



Remembrance Sunday

This year's service and parade on Sunday 12th November will follow the same pattern as in the previous two years. The service will be held in front of the War Memorial Hall, followed by a parade to the Cenotaph and the laying of wreaths. Following advice, the Parish Council obtained a road closure notice from RVBC. A traffic management company is being employed, and Avenue Road will be closed to traffic from 10.00am - 11.30am. Please congregate in good time before 10.45 in front of the Memorial Hall.

Memorial Hall refurbishment is complete – **IT'S TIME FOR** Celebration!

Four years of hard work and fund raising have transformed the Memorial Hall in Hurst Green into one of the best Village Halls in the county.

Turn to page 3 to read the full story of this community project.

To help commemorate this wonderful achievement, the Memorial Hall Committee invite all parishioners and friends join them for a

Celebration Social Evening

on Friday 10th November from 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall

There will be a free glass of wine or a beer on entry. The committee will provide nibbles, but people are encouraged to bring further goodies to enjoy throughout the evening. There will be a bar and music will be provided kindness of Dan Wilkinson. Join in with the quizzes and games, or just enjoy the get-together and the chat.

Niall Macfarlane writes: The village hall is busy! There are regular weekly events (Monday Cubs, Tuesday Dance Classes, Wednesday Keep Fit, Thursday Toddlers) and this year there has been a successful run of eight wedding bookings, and we already have nine confirmed for 2024! Thank you to all those who use the hall for family celebrations and birthday parties. It is greatly appreciated. Bingo sessions in St Peter's Club on Sunday evenings are back, and are part of our fundraising activities so that we can continue to improve our facilities. Please contact myself (07786 432360) or any committee member to have a look around the hall or discuss hiring it for an event or activity. Or to book the hall, contact Kath Molyneux on 07973 52174.

The Hobbits parent and toddler group meets every Thursday in term time between 9.30am and 11.30am in the Memorial Hall.

It is extremely well attended and is ideal for preschool children to enjoy safe play and interaction with other children. Equally important, it gives parents and carers some relative down time to chat with other adults. The group is run by a small team and refreshments are provided by community volunteers on a rota basis. If anyone can give an hour on a Thursday morning every few weeks to provide and serve refreshments please contact Gill or David Jacques for more details (07877 642653)

Just check! The collection times at local post-boxes have changed recently - worth a look if you are mailing.

Father Tim Curtis SJ gives us some historical background as to how a Jesuit college came to be established in this part of rural Lancashire.

When St Ignatius founded the Society of Jesus, the last thing he had in mind was for his priests to be involved in the education of youth. He wanted highly educated men who could be sent to any part of the world, wherever the need was greatest. However, when he found that such candidates for the Society were rare, he decided to found colleges where boys could be trained from an early age in education and piety, with the hope that some of them would become Jesuit priests ready for mission. Ignatius' formula soon proved to be a winner. He required a donor to pay for the establishment of a school and insisted that the education be provided free of charge and open to all. Given the high quality of education provided, Jesuit education was in high demand. As he could be choosy about where to locate his colleges, he wanted them to be in places where they could do the most good, not just for the students accepted, but for those who lived in the surrounding areas. Soon after many of these colleges were founded, a large church would be built and the care of the souls of the people living in the area was entrusted to the Jesuits.

Ignatius himself briefly considered establishing a college in England during the reign of Queen Mary. Under her rule, the religious laws of Henry VIII were reversed and England became once more a Catholic country. Ignatius thought that a College in England might help bring back lapsed Catholics to the faith. Sadly, before he could implement his plan, Mary was dead and Elizabeth, her half-sister, was on the throne. Once more we were a Protestant country.

Under Elizabeth anti-Catholic legislation multiplied. In 1593 it became illegal for children to be raised in the Catholic faith. The Jesuit in charge of the English mission, Fr Robert Parsons took immediate action and with the help of Philip II of Spain, and founded a college for the education of English boys at St Omers, then part of the Spanish Netherlands. Children were smuggled across the Channel in secret to be educated, often away from home for years at a time. Many of these became Jesuit priests and some returned to minister in this country and, indeed, some were martyred for their faith.

