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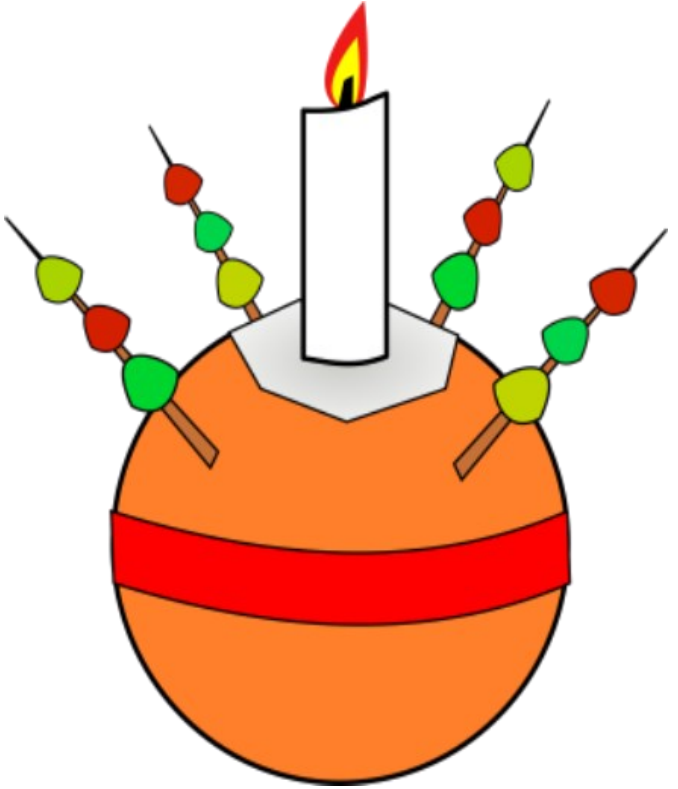
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St John's and St Luke's Together

St John's Church



December

2023

50 pence

St Luke's Church



ST JOHN'S & ST LUKE'S
CHURCH & CHURCH

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LEETTER FROM LAURA



Dear Friends,

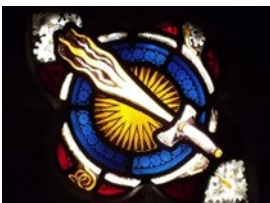
Whether it be printed on a greeting card or spoken by a child in a school nativity play, the proclamation of “*peace on earth and goodwill to all*” is one that we associate with Christmas time. These words, taken from Luke 2:14,



sum up for many the warm feeling that is synonymous with Christmas; conveying hope, a spirit of generosity and a kindly disposition toward others.

Within the words of the prophet Isaiah, often read in churches at Christmas, we find this further proclamation of peace: *“For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end.”* (Isaiah 9:6 –7). But as we gather in our churches to hear - and to sing - of peace this Christmas, the reality is that we are acutely aware of the lack of peace that pervades our wider world.

The birth of Jesus was an astonishing event that changed the world and heralded a new phase in God’s plan for rescuing humanity. It did not, however, usher in a time of perfect peace on earth. Jesus did not promise that there would be no more conflict or suffering in the world as we know it now (although we do look ahead with longing to a time when there will be no more war, pain or fear when Jesus returns). In fact, during his time on earth Jesus declared, *“Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to*



the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword” (Matthew 10:34). This statement has been interpreted in many different ways, one of which is that it means not seeking a sentimental peace, but rather one with ‘sharp edges.’ As Sam Wells notes “It sometimes sounds facile to pray for peace amid the rage of war. But it depends what you mean by peace.

The peace of still waters and quiet rest is certainly a fantasy at a time of widespread horror. But maybe peace is more like the sword that divides rage from anger. Rage assumes a story by which I obliterate you and all is resolved. But it's not resolved: it's just stoking up further rage for another explosion some time later. By contrast anger can stir us to action, such as the brokering of a ceasefire, the measured and even-handed witness of the wider community, the careful identification of and holding to account for wrongs done, the patient hearing-out of resentments and fears, the finding of a path through to mutual security, dignity, understanding, respect and hope."

