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

*St John's Church*



*St Luke's Church*

**May**

**2022**

**50 pence**



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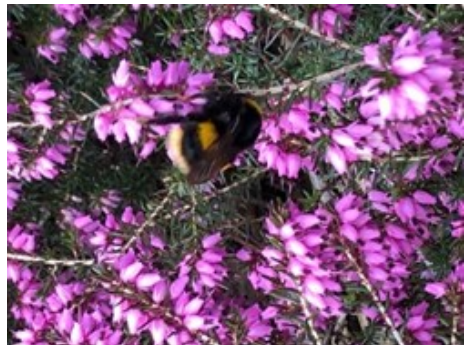


Dear All,

What an unprecedented couple years we have had since I first joined you as curate back in Summer 2020! There are a plethora of difficult things that I could select from the news – or indeed from our day to day lives - to reflect upon and consider from a spiritual perspective this month. There is the war in Ukraine, there is the cost of living crisis.....and of course Covid still looms large, with the current rates higher than ever. All of these things are extremely upsetting and they absolutely deserve our prayer, our active response and our deep compassion.

And yet, this month I feel compelled to avoid these major issues and focus on something entirely different. Today I've been thinking about something rather more cheerful; moments of unanticipated joy. The unexpected rather than the planned. By their very nature they're not something we can seek out. They just happen; reminding us again of our lack of control of the world around us but in a good way. This week I was at Wydale retreat centre on a course and I stayed there overnight. As I walked into the dining room for my evening meal, I spotted a good friend from theological college sitting alone at a table in the window. It turned out that, unbeknown to me, he was there on retreat for the week. We enjoyed an unexpected evening chatting and laughing together - it was so good to catch up on all of his news. Joy indeed!

It can also be very small things that bring us moments of joy, in fact it is frequently something small that changes our mood entirely. Whilst I was at Wydale walking through the gardens, I marvelled for some time over a bumble bee collecting





nectar from the heather and watched with delight as three hares ran across the lawn in front of me. The wildlife and the peacefulness of those gardens lifted my mood greatly. From a more day-to-day point of view, I'm sure I'm not alone in having my whole day transformed by an

unexpected phone call or by something kind or encouraging someone says in passing. I'm not sure if 'expect the unexpected' is actually a motto that makes any sense, perhaps 'always be open to the unexpected' or 'don't hold on too tightly to your plans' might be better. However you put it though, it has certainly been my experience of life and of following God. As someone wise told me recently - "always remember to tell God your plans; he loves a good chuckle".

So if things take unexpected turns, both good and bad, what are we to do about it? Surely the point is that such things are out of our control? Well yes, but as with everything, we still have a choice to make about how we respond when the unexpected happens. I think we need to remain open to enjoying and seizing moments of joy, even when, according to our carefully laid out road maps, these things might seem to be taking us off course. At this time of the year I'm starting to think ahead to the story of the first Pentecost. The point when the disciples receive the Holy Spirit and are transformed and able to do all sorts of things that were previously unimaginable. I believe that the Holy Spirit works in all sorts of unexpected



ways today, but sometimes we're so sure of our plans we can ignore all the amazing possibilities that are there in front of us. So of course we must be practical and plan, be good stewards of what we have and where we find ourselves, and have active compassion for those in need. But it would be so sad if that meant shutting ourselves off from the joy of the different, the excitement of the slightly crazy and the wonder of possibility. So may you be blessed with a bit of unexpected joy and possibility this month and may you seize it gladly with both hands.

Every blessing,

**Laura**

## QUESTION CORNER



Q. I wonder about being confirmed. But I don't think I'm good enough to receive Holy Communion. How do I resolve this?

A. Someone else asked a similar question before. So some readers will have to pardon me if they've heard any of this already.

People are not required to pass a morality test before being confirmed! Confirmation is a time when we make a personal and public confession of faith in Christ; it's not about receiving a certificate to say that we are now morally or spiritually qualified to receive communion.

NOBODY is 'good enough'. Holy Communion is a sacrament, one of the 'means of grace,' which signifies that we are welcomed, loved, and accepted just as we are, by the grace of God. We remember that Jesus gave his life to forgive us, precisely because by ourselves we are not good enough. So we receive communion as forgiven sinners. But we still need to confess our sins, and we are certainly not 'good' in the sense of being better than those who are not confirmed. I was confirmed in 1948 and ordained in 1963, and I'm still not 'good enough'.....



Perhaps the real question is how you feel about making a Christian commitment.

