jesuit delegate for education who had directed the project, and Fr Peter Griffiths, the parish priest. No one could remember seeing so many priests on an altar in the Stonyhurst parish for many a long year!

Guests were then able to look around at the new chapel, which includes a lift to allow access for all. The architects have sympathetically blended the old and the new. The wall behind the altar table has beautiful stained and etched glass windows made by Sarah Galloway, which were designed with help of pupils at St Joseph's. The sanctuary area has items from the old chapel, including the wooden tabernacle, which has been restored and extended and the sanctuary lamp which has also been repaired. The central feature is a sculpture of Christ crucified by sculptor Jonas Jones.

If you have not yet seen the new chapel, do so if you can - you will be surprised and delighted. The chapel is open every Sunday morning for mass at 10.00 - you will be very welcome.

Joint Christmas Service and Meal

At 11am on Wednesday 14 December 2016 our Churches are once again holding a joint Service in St John's Old School Hall, Hurst Green. The service will be led by Fr Peter Griffiths and Rev Geoff Dearden and will be followed by a traditional Christmas Lunch. We are delighted that once again the pupils from St Joseph's School will be entertaining us with festive songs.

Hire the hall for your Wedding!

These improvements to the hall are particularly welcome in view of the fact that the hall has become a popular venue for wedding receptions. So far this year, nine receptions have been held in the hall, and there are already several booked for 2017, and bookings are already being taken for 2018.

The hall is hired out for 3 full days for weddings, giving hirers plenty of time to set-up, a whole day for the wedding itself and then lots of time to clear up afterwards.

One of the attractions of hiring the memorial hall for a reception, apart from the very reasonable price, is that the hirer can begin in effect with 'a blank canvas'. There has been a huge variety in the way that people have decorated the hall for their weddings, and the result is often quite stunning. Some couples choose to hire their own curtains, chairs and tables for the event. The Bayley field is also available - by arrangement with the Parish Council - and can be used for a marquee, teepees, or just an outdoor space for people, and especially children, to enjoy.

Any enquiries about booking the hall for events large or small should be made to the bookings secretary, Kath Molyneux, on 01254 826898, or 07973 521774.

A HISTORY OF ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL

by Nancy Bailey

The foundation of Hurst Green School by Richard Shireburn is believed to be in 1686, making it the oldest continuous Roman Catholic foundation primary school in the country. This is the date to be found on the lintel of what is now Walker's Castle, the oldest part of the building, which was formerly used as the school. Richard Shireburn died in 1689 whilst imprisoned in Manchester for following his Catholic faith and his son Nicholas made a deed carrying out the intention of his father for the settlement of a 'perpetual fund and charity of £10 a year towards the maintenance of a school master at Hurst Green'. Nicholas was the last of his line as his only son died as a boy, legend has it, from eating yew berries in the grounds of the house. The responsibility of the school passed to the Weld family and later to the Jesuit community at Stonyhurst College.

In 1817 a letter was sent to Mr Weld from the Hurst Green Charity School trustees asking that the school be moved into the Catholic Friendly Society Charity Club House (St. Peter's Club). They were complaining that the School had fallen into decay and must be immediately repaired at the expense of Mr Weld. They suggested that the two large rooms in the club house could be used, one for the girls and one for the boys. They explained that it would be beneficial for the girls to have a separate room and a school mistress so they might be instructed in 'such things as might be deemed most serviceable in after life'. This letter is signed by amongst others James Wilkinson and John Holden. The records of this period are not complete but it seems that more than 10 years later Fr Addis (1829) opened a school at the Guild Hall (St. Peter's Club) whilst there were alterations and building work going on at the St Joseph's site. A school mistress is also recorded as being in post 1829-33, and this was possibly Ann Duxbury.

In 1859, when Fr James Walker was Missioner, there were alterations to the school including the addition of pinnacles and battlements, and it was given the nickname 'Walker's Castle'. Between 1867 and 1870 St. Joseph's Chapel was built and it is believed that this was when the school acquired the name St. Joseph's. The foundation stone for the present main school building was laid in 1896 by Father Herman Walmsley, and it opened in 1904.

In 1907 there were 26 infant children and 114 seniors in the school taught over 4 classes. The head teacher was Miss Rosanna O'Rafferty who had taken over in 1907 from Miss Banks. An HMI report of the time criticised the dimensions of the school desks. About this time school life included half holidays for Shrove Tuesday and blackberrying, examinations in all subjects especially religion, as well as occasional closures for diphtheria, scarlet fever and other diseases. Inspectors in general were impressed by the school's academic standards but did note that there should be more emphasis on garment mending, a fault also present in today's curriculum!

The school closed to celebrate the victory and signing of the Armistice in 1918. A memory from Bernard Rawcliffe, a Hurst Green resident who entered St. Joseph's around 1911, is of the parish priest rushing into the classroom shouting, "It's over, it's over," and Bernard, being a strong, sturdy twelve year old, was ordered to ring the school bell to inform the rest of the village.

