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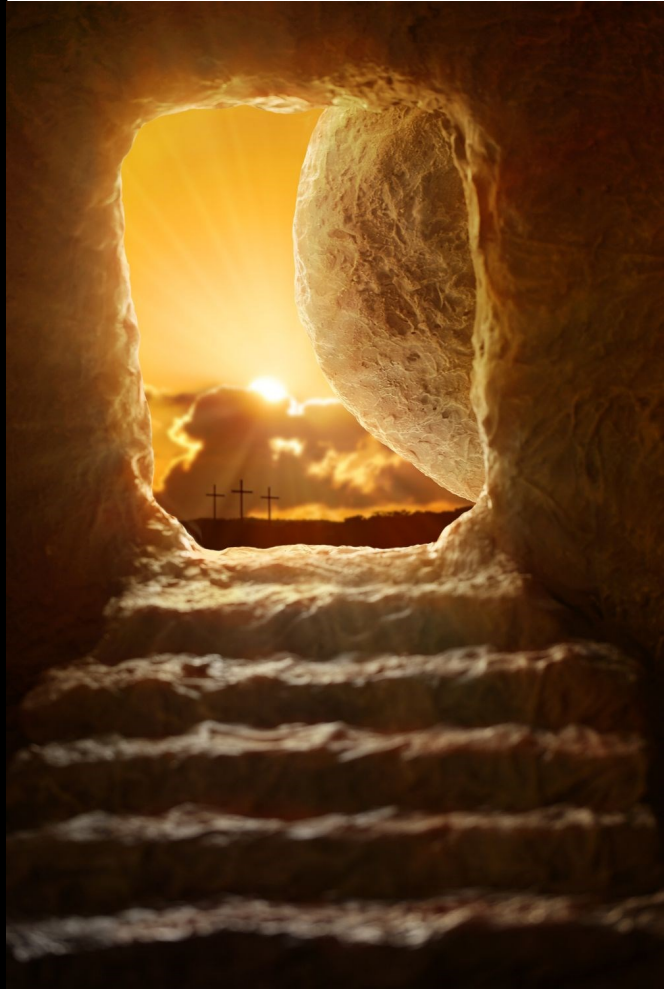
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St John's and St Luke's Together

St John's Church



St Luke's Church

April

2023

50 pence



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The Editors of Focus magazine take every reasonable care to avoid errors in the advertisements and articles contained in this magazine. However, the inclusion of an article or advertisement in Focus does not imply either endorsement of or liability for the opinions expressed or of goods or services advertised, whether by the Editor, St John's and St Luke's PCC or St John's and St Luke's churches. The views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of the editor or the Clergy and whilst every care is taken not to change the original meaning, the editor and Clergy reserve the right to cut or alter articles submitted, as they deem necessary.

RECTOR'S LETTER



If the church was a shop, I wonder what people might expect to find we had in stock on our shelves?

In the fresh fruit section, hopefully they could see love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (and there would never be a shortage of stock!!)

Meanwhile in the special offers section, they would be able to pick up forgiveness and mercy, while in the gift section, they would be able to receive wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, miraculous powers, prophecy, the ability to distinguish between spirits, the gift of tongues and interpretation of tongues as specially allocated to them.

There would also be available, among many other wonderful things, fullness of life and the offer of becoming part of God's family and spending eternity with him.

But, people might be asking, *'How could I possibly afford any of this – the stock is priceless and I could never have enough money to buy any of it'* – but the angelic-looking shop assistants would be replying, *'Don't worry, just make your ways to the **Grace Department** and things will be sorted!'* So people do just that and they see a sign they can hardly believe.

All stock already paid for
IN FULL by Jesus

And this is exactly what Jesus achieved for us by dying on the cross and being raised to life again on the third day. This is why we make such a big thing of Good Friday and Easter Day, for by His death and resurrection, Jesus changed everything for us – he truly made it possible for us to know and enjoy the love of God. This is our Easter Hope. Our Easter Joy – and our

only fitting response is worship – which is why for me, Easter is the pinnacle of the church year, and why singing the great Easter hymns is a real highlight for me – for example

*‘Let the church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,
for her Lord now liveth, Death hath lost its sting!
from Thine be the Glory).*

But what would be the name of the shop that is church – well, one of our fellow congregations in Harrogate has perhaps already got the answer to this – **‘HOPE CHURCH’** – because for me, in a world that is struggling with so many things, to have hope in the present and for the future is something to be grasped hold of - and to be able to have on our shelves all the things I have mentioned above, is to offer people Hope and Purpose that can be found nowhere else, for it is to offer relationship with the living God who loves all people everywhere.

