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*St John's and St Luke's Together*

*St John's Church*



**February  
2022  
50 pence**

*St Luke's Church*



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## Rector's Letter

Dear all

### Blue Monday

I'm writing this article on what has become known as 'Blue Monday' – the third Monday in January when the festivities of Christmas are well behind us, when our inability to keep our New Year resolutions may be making us feel guilty, when we may be feeling isolated or lonely, and when the winter still seems to have a very long time to go – and all this without the ongoing impact of the pandemic and the rise in living costs which we are facing at the moment.

Now it may be that you are feeling on top of the world, or it may be that by the time you read this, Blue Monday will seem a long time ago and with Spring in the air, you may be feeling hopeful. But equally it may be that you are feeling a little down or maybe even a lot down. Now this is not the forum for in-depth advice or the offering of easy solutions, but if you are feeling 'blue', then I would simply say three things –

- to feel like this is as normal as it is to breathe! It is part of what it is to be human, and it is perfectly natural to be in different places on the spectrum of mental health that we all find ourselves on – after all, some of the great figures of the Bible all had their struggles – Moses, David, Jeremiah and Paul, to name but a few
- if you can, talk to someone you trust about how you are feeling – whether that person be a friend, a family member, a priest, a doctor or maybe an appropriate professional
- share your feelings with God - the bible, especially the book of Psalms, contains many examples of people telling God how they are feeling and seeking his help – consider Psalm 40 or Psalm 77, to name but two. The latter begins,

*I cried out to God for help;*

*I cried out to God to hear me.*

*When I was in distress, I sought the Lord;  
at night I stretched out untiring hands,*



*and I would not be comforted*

- Sometimes the most honest and the most helpful prayer is, like the Psalmist, telling God how you are, and maybe then using one of the oldest prayers known to the church, ‘*Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me a sinner.*’ Or, if these words do not feel helpful, simply ‘*Lord Jesus, have mercy on me.*’

## **Parish vision and finances**

Changing direction rather radically, I now want to talk to you about our ‘**Church on Display**’ fortnight that is taking place at St John’s and St Luke’s from 13<sup>th</sup> February. I believe we are at a very important juncture in our life as a church, not least because of the decision to make changes to the team vicar post (incidentally, interviews are scheduled for 28<sup>th</sup> April) meaning that the new post-holder will devote 50% of their time to mission, and will be seeking to plant new congregations within a few years, but also because we are facing a projected **budget deficit of £25,746** in 2022. The bottom line is that funding mission and ministry in the parish of St John’s and St Luke’s does not come cheap. Let me give you some facts and figures.

Our total budgeted expenditure in 2022, not including the young people’s worker, is £210,000. The major elements of this are

Office expenses and salaries approx. £17,000 pa

Choir and music costs £5700

Church running costs including utility bills approx. £25,000

Buildings maintenance £24,000

Parish share - our part of diocesan costs including clergy salaries is £120,000 (we have capped this for the time being – the actual requested figure is £142,000)

Mission giving - £10,000

Meanwhile our projected income is £184,294 –so there is clearly a big gap between **this and our projected** expenditure.

Thus the ‘Church on Display’ fortnight, along with preaching and teaching on giving and vision, on the foundation that ***we want to work with God for***

***the transformation of Harrogate***, aims to inspire us to respond to these financial demands by giving us a fresh vision of what we are already doing as a church to bless and serve God and our community, and by outlining in more detail the plans for the team vicar, who will be both Team Vicar **and** Leader in Mission.

Please come into either church to look at the displays for yourselves, seeing in more detail the difference we make and hope to make – and I hope you will be inspired.

And whether or not you are able to see the displays, please be praying about your financial giving to St John's and St Luke's. The deficit of £25,746 does on the face of it seem huge, but, for example, if 100 people gave an average of £25 extra per month (the equivalent, for example, of 10 coffees, or 7 pints), that would give us an extra £30,000 per year, plus gift aid – so it is possible to turn things around – and with God, all things are possible, even in the midst of the challenging times we live in which I know are very difficult for many people.

