St John's Church St Luke's Togeti Guido Fawkes St John's and **November** 2023 StLuke's Church 50 pence



Guy Fawkes and Bonfire Night	1
Rector's Letter	3
Question Corner	5
Two Guiding Stalwarts	6
St John's Coffee Morning for Sudan	7
Wash, Dry, Fold, Repeat	8
Kidz Klub Christmas Hamper Appeal	10
Focus magazine	11
Justice	12
Horticap	12
Christmas Tree Festival	12
A Service to Remember and Give Thanks	12
Parish Christmas Fair at St Luke's	13
Congratulations	14
Harvest Festival	14
November's Calendar	16
Looking Ahead	18
Who's Who	19

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Rector's Message November 2023

On 5th November across the country there will be the traditional bonfire night celebrations as we recall the plot way back in 1605 by Guy Fawkes among others to blow up parliament, in an attempt to remove King James I and re-establish Catholic rule in England. As we know, the plot was thwarted and the following year church attendance



was made compulsory for everyone on 5th November in order that thanks should be given to God for the failure of the plotters, who by this time had suffered the grizzly fate of being hung, drawn and quartered, and it was out of this requirement that bonfire night celebrations grew.

But actually, the whole episode is a microcosm of the religious intolerance that was very prevalent in Europe at the time, not least because the struggle between the Roman Catholic and Protestant wings of the church was deeply intertwined with the power politics of the day, and had resulted in a great deal of blood being shed.

And all this despite the fact that in his so-called high priestly prayer of John 17, Jesus had made it clear that unity should be a defining characteristic of the church and its people – but I suppose it might be argued that Jesus prayed this prayer because he knew just how hard it would be over the coming generations to maintain that unity.

Wind forward to the present and the Diocesan clergy day on 12th October in Wakefield Cathedral, where one of our speakers, Dr Eeva John, was encouraging us, among other things, to engage with Scripture with the mindset of explorers looking for treasure and with a view to it being a source of healing in a troubled world. All well and good, but (and she was the first to acknowledge this), the trouble is that differing interpretations of Scripture are commonplace. Thus, while we might not see the extremes of the Reformation era, all too often in our own time we see division arising out of these differences, rather than us enjoying the unity that Jesus prayed for. And this is true simply within our own denomination let alone between denominations, with the current debate over same-sex marriage being but one example. Hence there was an impassioned contribution from one of the attendees at the study day, asking why we couldn't set aside our

differences.

Now, we all know that the answer to that question is complex and difficult, and it should also be noted that disunity and division is not the sole prerogative of the Anglican church, shown by the fact that the Study Day was taking place against the backdrop of the terrible massacre in Southern Israel and the threatened invasion of Gaza in response, the latest manifestation of the seemingly intractable divisions between Palestinians and Jews.

However, Dr John suggested three steps we could take when it comes to engaging with Scripture that might enable us to move forward in a more constructive way as a church when it comes to our differences:

• Be the real me – when we come to the Bible and how we try to



understand and to apply it, we should try to do so with openness and honesty, letting it speak afresh rather than coming with our inherited blinkers. An example would be the story of the Woman at the Well that we find in John 4. If the woman had not been prepared to set aside her prejudices and inherited bias that set Jew and Samaritan apart when Jesus spoke to her, their meeting

would have been very short – but rather, because she chose to make herself vulnerable, and because she was willing to engage with Jesus, the Living Word, their apparent differences became irrelevant and her world was transformed.

• Bring the real world to the Bible – the world that often clashes with the biblical worldview. As Christians we often think that we have the answers, and that the world should accommodate itself to us. But this implies a very binary perspective on our part, that we know best – and yet, we can't even agree amongst ourselves, so perhaps a bit more listening and a bit less preaching of what is right and wrong might be in order. To illustrate this, Dr John cited the example of the encounter between Jesus and the Syro-Phoenician woman we find in Mark 7. She came to him with a request for him to heal her daughter; his response was somewhat surprising, seemingly denying her on the grounds that she wasn't Jewish. But she persisted, causing him by her insightful and dogged response to change his mind – an interesting thought in itself! But ultimately the point is that interaction between the word and the church needs to be one of mutual listening rather than lobbing grenades at each other from our respective bunkers.



• Engage with the real others – already intimated, it's very easy to engage with the bible in a narrow way – Dr John suggested that it is incumbent upon us to be open to learning fresh insights from others whether from within or outside our culture – and she cited her experience of working with the church in South Sudan which had enriched her understanding of Scripture. She went on to say that it might well also be that such insights can come from beyond the Christian tradition – after all, God as a relational God has always reached out to humanity, and, as Vincent Donovan in his book *Christianity Rediscovered* argues, has always planted clues to himself in the various worldviews and beliefs that people hold. To deny this possibility is to make ourselves superior and to make it much harder for the world to hear what Christianity has to say.

