

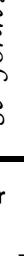
St John's Church



St Luke's



St Jo





September 2023 50 pence

St Luke's Church



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MESSAGE FROM LAURA

Dear Friends,

September is here and we look forward once again to enjoying the colours of autumn all around us, the fruit trees heavy with fruit in our parks and gardens, the leaves and seeds falling to the



ground, perhaps walks

through fragrant woods with the crispness underfoot that we associate with the season, the 'seedtime and the harvest' being sung about again in our churches and schools, and all being well as we recognise the familiarity of the turning of the seasons.

And yet, whilst we enjoy these turns in the season, we are aware that the seasons are becoming less defined. June 2023 has been confirmed as the hottest on record for the UK, whereas it seemed to rain almost every day during July. In Europe, the recent Cerberus heat wave has led climate experts to declare that the world recorded its hottest week on record. This searing heat caused wildfires that ripped through both town and countryside. Meanwhile, in Iceland, warmer winters mean that almost all of the glaciers are now receding. Our seasons seem less defined, the wildlife less prevalent, and the lives we live just a little more precarious perhaps.



What are we doing to our world and what are we doing to mitigate disaster?

The Millennium Seed Bank at the Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew suggests that two in five plant species are in danger of extinction – not just from this year's heat but as a consequence of our failure to look after our world with respect and the devastating changes to the climate

that are happening as a result. The Millennium Seed Project is collecting seeds from as many species across the UK and the world as it can. It will keep them at sub-zero temperatures in specially designed underground flood, bomb and radiation-proof vaults. They currently have over 2.4 billion seeds - and counting!



- A 'Noah's Ark' of seeds for the future, should we need it.

Seeds are the precious treasure-chests of life. They provide the food we eat as grain for bread, and crops of all kinds. They provide flowers and shrubs for our

pleasure. They grow into trees for the cleansing and replenishing of the air we breathe. In so many ways they sustain life.

Julian of Norwich, the 14th century mystic and anchoress, in one of her many visions, found herself holding a hazelnut in her hand, as miniscule in God's eye as a tiny round ball floating in space, and she asked God what it was, and the reply came 'it is all that is made......and God loves it'.

We know that nurturing the 'seed' of God's word is vital to our spiritual growth, fruitfulness and flourishing. But the seeds of nature are also vitally important for the future of God's world, so important for our



survival, so important to God that we should be mindful to make sure that we do our best to protect and preserve it.

This autumn perhaps we could find the space and time to reflect on the precariousness of our ecosystems, to think about how we use the world's resources and to make the changes needed in our own lives to preserve our world. Our Creationtide art installation (starting on 16th September) may help you with that time of reflection and renewed commitment. Perhaps also this Creationtide we could sow, plant or grow something new for God and for the future of our world – the Green Team may well have spare seeds to offer you.

"Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the surface of all the earth, and every tree which has fruit yielding seed. They will be yours..." Genesis 1:29

What will **we** do with what God has gifted to us and charged us to be stewards of in this generation?

Blessings.

Laura

QUESTION CORNER

Q. My friend survived a train crash in which many died. And she said 'There but for the grace of God went I.'

What should we make of this?

A. Your question suggests that you are not comfortable with your friend's statement. Neither am I. God's grace is not something given selectively like a party favour. And surely we don't believe that God specially protected your friend whilst letting others die, as though he didn't care about them! Tragic accidents can happen to anybody at any time.

Grace is God's love for ALL people. His love for us when we don't deserve it. And not something we can earn, or receive as a special reward. Certainly people can be changed by their response to God's grace, and sometimes situations can also be changed from bad to good as a result.

But let's beware of using religious clichés too glibly!

David



The Show started in 1937 and has been on the same site at Harrogate since 1951.

Yorkshire Churches have a presence on the showground with a small pavilion located on Avenue E, on the north side of the Main Ring. The Churches organising team would like to recruit someone to be secretary at their planning meetings as soon as possible. Looking forward to next year, the team also seek volunteers to assist at the next Great Yorkshire Show, 9th to 12th July 2024.