**David**

## JUBILEE TREES

To celebrate HM Queen Elizabeth's platinum jubilee, the Queen's Green Canopy tree planting initiative was created, inviting people from across the United Kingdom to "plant a tree for the jubilee". As part of this, the



Gardening Team recently requested donations to be able to buy apple trees to plant in the church grounds. They were absolutely delighted to receive donations of over £350, so a huge thank you goes to everyone who gave so generously to this cause. As a result, the Gardening Team have already been able to plant three apple trees: two eating apples and a crab apple, which should attract lots of wildlife and, in time, be good to eat too!

At the same time, the Flower Team had asked the Gardening Team if they could plant some pittosporum shrubs and a eucalyptus tree in the church grounds. Once they have grown sufficiently, these will be used as foliage in the beautiful flower



arrangements at church, so that the Flower Team do not have to buy them. These have also been funded from the generous donations for the jubilee trees, and in time will make lovely additions to the church grounds.

Over the past few months, the Gardening Team have been busy making other changes to the grounds too. There is a new flower bed to the left of the south door which has been planted with lavender to attract bees and



other pollinators, and native bluebells have also been planted. If you wander through the grounds at the moment, primroses and celandine have appeared and the

daffodils are looking particularly good this year. A big thank you goes to our hard-working Gardening Team for their on-going efforts to improve the grounds for people and wildlife.



## **RUBBISH!**

The Green Team organised a litter-pick round Bilton at the end of March. Six members of the congregation and Simon joined forces to fill several bags of litter from the local streets, helping to create a nicer environment and being thanked by quite a few members of the public on their way round. Thanks to Jane Norman for arranging the loan of the litter-picking equipment from the council.



*Thanks to the Green Team and their helpers for this, and also to those who regularly litter-pick in St John's churchyard. Ed*



## **BIRK CRAG**

Just to say a big "Thank you" to anyone who has donated cartridges and stamps for Birk Crag. We have made £47.20 this quarter for Birk Crag from the recycling of the ink jet cartridges.

We are still collecting cartridges and stamps so please contact Jill on 07767 665 650 or drop off at 4<sup>th</sup> Bilton Brownies on a Thursday night, or leave them at church or the library.

[www.birkcragcentre.co.uk](http://www.birkcragcentre.co.uk)  
Registered Charity: 1037585



A massive “Brownie Well Done” goes to Lottie, Isobel, Milia, Sophie and Susannah of 4th Bilton Brownies who have all completed their Brownie Bronze Award. This means that the girls have all earned two of the six Theme Awards as well as working towards interest badges. The badges included baking, painting, my rights, collecting, local history, dancing and performing which saw Sophie put on a wonderful magic show.

The girls have all worked really hard to earn two “Theme Awards” from the 6 themes in guiding which are Have Adventures, Take Action, Skills for my Future, Know Myself, Be Well and Express Myself.

The rest of the pack has also been busy earning their “Innovate” skill builder with 6 of the Brownies achieving their “Express Myself” theme award.



Three of the older Brownies have just completed their final challenges for the Gold Award.

Ella, Izzy and Orla organised and ran a fantastic night for the rest of the Brownies, which included making and decorating boxes in which to take home the chocolate brownies they had made for the Brownies. Why don't you have a go at the wordsearch that they created?

A very big “Brownie Well Done” goes to the girls for all of the hard work that they have put in to achieving the highest award you can get as a Brownie.

We are all very proud of you and whilst we will be sorry to say goodbye to you as Brownies







*Izzy and Ella with the brownies they made for the Brownies*

Now that your Brownie Adventure is coming to the end, we all hope that you have a great time as Guides.



*Orla helping Daisy to wrap her brownies to take home*

<https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-your-daughter/>

I	Z	Y	D	I	S	N	E	Y	P	F	R
G	O	L	D	A	S	D	F	G	E	H	J
N	S	R	Z	C	V	B	N	M	T	W	C
I	E	F	L	S	P	D	D	B	A	V	B
K	X	J	N	A	E	L	L	A	L	E	R
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L	K	J	H	G	U	F	D	E	O	S	N
F	R	Y	Z	Z	I	T	R	S	H	D	I
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Q	Y	T	R	E	N	P	L	A	T	E	S
X	D	B	D	E	C	O	R	A	T	E	W

BAKING

PENGUIN

SIXES

GOLD

DISNEY

PLATE

IZZY

CHOCOLATE

DECORATE

ORLA

OVEN

BROWNIES

ELLA

BADGES

# **COFFEE MORNING**

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May**

**St John's Church Hall**

Raising funds for new hymn books & music  
for the church choir

**Entrance £1** Includes drink & biscuit

***CAKES PRESERVES BOOKS***

***JIGSAWS CARDS TOMBOLA***

***RAFFLE***

**ENTERTAINMENT BY**

**THE CHORISTERS**



## **CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2022**

Will you help Christian Aid work towards climate justice, reducing the effects of drought?