So all that remains for me to say is ENJOY SHOPPING, FILL YOUR TROLLEYS AND HAVE A HAPPY EASTER!

Every blessing

Simon

HOLY SPIRIT DAY



On Saturday 11th March we met in the East End Room at St John’s for our Holy Spirit Awayday. It should have been at Hampsthwaite Church, but because of the snow it was decided that we should meet at home rather than away – but in a way it

seemed right to be ‘at home’ and meet with our God. I for one felt very comfortable to be there, very open and relaxed and ready to receive from God.

We watched powerful videos of people’s thoughts and opinions of what or who the Holy Spirit is. It was a wonderful day! I would recommend the Alpha course to anyone who would like to explore and find out more about God and being a Christian.

Sign up for the next course. If you don’t you’ll be missing out.



Can you complete the Easter Trail?



Follow the trail of eggs and explore the story of Easter together.

Where?

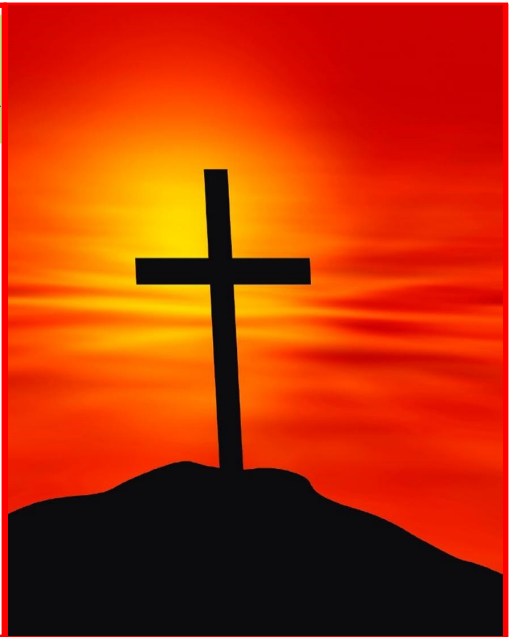
The grounds of St John's Church
(or indoors if wet weather!)

When?

Saturday 8th April
10-11.30am

For more information...

www.stjohnsandslukes.org.uk
(Booking not necessary)



CELEBRATE HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

Palm Sunday	9.00am 10.30am 10.30am	Holy Communion (St John's) All Age Worship (St John's) All Age Communion (St Luke's)
Tuesday	7.30pm	Reflective gathering – 'Courage, Peace and Prayer' (St Luke's)
Wednesday	10.30am 7.30pm	Holy Communion (St John's) Reflective Gathering – 'An extravagant gift of love' (St Luke's)
Maundy Thursday	7.30pm	Holy Communion – 'Seven Actions' (St Luke's)
Good Friday	11am 1.30pm 6.30pm	Joint Act of Witness (Cenotaph) At the foot of the cross (St John's) A Service of Music and Meditation (St John's)
Easter Saturday	10am 10am	Easter Trail for families (St John's church grounds) Coffee Morning supporting Youth Work (St John's church hall)
<u>EASTER DAY</u>	5.45am 9.00am 10.30am	Sunrise Service (St John's) Holy Communion (St John's) All Age Communion (both churches)

COFFEE MORNING

ST JOHN'S CHURCH HALL

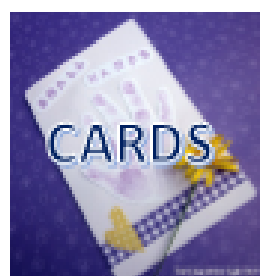
Saturday 8th April

Supporting Youth Work in Bilton

Entrance £1
INCLUDES
DRINK AND
BISCUIT



10 - 12



PLANTS



RAFFLE

TOMBOLA

YOUNG PEOPLE'S WORKER APPEAL



Following your initial generosity in 2019, we are running an appeal to raise funds to keep Emma James as our young people's worker in the parish until 2026. We have had a very positive response so far and we wish to thank everyone who has already pledged towards the appeal, which will be running throughout March. To see details of why we would like to keep funding this post please pick up a copy of the **IMPACT STATEMENT** from either church, or visit our website [here](#). You will also see the 'Ways to give' leaflet with details of the various options available. If 50 people would be able to commit to give £25 a month for the 3 years, it would give £45000 (plus Gift Aid if eligible) and would take us to half of the target we need to fundraise. If you would like to talk to anyone about this further please speak to Simon, Sarah Shepherd or John Carr.