If you are able to help, please contact Rev Canon James Allison

canonallison@btinternet.com



ST JOHN'S GREEN TEAM - WHAT ARE CARBON OFFSETS?



My family and I recently took a flight; we did so to meet family we haven't

seen in at least five years, some of whom are now in their 80s. It was a fabulous trip with many wonderful memories made. However, the carbon emitted by the six of us taking the flights did play on my mind. I decided to look into making a carbon offset.



You may have already used or seen schemes, for example when you bought an item, and the company planted a tree on your behalf. Whilst not a substitute for making carbon reductions in real terms, offsetting has a place to support everyone's climate efforts.

So what are carbon offsets?

Carbon offsets are projects designed by project developers (could be governments, NGOs or companies) in conjunction with investors (those with the money). The carbon projects state how much carbon (in terms of emissions) will be reduced. These are audited and verified through a third party and issued with 'carbon credits'. The carbon credits are sold to buyers looking to offset their environmental footprint.

However, the carbon offset market is complicated by its nature of stakeholder financing, fees, auditing and emissions projections making the waters murky.

A recent Guardian investigation into the verifying company <u>Verra</u> highlighted that out of 29 Verra approved projects, 21 showed no climate benefit at all; the emission reductions had been overstated. But that's not to say the projects haven't been happening, and the financing from carbon offsetting can be used for good, rainforests are being protected and financing is crucial for this.

Finding reassurance I therefore widened my search and found two sites through which the processes seemed clear and based on sound evidence. I felt confident in contributing to a project to directly offset the emissions from our flights.

Ecologi uses carbon credits issued recently (on up-to-date information) and

direct funding toward priority areas at greater risk of degradation. www.ecologi.com

<u>Climate Stewards</u> are part of the A Rocha family (the same as our church Eco Award). Here you can measure your carbon footprint (individual or organisation), and they provide many resources to help you reduce and offset that footprint to support our global neighbours to adapt to the impacts of climate change.

www.climatestewards.org

Whilst not a substitute for actual carbon reductions, carbon offsetting is another avenue to enable us to continue to support our sustainable living journey.

Claire Golightly

(Credit to Ben Murphy at Tiny Eco Home Life for supporting information.)

(completely oral) GOD STORY DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING SCHOOL from the latest letter from John and Vikki Wright in Uganda

In our last newsletter, we told you about plans to run a completely oral Discipleship Training School - no books, no pens, no Bibles.



The staff and students of the God Story DTS

What? How
do you
disciple
people
without a
Bible?
That was the
big question
on all our
minds.

The passing down of cultural lore and stories through oral methods predates written methods, and is still a common means of preserving traditional songs and histories today among many oral cultures around the world. With this in mind, some innovative YWAM missionaries serving in Indonesia created the God Story DTS to tell the whole of God's big story

from Genesis through Revelation using a series of 2-minute stories that would be taught and learned over 12 weeks.

When we heard about this new approach, we knew we had to see if it

would be a complementary tool to the Oral Bible Translation (OBT) journey we were already walking. Not only did it prove to be simple and effective, it also turned out to be transformational as God encountered the students again and again through His spoken word. Every one of the 4 Muslim students who came for this school from the Nuba Mountains in Sudan was touched by Jesus and gave his life to Christ:



"When I was at primary school, I was weak in memorizing songs and stories, but during this GSDTS, I've found that before I know it, the story is just there in my mind. For someone to give you the word of God is better than for someone to give you money. Money in this world is like colored paper, it will only last a little while, but the Word of God will guarantee you have something good at the end of your life." (Bakit, Nuba student)

"I give glory to God because what I've gotten here, I will give to others, but I'm not sure if it will succeed or not. If it succeeds, that will be very very good because that is my heart desire."