And as we pray with all our hearts that in all places of conflict rage would be replaced by a stirring to action, we must also be stirred to action. As



Christians we are called to be with the world in its pain and brokenness, looking for signs of hope and sowing seeds of compassion. We can forge a path through the wilderness and a river through the desert by sitting alongside the bereaved, visiting the lonely, and offering food to the hungry. This Christmas we can celebrate springs of love, welcome the waters of kindness and share the delight of friendship. And, even within the ravages of terrible conflict, we can hold on to the hope of the incarnation of Jesus and the true joy of Christmas. We have been given the gift of a deeper, spiritual peace that comes from being in a right relationship with God. And we have the promise of a glorious future kingdom where death is defeated, where there is no war or conflict and where tears of sorrow, pain, and grief will all be wiped away.

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid"
(John 14:27).

May you be a bearer of hope and light within your communities, places of work, and homes, and may the peace of the Christ-child be yours this Christmas and always.

Blessings,

Laura



QUESTION CORNER



Q. With so much war and strife in the world, what sense can we make of the Christmas message of Peace on Earth?

A. The message is primarily about God's relationship with his people. In the Old Testament we read how they often rebelled against God, and strayed from his ways like lost sheep. Yet God still loved the world so much (John 3, 16) that he sent his Son to rescue and save them – and US. Jesus broke down the barrier of sin between God and mankind, giving his life that we might be forgiven, and so be AT PEACE with God. (In Ephesians 2, 14 we read '*HE HIMSELF is our peace*'.) So the full message of the angels is '*Peace on earth, and (God's) good will towards men*', and '*A Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord*'.

This also means, essentially, that we should be at peace with others. Yet we have horrific stories of atrocities committed in war, and heart-breaking accounts of the death and suffering of men, women and children. It's an offence against God and humanity, with no winners – just a terrible waste! Pictures come to us via the TV but it still seems a long way away from comfortable Harrogate. Perhaps we can at least contribute towards the relief of those who suffer so much in war.

Although we are not experiencing war ourselves, part of our response to God's message is still to be peace-makers wherever possible. And maybe we can share with others something of the peace of Christ at this special season.

Wishing you a happy and peace-ful Christmas.

David

SUDAN

Our Diocese of Leeds has a link with the Christian church in Sudan, so we are able to send through the diocese the £560 we raised at our November coffee morning, to be used to help those in need. Thanks go to everyone who supported us by volunteering, baking, donating and/or attending.



Please help us make the Christingle coffee morning this month another successful event. (See page 9 for more information.)

CHRISTMAS FAIR

at

ST LUKE'S CHURCH

Franklin Square

Saturday 2 December

10.30am - 1.00pm

Tombola

Preserves

Plants

Jigsaws

Jams

Raffle

Books

Traidcraft

Cakes

**Light refreshments
including cakes/biscuits**

**Admission £3.00 which includes
coffee and cake (accompanied
children free)**





**Back for
2023**

ST JOHN'S & ST LUKE'S
CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

Our Christmas Tree Festival will be on display in St John's from Sunday 3rd December throughout the season.

This year you can vote for your favourite tree and the winner will receive a prize

The church will be open every Monday-Thursday, 9am-1pm, during the morning of Saturday 9th December and each Sunday, so come and take a look!



CHRISTINGLE SERVICES

Sunday 10th December
St John's 4.00pm
St Luke's 6.00 pm

**COFFEE MORNING and
CHRISTINGLE MAKING**

Saturday 9th December
10am-12noon

SHARING CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

Are you looking forward to Christmas?
Presents, special food, visitors?
Would you invite a lonely neighbour or friend to join you for Christmas dinner?

Some of the 'neighbours' who most need our support are those who, like Jesus, have nowhere safe to sleep, and nowhere to eat a meal in comfort. Will you lay a place for them at your Christmas meal, but put onto the plate the cost of entertaining a visitor? You could be entertaining Jesus unawares!

Please bring your gift to either church before the end of January to be included in the donation our parish gives to the

HARROGATE HOMELESS PROJECT

www.harrogate-homeless-project.org.uk





Advent & Christmas Services and Events at St John's & St Luke's

Saturday 2nd December

10.30am-1pm Christmas Fair @ St Luke's (SL)

Sunday 3rd December

6.30pm Advent Carol Service @ St John's (SJ)