The College at St Omer flourished for some 200 years. Typically, of a class of 30, ten would opt to enter the Jesuit noviciate. After their training, these either taught the next generation at the college or were available for other missions of the Society of Jesus. The English Jesuits believed that if they offered their services for free, the English Catholic gentry would be suspicious of the service that was being provided, so the English Province petitioned Rome for permission to charge fees!

Napoleon was fearful of Jesuit Education and thought that the Jesuits involved themselves too much in political affairs. As the Jesuits were suppressed in country after country in Europe, the college had to relocate, and relocate fast. In 1793, Sir Thomas Weld, a Catholic but a discrete one, who had been educated at St Omers, offered Stonyhurst as a possible location for the college. One of the conditions laid down by Sir Thomas was that one of the Jesuits would have special care for those living in the area. Indeed, for a hundred years prior to this, the Weld family had had a Jesuit in residence at Stonyhurst, caring for the religious welfare of their retainers and looking after the education of their children (now St Joseph's Primary School).

Meanwhile, the Tzarina of Russia, Catherine the Great, refused to suppress the Jesuits as she valued the quality of the education they provided. Jesuits all over the world were suppressed, except in England and Russia, and Stonyhurst began to flourish as the epicentre of the English province. Stonyhurst was soon expanded to provide classrooms and accommodation for the Jesuits and their pupils. Hodder was built to house the noviciate. St Mary's Hall (small beer hall as it was known by the locals) was built to house Jesuits studying Philosophy and Theology. From Stonyhurst missions were established in Preston and Clitheroe. Other Colleges were founded in the major cities, with two in London, one in Liverpool and one in Glasgow. Stonyhurst was the motherhouse, and from her the Province grew until in 1964 she boasted 960 Jesuits.

In the 230 years we have been at Stonyhurst we have fulfilled the wish of Sir Thomas Weld. The Jesuit community has provided a "Father Missioner" to provide for the spiritual welfare of those living in Hurst Green and beyond. Fr Tim now combines this role with being school chaplain. Hurst Green has welcomed Christians from other denominations and believers from other faiths. The College still has a role to play in developing the faith of each believer. The Jesuits are here by a lucky accident, and as many have benefitted from their ministry in the past, so, too, hopefully, many will be led to a deeper faith in the future. All for the greater glory of God!

A fuller history can be found in T E Muir's *Stonyhurst* (1992)

Many thanks from the Parish Council

The playground is now looking good after the addition of the new climbing frame and slide and the refurbishment of the 'spinner'. In addition, the Parish Council has been very grateful to receive help from villagers in repairing the playground wall. Volunteer, Michael Targett of Loachfield Close, has used his skills as a dry stone waller to rebuild the wall at the top of the playground. Quotes for this work were coming in at over £4,000. Darryl and Andrea who are the owners of A1 Skips also kindly supplied a skip free of charge to remove the unwanted rubble. Our thanks also to Chris Holden, who voluntarily maintains the ground around the Cenotaph. The colourful display of flowers has been magnificent. ***So lovely to be able to celebrate these acts of kindness.***

In other news, following the retirement of Roger Wilkinson, the Parish Council now has a new parish councillor, Lynn Hepworth from Loachfield Close on the new estate.

The Memorial Hall - A Real Community Effort

The Aighton, Bailey and Chaigley War Memorial Hall on Avenue Road was built back in the 1960s, nearly all by volunteers. Inevitably, by the second decade of the 21st century, it was beginning to show its age, so, four years ago, a Project Team, consisting of members of the parish council and the village hall committee, was formed to draw up plans to make the hall warm, inviting and sparkling.

The five members of the Project Team, Niall Macfarlane, Barbara Herd, Margaret Carrington, Des Harwood and Peter Butterfield, got to work. Through substantial grant aid and the villagers' own fund raising efforts the Project Team has been able to pay for and manage works to refurbish the entire hall.