(Yousif, Nuba student)

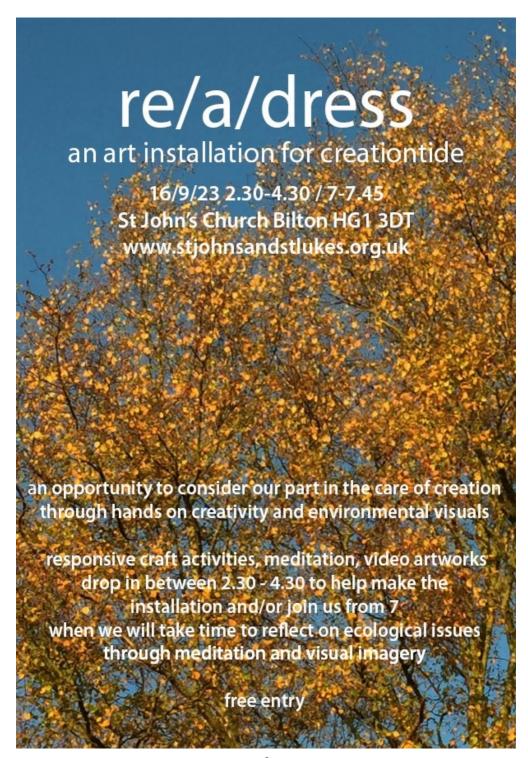
You can learn more about this and YWAM's other projects at jvawright.yahoo.com@send.mailchimpapp.com

John and Vikki are delighted and grateful that our August coffee morning raised £619 towards the costs of the various projects they run in Uganda and neighbouring countries.

Thanks to everyone who supported us, and them, by donating, volunteering or just coming along to enjoy the event and the companionship. As always, it was a happy morning.

GREEN MATTERS

- Sadly we have to report that 'Jarfull', the refill shop on Bower Street, has closed.
- Please can a few people take some blister packs to Superdrug the box at SJ is full!



St JOHN'S BILTON

COFFEE MORNING

SATURDAY 9th SEPTEMBER

Entrance £1

10-12 noon

Home-made cakes

- Home preserves
- Hand-made cards
- Refreshments included in entry fee
- drinks and biscuits
- Large choice of books
- Raffle
- Tombola
- A warm welcome







Funding scholarships for children of Sri Lankan tea workers



Dignity Through Education provides bursaries for students from some of the lowest income families in Sri Lanka's tea plantations, so that they can attend university to gain a higher qualification, which opens up more job opportunities. Some of our students have gone on to obtain government posts or teaching or lecturing.



Aathimoolam Satyiyawani Kandapola

Graduated in Tamil Language with first class Honours Currently appointed as a temporary lecturer at Jaffna University

Krishnasoban, Bogawantalawa Graduated with a 2nd Class upper division in Geography



Lecturer in Geography, University of Colombo

There are always more applicants than we can support! Apart from individual sponsors (£12 a month), this coffee morning is our only source of income. (See facing page - please do come and help us to support more students)

WHAT'S GOING ON?



The bell tower on the church hall is being repaired, and parts replaced. As the hall is a listed building there are regulations about the materials used, it is taking some time.

A SUPERB CONCERT

Nine young people from Hong Kong kept us spellbound ringing over 60 handbells between them, and making beautiful music. They worked so well together, but had only been together for a few months.



STORYTIME – AN APPEAL

Most of you will be aware that `Storytime` for pre-school children is held in 'our' Library (Bilton and Woodfield Community Library on Woodfield Road) every Tuesday morning throughout the year (except when the library is closed).



Storytime helps children to enjoy books,

learn to listen and join in with rhymes, helps with social development and, through our simple craft activities, helps children develop dexterity and learn colours and shapes, and stimulates imagination, as well as providing a welcoming social space for adults to chat afterwards, while the children enjoy colouring or crafts.

Unfortunately our team of dedicated `Readers` is now just four! So we are seeking volunteers to join the team, ideally to read about once a month.

We know many of you will have read stories to your children/grandchildren, or been involved with young children through schools or other activities, so if you think you might be interested in joining our team, or know someone who might, then please contact Joyce Canham or Michael Joyce or Jean Burton - or email the library at *biltonandwoodfield.org.uk*

Why not pop in to a Storytime session (10am every Tuesday) and see what it's all about?