And if we do these things, then perhaps we might even experience a more real encounter with the living God of Scripture, might grow more in relationship with Him, and might feel more able to ask of Him those troubling questions from a place of belonging, not distance, and we might even find that our divisions seem far less important before this God who is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Simon

QUESTION CORNER

There is no question this month, so I'll take the opportunity to say this:

During the Covid pandemic we missed a number of our church members at St John's and St Luke's and, sadly, some are still missing. But it's good to be able to welcome a few new people at both churches. These, if they read Focus, might not know how Question Corner works, and who is this person who signs himself 'David'.



So this is how it works: if you would like to submit a question about Christian faith you are invited to contact me (David Williams). This could be by phone (01423 522828) or by putting it in an envelope labelled 'Question Corner', and then putting the envelope in the Focus drawer at the back of St John's. Or you could simply ask your question if we meet at a service or church event, or anywhere else. (Two questions were put to me in the Valley Gardens.)

Questioners remain anonymous to avoid any embarrassment. However, you really don't have to feel embarrassed or guilty if you don't know something, or if you have doubts. The much-maligned 'doubting' Thomas was not rebuked by



Jesus, but was encouraged to have faith, and that's what this is all about.

I can't promise to answer all questions, as I certainly don't claim to know everything! And I have my own questions as well. But it can be a help to share things, and to encourage one another. **David**

TWO GUIDING STALWARTS

ENID RISPIN

Many of you will remember Enid as the Guide Captain of 1st Bilton Guides. Enid was involved with the unit, in various roles, for over 30 years. Enid also held the County role of Badge Secretary for over 20 years. Many a leader could be found doing a quick dash to Enid's just before a meeting started to see if she had a badge that they needed that night and more often than not Enid was able to help with the last minute plea. Latterly Enid had been an active member of Harrogate Trefoil Guild.



BETTY WADDINGTON

Before Betty joined the Harrogate Trefoil Guild she was Brown Owl at 1st Bilton Brownies and was also District Commissioner for Bilton for many years. Betty remained an active member of Guiding and was always on hand to help out when needed. Here is Betty at the Brownie & Guide Platinum Jubilee celebrations in May 2022.







WASH, DRY, FOLD, REPEAT



Whether you are a household of 10 or 1 we all need to wash our clothes and linens. But how do we do this in the most sustainable way?

Here are a few tips to 'lighten the load'..

- Wash clothes less often now whilst the underwear moves through the cycle quickly many other garments don't need washing that often. Jumpers and jeans for example can be worn a number of times before entering the wash. It will preserve them longer avoiding fading and becoming misshapen. Levi Strauss & Co research determined washing your jeans every 10 wears instead of 2 reduces energy use by 80%.
- 2. Wash on a cooler temperature. Clothes will still wash just as well at 30 °C as 60 °C but it will use far less energy.
- 3. Ensure the machine is full, this decreases the release of microfibres (plastic particles from synthetic fabrics such as acrylic) due to the lower ratio of water to fabric.
- 4. Use a shorter wash if items are not very dirty.
- 5. Leave it to the sun and wind. Harness the free energy! Drying in the sun uses the ultraviolet light to further kill bacteria on your clothes.

What about washing detergent?

Since the war synthetic alternatives to soap have been part of many washing detergents. Over time they have developed with dyes, brighteners, fragrance and enzymes.

Biological detergent contains enzymes which help break down fat and grease. They can also damage the material especially wool. In addition some people find they irritate their skin, flaring up conditions such as eczema.

So, is non-biological washing powder better for the environment? Not necessarily. Many products still contain non-biodegradable surfactants, phosphates, bleach, formaldehyde and ammonium.

These chemicals can have repercussions on our health but also that of our ecosystem via the water sources and aquatic life.

Across a number of well-known brands from Aldi's own to Persil, washes are around 10-20p per wash. Softener would be extra. Buying bulk or refill is often cheaper.

So what are the alternatives?

Thankfully there are now more companies producing washing detergents without synthetic chemicals and more information is available on alternatives to fragrance, softener and brighteners. Here are some examples and most do all our other cleaning needs too, hand soap, washing up liquid, toilet cleaner etc -

Ecover. Probably one of the most widely available products. Their products identify as soap-based with plant-based ingredients suitable for septic tanks and vegan. Their plastic bottles are recycled plastic and they support the refill revolution via outlets. Laundry liquid from around 19p per wash.

