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St John's and St Luke's Together

St John's Church



"Around the World in 80 Days"
see page 12

June
2024
60 pence

St Luke's Church



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LETTER FROM OUR TEAM VICAR

Dear Friends,

Why is it that when the house is full of chocolate all I fancy is a sweet?

I'm writing this in May, and we seem to have lots of chocolate following Easter, and more recently my son's birthday and then my birthday. But I really don't fancy any more chocolate just now.

What I really crave is a tasty Liquorice Allsort!

However, instead of going out to buy some I thought I would talk about them instead.



Liquorice Allsorts were created in 1899 as the result of an accident (or so the story says). Charlie Thompson was a salesman at the Bassett's company. He tripped while he was carrying a tray of separate liquorice and paste candies to show a potential customer. The candies became jumbled up, creating odd combinations. The customer was impressed and placed an order for the mixed-up candies—the first Liquorice Allsorts.

In the aftermath of Easter, the disciples were left a bit like the box of liquorice samples upended on the floor. They were a bit of a 'hotch-potch' of people – fishermen, a tax collector, a shepherd, activists and others who we know little about, each with their own colourful personalities, good and bad traits, each with their complex layers of failures and doubts just like the diverse 'allsorts' in the box. While Jesus had been alive they had stayed in reasonable order because Jesus had made it so (like the original boxes of sample sweets the salesman carried).

But when Jesus was arrested and crucified the disciples were scattered, and although after the Resurrection on Easter Day they regrouped in the upper room for a while, like the liquorice sweets being replaced in their sample box for the journey back to Bassett's, they probably felt the effects of being shaken up and were feeling 'out of sorts'.



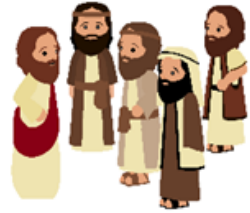


But sometimes from what looks like chaos something wonderful begins.

The ‘happy accident’ of the salesman and his liquorice sweets became the well-loved box of Liquorice Allsorts that is still popular today, over 120 years later.

And the disciples?

Well, they went on to be filled with the Holy Spirit at Pentecost (this year we celebrated in our churches on 19th May) and started the Christian Church, which shared the Good News of Jesus with all the world. The Christian Church is still sharing that Good News now, over 2000 years later, and encouraging people, whoever they are, to follow in the way of life that Jesus demonstrated and to share God’s love with the world.



Recently at the Harrogate Common Mission Forum church leaders were reminded about the importance of being confident Christians who are courageous in sharing their faith with others.

Sometimes we find this difficult. Maybe we feel that we don’t have enough knowledge or experience and don’t feel sure what to say.

Sometimes we worry how people will react if we admit that we are Christians, and sometimes we don’t want to stand out as different. But maybe, unbeknown to us, something different is exactly what people are seeking. Maybe we don’t need all that much experience, just a willingness to share our own stories of what brought us to faith and how following Jesus has made a difference to us and to the way we live.



Just like Jesus called a bunch of ‘all sorts’ to follow him and to build something wonderful to share God’s love, God still calls all sorts of people to be part of the Church today; in their local churches, in villages, in towns and cities all over the world. He doesn’t only call the ‘perfect and the polished’ to share the good news of his love, he calls ‘all sorts’ – he calls us as we are!



Whoever you are, whatever your past holds, whatever you look like, whatever age you are, whether you are an introvert or an extrovert, you are welcome in God's Church, and you have something important to share with the world because God has always used 'all sorts' of people to build his kingdom.

So, this month, how will you share your faith with someone? What part will you play in building the kingdom of God here in Bilton? What is your unique contribution to the Kingdom of God?

"Go and make disciples....and be sure of this: I am with you always." Matthew 28:19-20

Every blessing,

Laura

BUG PALACE INSTALLED AT ST LUKE'S

On Sunday 21st April, the Green Team held a bug hotel-making session at St Luke's. Children from both St Luke's and St John's enjoyed making their own individual bug hotels to take home, stuffing plant pots with a variety of twigs, hollow stems, cardboard and dried seed heads.



The children also had great fun filling a bug "palace" - pallets which had been attached vertically to the garage at St Luke's with wire underneath each section to stop the contents falling out and some succulent plants placed in the top to attract insects. Each section of the "palace" was filled with wood, slates, crocks, twigs, cardboard and straw to attract lots of different types of insects. We hope this will be the start of St Luke's green journey and Clive has kindly volunteered to join the Green Team to help St Luke's with this.



Many thanks go to all for helping, for the lovely refreshments and, in particular, to Mr Chris Smith for making the bug "palace".