Events timetable at a glance - see next page

Full event details at heritageopendays.org.uk - search 'Harrogate'

Bilton events: a walk round New Park; visit New Park museum; a guided walk round St John's churchyard

Leaflets with more detailed information will be available at St John's

HARROGATE HERITAGE EVENTS

S	eptember 2023	Fri 8	Sat 9	Sun 10	Mon 11	Tue 12	Wed 13	Thu 14	Fri 15	Sat 16	Sun 17
1	Duchy Estate Heritage Walk						√				
2	St Wilfrid Harrogate Belltower Tours									√	
3	CWGC Stonefall Cemetery Open Day						√				
4	CWGC Stonefall Cemetery Tours									√	√
5	Grove Road Cemetery Walk		√								
6	Harlow Tower		√	✓							
7	Harrogate Baptist Church		√								
8	Harrogate Library						√				
9	WM Centenary "Women In War"							√			
10	WM Centenary "Speak My Name"						√				
11	Heritage Plaques of Harrogate Walk										√
12	New Park Heritage Centre									√	
13	New Park Heritage Walk			√							
14	Ogden of Harrogate	√				√		√			
15	Old Magnesia Well Pump Room		√	√						√	√
16	Old Pannal Heritage Walk								√		
17	Ripley Village Historic Walk	√									
18	St John's Church Bilton Guided Walk		√			√					
20	St Wilfrid Harrogate Open Day									√	
21	The Harrogate Club		√								
22	Valley Gardens Guided Walk										√
23	Wesley Chapel Harrogate		√	√							
24	St Wilfrid Harrogate WWI Memorial Talk									√	

PEOPLE

BAPTISMS / BLESSINGS

Lexie Louise Preston-Poole

WEDDINGS

Congratulations to those recently married:

Sam Benjamin Thompson and Mary Joanna Hullah





INTERMENT OF ASHES

Charles Pullman

Church Office closed:

Monday 28th August to Tuesday 5th September inclusive

Reopen Wednesday 6th September

New Beginnings

Please pray for all our young people as they face a new start:

- University or College
- New School
- Work or Apprenticeship
- Or just a new class at school

WEDNESDAY 13th September

is Copy Date for

OCTOBER 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



Harrogate, Wetherby & North Yorkshire

We are very happy to come out to meet you and your relatives to discuss our services. Please call us at any time for more

information about how we can help you.

01423 608 760

www.radfieldhomecare.co.uk harrogate@radfieldhomecare.co.uk





Outings & activities

- 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.



SEPTEMBER'S CALENDAR

Friday 1 st	1-3.00pm	Wellbeing Café (SL)
Sunday 3 rd	9.00am 10.30am 10.30am	Holy Communion (SJ) All Age Service (SJ) Holy Communion (SL)
Monday 4 th	9-9.30am 7.30pm	Morning Prayer (SJ) Baptism Information Session (SJ)
Tuesday 5 th	9-9.30am 12-1.30pm	Morning Prayer (SL) Time to Pray Prayer Lunch (SJ)
Wednesday 6 th	9-9.30am 10.30am 10.30am	Morning Prayer (SL) Holy Communion (SL) Thirst - Coffee at Dene Park Community Centre
Thursday 7 th	9-9.30am 9.30-11.30am	Morning Prayer (SL) Little Fishes (Parent & Toddler Group) (SL)
Friday 8 th	1-3.00pm 6.30-7.15pm 7-7.45pm	Wellbeing Café (SL) Open Junior Choir Practice (SJ) Open Adult Choir Practice (SJ)
Saturday 9 th	10.00am-12noon	Coffee Morning for Dignity Through Education (SJ hall)
Sunday 10 th	9.00am 10.30am 10.30am 12.30pm 6-7.45pm	Holy Communion (SJ) Holy Communion with Baptisms (SJ) All Age Service (SL) Baptisms (SJ) Ignite (Year 7+ Youth Group) (SL)
Monday 11 th Tuesday 12 th	9-9.30am 9-9.30am 10.00am 2-3.30pm 12.30pm	Morning Prayer (SJ) Morning Prayer (SJ) Walking Group (SJ) Comfort Café (SJ) Team Vicar Interview (SL)
Wednesday 13 th	10.30am 10.30am	Holy Communion (SJ) Thirst - Coffee at Dene Park Community Centre
	12.15pm	Community Lunch at Bilton Community Centre
	7.30pm	Finance & Buildings Committee Meeting (SJ)
Thursday 14 th	9-9.30am 9.30-11.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ) Little Fishes (Parent & Toddler Group) (SL)
Friday 15 th	6.30-7.15pm 1-3.00pm	Evening Surgery in Church (SJ) Wellbeing Café (SL)