We are not doing house-to-house collecting, but Christian Aid envelopes will be available in both churches, to be returned to church. If you would be willing to deliver some, please contact the church office or speak to Vicky Iley.

### **A GOOD START**

April's coffee morning raised £683.80 for Christian Aid. So many cakes had been donated that we needed an extra table for them! The tombola stall was so popular that it ran out of prizes, and the hot cross buns disappeared very quickly. Thanks go to everyone who helped: the bakers, the knitters, the card-makers, those who brought prizes or books or jigsaws, the volunteers and of course all of you who came to support.



Next month we will be supporting church music, and our church choir will be there to entertain us, and to serve scones with jam and cream.

Do come! *See the poster on the facing page)*

**Saturday 7th May**  
**7.30pm @ St Luke's Church**

**Quiz  
Night!**

Pie & pea supper  
included. BYOB

£5 per person  
Tickets from the church office

All proceeds to  
DEC Ukraine appeal

**SERVICE TO REMEMBER**  
**AND GIVE THANKS**

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 4.30pm.

This is a short service that provides an opportunity to remember a loved one. There will be prayers, readings, hymns and the opportunity to light a candle of remembrance. Members of the Clergy and the Bereavement Team will be available after the service if you would like to talk to someone or perhaps have them pray with you

**ANNUAL PAROCHIAL**  
**CHURCH MEETING**

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May, 12 noon  
at St John's Church  
*after the morning services*  
*(tea, coffee etc provided)*

- A time to review the activities of the church family over the past year
- A chance to hear and respond to plans for growth and outreach
- Election of wardens and Church Council members

**PLEASE COME AND JOIN US**

SJSLYOUTH PRESENTS:

# #PRE-LOVED CLOTHES SWAP

**How?**

1. Bring your gently worn, good quality clothes & accessories
2. Exchange each item for a token
3. Spend each token on a new-to-you item!

**SAT 21ST MAY  
10AM-12  
ST JOHN'S  
CHURCH HALL**

£5 entrance fee, including cuppa and cake!

## *Thank You*

THANK YOU to everyone who was able to increase their giving following our recent CHURCH ON DISPLAY appeal. A monthly increase of £1385 has been pledged and we have received some one-off donations to try to offset our financial deficit.

We would like to buy a set of YOUTH BIBLES for St John's and St Luke's. They cost £13.50 each and we are asking if individuals will sponsor a Bible for the youth groups to use. Your name would be printed inside. If you would like to buy one, or more, for our young people, please get in touch with the office.

## SUMMER COFFEE MORNING PLUS

No Summer Fair this year, so the July 9<sup>th</sup> Coffee Morning will be from 10.00am to 1.00pm for church funds

As well as the usual refreshments and stalls - cakes, jams etc books, cards, plants we'll have a raffle, tombola, board treasure hunt, hook-a-duck .... *and more*

**WHAT ELSE DEPENDS ON YOU:  
SUGGESTIONS AND OFFERS OF HELP PLEASE TO MAKE  
THIS A SUCCESS -**

*Offers to the office please*

# PEOPLE

## BAPTISMS / BLESSINGS & THANKSGIVINGS

Kristian David Hodgson  
Isla Jane Jones  
Eliza Hettie Thornber Leach



## FUNERALS/ MEMORIALS

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

David Anthony Lodge  
Alastair Mackenzie



**SUNDAY 8<sup>th</sup> May**

is Copy Date for

**JUNE 2022 Focus**

Items for inclusion to:

[SJSFocus@gmail.com](mailto:SJSFocus@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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[harrogate@radfieldhomecare.co.uk](mailto:harrogate@radfieldhomecare.co.uk)

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- Wellbeing
- Dementia care
- Personal care

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

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# MAY'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!**

<b>Sunday 1<sup>st</sup></b>	9.00am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	10.30am	Parade (SJ)
	10.30am	Holy Communion (SL)
	12.00noon	Welcoming of Godparent Service (SJ)
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	7-8.30pm	Alpha Plus (SJ)
Wednesday 4 <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) (Brew Bar)
Thursday 5 <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)
Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup>	5.15pm	Wedding Rehearsal (SJ)
	1.00pm	Wedding (SJ)
	7.30pm	Quiz for Ukraine (SL)
<b>Sunday 8<sup>th</sup></b>	9.00am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	10.30am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	10.30am	Parade Service (SL)
	12.30pm	Baptisms (SJ)
	6-8.00pm	Fusion Event (Year 13) (SL)
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup>	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	10.00am	Richard Taylor School Year 1/2 visit (SJ)
	7.30pm	Baptism Information Session (SJ)
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup>	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	10.00am	Walking Group (SJ)
	2-3.30pm	Comfort Café (SJ)
	7.30pm	Time to Pray (SJ)
	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Holy Communion (SJ)