"We held a consultation exercise with the community to work out what was the best plan for the hall," says Niall Macfarlane, the chairman of the village hall committee. "We put forward all sorts of ideas – even the possibility of demolishing the hall and rebuilding elsewhere but there were a lot of obstacles to this, not least opposition from many villagers. Finally, it was decided to refurbish the hall to make it fit for purpose again. The biggest issue was the heating – in winter it was really cold and draughty – but the roof was the most pressing problem. The concrete tiles were deteriorating and leaking in places so we decided that it should be the priority and we made it phase 1. The heating was phase 2, which, I am pleased to say, has been fantastically successful and the hall, although large, is now warm and cosy whatever the weather outside. In later phases we were also able to refurbish the interior, including the changing rooms for our village football club, upgrade the kitchen, toilets and the mezzanine floor (the Jubilee Room), with a chairlift for the disabled, fit new windows, renew the ceiling and upgrade all the electrics. In addition, the Project Team was quick to grasp an opportunity to install a classy new bar to move the sale of drinks away from the kitchen area. Bought from the now-closed New Drop Inn, the bar was dismantled, transported, refurbished and re-installed in the hall by Des Harwood, aided by Peter Butterfield and John Taylor.

"Initially, when we roughly costed the plans, we were looking at raising £300,000. There were many who said it could not be done. Well, thanks to our two sterling grants gurus, Barbara Herd and Margaret Carrington, who have put in a staggering amount of work to source grant funding, we have done it. A total of £73,300 was raised for the roof, £137,700 for the heating, £15,000 for the changing rooms, £47,500 for the kitchen, toilets and Jubilee Room, £21,700 for the windows and £2,300 for the chair lift. The electrics, the new bar, new ceiling and new curtains for the stage and windows were financed from the hall's own funds. A local farmer excavated the ground works for the ground-source heating on the Bailey Field at cost. Grants came from: The Big Lottery, Garfield Weston, BA Carbon Fund, Bernard Sunley, Ribble Valley Borough Council, The Harold and Alice Bridges Trust, The Craven Trust, The Duchy of Lancaster, ACRE/Defra, Lancashire Environmental Fund, Awards For All, Skelton Charity, The Foyle Foundation, and Affordable Mobility of Clitheroe. Local folk have also pitched in with fund raising through bingo sessions, open gardens, a safari supper, a wine and music festival and a special 'Hurst Green's Got Talent'."

To mark the end of the massive effort a special free function is to be held in the hall on Friday 10th November to which all parishioners are invited. "We wanted to mark the end of the project with a thank-you to the community who have supported us so well," says Niall, "and I am delighted to say that the Memorial Hall is now one of the premier community venues in East Lancashire."

Big Harvest Quiz

St John's Church are holding their big quiz night in the Memorial Hall on Friday 6th October at 7.00pm - £10 - all welcome! Food will be served at half-time, with Vegetarian and Gluten-Free options. The bar will be open.

Book your team (max 6 in a team) - phone 07973740981

Paul Garstang celebrates a very successful year at the bowling club.

The season is coming to an end at the bowling club and it has been great to welcome many new members and look back on some memorable social days. It's also been a successful year on the green with the A-Team winning the Longridge & District Bowling Club Cup, a knockout format played over a series of weeks. I believe it's more than a decade since Hurst Green last won this Cup competition. In an exciting development for the offseason the club is installing a new sprinkler system to help combat the rising heat and prolonged dry spells, such as we saw this springtime. It's hoped that this work will safeguard the green for many years to come, and the club would like to thank all those who have provided help and assistance in making this possible. I'd also like to remind everyone that the clubhouse is available for Private Hire. The club only charges £25 for an evening's hire or £50 for the full day. Please contact myself Paul Garstang on pgarstang@hotmail.com for further details.



Richard Wilkinson presents the Lucy Wilkinson Trophy to winners Jane Wigman and Colin Holmes.

The Story of the Japanese Tomb

In St. John's churchyard, on the left-hand side of the path below the church, there is a gravestone that stands out from the others because of its unusual shape. For a rural Lancashire parish, it also bears an unusual name: Ikatura Sugi. A few years ago, David Kay discovered something of the story behind it.

Ikatro Sugi was a Japanese subject, born in the city of Okayama in western Japan. He was on leave in Britain when he died on 13th October 1905, though quite how he ended up in Hurst Green is unclear. He was clearly educated, for he was the first Japanese to work for the Chinese Maritime Customs, entering the Education Department in Peking on 31st March 1898 as a Professor, possibly as a translator and teacher at China's first Translation School. He was transferred to the Customs Services as a 3rd Assistant A on 22nd August 1900. But, soon after, on 31st October 1900, he was sent on a 2 year sick leave. By June 1905 he was destitute and the Services intervened and started paying him a monthly sum and medical expenses. There is no account of how he came to Stonyhurst, but he spent his last days at Fairfield where he was looked after by a friend. His funeral was organised by the Japanese Legation. On the death certificate it gives the cause of death as TB and his age, 30 years, and the signature of the Registrar was Thomas Rawcliffe of Springwood, the father of the late Bernard Rawcliffe.