Our April Coffee Morning is supporting this appeal

See the poster opposite for details

OUR MISSION PARTNERS, CHRIS AND ANNA HEMBURY

It was wonderful to welcome Chris and Anna on Mothering Sunday, when they shared news about their activities in Hull. We were able to share with them the news that our coffee morning the previous week had raised £513 for their work in Hull. The most recent letter from them is available online

[Mission Partners - Chris & Anna Hembury - Link Letter](#)
stjohnsandstlukes.org.uk



There were also beautiful primulas (grown by Horticap) for mothers and others.

THE CEILIDH - 12th March

On Saturday afternoon the volunteers of the social committee descended on St John's and cleared the church. Albert sorted books, chairs and tables were arranged and re-arranged and the space created for The Ceilidh.

Shortly before seven with the music on and candles providing some ambience, the 80+ ticket buyers started to arrive. Every age group represented, and every degree of enthusiasm for dancing equally present. Barry did a wonderful job of calling the dances, walking us through the steps, and then giving us a slow tune to practise them before some faster tunes to reel to.

It was great to see some of those with less enthusiasm discover that they enjoyed the progressive dances. While some of the older members of the party collapsed with relief between dances, the younger folk took advantage



of the floor to cartwheel and run. Nearly everyone able to do so danced at some point, with just one or two sitters-out – step forward Nigel and Tim!

A thoroughly enjoyable evening even for the sitters-out. My knees were mildly protesting but my heart was full of the joys of dancing with friends of all ages.



We celebrated the work that Emma does with our young people, and raised money for continuing it. Altogether a joyful evening, where even the clearing up went speedily.

All agreed we should do it again, so watch this space and keep your dancing shoes safe!

CHORISTERS AT THE FESTIVAL



Five of our junior choristers sang solos at Harrogate Competitive Festival of Music Speech and Drama, each singing two verses of a hymn.

They were a credit to our church, in their performance, behaviour and interaction with other choristers. Although they did not win we were very proud of them.

As the Adjudicator said, our church is blessed to have these youngsters helping to lead the worship, along with the other choristers, led and accompanied by Ruth.

Here are some of their comments:

'It was petrifying but fun. I am glad I did it but the earth was shaking!'

I enjoyed the competition but I thought there would be more in my group. It was quite scary standing in front of everyone, but it felt good at the end.'

I was very nervous but I managed to sing my whole song . It was lovely to hear everyone else sing too. I really want to do it again next year and I will try not to be so nervous and sing louder.

As it was my first time being in the Festival I was nervous but really enjoyed it. I was proud of myself for standing up and singing a solo in front of people. I also enjoyed listening to all the other singers.

And from parents: It was a joy to listen to all our choristers as well as the other churches' choristers. They were all very brave standing up and singing in a room full of people. A special thank you to Ruth for taking her own time to organise and be there for our young choristers.

She loves singing in the choir at St Johns and it was a wonderful opportunity for her to take party in the festival. I think she got lots out of it.

Well done, all of you.



These five, plus the rest of St John's Choir, will be taking part in the Good Friday Service of Music and Meditation at 6.30 pm at St John's.

Girlguiding

1st Bilton (St John's) Guide Unit

It's been a while since I last wrote for the magazine and we have managed to cram in a lot of fun activities into our meetings this year. This term we have been concentrating on the theme of Skills for my Future, to promote teamwork and empower the Guides to be the best they can be. We celebrated World Thinking Day on 22nd February with lots of activities centred around our



place in the family of Guiding, and as you can see from the photo with Lucy, it also involved making the world badge from biscuits and sweets. Our three newest Guides then made their Guide promise using the bottles they had decorated with the promise the week before.

The activities for International Women's Day were postponed as snow cancelled the meeting but we will pick that up as soon as we can.

With just the last few meetings before Easter left, there are lots more interest and skills builder badges to give out and Easter activities to do.

Girlguiding had a brand refresh last week so we have a new trefoil and a new brand purpose:

We help all girls know they can do anything.