CAFÉ CHURCH



On Sunday 12th May St Luke's had a Cafe -style morning service. Our focus was on how, as Christians, we can be 'in the world but not of the world'. We had an experiment, some interactive prayers, conversation, coffee and croissants. Feedback was really positive from all ages,



so we will be having Cafe Church again on 9th June and 14th July at 10.30am (St Luke's). Everyone is welcome!

THE BREAD OF LIFE



Our young people had a lesson in making sourdough bread from David Francis last month. They got to grind their own flour and make their own loaf to bake at home...very successfully as you can see from the pictures.



They also heard about the parable of the yeast and how a tiny bit of sourdough starter (like yeast!) is like the kingdom of heaven: it can grow and touch everything around it. The young people were challenged to think about how they could transform their lives and communities, just like the sourdough

starter transformed the flour and water into bread.





QUESTION CORNER

Q. Should bishops mix religion and politics?

A. Yes, sometimes. Real religion cannot avoid being concerned about how the community can best order its affairs. For Jesus said 'Love God and love your neighbour', and these cannot be separated. Love includes caring, so as

Christians we should care about people's health, housing conditions, welfare benefits etc, and seek basic justice for all.

So if the government (of any political colour) seems to be treating some people unfairly or wrongly, bishops and others should speak up about it (as long as they know what they're talking about!). Voluntary and faith-based organisations try to fill the gaps in society's safety net, but must still insist that some of these services should be the proper responsibility of the public sector.

But this is not about narrow 'party politics', and it remains to be said that the pulpit should not be a party political platform.



David

THE WORD - LONELINESS

A pen appeared, and the god said:
'Write what it is to be
man.' And my hand hovered
long over the bare page,

until there, like footprints
of the lost traveller, letters
took shape on the page's
blankness, and I spelled out



the word 'lonely'. And my hand moved
to erase it; but the voices
of all those waiting at life's
window cried out loud: 'It is true.'

– RS Thomas, 'The Word', in *Collected Poems, 1945–1990*

If you are up for getting involved or donating cake or bottled drinks, please get in touch with Gill in the church office at church@stjohnsairstlukes.org.uk

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE SUMMER FAIR (and cake donations)

volunteer on the stalls, serving tea and coffee, setting up, or clearing away

All we ask is that a volunteer helps for at least an hour. We still want you to enjoy the fair :)

DONATIONS

**WHOLE CAKES
SULTANA SCONES
PLAIN SCONES
CHEESE SCONES
OTHER CAKES**

BOTTLED DRINK (ALCOHOLIC AND NON-ALCOHOLIC)

ANY BAKED GOODS NEED TO COME WITH A LIST OF INGREDIENTS

ST JOHN'S

VOLUNTEER

**TOMBOLA
RAFFLE**

OTHER STALLS
SETTING UP THE DAY BEFORE AND EARLIER ON THE DAY

**CLEARING AWAY
SERVING TEA AND COFFEE**

29TH JUNE

SJ&SL Summer Fair

ST JOHN'S & LUKE'S
CHURCH & CHURCH



**JUNE
29TH
11AM-2PM**

**FREE
ENTRY**

ST JOHN'S CHURCH
BILTON LANE
HG1 4NH



BBQ - TEA/COFFEE - CAKES

Tombola - Raffle - Jams/Preserves - Plants - Hook a Duck -
Chocolate Tombola - Book Stall - and many more.....

Music and entertainment throughout the day

SUPPORTING CHRISTIAN AID



We launched Christian Aid Week with our monthly coffee morning, which was in aid of - CHRISTIAN AID!

The cake stall was quickly sold out, and so was the tombola. We appreciated the range of plants, jigsaws and books. It's always good to be able to chat as we enjoy refreshments, and to welcome newcomers as well as the regulars. The morning raised just over £600. Donations over the week will increase the total we send to Christian Aid. Details next month.

Guides

2nd Bilton



Brownies

4th Bilton Brownies

Guides

1st Bilton

22nd February saw 4th Bilton Brownies join with 1st and 2nd Bilton Guides and 1st Harrogate North Rangers to celebrate “Thinking Day” which is held each year on the birthday of Lord and Lady Baden-Powell.

We were joined by Judi Jennings, our County President who along with Gill Flanigan presented Gill Clarke and Chris Norton with their 5-year awards. Congratulations to you both for all you have done over the last five years running Guides in Bilton.