Splosh. Delivered to your home, splosh provide the most information on their website about the ingredients of any company I looked at. Some ingredients are synthetically derived but are biodegradable. You do have to buy their refillable bottles to begin with. Laundry liquid around 10-15p per wash.

<u>Kind Laundry</u> detergent sheets with products derived from coconut oil. For around 23p per wash.

Smol laundry capsules are vegan, plastic-free with fewer chemicals. Around 24p per wash.

Bio D is available at local stockists. For us this is Natural Choice or Cave and Castle in Knaresborough. They also do a stain remover bar (think Vanish) as we all drop tomato sauce on the table cloth! Laundry liquid around 24p per wash.

<u>Minimal.</u> To lessen the miles attached to your purchases go for Minimal made in Keighley! Available direct or via local stockists using planet-friendly packaging, refillable bottle and reusable pouches. Although unfortunately we have lost our Harrogate stockist The Handy Restock shop at Knaresborough market carries nearly the whole range as does The Greenhouse in Ripon, and you can refill any bottle you like. Laundry liquid 13-20p per wash.

You may find <u>The Big Green Smile</u> a helpful website carrying a number of the above options for you to pick and mix.

One last note – whites not quite as white as you are used to? Troublesome stains? There are still natural alternatives. Natural bleach is sodium percarbonate. This can be added to your wash or used as a pre-soak. Spot stain removal with surgical spirit, and sodium bicarbonate makes a great general purpose household cleaner. Nancy Birtwhistle (of Bake Off fame) has produced many online videos and now 3 books on natural household cleaning; worth a read.

<u>Kidz Klub Christmas Hamper</u> <u>Appeal 2023</u>

This year is the 20th year that our churches have collected for Kidz Klub, which does some fantastic work with families from inner-city Leeds. Last year, our unprecedented 36 hampers amounted to about one in every five that they gave out, and this is all thanks to your generosity and kind hearts.



I will let the charity explain in their own words what they do, and how special the hampers are for them, but I have a couple of particular requests if you feel that you can help?

The last possible date for donations is **Sunday 26th November**. At that point I take everything over to St Luke's for sorting and packing the hampers straight after the service. The speed with which this is achieved is directly related to the number of volunteers, and it would be wonderful if some friends from St John's could spare some time to come over and help. It is something that all ages can join in, and when you see all of the goodies arranged on tables and then disappearing into bags, it is quite a heartwarming experience. Please do put the date in your diary if you could do this. Thank you.

Secondly, if there is anyone who is not precious about loading their car with hampers and driving to Burmantofts on a weekday [if, like me, you hate Sheepscar interchange, there are other routes] then we really could do with one more car driver. The date is not established until later, but it will be sometime between **28th November and 1st December**. The delight on the faces of the staff makes the trip worthwhile.

Over to Kidz Klub to explain...

Last year churches, individuals and sponsors generously provided many wonderful hampers which meant that Kidz Klub was able to give over 180 hampers to families in Leeds. We were also able to give out many toys and gifts on our visiting rounds to show families that they are special and loved. It is incredible to see the excitement on the children's faces and gratitude of the families. When we give a hamper, we tell our families that this is a gift to say thank you for being part of Kidz Klub, that they are loved and important to us.

We are doing all we can to make Christmas a special time, to share God's

love and peace in as many ways as possible. Can you stand with us to ensure as many families as possible receive a special gift this Christmas? Kidz Klub continues to support and encourage families through our inperson weekly home visits (that's around 1000 children visited at home), our local community Hub Klubs which run across the city, camps and our bespoke family support work for our families who need a bit of extra care and our young leader's programme. Our large Central Klub continues this Autumn with six double-decker buses collecting children from across the city.

Include as many of the following as possible:

Christmas biscuits or chocolate log : Non-alcoholic mince pies, Christmas pudding, Christmas cake, or Stollen : Savoury snacks (breadsticks, crackers, nuts, crisps) : Chocolates or sweets : Soft drinks : Toys, stickers, activity books, crayons, pencil sharpeners : Christmas crackers or other Christmas decorations

Please do not include any of the following:

Basic food items (rice, pasta) : Meat Products : Alcohol or products containing alcohol (it is surprising how many Christmas goodies do) : Out of date food or food that will be out-of-date before Jan 2024 : Homemade foods, cakes or sweets

Please do message me if you have any questions or if you require a collection. Donations of money are absolutely fine and they enable me to even up the hamper contents. Of equal note - if you find that you are unable to support the appeal this year then that is absolutely fine. There will be someone else who can. Bless you all and thank you.