Have a look at our website to find out more, to register your daughter to join one of the local units or to register to volunteer at www.girlguiding.org.uk

Gill Clarke

YOUR MAGAZINE

Tell us what you would like to see in the magazine - or write something for it: poetry, article, about church activities
Contact details on page 19

QUESTION CORNER



Q. Jesus taught us to say ‘Our Father’. So how can some call God ‘Mother’?

A. Jesus called God HIS father, and ours. But he also said ‘God is a Spirit’. This means that God is neither male nor female, but shows both male and female characteristics. To describe the closest possible relationship he wants us to have with God, he uses the word Father. In the Jewish culture of their day, the father and child relationship was considered to be even closer than mother and child. And, with Jesus, we can say ‘Abba Father’ – a more intimate and informal expression (a bit like ‘Dad’). This does not mean that Jesus wants US to think less of mothers; he was simply using a concept which made sense to his hearers. For he also referred to God as being like a mother hen looking after her chicks. So we can sometimes think of God as mother if it helps. When I was chaplain of the Training Ship ‘Arethusa’ many of the boys were from broken homes, and some had been ill-treated by their fathers. As a result they found it hard to think of God as a caring father, so that needed careful explanation. Sometimes people have suggested that we say ‘Our Mother’ instead of ‘Our Father’, but I think this would be just be confusing in public worship.

What’s in a name or title? I think I’ve mentioned this before. In my last parish, a man always addressed me either very formally as ‘Revered Canon’, or jokingly as ‘Your Reverence’. And the rector’s wife? He called Linda ‘Reverend Mother’!!

David

ANNUAL PARISH CHURCH MEETING (Sunday 21st May after the service) AND THE CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL

Everyone is invited to our churches’ annual meeting to hear about the previous year, and about plans for how the church family can share God’s love with our neighbours locally and further afield.

But to be able to vote at the meeting, or be elected to any position within the church, you need to be over 16 and have your name on the church electoral roll. Please pick up a form from the back of either church, and return it to the church office or one of the clergy by 6th May. Existing members don’t need to reapply this year.


National Autistic Society | Harrogate and District Branch
World Autism Acceptance Week
 27 March – 2 April 2023

Autism Acceptance Day
Refreshment Day and Drop-in
Clinic

-  Café
-  Information
-  Support
-  Pathways
-  Book stall

Saturday 1st April 2023
 10.00 am to 3.00 pm

Thank you for helping create a society that works for autistic people

The Wesley Methodist Chapel,
 Oxford St,
 Harrogate
 HG1 1PP

www.autism.org.uk

 Registered with FUNDRAISING REGULATOR

The National Autistic Society is a charity registered in England and Wales (1094207) and in Scotland (SC039472)


Youth
Easter Party!

Bake-Off!


Pizza!


Film!


Saturday 8th April 6-9pm
St Mark's Church
£5
Booking essential



NEW CROSS-TOWN YOUTH WORSHIP



We launched the monthly town wide Youth worship night in February and are super thankful to God for how it's gone so far. This is a monthly evening worship service for any young people, whether they go to a church or not, and is held in Starlings Cafe, which is a venue that's attractive to young people and somewhere they feel comfortable to invite their friends to hopefully! It's a space for an extended period of worship, prayer ministry time and fellowship, and is currently led by a team of adults from different churches.

However, as we move forward, the aim of this is for it to be a service for young people, led by young people, so we will gradually hope to step back into the role of facilitators and let the young people step up into leadership roles.



GREEN TEAM NEWS



It's been two years in the making but our lovely new display board is now in position! Using the plan of the church grounds originally drawn by Terry Wagner, then taken on and digitalised by Colin Fuller, the Green Team have created our new display board. It shows a map of the church grounds, indicating the location of the trees and bushes, along with photographs of some of the wild flowers. It also has a brief history of St John's Church and information about the A Rocha Eco Church award (we are proud to hold a silver award). If you look carefully, there is also an aerial view of the church and surrounding houses in the background.



Another new addition to the church grounds is the bike rack near the church hall. We hope people will be encouraged to leave their car at home and use their bike to come to church instead, knowing there is somewhere safe to lock their bike.

Both the sign and bike rack have been made possible through the commuted sums fund set aside for community use by Harrogate Council. Many thanks for their hard work for both the signs and bike rack go to Claire Golightly, Colin Fuller, Rob Bath and Nigel Thompson.

