



## Making Disciples who make Jesus known

# HEADLINE NEWS!



**ST JOHN'S CHURCH BILTON**

**COFFEE MORNING**

**SATURDAY 11TH JANUARY**

**ENTRANCE £1      10AM-12NOON**

(accompanied children free)

Refreshments included in entry fee

Home-made cakes

Hand-made cards

Large choice of books

Raffle

Tombola



**RAISING MONEY FOR  
OUR MISSION PARTNERS IN HULL:  
CHRIS & ANNA HEMBURY**

## VOLUNTEERS THANK YOU EVENT

**Sunday 26th January  
5.30-7.00pm  
at St Luke's**



Everyone that helps at either church, or in a church related group in any way is warmly invited to this event hosted by the clergy team to say Thank You! If you are planning to come please let the office know so we can cater for the right numbers.

## The **TEAM RECTOR VACANCY**

advertisement has gone live on the Diocesan website and can be found by clicking [here](#). Please pray that the right person sees the vacancy and is called to apply at the first time of asking so that we may have a new rector in place as soon as is possible.

The final **COFFEE MORNING** of 2024 was held last Saturday where we made Christingles for the service on Sunday, these combined with the donations from the classes at Richard Taylor School and a truly amazing total of **£1038** was raised for The Children's Society. THANK YOU!

# TODAY'S SERVICES AND EVENTS

## **SUNDAY 22ND DECEMBER** (*Fourth Sunday of Advent*)

- 9.00am Holy Communion (SJ)  
10.30am **JOINT** Holy Communion (**SL**)  
followed by mulled wine & mince pies  
*Readings: Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 1:39-55*  
5.00pm Choir Practice (SJ)  
6.30pm Nine Lessons & Carols (SJ)

## NEW YEAR LETTER FROM LAURA

Happy New Year to you all!



I wonder how you feel about the year that lies ahead? Sometimes on New Years Eve I feel excited about the coming year because I am expecting at least one significant thing to happen – for example having a baby, moving house, or being ordained.

Other times it feels a bit flat, there is nothing especially momentous on the horizon and January doesn't feel much different from December (except probably even colder)! Perhaps for some people, the New Year seems a bit frightening. If you have ill health, are bereaved, are looking for employment or are in financial hardship you can look at the months stretching before you with trepidation and fear.

If we look back at the Christmas story, we realise we are not alone when we look to the future with fear. Mary probably felt a lot of fear as she looked ahead to the birth of her son. First century Palestine was not the best time or place for a child to be born. Many did not survive, through illness or poverty and the risks tied up with living under occupation. Mary had good reason to fear for her tiny child, but she had additional fear to contend with. The special child she protected would not live out of harms way. He was going to get noticed, he would provoke emotion, he was going to be at risk of harm. In the Epiphany readings, which we hear in January, we are reminded that Herod was seeking to kill Jesus when he was still in his infancy. Mary was no stranger to fear.

But Mary was also very good at embracing hope and possibility. She trusted in God and responded to fear with the words *"I am the Lord's servant. May your word to me be fulfilled."* (Luke 1:38)

We can't see the big picture of the year ahead just yet, and we may have good reason to feel afraid. But we can reflect on the words of Mary and try to look for the hope and possibility in each new day, knowing that God (made human in Jesus) has walked this earth and journeys alongside us. Even when life is really tough, God is at still work and glimpses of glory are to be found and cherished.

In the words of Corrie Ten Boom (who saved around 800 lives during the Holocaust) "*Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God.*"



Every blessing,

Laura

## YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S WORK



PEACE, HOPE & JOY

from all the young people to the  
congregations of St John's and St Luke's

# CHURCH LIFE



## UNEXPECTED GUEST

Will you join our tradition of setting a place for an unexpected guest (who might be Jesus)?

Rather than turkey and all the trimmings, we put onto the plate what the meal would have cost, and bring that to either church.

This year all donations received will go to

### **Harrogate Homeless Project.**

Plates are available for collection now.

## JOINT SERVICES IN DECEMBER

Please note changes to the usual Sunday pattern of services in the parish this month:

Sunday 22nd December - Joint 10.30am service at **ST LUKE'S**

Sunday 29th December - Joint 10.30am service at **ST LUKE'S**

There will be the 9.00am Holy Communion service at St John's each Sunday throughout December as usual and also on Christmas Day morning.

For all other services please see the calendar on the back page.