Congratulations and thanks to you both - Ed

BREAKING NEWS



With mixed feelings we heard the news that Simon our Team Rector will be moving in September to the parish of Easby, Skeeby, Brompton-on-Swale and Bolton-on-Swale. Simon and Fiona have been with us for about ten years, during which they have become a much-loved part of the church community, leading, challenging, teaching, comforting and much, much more.

Simon and Fiona, we are pleased for you but sad that you are leaving us. Blessings on you both.

St JOHN'S BILTON COFFEE MORNING

SATURDAY 8th JUNE

Entrance £1

10 – 12 noon



- Home-made cakes
- Home preserves
- Hand-made cards
- Wide range of Plants



- Refreshments included in entry fee
 - drinks and biscuits
- Large choice of books
- Raffle
- Tombola
- A warm welcome



SUPPORTING OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY LIBRARY

*Please join us to help raise funds to keep our library open
Donations of cakes, plants, prizes are welcome too*

FLOWER POWER!

Congratulations to two members of our St John's flower team, Alison Elsworth and Anne Fuller, on their beautiful displays at the Flower Show. Alison and Anne are members of 'The Yorkshire Flower Club' and their display on behalf of that group formed part of a wider exhibit called 'around the world in 80 days'. Their offering centred around India and contained beautifully vibrant colours and cleverly crafted shapes. Well done ladies!



If you are interested in joining the Flower Team for St John's please contact Alison Elsworth on alison.elsworth@hotmail.com and to find out more about The Yorkshire Flower Club (who meet locally once a month) you can get in touch with Pat Daley via patdaley@outlook.com

Laura Martin

We are so blessed at St John's to have our worship enhanced as it is by beautiful flowers every week (except during Lent and Advent)

If you would like to sponsor a week's flowers in memoriam or to celebrate a special event, you can do so through the church office - 565129 or church@stjohnsandstlukes.org.uk

The sponsorship will be acknowledged in the



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Richard Taylor School

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LUCKY DIP | COCONUT SHY | RAFFLE | BBQ
SOAK THE TEACHER | PENALTY SHOOT OUT
TRADING STALLS | LIVE MUSIC & MORE!**

**CASH
& CARD
PAYMENTS
ACCEPTED**

**BRING
A
PICNIC!**

PEOPLE

MARRIAGE

We extend our congratulations to
Richard Carter and Heather Snowdon



WELCOME AND THANKS TO OFFICERS

We welcome Colin Ashurst who at our AGM was elected church warden, joining Alethea Fry at St Luke's. Jane Reichert and Nigel Thompson continue as wardens at St John's. Thanks to you all for taking on this important role.

Welcome also to Steve Fry as St Luke's new Electoral Roll Officer. Thanks to Sarah Shepherd, who has done this job for some years.

The church office will be closed from Friday 24th May,
and reopen on Monday 4th June.

PARISH WEEKEND

In 2022 a group from St John's and St Luke's enjoyed spending time together in the beautiful peaceful surroundings of Scargill.

Why not join the next visit 22nd-24th November this year?

Contact the church office to register your interest.



SUNDAY 9th June

is Copy Date for

JULY 2024 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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JUNE'S CALENDAR