Saturday 9th December

10am-12noon Christingle Coffee Morning @ SJ Hall

Sunday 10th December

4.00pm Christingle @ SJ

6.00pm Christingle @ SL

Sunday 17th December

5.00pm Shine @ SL

6.30pm Christmas Carol Service @ SJ

Sunday 24th December

4.00pm Nativity @ SJ

11.30pm Midnight Communion @ SJ

Monday 25th December

10.30am Joint Christmas Holy Communion @ SJ

St John's Church, Bilton Lane, HG1 3DT

St Luke's Church, Franklin Square, HG1 5EL

for all our regular service times and to find out more

visit: www.stjohnsandstlukes.org.uk

email: church@stjohnsandstlukes.org.uk

call: 01423 565129

COFFEE MORNING

**St John's Church Hall
Saturday 9th December
10am – 12noon**

RAFFLE
TOMBOLA
BOOKS

Delicious Festive
Mince Pies



JAMS etc
CAKE STALL
CARDS

Admission £1

**Includes tea, coffee & biscuits
Collect your Christingle pack**

In aid of

The Children's Society

Shining Light into Darkness


 ST LUKE'S CHURCH



shine

The people of our local community **SHINE like stars!**
 We feel blessed to be your local parish church
 tucked away at the heart of the community.

Café style Carol Service
 St Luke's Church (Franklin Mount)
Sunday 17th Dec 5pm

• Come along and celebrate Christmas in your local church
 with carols, candles, coffee, cake and community.

An informal, café-style gathering where all are
 warmly welcome to come as they are...

Freshly ground coffee & cakes kindly donated by **Pink Door Café** (of Kings Road, Harrogate)
 Table Decorations lovingly crafted by members of **St Luke's Wellbeing Café**

t: 01423 565129 | e: church@stjohnsandstlukes.org.uk

CAN YOU HELP?
PLEASE?

At St John's we need volunteers to help serve refreshments once a month after the



Sunday 10.30 service, and volunteers to man (or woman) the sound desk.

If you think this might be something you could do, contact the office 565129 for more information

RECYCLING AT ST JOHN'S



Thank you for supporting our efforts to reduce waste by collecting and delivering



- pens, pencils etc
- contact lenses and packaging
- dental products
- blister packs
- soft plastics
- household batteries
- ink cartridges





Creation Care

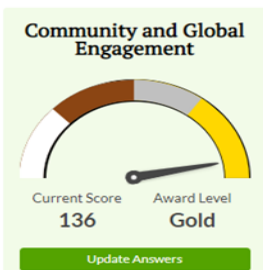
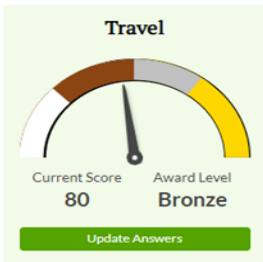
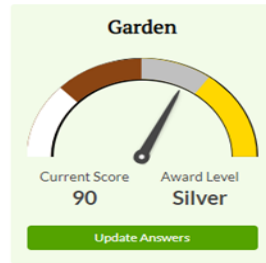
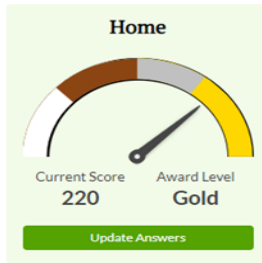
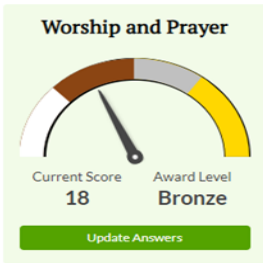
Encouraging households to care for God's world

DIY CREATION CARE

As you are probably aware, St John's is the proud recipient of a silver A Rocha Eco Church award, with ambitions to work towards gold. However, did you also



know you can do your own mini version of an A Rocha award for your household? The Creation Care scheme, <https://creationcare.org.uk/>, aims to encourage individuals and households to make changes to care for God's earth. It tells you where you are in your journey and provides ideas of next steps. Similar to the A Rocha Eco Church approach, the scheme covers 7 areas of household life: worship and prayer; home; garden; travel; food; possession;



possessions and community and global engagement. You can sign up to join the scheme (by using the form on the “households” page of the website), then complete a questionnaire for each area. There are 122 questions in total, but you don’t have to answer them all at once and can save your progress as you go along. This tells you how well your household is doing in each area and hopefully gives you ideas of where you can improve. Once you reach an overall award level of either bronze, silver, or gold, you can receive a certificate. Gold is really ambitious, so hats off to anyone who achieves that! You can also go back into the website later once you have made changes to see how they affect your score.