PEOPLE

BAPTISMS / BLESSINGS

Eliza Jade Lambert

INTERMENT OF ASHES

Rose and Charles Myint



FUNERALS/ MEMORIALS

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

Clare Jones

Christopher 'Bill' Bateson

OFFICE EASTER CLOSURE

The office will be closed on Good Friday, and reopens on Tuesday 18th April.

Emails and phone messages will be checked occasionally.

For urgent matters please ring Simon or Emma (see page 19)

WEDNESDAY 12th APRIL

is Copy Date for

MAY 2023 Focus

Items for inclusion to:

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, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY

9.30am to 1.00pm

TUESDAY 11.30am to 1.00pm

FRIDAY CLOSED

565129 (+ Answerphone)

church@stjohnsandstlukes.org.uk



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- Household tasks
- Medication support
- Wellbeing
- Dementia care
- Personal care

We are extremely proud to support older people in our community to live independently in their own homes.

Our team is passionate about delivering the highest standard of care and will always go above and beyond to help our clients.



APRIL'S CALENDAR

Sunday 2nd	9.00am	Holy Communion (SJ)
<i>Palm Sunday</i>	10.30am	All Age Service (SJ)
	10.30am	All Age Holy Communion (SL)
	6-7.45pm	Youth Worship Night (Starling Café)
Monday 3rd	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
Tuesday 4th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	7.30pm	Holy Space (SL)
Wednesday 5th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	10.30am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	10.30am	Thirst - Coffee at Dene Park Community Centre
	7.30pm	Holy Space (SL)
Thursday 6th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
<i>Maundy Thursday</i>	7.30pm	Holy Communion (SL)
Friday 7th	11.00am	Act of Witness at The Cenotaph
<i>Good Friday</i>	1.30-3.00pm	Reflective Service (SJ)
	5.00pm	Choir Practice (SJ)
	6.30pm	Good Friday Service of Music and Meditation (SJ)
Saturday 8th	10.00am-12noon	Coffee Morning and Family Easter Trail (SJ)
	6-9.00pm	Easter Party at St Mark's (Youth Event)
Sunday 9th	5.45am	Sunrise Service (SJ)
<i>Easter Day</i>	9.00am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	10.30am	All Age Holy Communion (SJ)
	10.30am	All Age Holy Communion (SL)
Wednesday 12th	10.30am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	10.30am	Thirst - Coffee at Dene Park Centre
	12.15pm	Community Lunch at Bilton Community Centre
Sunday 16th	9.00am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	10.30am	Morning Worship (SJ)
	10.30am	Morning Worship (SL)
	6-7.45pm	Ignite (Year 7+ Youth Group) (SL)
Monday 17th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
Tuesday 18th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	10.00am	Walking Group (SJ)
	2-3.30pm	Comfort Café (SJ)

	4-5.00pm	4twelve (Year 7+ Youth Group) (Emma's House)
Wednesday 19 th	9-9.30am 10.30am 10.30am 12.00pm	Morning Prayer (SJ) Holy Communion (SJ) Thirst – Coffee at Dene Park Community Centre Thirst Table at Dene Park Community Centre
Thursday 20 th	7.00pm 9-9.30am 9.30-11.30am	Alpha Course (SJ) Morning Prayer (SJ) Little Fishes (Parent & Toddler Group) (SL)
Friday 21 st	1-3.00pm 6.15-7.00pm 7-7.45pm	Wellbeing Café (SL) Junior Choir Practice (SJ) Adult Choir Practice (SJ)
Sunday 23rd	9.00am 10.30am 10.30am 6-7.45pm	Holy Communion (SJ) Holy Communion (SJ) All Age Morning Worship (SL) Ignite (Year 7+ Youth Group) (SL)
Monday 24 th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
Tuesday 25 th	9-9.30am 4-5.00pm	Morning Prayer (SJ) 4twelve (Year 7+ Youth Group) (Emma's House)
Wednesday 26 th	7.30pm 9-9.30am 10.30am 10.30am	PCC Meeting (SJ) Morning Prayer (SJ) Holy Communion (SJ) Thirst – Coffee at Dene Park Community Centre
Thursday 27 th	7.30pm 9-9.30am 9.30-11.30am	PCC Meeting (SJ) Morning Prayer (SJ) Little Fishes (Parent & Toddler Group) (SL)
Friday 28 th	6.30-7.15pm 1-3.00pm 6.30-7.15pm 7-7.45pm	Evening Surgery in Church (SJ) Wellbeing Café (SL) Junior Choir Practice (SJ) Adult Choir Practice (SJ)
Sunday 30th	9.00am 10.30am 6-7.45pm	Holy Communion (SJ) Joint Holy Communion (SL) Ignite (Year 7+ Youth Group) (SL)
<u>MAY</u>		
Monday 1 st	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
Tuesday 2 nd	9-9.30am 4-5.00pm	Morning Prayer (SJ) 4twelve (Year 7+ Youth Group) (Emma's House)
Wednesday 3 rd	7.30pm 9-9.30am 10.30am	Time to Pray (SJ) Morning Prayer (SJ) Holy Communion (SJ)