	10.30am	Thirst – Coffee at Dene Park Community Centre
	12.15pm	Community Lunch at Bilton Community Centre
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup>	4-5.00pm	4twelve (Year 7+ Youth Group) (Brew Bar)
	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	9.30-11.30am	Little Fishes (Parent & Toddler Group) (SL)
	1-3.00pm	Wellbeing Café (SL)
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup>	6.30-7.15pm	Evening Surgery in Church (SJ)
	6.30-7.15pm	Junior Choir Practice (SJ)
	7-7.45pm	Adult Choir Practice (SJ)
Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am-12noon	Coffee Morning (SJ)
	8.30pm	Youth Group Sleepover (SJ)
<b>Sunday 15<sup>th</sup></b>	9.00am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	10.30am	Morning Worship (SJ)
	10.30am	Morning Worship (SL)
	12.00noon	Annual Parochial Church Meeting (SJ)
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup>	6-7.45pm	Ignite (Year 7+ Youth Group) (SL)
	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup>	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	7.30pm	Finance & Buildings Committee Meeting (SJ)
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup>	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	10.30am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	10.30am	Thirst Coffee at Dene Park Community Centre
	12.00noon	Thirst Table at Dene Park Community Centre
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup>	1.30pm	New Park School Visit (SJ)
	4-5.00pm	4twelve (Year 7+ Youth Group) (Brew Bar)
	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	9.30-11.30am	Little Fishes (Parent & Toddler Group) (SL)
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup>	1-3.00pm	Wellbeing Café (SL)
	6-7.00pm	Satellites Trip Young People and Leaders Meeting (Mowbray Church)
Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup>	6.30-7.15pm	Junior Choir Practice (SJ)
	7-7.45pm	Adult Choir Practice (SJ)
	10.00am-12noon	Clothes Swap (SJ Hall)
	9.00am	Holy Communion (SJ)
<b>Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	10.30am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	10.30am	All Age Worship (SL)
	4.30pm	Service to Remember and Give Thanks (SJ)
	6-7.45pm	Ignite (Year 7+ Youth Group) (SL)
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup>	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	7.30pm	PCC Meeting (SJ)
	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	10.30am	Thirst – Coffee at Dene Park Community Centre

	4-5.00pm	4twelve (Year 7-13 Youth Group) (Brew Bar)
	7-8.00pm	Satellites Trip Leaders Meeting (Mowbray Church)
Thursday 26 <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)
<b>Sunday 29<sup>th</sup></b>	9.00am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	10.30am	<b>JOINT</b> All Age Morning Worship (SL)
	12.30pm	Baptisms (SJ)
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup>	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
Tuesday 31 <sup>st</sup>	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
<b><u>JUNE</u></b>		
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup>	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	10.30am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	10.30am	Thirst - Coffee at Dene Park Community Centre
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	1.00pm	Wedding (SJ)

## **LOOKING AHEAD**

Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup> June	10-12noon	Coffee Morning for Dignity Through Education - supporting students in Sri Lanka
Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup> July	10-1pm	Extended Coffee Morning for Church Funds
30 <sup>th</sup> Sept-2 <sup>nd</sup> Oct		Parish Weekend (Scargill House)

Sadly at the shortlisting meeting for the post of TEAM VICAR AND MISSION ENABLER, the panel did not feel it right to proceed with inviting candidates to interview. Obviously we are disappointed, but we will be re-advertising as soon as possible in the hope and expectation of still making an appointment in the summer. Please continue to pray for the right person to be called here, but also please pray for those people who this time around were not successful. Also, please pray for Simon and Laura as they carry more responsibility during this time of vacancy

# 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)

[www.facebook.com/stlukesharrogate](https://www.facebook.com/stlukesharrogate)

[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)

**Harrogate Strathspey and Reel Club  
Scottish Country Dancing**

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friendly group!



Come and join us, no experience needed

It costs £3.50 per session, £39 per half year  
or £62 for the full year.

Sandie Fagan 07824 458725 for more information



**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](mailto:info@biltonandwoodfield.org.uk)  
[www.biltonandwoodfield.org.uk](http://www.biltonandwoodfield.org.uk)

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**David Bentley**

**07917815981**

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Onsite vehicle servicing and repairs  
MOT by arrangement  
Diagnostics



## St John's Church Hall and St Luke's Church

can be hired for single occasions or for regular events.

Contact the Church Office for more information.

See page 19 for contact details

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**Opening Times:** 7.30am - 5.30pm Monday - Saturday

**Supporting the local community**