Every blessing

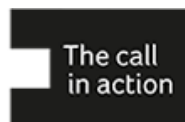
***Simon***

## **CHRISTMAS LUNCH**

When the January magazine was going to press we were able to report some pre-Christmas events but Christmas Day was still to come. Now we can look back, hopefully, on a wonderful celebration of Christ's birth. Thank you to everyone who responded to our appeal to set an extra place for the unexpected guest. So far this has produced the magnificent sum of **£1256.50**, including Gift Aid, to help our CMS Mission Partners Chris and Anna Hembury as they work among the people of Hull.



Our January Coffee Morning was also to support them, raising another **£436**, despite the current situation and miserable weather.







## Wonderful gifts - Amazing families



**Thank You**



## KIDZ KLUB LEEDS

Thank you so much, dear friends! Your kind donations towards our Christmas hamper campaign made a big difference to families living in inner-city Leeds. Your donations of food, toys and money meant that we were able to bless around 230 families with Christmas hampers this year. We have never received so many gifts from churches, individuals, shops and companies.

This year has been difficult for many people and your support has helped us to bring a little bit of sparkle, joy and love this Christmas. We always tell families that they are so important to us and that the hamper is a gift to say thank you for being part of Kidz Klub. We have seen countless excited squeals, children jumping up and down with delight and the hamper contents often emptied on the door step, not even making it into the house first!

Many of the parents were overwhelmed with gratitude. Some of our mums said:

*"You mean so much to us."*

*"Wow; I've never received a gift like this before."*

*"Thank you for the hampers and presents;  
they are lovely and they will help me so much."*

One Nana said

*"He loves you, he really loves Kidz Klub, thanks for letting him be part of it."*

And one of our children said *"This is all for us! Thank you, thank you, thank you, you're the BEST teachers ever."*

These demonstrations of love have enabled us to build deeper relationships with many of our families. Receiving a gift has helped many to be brave enough to reach out for various levels of support, whether that is asking us to join up with statutory services who've newly become involved in their situation, or to talk about difficult circumstances such as family breakdown, grief and mental health crisis. Your generosity has opened the door for our Family Support Team to come alongside these families. Thank you for joining with us and for making all of this possible! You have helped us make Christmas special for many families.

Yours in Christ,

**Alex Joiner**    [info@kidzklubleeds.org.uk](mailto:info@kidzklubleeds.org.uk)    [www.kidzklubleeds.org.uk](http://www.kidzklubleeds.org.uk)

Kidz Klub Leeds c/o Bridge Community Church Rider Street, Leeds, LS9 7BQ

0113 245 6533

Charity No: 1084977



The #thelightshines project (based on John 1:5) was led by Harrogate Hub, and churches and households across the Harrogate area joined in. It launched on 12<sup>th</sup> December and continued over the Christmas period.

Participants could register their 'window' to be added to a map on the Hub website so that people could plan



walks around their local area and view the displays that had been registered near them. Prayer cards were also delivered by members of congregations, reminding friends and neighbours that their local church was praying for them and for their street. We are thankful to all who took part in this project bringing hope and light to the streets across Advent and Christmas.





**Did you see these or any other of the wonderful windows that were shining God's light across Harrogate? We are blessed to be able to celebrate the Christian festival of Christmas openly.**

## QUESTION CORNER



Answers to last month's quiz

1. St Paul was known as the Apostle of the Gentiles
2. 'Epiphany' means 'manifestation' (especially as Christ)
3. *Queen takes a tumble in Africa?* Victoria Falls
4. St Luke was a physician
5. The word 'nave' is from the Latin 'navis' meaning 'ship' (an emblem of the church)
6. *Biblical place where girl keeps her horse?* Mount of Olives
7. St Paul was born at Tarsus
8. *No square deal in this seat of power?* The Oval Office
9. The name 'Jesus' means 'Saviour' – derived from the Hebrew 'Joshua' meaning 'Jehovah saves'
10. St Mark's cousin was Barnabas (Colossians 4:10)
11. *Mother's slight altercation with dog?* Mastiff
12. St Augustine was the first Archbishop of Canterbury (597AD)
13. *Who came to consult Jesus by night?* Nicodemus (John 3:2)
14. Philemon's slave was Onesimus
15. *What did the farmer say when his bull swallowed a bomb?*  
It's abominable!