	6.30-7.15pm	Junior Choir Practice (SJ)
	7-7.45pm	Adult Choir Practice (SJ)
Saturday 16 th	2.30-4.30pm	re/a/dress Art Installation Event (SJ)
•	7-7.45pm	re/a/dress Reflection and Meditation (SJ)
	·	
Sunday 17 th	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 18 th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
Tuesday 19th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SL)
	7.30pm	PCC Meeting (SJ)
Wednesday 20 th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SL)
	10.30am	Holy Communion (SL)
	10.30am	Thirst - Coffee at Dene Park Community
		Centre
	12.00noon	Thirst Table at Dene Park Community
		Centre
Thursday 21st	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SL)
	9.30-11.30am	Little Fishes (Parent & Toddler Group)
		(SL)
Friday 22 nd	1-3.00pm	Wellbeing Café (SL)
	6.30-7.15pm	Junior Choir Practice (SJ)
	7-7.45pm	Adult Choir Practice (SJ)
Sunday 24th	9 00am	Holy Communion (SI)
Sunday 24th	9.00am 10.30am	Holy Communion (SJ)
Sunday 24 th	10.30am	Holy Communion (SJ)
Sunday 24 th	10.30am 3.30-5.30pm	Holy Communion (SJ) Welcome Event in Church and Hall (SJ)
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Monday 25 th Tuesday 26 th Wednesday 27 th Thursday 28 th Friday 29 th OCTOBER	10.30am 3.30-5.30pm 6-7.45pm 9-9.30am 7.30pm 9-9.30am 10.30am 10.30am 9-9.30am 9.30-11.30am 6.30-7.15pm 1-3.00pm 9.00am 10.30am 10.30am	Holy Communion (SJ) Welcome Event in Church and Hall (SJ) Ignite (Year 7+ Youth Group) (SJ) Morning Prayer (SJ) Confirmation Group (SJ) Morning Prayer (SJ) Morning Prayer (SJ) Holy Communion (SL) Thirst - Coffee at Dene Park Community Centre Morning Prayer (SJ) Little Fishes (Parent & Toddler Group) (SL) Evening Surgery in Church (SJ) Wellbeing Café (SL) Holy Communion (SJ) Harvest Festival Parade Service (SJ) Harvest Festival Holy Communion (SL)
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Monday 25 th Tuesday 26 th Wednesday 27 th Thursday 28 th Friday 29 th OCTOBER Sunday 1 st	10.30am 3.30-5.30pm 6-7.45pm 9-9.30am 7.30pm 9-9.30am 9-9.30am 10.30am 9-9.30am 9.30-11.30am 6.30-7.15pm 1-3.00pm 9.00am 10.30am 10.30am 10.30am 10.30am 10.45pm	Holy Communion (SJ) Welcome Event in Church and Hall (SJ) Ignite (Year 7+ Youth Group) (SJ) Morning Prayer (SJ) Confirmation Group (SJ) Morning Prayer (SJ) Morning Prayer (SJ) Holy Communion (SL) Thirst - Coffee at Dene Park Community Centre Morning Prayer (SJ) Little Fishes (Parent & Toddler Group) (SL) Evening Surgery in Church (SJ) Wellbeing Café (SL) Holy Communion (SJ) Harvest Festival Parade Service (SJ) Harvest Festival Holy Communion (SL) Rhythm of Life Introduction Meeting (SJ) Youth Worship Night at Artizan Cafe
Monday 25 th Tuesday 26 th Wednesday 27 th Thursday 28 th Friday 29 th OCTOBER	10.30am 3.30-5.30pm 6-7.45pm 9-9.30am 7.30pm 9-9.30am 10.30am 10.30am 9-9.30am 9.30-11.30am 6.30-7.15pm 1-3.00pm 9.00am 10.30am 10.30am 12-12.45pm	Holy Communion (SJ) Welcome Event in Church and Hall (SJ) Ignite (Year 7+ Youth Group) (SJ) Morning Prayer (SJ) Confirmation Group (SJ) Morning Prayer (SJ) Morning Prayer (SJ) Holy Communion (SL) Thirst - Coffee at Dene Park Community Centre Morning Prayer (SJ) Little Fishes (Parent & Toddler Group) (SL) Evening Surgery in Church (SJ) Wellbeing Café (SL) Holy Communion (SJ) Harvest Festival Parade Service (SJ) Rhythm of Life Introduction Meeting (SJ)