Sunday 2nd	9.00am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	10.30am	Parade Service (SJ)
	10.30am	Holy Communion (SL)
	6-7.30pm	Youth Worship Night at Artizan Café
Monday 3rd	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
Tuesday 4th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	12-1.30pm	Time to Pray Lunch (SJ)
	4-5.00pm	4twelve (Year 7+ Youth Group) (Harrogate Chocolate Factory)
	7.00pm	Alpha Course (SJ)
	7.00pm	Archdeacon's Visitation Service (St Peter's)
Wednesday 5th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	10.30am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	10.30am	Thirst - Coffee at Dene Park Community Centre
	6.30pm	Wedding Rehearsal (SJ)
	7.30pm	PCC Meeting (SJ)
	8.00pm	Finance & Buildings Committee Meeting (SJ)
Thursday 6th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	9.30am-3.30pm	Prayer Spaces for Schools (SJ)
	6.15pm	Wedding Rehearsal (SJ)
Friday 7th	6.30-7.00pm	Evening Surgery in East End (SJ)
	1-3.00pm	Wellbeing Café (SL)
	1.30pm	Wedding (SJ)
	6.30-7.15pm	Junior Choir Practice (SJ)
Saturday 8th	7-7.45pm	Adult Choir Practice (SJ)
	10.00am-12noon	Coffee Morning in Church Hall (SJ) Alpha Awayday (Birstwith Community Hall)
	12.00noon	Wedding (SJ)
Sunday 9th	9.00am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	10.30am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	10.30am	Parade Service (SL)
	12.30pm	Baptisms (SJ)
Monday 10th	6-7.15pm	Ignite (Year 7+ Youth Group) (SL)
	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	12-1.30pm	Pastoral & Bereavement Team Meeting (SJ)
Tuesday 11th	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) (Harrogate Chocolate Factory)
Wednesday 12 th	7.00pm	Alpha Course (SJ)
	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	10.30am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	10.30am	Thirst – Coffee at Dene Park Community Centre
	12.15pm	Community Lunch at Bilton Community Centre
Thursday 13 th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	9.30-11.30am	Little Fishes (Parent & Toddler Group) (SL)
Friday 14 th	1-3.00pm	Wellbeing Café (SL)
	6.30-7.15pm	Junior Choir Practice (SJ)
	7-7.45pm	Adult Choir Practice (SJ)
Saturday 15 th	9.30am-12.30pm	PCC Vision Morning (Hampsthwaite Community Room)
Sunday 16th	9.00am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	10.30am	Morning Worship (SJ)
	10.30am	Morning Worship (SL)
	6-7.15pm	Ignite (Year 7+ Youth Group) (SL)
Monday 17 th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
Tuesday 18 th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	4-5.00pm	4twelve (Year 7+ Youth Group) (Harrogate Chocolate Factory)
	7.00pm	Alpha Course (SJ)
Wednesday 19 th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	10.30am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	10.30am	Thirst – Coffee at Dene Park Community Centre
	12.00pm	Thirst Table at Dene Park Community Centre
Thursday 20 th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	9.30-11.30am	Little Fishes (Parent & Toddler Group) (SL)
Friday 21 st	1-3.00pm	Wellbeing Café (SL)
	6.30-7.15pm	Junior Choir Practice (SJ)
	7-7.45pm	Adult Choir Practice (SJ)
Saturday 22 nd	12.30pm	Rev Karin Shaw's Ordination Service
Sunday 23rd	9.00am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	10.30am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	10.30am	Morning Worship (SL)
	6-7.15pm	Ignite (Year 7+ Youth Group) (SL)
Monday 24 th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
Tuesday 25 th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	1.30pm	Interment of Ashes: Stella Thurley
	4-5.00pm	4twelve (Year 7+ Youth Group) (Harrogate Chocolate Factory)
	7.00pm	Alpha Course (SJ)
Wednesday 26 th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)

	10.30am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	10.30am	Thirst – Coffee at Dene Park Community Centre
Thursday 27 th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	9.30-11.30am	Little Fishes (Parent & Toddler Group) (SL)
Friday 28 th	1-3.00pm	Wellbeing Café (SL)
	6.30-7.15pm	Junior Choir Practice (SJ)
	7-7.45pm	Adult Choir Practice (SJ)
Saturday 29 th	11.00am-2.00pm	Summer Fair (SJ church, hall, grounds)
Sunday 30th	9.00am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	10.30am	JOINT Holy Communion (SL)
	6-7.15pm	Ignite (Year 7+ Youth Group) (SL)
		Joint Choral Evensong (St Robert's Pannal)
<u>JULY</u>		
Monday 1 st	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	7.30pm	Baptism Information Session (SJ)
Tuesday 2 nd	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	12-1.30pm	Time to Pray Lunch (SJ)
	4-5.00pm	4twelve (Year 7+ Youth Group) (Harrogate Chocolate Factory)
	7.00pm	Alpha Course (SJ)
Wednesday 3 rd	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	10.30am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	10.30am	Thirst – Coffee at Dene Park Community Centre
Thursday 4 th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	9.30-11.30am	Little Fishes (Parent & Toddler Group) (SL)
	6.30-7.00pm	Evening Surgery in East End (SJ)
Friday 5 th	1-3.00pm	Wellbeing Café (SL)

Office will be closed from Friday 24th May and reopen on Tuesday 4th June

Looking Ahead...

Sorry - no coffee morning in July

Saturday 10th August 10am-12noon Coffee Morning (SJ)

Friday to Sunday 22nd-24th November Parish Weekend at Scscargill House

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

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colin.ashurst@gmail.com

Editorial Team

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SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING

Our small, friendly Scottish Country Dance group meet at St Luke's Church hall on Mondays from 7.30 to 9.30.

We welcome new members -
It is not necessary to have experience or bring a partner, just soft shoes and a sense of humour!

It's fun, good exercise and sociable.

The first night is free,
thereafter the fee is only £3.50.

We would love to see you!

Either turn up at the hall or contact:

Alan Horsfall 01423 863162
or Alan Fox 07879 715557



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
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Contact the Church Office for more information.

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