In the years between the wars school life continued with a surprising amount of attention from HMI, the county medical office, checking of registers, testing of school milk, not to mention religious inspections and church holy days: it is surprising that any teaching got done. However the school seems to have continued to be highly successful in coaching children through the county exams to win scholarships each year for girls to Winckley Square and Larkhill convents in Preston and Blackburn respectively, and for boys to the Catholic College in Preston.

In 1933 electric lights were installed in the school, and in 1935 Miss Burns became head teacher. The outbreak of the Second World War saw the school hosting evacuees, 45 came with 2 teachers and occupied the old school for a short period. Later, in 1943, 11 children were evacuated to the school from St. Augustine's in Manchester. In 1947 St. Joseph's was declared a primary school and children aged over 11 were transferred to SS Michael & John in Clitheroe. The HMI report of 1952 notes that there are 3 classes in the school and that the infants are taught upstairs in the old building, above the dining room. The juniors are in two classrooms, one of which is judged to be too small, which led to the extension of the premises in 1954 when the present junior and foundation classrooms were added.

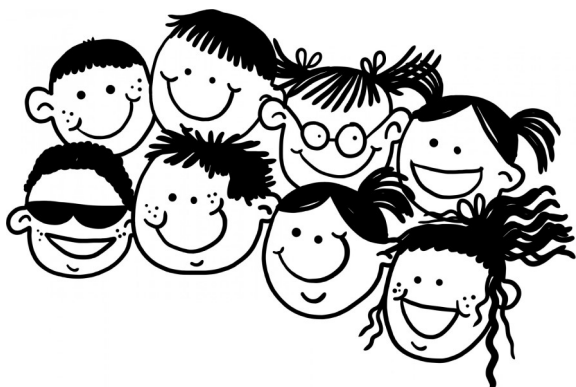
In 1961, the Bishop of Salford, George Andrew sent his special congratulations on the very satisfactory Religious inspection. The HMI report of the same year praised the extensions made, but suggested that a staffroom and indoor toilet facilities would be welcome additions, the present toilets having no hot water and being liable to freeze. Television was installed in October 1965. 1968 saw the first male headteacher of the school for more than 130 years with the appointment of Mr J. Shillitoe.

It is recorded that for the first time in the history of the school a deputy head, Mrs Anne Lakeland was appointed in March 1974. School numbers were beginning to drop, with 57 on roll in September 1976. Into the 1980s numbers continued to fall, with 47 children on roll in September 1980. This was a period in which small rural schools were being closed. Numbers fell to 39 in September 1981 and closure of the school was extensively discussed and integration with St. John's explored. In the end, St John's school closed and St Joseph's was reprieved. Mr Shillitoe took early retirement in 1986 and was succeeded by Mr P. Quinn.

At the beginning of the school year 1986 the school celebrated its Tercentenary, three hundred years of non-stop education for the children of Hurst Green. Great celebrations were held and a booklet about the school published. It is recorded that the lease of the school house was relinquished by the school to Jesuit Estates in June 1989 and in September of that year the school had its third male headteacher in a row with the departure of Mr Quinn and the appointment of Mr J Burns. St. Joseph's continued as a two teacher school through the 1990s and the headship passed to Mrs Linda Wilkinson (later Blakey) in 1992. By the turn of the century numbers had improved to 50+ and the addition of a preschool class brought in more part-time children.

With the appointment of a new head teacher, Elizabeth Stevens in 2010 came a new era for the school when its Jesuit identity was renewed. St. Joseph's was welcomed back into the family of eleven Jesuit schools in the U.K. This has meant a new focus for school life with the Jesuit traditions of education at its centre.

In 2015, lead by Father Adrian Porter and the Jesuit Institute, an extensive building project has been undertaken, demolishing the chapel and rebuilding the old school building which had fallen into a poor state, providing a chapel on its upper floor, and a new classroom and a multi-purpose room on the ground floor, where the school is now able to run a Breakfast Club. The school now looks forward with confidence to expanding into 4 classes, moving back toward the pupil numbers seen at the start of the twentieth century.



Mums (and Dads) & Toddlers Group

The Mums and Toddlers Group runs every Thursday in term time between 9.30am and 11.30am in Hurst Green Memorial Hall. This is a great space and place to bring pre-school children to let them interact in a safe and fun environment. It's also a place for adults with young children to meet and chat. Refreshments are provided for the children and adults.

The group are always looking for volunteers to help prepare and serve simple refreshments so that the parents and carers can keep a watchful eye on the children. If you think you can give a couple of hours every so often on a Thursday morning to support this very important part of our community please speak to Gill Jacques (01254 878222)

Sprucing Up With Silver Birch

You may have noticed that the car park at the Memorial Hall has been given a face lift - in the form of seven silver birch trees just inside the wall along Avenue Road.

The idea was the brain child of several ladies in the village who were inspired by the silver birch trees outside The Three Fishes at Mitton.

They have raised more than £1,000 in sponsorship to pay for the trees, the compost and the large planters.