*Sorry, no prizes for getting them right. And apologies for my twisted humour!*

**David**

### CHURCH ON DISPLAY

Does church just happen on Sundays?

Come to our exhibition and find out.

Where? St John's Church on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> February  
(the coffee morning will also be in church)  
and for the rest of February in both churches

What? Displays by all the different church groups - Thirst, Comfort Café,  
Choir and many more



## **BILTON CONSERVATION GROUP**

will be celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2022.

Since 1982 members have worked on many projects in this area, and especially in the Nidd Gorge where they have

- built and maintained boardwalks to make access easier
- planted and managed many plants
- designed and installed information boards at the entrances to the Gorge

Elsewhere in the area they have

- planted thousands of spring bulbs on verges and in parks
- planted many trees
- cut back vegetation on many footpaths
- brought footpaths in leisure areas up to a safe usable level
- helped to maintain the Knox Country Park and Bachelors Field
- campaigned against bypass plans
- and much much more

## **OUR MARCH COFFEE MORNING**

**(12<sup>th</sup> March)**

will be run by the Green Team and will raise funds for Bilton Conservation Group's projects. As well as the usual attractions there will be a Green Stall with handmade soap, wax wraps and other eco-friendly products. Please do support BCG and the environment.

More details next month

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# COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 12th February

in **St John's Church**

**Bilton HG1 3DT**

**10 till 12 noon**

**£1 inc drink & biscuit**

In support of

 **WaterAid**

**RAFFLE**

**CAKES**

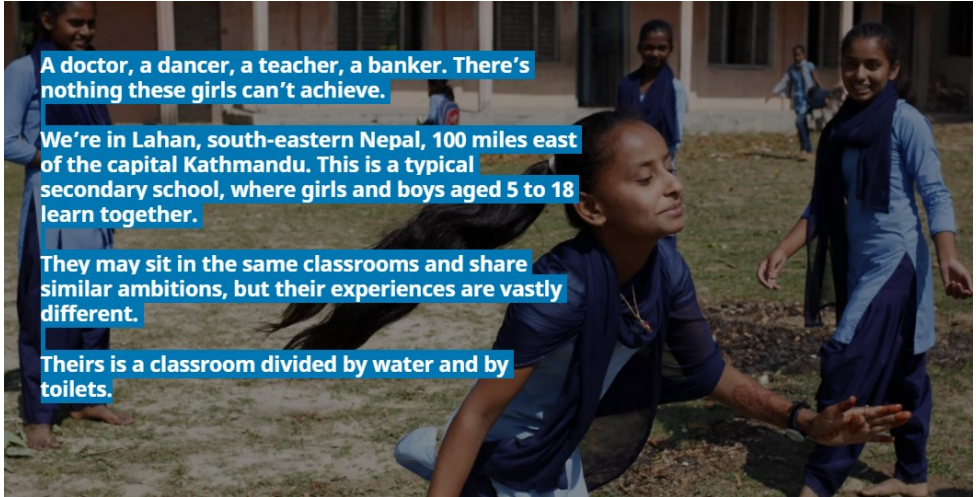
**TOMBOLA**

**CARDS**

**BOOKS**

**PLANTS**

When clean water starts flowing, they will be unstoppable



There are 475 pupils here, 58 percent of whom are girls. Yet between them, these girls have just one functioning toilet at school. Without running water for cleaning, it gets very dirty and becomes all but unusable. The consequences are far-reaching – pitching girls to the back of the class and making it harder for them to achieve their potential.

When girls miss out on water, they miss out on the knowledge to create change. That's why we're launching **Thirst for Knowledge** this winter. Through it and with your support we can bring clean water and decent toilets to tens of thousands of girls in Nepal, so they can focus on their learning and their futures.

[And with the UK government matching your donations up to £2million, we can have twice the impact.](#)

So whatever we raise at our coffee morning on 12<sup>th</sup> February will be doubled! Come and help us make a difference?