**USED POSTAGE STAMPS** are once again being collected by local Girlguiding to raise funds to finish off the rebuild of Birk Crag. Stamps can be dropped off in the parish office, at 22 Albany Avenue or 52 Hill Top Avenue

## HARROGATE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY & MISSION LIVE LECTURES IN 2025

harrogate  
school of  
theology &  
mission

**Saturday 18th January**, 10.00am-12noon at St Mark's Church, Leeds Road, Bishop of Kirkstall, Arun Arora (topic yet to be confirmed)

**Saturday 22nd March**, 10.00am-12noon at St Mark's, Nicola Slee, 'Abba Amma: Improvisations on the Lord's Prayer'. In this lecture, Nicola Slee will share something of her own journey with the Lord's Prayer and suggest that we are called, not so much to repeat the prayer unvaryingly, as to live in its pattern and improvise around it to find our own authentic way of praying and our own authentic relationship to the Abba Amma God of Jesus.

Tickets from £5 for a zoom/student ticket, or £8 for in person attendance. Under 18s are free. To purchase your tickets please [click here](#)

### SEMINARS IN 2025

**Saturday 22nd February**, 10.00am-12noon at Woodlands Methodist Church led by Dr David Hanson, retired ENT Consultant about the Christian considerations of potential changes in law regarding "assisted dying". Live speaker with group discussion.

**Saturday 12th April**, 10.00am-12noon at Woodlands Methodist Church, we are delighted to invite Penny Pullen to deliver our seminar in April.

In this interactive session, we'll explore some of the challenges facing people with invisible (but nevertheless limiting) illnesses as they try to be part of our churches, to be valued and belong. We'll hear from Penny's research into 'The Ethics of Inclusion' which focused on this underserved group. We'll think theologically, using the Body of Christ metaphor of 1 Corinthians 12, and discuss ideas we can put in place to transform our churches.

Tickets for seminars are £5 and are available from the link above.

# NINE LESSONS & Carols



22ND DECEMBER 2024, 6.30PM  
*St John's Church, Bilton Lane, HG1 3DT*



FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO  
[www.stjohnsandstlukes.org.uk](http://www.stjohnsandstlukes.org.uk)

## KIDZ KLUB



A message from Kidz Klub.....

"As ever, it is a joy filled time here at Kidz Klub in the lead up to Christmas.

At our Hub Klubs the team have been helping the children to understand the true meaning of Christmas, as they focus on a different character from the Christmas story each week, creating a wooden nativity set especially for each of them to keep.

The volunteer and staff team have also been busy this week spreading love and joy by collecting hampers full of Christmas treats, toys,

and Christmas trees and delivering them to wonderful families.

At the latest count we have 200 Hampers and over 800 toys, and they are still coming in! *(of which 74 came from our churches)*

We are so thankful to all the churches, individuals and businesses who make this possible.

We know how much work it takes but it really does make such a HUGE difference. So many times this week when delivering hampers we have heard **"Is that really all for me?"** from one child or another. It is such a blessing to be able to say yes.

Thank you again for being part of all that we do this Christmas time - we genuinely could not do it without you."

To receive this **NOTICE SHEET** weekly by email, please contact the parish office to have a consent form sent through, or pick one up in church, complete and return it to be added to the distribution list.

### MONDAY FIRST

Join us at Dene Park Community Centre, 2-3.00pm on Monday 6th January for music, worship, learning and cake and a cuppa.  
Everyone is welcome

## THE GREEN TEAM

### HOW TO HAVE AN ECO-CHRISTMAS FOOD

- Don't buy too much. Plan meals in advance so you know how much food you'll need.
- Shop local to avoid food miles.
- Compost vegetable waste.
- Eat your leftovers. The [www.lovefoodhatewaste.com](http://www.lovefoodhatewaste.com) website has some great ideas for using up unused food.
- Cut down on meat and dairy if you can. Meat has a big carbon footprint so try out some vegetarian alternatives.
- Buying organic produce means that fewer chemicals are used and is a big help for wildlife.



# Nativity Service

4.00pm

24th December 2024,  
St John's Church, Bilton Lane,  
HGI 3DT

Invite your friends and family to join us on a Journey to Bethlehem as we hear the Christmas story unfold. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Fancy dress welcome!