Phil Armstrong, of The Dene, has kindly provided the trees at cost, and planted and positioned them in their large terracotta pots.

Sponsorship of the trees was provided by The Memorial Hall Committee, the Parish Council, St John's Three in One Coffee Stop, The WI, Julie MacFarlane Dental Practice, Hurst Green Bowling Club, Hurst Green Football Club, the Fete Committee and Steven Clarke of Hurst Green Plastics.

"We would like to thank all who have contributed to this project," said the organisers. "Everyone has been very supportive and we are sure that the trees will really improve the look of the village."

"Hurst Green won a prize in this year's Best Kept Village competition as most improved village - maybe next year we can win the top prize as best in the county!"

This edition of Round the Green is kindly sponsored by Mrs Christine Sbresni (nee Bowyer), a former resident of Woodfields.

Christine, together with her brothers Nick and Peter, spent much of her childhood at Bradhurst on Knowles Brow as her father William Bowyer was director of music at Stonyhurst College from 1926 to 1939. She has very fond memories of attending St Joseph's School, and remembers school friends such as Agnes and Teresa Seed, John and Joan Holden, John and Mary Marsden and Alan and Sheila Duckett. Christine spent a lot of time with the Wilcock family who lived next door at Bradhurst Farm, and remembers well sitting and knitting in a hen cabin with Renee Wilcock on wet days.

Christine, who now lives in London, has Round the Green regularly sent to her by Annie Tennant – formerly Annie Hunt of Smithy Row. Annie was a great friend of the Bowyer family during their years at Bradhurst and she and Christine have remained friends ever since.

Births

Congratulations to Annie (Scott) and Brendan (O'Reilly) on the birth of Lachlyn Catherine (Lachie) on 17th June, a sister for Freddie and Pdraig, and to Adam and Beccie Lakeland on the birth of their daughter Scarlett on 26th April.

Defibrillator For Village

As a result of a wonderful fund raising drive lead by Annie Nicholson, the village now has a public defibrillator located on the right-hand side of the Memorial Hall, by the football changing rooms, on the way up to the Bayley Field. We had been one of the few villages in the Ribble Valley without this important emergency medical facility in a public place - there is one inside the Shireburn Arms Hotel. Thanks are also due to Neale Brown for helping to source the defib pack and its secure box. On the 2nd November, a training session with an NHS trainer was organised for local volunteers on the use of the defibrillator.

Bishop 'pops into' Bible Study

Over the past few years St John's Church have had a 'Pop Up' Bible study group. The group is open to all and literally Pops Up at different times of day and in different locations to discuss a Bible reading and how it impacts on life today in our community and beyond. The locations for the group meetings have included the Bayley Arms, St Peter's Club, Cafe's and people's homes. At 7.15pm on Thursday 8 September 2016 the Pop Up group met again in St Peter's Catholic Club and as usual the 'club' were great hosts providing tea and coffee as well as drinks from the bar. The group were delighted to be joined by the Bishop of Leicester who was visiting the Blackburn Diocese. He was impressed by the concept of the 'Pop Up' Bible study and the fact that Christian discussions were taking place at a practical level in the heart of the community.

You don't have to be a Bishop to Pop into the group. Everyone is welcome. For more information contact Ann Dearden on 01200 427380 or Gill and David Jacques on 01254 878222.

Many people in Hurst Green will remember well these two former residents of Woodfields who have died this year.

Mrs. Muriel Wright, together with her husband Walter, ran the post office at Woodfields for several years. They came to the post office from the Preston area in the early '70s, and lived there with their two children Michael and Laura. Muriel was a keen gardener and had a beautiful garden at Woodfields as well as at her home in Clitheroe, where she retired with her husband in 1988. She was a member of Hurst Green W.I. and of Clitheroe Naturalists, leading many walks for the group. Muriel and her husband Walter, who died in 2000, shared a keen interest in jazz and loved to attend concerts. As well as her two children, Muriel had 6 grandchildren. Muriel died in Grassington in September, having gone to stay near her daughter for a few weeks due to illness. She will be very much missed by those who enjoyed her company in Clitheroe, and fondly remembered by those who knew her during her years at Woodfields.

Dick Grayston, who died in April this year, lived for over 50 years at Over Hacking. He spent his working life at Stonyhurst College as a painter and decorator. Dick met his wife, Mary, who died in 2005, when she came from County Louth in Ireland to work at St. Mary's Hall. They had four children, John, Michael, Anne and Edward. Prior to that, Dick had spent his years of National Service in the army. Dick was a keen scuba diver for many years, and he and Anne spent many of their holidays caravanning. In later years he took up line dancing, which he very much enjoyed, but perhaps his favourite pastime was talking! Dick was well known in Hurst Green due to his skill at painting and decorating. When working, especially for people who he had known all his life, there was nothing he liked better at brewtime than to get leant on his ladder, a cup of tea in one hand and his pipe in the other having a good 'camp'. Dick will be remembered for his love of conversation, his warmth and his humour. To be in his company was always a pleasure.