# PEOPLE

## FUNERALS

*We extend our sympathy to the families of those  
who have recently died:*

*Aaron Bertenshaw*



## A NEW TEAM VICAR

We face an exciting challenge as we prepare to advertise for someone to replace Andy. In agreement with the diocese as well as being Team Vicar at St John's and St Luke's the person appointed will be leading mission to the people of North Harrogate. The other churches in the area are supporting this move.

Please pray for those drafting the job description and that the right person will be inspired to apply.



**SUNDAY 13<sup>th</sup> February**

is Copy Date for

**MARCH 2022 Focus**

Items for inclusion to:

[SJSLFocus@gmail.com](mailto:SJSLFocus@gmail.com)

or Editor, 6 Old Trough Way,

**HG1 3DE**

or leave them in the drawer at the  
back of St John's Church

**St John's & St Luke's**

## **CHURCH OFFICE OPENING HOURS**

MONDAY to WEDNESDAY

9.30am to 1.00pm

THURSDAY CLOSED

FRIDAY 9.30am to 1.00pm

TELEPHONE 565129 (+ Answerphone)

email - [church@stjohnsandstlukes.org.uk](mailto:church@stjohnsandstlukes.org.uk)



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# FEBRUARY'S CALENDAR

St John's 10.30 services will be on Facebook each Sunday

<https://www.facebook.com/stjohnsandstlukes>

**NB Services in the churches may change according to guidelines**

**Those who attend should wear masks unless exempt**

**No need to book a place now - everyone is welcome.**

**And we are serving tea and coffee after the 10.30 services!**

## LOOKING AHEAD

### FEBRUARY

Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup>	9-9.30am 7.00pm	Morning Prayer (SJ) Youth Alpha (SJ)
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	9-9.30am 10.30am 10.30am 4-5.00pm	Morning Prayer (SJ) Holy Communion (SJ) Thirst - Coffee at Dene Park Community Centre 4twelve (Year 7-13 Youth Group) (Artizan International Cafe)
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	9-9.30am 9.30-11.30am 1-3.00pm 6.30-7.15pm	Morning Prayer (SJ) Little Fishes (Parent & Toddler Group) (SL) Wellbeing Café (SL) Evening Surgery in Church (SJ)
Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am 10.30am 10.30am 6-7.45pm	Holy Communion (SJ) Parade Service (SJ) Holy Communion (SL) Ignite (Year 7+ Youth Group) (SL)
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup>	9-9.30am 7.00pm	Morning Prayer (SJ) Alpha Course (SJ)
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup>	9-9.30am 2-3.30pm 7.30pm	Morning Prayer (SJ) Comfort Bereavement Café (SJ) Time to Pray (SJ)
Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup>	9-9.30am 10.30am 10.30am 12.15pm 4-5.00pm	Morning Prayer (SJ) Holy Communion (SJ) Thirst - Coffee at Dene Park Community Centre Community Lunch at Bilton Community Centre 4twelve (Year 7-13 Youth Group) (Artizan International Cafe)
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup>	9-9.30am 9.30-11.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ) Little Fishes (Parent & Toddler Group) (SL)

	1-3.00pm	Wellbeing Café (SL)
	6.30-7.15pm	Evening Surgery in church (SJ)
	7.15-9.15pm	Harrogate Theatre Choir Rehearsal (SJ)
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup>	6.30-7.15pm	Junior Choir Practice (SJ)
	7-7.45pm	Choir Practice (SJ)
Saturday 12 <sup>th</sup>	10am-12noon	Coffee Morning in Church (SJ)
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	10.30am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	10.30am	Parade Service (SL)
	6-7.45pm	Ignite (Year 7+ Youth Group) (SL)
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup>	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	7.00pm	Alpha Course (SJ)
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup>	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup>	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	10.30am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	10.30am	Thirst – Coffee at Dene Park Community Centre
	4-5.00pm	4twelve (Year 7-13 Youth Group) (Artizan International Cafe)
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup>	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	9.30-11.30am	Little Fishes (Parent & Toddler Group) (SL)
	1-3.00pm	Wellbeing Café (SL)
	6.30-7.15pm	Evening Surgery in Church (SJ)
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	10.30am	All Age Morning Worship (SJ)
	10.30am	Morning Worship (SL)
Monday 21 <sup>st</sup>	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	10.30am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	10.30am	Thirst – Coffee at Dene Park Community Centre
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup>	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	1-3.00pm	Wellbeing Café (SL)
	6.30-7.15pm	Evening Surgery in Church (SJ)
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	10.30am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	10.30am	All Age Service (SL)
	6-7.45pm	Ignite (Year 7+ Youth Group) (SL)
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup>	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	7.00pm	Alpha Course (SJ)
<b><u>MARCH</u></b>		
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup>	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
Ash Wednesday	10.30am	Holy Communion with Ashing (SJ)
	10.30am	Thirst – Coffee at Dene Park Community Centre