Website: [www.stjohnsandstlukes.org.uk](http://www.stjohnsandstlukes.org.uk)  
Phone: 01423 565129  
Email: [church@stjohnsandstlukes.org.uk](mailto:church@stjohnsandstlukes.org.uk)

## What's Happening in January

### JANUARY

Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	11.00am	Funeral: John MacInnes (Stonefall)
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	1-3.00pm	Wellbeing Café (SL)
	6.30-7.15pm	Open Junior Choir Practice (SJ)
	7-7.45pm	Open Adult Choir Practice (SJ)
<b>Sunday 5<sup>th</sup></b>	9.00am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	10.30am	All Age Service (SJ)
	10.30am	Holy Communion (SL)
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup>	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	2-3.00pm	Monday First at Dene Park Community Centre
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup>	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup>	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 9 <sup>th</sup>	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	9.30-11.30am	Little Fishes (Parent & Toddler Group) (SL)
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup>	1-3.00pm	Wellbeing Café (SL)
	6.30-7.15pm	Junior Choir Practice (SJ)
	7-7.45pm	Adult Choir Practice (SJ)
Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am-12noon	Coffee Morning (SJ)
<b>Sunday 12<sup>th</sup></b>	9.00am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	10.30am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	10.30am	Café Church (SL)
	6-7.15pm	Ignite (Year 7+ Youth Group) (SL)
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup>	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup>	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	10.00am	Walking Group (SJ)
	2-3.30pm	Comfort Café (SJ)
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup>	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 16 <sup>th</sup>	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	9.30-11.30am	Little Fishes (Parent & Toddler Group) (SL)
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup>	1-3.00pm	Wellbeing Café (SL)
	6.30-7.15pm	Junior Choir Practice (SJ)
	7-7.45pm	Adult Choir Practice (SJ)
<b>Sunday 19<sup>th</sup></b>	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 20 <sup>th</sup>	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup>	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	10.30am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	10.30am	Thirst – Coffee at Dene Park Community Centre
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	9.30-11.30am	Little Fishes (Parent & Toddler Group) (SL)
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Girl's Night Out at Kismet
	1-3.00pm	Wellbeing Café (SL)
	6.30-7.15pm	Junior Choir Practice (SJ)
	7-7.45pm	Adult Choir Practice (SJ)
<b>Sunday 26<sup>th</sup></b>	9.00am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	10.30am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	10.30am	All Age Worship (SL)
	5.30-7.00pm	Volunteer's Thank You event (SL)
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup>	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup>	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup>	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	10.30am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	10.30am	Thirst – Coffee at Dene Park Community Centre
Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup>	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	9.30-11.30am	Little Fishes (Parent & Toddler Group) (SL)
Friday 31 <sup>st</sup>	1-3.00pm	Wellbeing Café (SL)
<b><u>FEBRUARY</u></b>		
<b>Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	9.00am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	10.30am	Parade Service (SJ)
	10.30am	Holy Communion (SL)
	6-7.30pm	Youth Worship Night at Wesley Chapel
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	2-3.00pm	Monday First at Dene Park Community Centre
		Morning Prayer (SJ)
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup>	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup>	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	10.30am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	10.30am	Thirst – Coffee at Dene Park Community Centre
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup>	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	9.30-11.30am	Little Fishes (Parent & Toddler Group) (SL)
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup>	1-3.00pm	Wellbeing Café (SL)
	6.30-7.15pm	Junior Choir Practice (SJ)
	7-7.45pm	Adult Choir Practice (SJ)
Saturday 8 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am-12.00pm	Coffee Morning in Church Hall (SJ)

The Social Committee have organised a **GIRL'S NIGHT OUT** on Thursday 23rd January 2025 at 7pm at Kismet on Kings Road. We were keen to support a local business and we'll have exclusive use.

The menu looks delicious and you have a choice of 3 courses for £30.75 or a main and dessert for £25.25, both prices include a service charge, a glass of wine or beer or a soft drink.

The venues capacity is 28 so please let Juliet Duke, Liz Jones or Naiomi Kempton know as soon as possible if you would like to attend. A £10 deposit will be payable by Friday 10th January, or you could ask someone to treat you as a Christmas present! If you wish to pay directly into a bank account please email [juliet.duke2@gmail.com](mailto:juliet.duke2@gmail.com) and she will provide bank details. The balance, plus any additional drinks, will be due on the night.

Please also advise of any allergens or dietary needs.

Watch this space men, something will follow for you in the New Year!