The website also has a useful list of resources where you can get further information to help you in your journey in any, or all, of the sections. With climate change a very present threat to the world, if we can all, as individuals, make just a few changes to our lifestyles, then we can all do something positive to help save God’s beautiful creation for future generations.

Brownies 4th Bilton Brownies

put up their “pop up” tents and, to the Owls’ surprise, there was some sleep!



Friday 17th November saw 14 Brownies, 2 Guides and 3 Owls getting ready to have a “sleep over” in the church hall. After a light supper of pizza, the Brownies



The Brownies were learning about Diwali, the Hindu festival of light which this year

fell on Sunday 12th November. As well as making peacock fans, “diyas” were decorated and placed outside the tents. Rangoli patterns were made and then Fairy Owl supervised the making of Fairy Kiss Cookies.

A busy few weeks towards the end of term also included four new Brownies making their promise, Christmas cake making and decorating, and taking part in Parliament Week as well as a visit to see Dick Whittington at Harrogate Theatre.





**Richard Taylor Church of England
Primary School warmly invites you to our
very special**

50th Anniversary Carol Service

**Past and present pupils, parents, staff, and governors
are all welcome to join us to celebrate 50 years of
RTS serving the community.**

**Monday 11th December at St
John's Church**

Service starts at 6.30pm

**Come along and enjoy singing all your favourite RTS
Christmas Songs and Carols.**

**Refreshments will be served at Richard
Taylor School after the service.**

People

FUNERALS/ MEMORIALS

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

David Morrell
Anthony Aldous



INTERMENT OF ASHES

Sheila and Kurt Schimmel

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY CLOSURE

The Church Office will be closed
from 1pm on Thursday 21st December.
It will reopen at 11.30 am on Tuesday 9th January 2024
Phone and email will be checked, but not regularly.

SUNDAY 10th December

is Copy Date for

JANUARY 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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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.

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- 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.



December's Calendar

Friday 1 st	9.00am-8.00pm 1-3.00pm 6.30-7.45pm	Christmas Tree Festival Set Up (SJ) Wellbeing Café (SL) Choir Practice (SJ)
Saturday 2 nd	9.00am-6.00pm 10.30am-1.00pm	Christmas Tree Festival Set Up (SJ) Christmas Fair (SL)
Sunday 3 rd	9.00am 10.30am 10.30am 5.00pm 6.30pm 6-7.45pm	Holy Communion (SJ) Parade/Toy Service (SJ) Holy Communion (SL) Choir Practice (SJ) Advent Carol Service (SJ) Contemporary Carols Service at St George's Community Centre
Monday 4 th	9-9.30am 9.30pm 2.00pm	Morning Prayer (SJ) Bilton Grange Nativity Rehearsal (SJ) Start Course at Dene Park Community Centre
Tuesday 5 th	7.30pm 9-9.30am 9.30am 12-1.30pm 4-5.00pm	Confirmation Group (SJ) Morning Prayer (SJ) Bilton Grange Nativity (SJ) Time to Pray Lunch (SJ) 4twelve (Youth Group) (SL)
Wednesday 6 th	9-9.30am 10-11.00am 10.30am 10.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ) Styan Centre Prayer Meeting Holy Communion (SJ) Thirst - Coffee at Dene Park Community Centre
Thursday 7 th	1.30pm 9-9.30am 9.30pm 9.30-11.30am	Bilton Grange Nativity (SJ) Morning Prayer (SJ) Bilton Grange Nativity (SJ) Little Fishes (Parent & Toddler Group) (SL)
Friday 8 th	1-3.00pm 6.30-7.15pm 7-7.45pm	Wellbeing Café (SL) Junior Choir Practice (SJ) Adult Choir Practice (SJ)
Saturday 9 th	10.00am-12noon	Christingle Coffee Morning (SJ Hall)
Sunday 10 th	9.00am 10.30am 10.30am 12.30om	Holy Communion (SJ) Holy Communion (SJ) Parade Service (SL) Baptisms (SJ)