News from Laura Orr, Headteacher at

St. Joseph's RC Primary School

It is hard to believe I have completed my third year here at St Joseph's and what a wonderful year it has been! It was lovely to hear the children talk about their memories which included performing in our production of Snow White, enjoying trips to Manchester Museum, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, and Ribchester Roman Museum. The children in Year 5/6 enjoyed a wonderful residential to Alton Castle where they took part in outdoor activities and religious retreats.

We celebrated Founder's Day by walking the Tolkien Trail, processed to Stonyhurst throughout the month of May to crown Our Lady, held school masses with Fr Tim, and celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion with the lower juniors. We invited Fr Damien Howard, the Provincial of the Society of Jesus, along with John Stoer, the Director of Jesuit education. They were delighted to see the clear religious focus within our school, highlighting our Jesuit mission.

We were thrilled to discover our school has achieved the 'Gold Award' from Lancashire Sports Partnership for the second consecutive year. Sport is a vital part of our school. We are proud of the huge variety of opportunities we provide our pupils, and it was great to have a sunny afternoon for our Sport's Day at the end of term!

'Friends of St Joseph's' have played a huge role in raising money for our school whilst providing fun! Throughout the year, they have arranged the Christmas and Summer Fair, a treasure hunt, uniform swap and coffee mornings. All of these events not only boost the funds, but also help bring a lovely social element to the school.

Over the Summer holidays it has been 'all systems go' now the new Early Years unit is complete along with the refurbishment of two other classrooms. The staff have worked hard to get the rooms ready to welcome our children back in September, and to welcome our new starters at St Joseph's, where I know they will receive the love, care and support to thrive at our beautiful school.

WANTED!

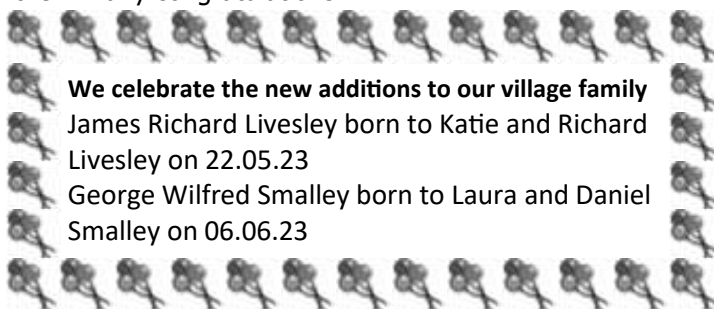
Cleaner for St. Joseph's School - 4 days per week: Mon-Thurs, 2 hours per day 3.45-5.45, term time only, general cleaning. Contact St. Joseph's 01254 826246

Youth Club

Fun for ages 9 to 14. Youth Club meets fortnightly on Fridays during term time in the Memorial Hall. Contact Katherine on 07887377649.

Diamond Wedding of Roger and Mary Holden

Roger and Mary have recently celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary, having been married at St Peter's, Stonyhurst on September 7th 1963. They met when Roger's brother, John, was courting Margaret, Mary's older sister, and the two brothers went on to marry the two sisters. Roger and Mary have lived in Hurst Green all their married life, starting out on Whalley Road, but moving to their home on Silver Street three years later where they have lived ever since, and where they brought up their three children, Christopher, Nicholas and Louise. We wish them many congratulations.



We celebrate the new additions to our village family

James Richard Livesley born to Katie and Richard Livesley on 22.05.23

George Wilfred Smalley born to Laura and Daniel Smalley on 06.06.23



OPEN WEEKEND AT ALL HALLOWS CHURCH, MITTON

on
SATURDAY & SUNDAY,
23rd and 24th SEPTEMBER
From 11am to 4pm

To celebrate the craftsmen and women
who have contributed to the beauty of
the church over the centuries.

If you would like to sponsor an edition of Round The Green or would like to contribute to an article on village life, please contact the editors, Agnes Bland (826559) or Nancy Bailey (826903). Printed by John Barton Printers, Longridge. Published by the editors, Hurst Green BB7 9QR.