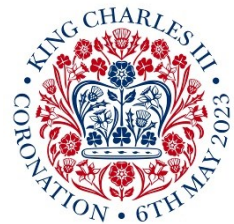
	10.30am	Thirst - Coffee at Dene Park Community Centre
Thursday 4 th	9-9.30am 9.30-11.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ) Little Fishes (Parent & Toddler Group) (SL)
Friday 5 th	1-3.00pm	Wellbeing Café (SL)
Saturday 6 th		Coronation of King Charles III

LOOKING AHEAD

Coffee morning for our local library	Saturday 13th May (SJ Hall)
Annual Parochial Church Meeting	Sunday 21 st May (SJ)
Joint Celebration Evensong	Sunday 21 st May, 6.00pm (SJ)
Celebration of the Life of Margaret Manning	Sunday 4 th June, 3.00pm (SJ)
Christian Aid Week	14th-20th May (everywhere)
Coffee Morning for Christian Aid	Saturday 10th June (SJ hall)
Summer Fair	Saturday 24 th June (SJ)
Family Walk from Pateley Bridge	Saturday 8 th July, 4.00pm

CORONATION WEEKEND

Saturday 6th June **Watch Party at St Luke's**
Sunday 7th June **Prosecco and cake after**
the service at both
churches



BILTON PARISH SUMMER FAIR



The date is fixed - 24th June - so now is your chance to offer to help with the planning and organisation.

We need

- a small planning team
- people to run stalls - cakes, plants, books etc
- someone to organise refreshments
- many other helpers

YOUR PARISH NEEDS YOU!

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

Parish Office Phone No: 01423 565129

Parish Office email: church@stjohnsandstlukes.org.uk

For parish information including services and events
visit Parish Websites: www.stjohnsandstlukes.org.uk
www.stlukesharrogate.org.uk
www.facebook.com/groups/stjohnsandstlukes.harrogate
www.facebook.com/stlukesharrogate

The Ministry Team

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Tel 01423 561030

simon.dowson@leeds.anglican.org

Team Vicar

Vacant

Laura Martin—Curate

Tel 07497 865507

laura.martin@leeds.anglican.org

**Emma James—Young People's
Worker**

Tel 07803 586566

YouthWork@stjohnsandstlukes.org.uk

Churchwardens

St John's

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janeandnige1962@hotmail.co.uk

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janereichert@hotmail.com

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Alethea.fry@gmail.com

Editorial Team

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Need to get out more?

Thirst Coffee Morning

every Wednesday 10.30-12 at Dene
Park Community Centre
Tea, coffee and cake

Well-being Café

Fridays in term-time 1-3
at St Luke's Church Centre
Home-made soup and rolls and cakes
Activities
- jigsaws, dominoes, art, games

Pebbles Breakfast Club

Mondays 9-10.15 at the West Street
entrance to New Park School



Bilton & Woodfield
Community Library



YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY

You can use computers or find out about local events
and information. We run storytimes for pre-school
children and reading groups for all.

**YOU could become a member of our team of
volunteers**

We are open five days a week:

Monday	1.00pm - 5.00pm
Tuesday	9.30am - 5.00pm
Wednesday	CLOSED
Thursday	9.30am - 5.00pm
Friday	9.30am - 1.00pm
Saturday	9.30am - 1.00pm
Sunday	CLOSED

In the grounds of Woodfield School, Woodfield Road
Telephone: 01423 564630

Email: info@biltonandwoodfield.org.uk
www.biltonandwoodfield.org.uk

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Contact the Church Office for more information.

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