	4.00pm	Christingle Service (SJ)
	6.00pm	Christingle Service (SL)
Monday 11 th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	9.00am-4.00pm	Food Safety Course (SJ)
	6.30pm	Richard Taylor School 50 th Anniversary Service (SJ)
	8.00pm	PCC Meeting (SJ)
Tuesday 12 th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	10.00am	Walking Group (SJ)
	2-3.30pm	Comfort Café (SJ)
	4-5.00pm	4twelve (Youth Group) (SL)
Wednesday 13 th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	10.30am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	10.30am	Thirst Christmas Party – Coffee at Dene Park Community Centre
	12.15pm	Christmas Community Lunch at Bilton Community Centre
	6.00pm	New Park Nativity (SJ)
Thursday 14 th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	9.30-11.30am	Little Fishes (Parent & Toddler Group) (SL)
	6.30-7.15pm	Evening Surgery in Church (SJ)
Friday 15 th	1-3.00pm	Wellbeing Café (SL)
	6.30-7.45pm	Choir Practice (SJ)
Sunday 17th	9.00am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	10.30am	Joint Morning Worship (SJ)
	5.00pm	Shine (SL)
	5.00pm	Choir Practice (SJ)
	6.30pm	Christmas Carol Service (SJ)
Monday 18 th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
		Coppice Carol Service (SJ)
Tuesday 19 th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
Wednesday 20 th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	10.30am	Holy Communion (SJ)
Thursday 21 st	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	9.30-11.30am	Little Fishes (Parent & Toddler Group) (SL)
	10.30am	Richard Taylor School Carol Service (SJ)
Friday 22 nd	1-3.00pm	Wellbeing Café (SL)
	6.30-8.00pm	Choir Practice (SJ)
	8.30pm	Ignite Christmas Party and Sleepover (SJ)
Sunday 24th <i>Christmas Eve</i>	9.00am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	10.30am	Joint Morning Worship (SL)
	4.00pm	Nativity (SJ)
	11.30pm	Midnight Communion (SJ)
Monday 25 th <i>Christmas Day</i>	10.30am	Joint Christmas Communion (SJ)
Wednesday 27 th	2.00pm	Wedding Choir Practice (SJ)
	2.45pm	Wedding Rehearsal (SJ)
Thursday 28 th	12.00pm	Wedding (SJ)

Sunday 31st 9.00am
New Year's Eve 10.30am

Holy Communion (SJ)
Joint Holy Communion (SL)

JANUARY 2024

Tuesday 2nd 9-9.30am

Morning Prayer (SJ)

Wednesday 3rd 9-9.30am

Morning Prayer (SJ)

10.30am

Holy Communion (SJ)

Thursday 4th 9-9.30am

Morning Prayer (SJ)

Looking Ahead...

CMS Coffee Morning 10am-12noon Saturday 13th January (SJ Hall)

Laura's Licensing Service evening Thursday 25th January (SJ)

Rhythm of Life Launch Sunday 28th January

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



The poster features a green background with the 'easyfundraising' logo at the top. Below it, the text reads 'Help us raise FREE donations when you do your Christmas shopping online'. Two circular images are shown: one of a woman and a child looking at a laptop, and another of a woman handing a cardboard box to a man. The bottom of the poster features the 'make it count' logo with a small Santa hat icon above the 'i' in 'count', and the tagline 'RAISE A DONATION' below it. Yellow stars and a white line graphic are scattered throughout the design.

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

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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simon.dowson@leeds.anglican.org

Laura Martin—Team Vicar (from January)

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laura.martin@leeds.anglican.org

Laura Martin—Curate

Tel 07497 865507

laura.martin@leeds.anglican.org

Emma James—Young People's Worker

Tel 07803 586566

YouthWork@stjohnsandstlukes.org.uk

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janeandnige1962@hotmail.co.uk

Mrs Jane Reichert

janereichert@hotmail.com

St Luke's

Mrs Alethea Fry

Alethea.fry@gmail.com

Editorial Team

Collation: Katie Burke 569563 and team

Editor: Jean Burton 569907

Magazine email: SJSLfocus@gmail.com

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
www.biltonandwoodfield.org.uk

Hubert Swainson
Funeral Services Ltd
Private Chapels

Distinctive personal arrangements by:
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Tim Canavar

Tel 01425 504571

39 Franklin Road
Harrogate

David Bentley

07917815981

www.dbautorepairs.com

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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.

ROOTS & Fruits
your local
greengrocer

30 King Edwards Drive, Harrogate, HG1 4HL.

Telephone: 01423 538445

Opening Times: 7.30am-5.30pm Tuesday - Saturday

Supporting the local community