*Get Menu*



# M E N U

## APPETIZER

Lentil Soup & Sourdough vg gf

Hummus & Lavash vg gf

Haydari & Lavash v gf

Aubergine Ezme & Lavash v gf

Endive Salad w/ Kisir vg

## MAIN

Chicken Shish w/ Lavash & Chermoula Salad gf

Lamb Kofte w/ Lavash & Chermoula Salad gf

Falafel w/ Hummus & Chermoula Salad vg gf

Monkfish Kiev w/ Bubble and Squeak & Peas

Smoked Haddock Squid Kedgeree w/ Zesty Veg gf

## DESSERT

Pistachio Baklava w/ Clotted Cream Mousse v

Candied Pumpkin w/ Pumpkin Seeds

Praline, Tahini & Raspberry Sorbet vg gf

NY Vanilla Cheese Cake w/ Turkish Raki

& Raisin Ice Cream v

v: Vegetarian vg: Vegan, gf: Gluten free

We have gluten free lavash bread available.



146 Kings Road

HG1 5HY

[www.kismetharrogate.com](http://www.kismetharrogate.com)

## SUPPORTING MINISTRY & MISSION

Many of us give regularly to our churches, but beyond our regular lifetime, a **GIFT IN A WILL** can be a final and powerful expression of gratitude and thanksgiving towards God that will help transform a churches future and support mission here in this country, and overseas. Here at St Johns and St Lukes we welcome all gifts in wills, however large or small, and we promise to use your gift to make a difference in our parish. Our PCC legacy policy is to use gifts to help fund significant development projects; whether this be to buildings, to purchase equipment, or to support mission. If you would like to have more information on this, pick up a leaflet in church, visit our website [here](#) or contact Rob Bath on 07817 799640, or by email [robertabath@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:robertabath@yahoo.co.uk).

Could you help process our **GIFT AID CLAIMS**?  
If you could give some of your time to help and would like to find out more please contact the office.

*giftaid it*

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We love welcoming everyone into our churches, whether it's to mark an important time in someone's life, to worship regularly, or to come together in the heart of the community.

If you'd like to support your local church, perhaps you'd consider making a gift?

You can make a regular or one-off gift simply and safely online, through the

PGS, scan the QR code to find out more.



PARISHGIVINGScheme™

# THE NEXT WEEKS' DIARY

## TUESDAY 24 DECEMBER

4.00pm Nativity Service (SJ)

11.30pm Midnight Communion (SJ)

*Readings: Isaiah 52:7-10*

*John 1:1-14*

## WEDNESDAY 25 DECEMBER

9.00am Holy Communion (SJ)

10.30am **JOINT** Christmas Holy Communion (**SJ**)

*Readings: Isaiah 9:2-7*

*Luke 2:1-20*

## SATURDAY 28 DECEMBER

4.00pm Wedding (SL)

**SUNDAY 29 DECEMBER** (*First Sunday of Christmas*)

9.00am Holy Communion (SJ)

10.30am **JOINT** Family Worship (**SL**)

*Readings: Isaiah 42:5-7*

*Luke 1:67-80*

## THURSDAY 2 JANUARY 2025

11.00am Funeral: John MacInnes (Stonefall)

**SUNDAY 5 JANUARY** (*Second Sunday of Christmas*)

9.00am Holy Communion (SJ)

10.30am All Age Worship (SJ)

*Readings: Matthew 2:1-12*

10.30am Holy Communion (SL)

*Readings: Isaiah 60:1-6*

*Matthew 2:1-12*

## MONDAY 6 JANUARY

9-9.30am Morning Prayer (SJ)

2-3.00pm Monday First at Dene Park Community Centre

## TUESDAY 7 JANUARY

9-9.30am Morning Prayer (SJ)

## WEDNESDAY 8 JANUARY

9-9.30am Morning Prayer (SJ)

10.30am Holy Communion (SJ)

10.30am Thirst at Dene Park Community Centre

12.15pm Community Lunch at Bilton Community Centre

## THURSDAY 9 JANUARY

9-9.30am Morning Prayer (SJ)

9.30-11.30am Little Fishes (Parent & Toddler Group) (SL)

## FRIDAY 10 JANUARY

1-3.00pm Wellbeing Café (SL)

6.30-7.15pm Junior Choir Practice (SJ)

7-7.45pm Adult Choir Practice (SJ)

## SATURDAY 11 JANUARY

10.00am-12noon Coffee Morning in Church Hall (SJ)

**SUNDAY 12 JANUARY** (*Baptism of Christ*)

9.00am Holy Communion (SJ)

10.30am Holy Communion (SJ)

*Readings: tbc*

10.30am Café Church (SL)

6-7.15pm Ignite (Year 7+ Youth Group) (SL)

## CONTACT US

### THE MINISTRY TEAM

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