7.30pm Time to Pray (SI) Wednesday 4th 9-9.30am Morning Prayer (SL) Holy Communion (SL) 10.30am Thirst - Coffee at Dene Park Community 10.30am Centre Rhythm of Life Introduction Meeting (SJ) 7-7.45pm Thursday 5th 9-9.30am Morning Prayer (SL) Little Fishes (Parent & Toddler Group) 9.30-11.30am (SL) Friday 6th Wellbeing Café (SL) 1-3.00pm 6.30-7.15pm Open Junior Choir Practice (SJ) 7-7.45pm Open Adult Choir Practice (SJ)

Church Office closed:

Monday 28th August to Tuesday 5th September

LOOKING AHEAD

Coffee Morning for Horticap Saturday 14th October (SJ Hall)
Start Course: Mondays at 2pm Monday 30th October (Dene Park

Community Centre)
Service to Remember and Give Thanks Sunday 5th November

Service to Remember and Give Thanks
Advent Carol Service
Christingle Coffee Morning
Christingle Services
Sunday 5th November 3.30pm (SJ)
Sunday 3rd December 6.30pm (SJ)
Saturday 9th December (SJ Hall)
Sunday 10th December tbc

Carol Service Sunday 17th December 6.30pm (SJ)

HARVEST FESTIVAL

Everyone is invited to join us at either church on Sunday 1st October as we celebrate God's bounteous, generosity. Gifts of produce from your garden or flowers or small plants will go to people who are sick or recently bereaved; otherwise please bring dry goods for us to take to the Homeless Project



A WELCOME EVENT - Sunday 24th September 3.30 - 5.30

If you have recently joined our church family of St John's and St Luke's, you and your family are warmly invited to St John's church hall. There'll be tea and cakes and a bouncy castle, and you'll be able to chat with members of the various church groups as well as listen to a brief introduction to what goes on and what opportunities there are.

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

Simon Dowson—Team Rector
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

St Luke's

Mr Nigel Thompson janeandnige1962@hotmail.co.uk

Mrs Alethea Fry Alethea.fry@gmail.com

Mrs Jane Reichert janereichert@hotmail.com

Editorial Team

Collation: Katie Burke 569563 and team Editors: Jean Burton 569907 Liz Hickling Magazine email: SJSLfocus@qmail.com

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



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

Hubert Swainson Funeral Services Ltd. **Private Chapels** Distinctive personal arrangements by: Geoffrey Brewster Dip FD Tim Canavar

Tel 01425 504571

39 Franklin Road Harrogate David Bentley 07917815981 www.dbautorepairs.com

Onsite vehicle servicing and repairs MOT by arrangement





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.



30 King Edwards Drive, Harrogate, HG1 4HL.

Telephone: 01423 538445

Opening Times: 7.30am - 5.30pm Monday - Saturday