	4-5.00pm	4twelve (Year 7-13 Youth Group) (Artizan International Cafe)
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	9.30-11.30am	Little Fishes (Parent & Toddler Group) (SL)
	1-3.00pm	Wellbeing Café (SL)
	6.30-7.15pm	Evening Surgery in Church (SJ)

### LOOKING AHEAD

Coffee Morning	10am - 12noon	12 <sup>th</sup> March (SJ Hall)
Parish Weekend		30 <sup>th</sup> Sept-2 <sup>nd</sup> Oct (Scargill House)

### THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE

(see front cover picture)

Also called Candlemas, this marks the end of the Christmas season on 2nd February.

After Mary and Joseph had presented their first-born son and made the required sacrifices they were stopped, first by Simeon and then by Anna, both elderly and both recognising Jesus as the saviour promised by God.

Simeon's words are said at Evensong:

- Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace:  
your word has been fulfilled.*
- 2 *My own eyes have seen the salvation  
which you have prepared in the sight of every people;*
- 3 *A light to reveal you to the nations  
and the glory of your people Israel.*

*Luke 2.29–32*



What will you give up in Lent?

Or perhaps you might do something extra instead?

Look out next month for book recommendations  
and information about Lent Groups



# ST JOHN'S AND ST LUKE'S TOGETHER WHO'S WHO

Parish Office Phone No: 01423 565129

Parish Office email: [church@stjohnsandstlukes.org.uk](mailto:church@stjohnsandstlukes.org.uk)

For parish information including services and events

visit Parish Websites: [www.stjohnsandstlukes.org.uk](http://www.stjohnsandstlukes.org.uk)

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

[www.facebook.com/groups/stjohnsandstlukes.harrogate](https://www.facebook.com/groups/stjohnsandstlukes.harrogate)

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[www.facebook.com/stjohnsandstlukes](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnsandstlukes) - for livestreaming

## The Ministry Team

**Simon Dowson—Team Rector**

Tel 01423 561030

[simon.dowson@leeds.anglican.org](mailto:simon.dowson@leeds.anglican.org)

**Team Vicar**

*Vacant*

**Laura Martin—Curate**

Tel 07497 865507

[laura.martin@leeds.anglican.org](mailto:laura.martin@leeds.anglican.org)

**Emma James—Young People's  
Worker**

Tel 07803 586566

[YouthWork@stjohnsandstlukes.org.uk](mailto:YouthWork@stjohnsandstlukes.org.uk)

## Churchwardens

### St John's

Mr Nigel Thompson

[janeandnige1962@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:janeandnige1962@hotmail.co.uk)

Mrs Jane Reichert

[janereichert@hotmail.com](mailto:janereichert@hotmail.com)

### St Luke's

Mrs Pat Fenton

[pafenton10@gmail.com](mailto:pafenton10@gmail.com)

Mrs Jean Jarvis

[jean\\_jarvis@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jean_jarvis@hotmail.co.uk)

## Editorial Team

**Treasurer:** *Could you do this job?*

**Collation:** Katie Burke 569563 and team

**Editors:** Jean Burton 569907 Liz Hickling

**Magazine email:** [SJSIfocus@gmail.com](mailto:SJSIfocus@gmail.com)

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Contact the Church Office for more information.

See page 19 for contact details

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