Caroline 07989 806314 C.Wise@leeds.ac.uk 127 Skipton Road HG1 4LJ



FOCUS MAGAZINE

For the first time in many years, the price of the Parish Magazine will go up in January 2024 by 10p to 60p a copy, to cover the increased cost of printing etc. We are lucky to have a super group of regular writers, but everyone is welcome to contribute. Please let us have your thoughts and ideas. This is YOUR magazine!

Fixing Systems Not Just Symptoms

action for a future without slavery



Today there are 50 million people in slavery worldwide. 1 in 4 are children

The people trapped and suffering are our neighbours. How might we show our love for them?

IIM

Join us: explore how we can help make a difference as individual and churches.

Harrogate School of Theology & Mission Sat 25th November St Marks Church, 10am https://hstm.org.uk/event/2023-esther-swaffield/

To book: see <u>Eventbrite</u> For more information: colin.ashurst@gmail.com



International Justice Mission www.ijmuk.org

HORTICAP

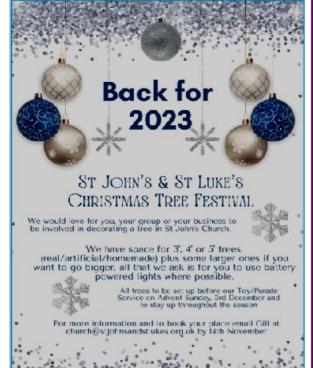
At our October Coffee Morning there was a beautiful range of plants as well as the usual cakes and preserves, cards and books and the raffle and tomobola. We also had a Horticap Treasure Map created by Milia. Thanks to you all who donated, volunteered or just came for a coffee and a chat, we raised £720 for Horticap (and you can still pick up a plant from St John's porch for a donation to Horticap)

A SERVICE TO REMEMBER AND GIVE THANKS

Sunday 5th November, 3.30pm at St John's



This is a short service that provides an opportunity to remember a loved one. There will be prayers, readings, hymns and you can light a candle of remembrance. All are welcome.







at

ST LUKE'S CHURCH

Franklin Square

Saturday 2 December

10.30am - 1.00pm

Jams

Tombola

Preserves







Raffle

Books Traidcraft



Cakes

Light refreshments including cakes/biscuits

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



People



HARVEST FESTIVAL THANK YOU



Celebratory worship at both churches, both beautifully decorated, and lovely gifts to go to bereaved and housebound folk, plus bags of dry

stuff to deliver to Community Groceries to help struggling families make ends meet.

Praise God!



SUNDAY 12TH NOVEMBER is Copy Date for DECEMBER 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

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



Harrogate, Wetherby & North Yorkshire



- 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.



November's Calendar

Wednesday 1 st	9-9.30am 10.30am 10.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ) Holy Communion (SJ) Thirst – Coffee at Dene Park Community Centre
Thursday 2 nd	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
Sunday 5 th	9.00am 10.30am 10.30am 3.30pm	Holy Communion (SJ) Parade Service (SJ) Holy Communion (SL) Service to Remember and Give Thanks (SJ)
Monday 6 th	6-7.45pm 9-9.30am 2.00pm	Youth Worship Night at Artizan Cafe Morning Prayer (SJ) Start Course at Dene Park Community Centre
Tuesday 7 th	7.30pm 9-9.30am 12-1.30pm 4-5.00pm	Confirmation Group (SJ) Morning Prayer (SJ) Time to Pray Lunch (SJ) 4twelve at Emma's House (Youth
Wednesday 8 th	9-9.30am 10.30am 10.30am	Group) Morning Prayer (SJ) Holy Communion (SJ) Thirst - Coffee at Dene Park Community Centre
Thursday 9 th	9-9.30am 9.30-11.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ) Little Fishes (Parent & Toddler Group) (SL)
Friday 10 th	6.30-7.15pm 1-3.00pm 6.30-7.15pm 7-7.45pm	Evening Surgery in Church (SJ) Wellbeing Café (SL) Junior Choir Practice (SJ) Adult Choir Practice (SJ)
Saturday 11 th	10.00am-12noon	Coffee Morning in Church Hall (SJ)
Sunday 12 th	9.00am 10.30am	Holy Communion (SJ) Holy Communion with Act of Remembrance (SJ)
	10.30am	Parade Service with Act of Remembrance (SL)
Monday 13 th	6-7.15pm 9-9.30am	Ignite (Year 7+ Youth Group) (SL) Morning Prayer (SJ)

Tuesday 14 th Wednesday 15 th	2.00pm 7.30pm 9-9.30am 10.00am 2-3.30pm 4-5.00pm 9-9.30am 10.30am 10.30am	Start Course at Dene Park Community Centre Finance & Buildings Committee Meeting (SJ) Morning Prayer (SJ) Walking Group (SJ) Comfort Café (SJ) 4twelve at Emma's House (Youth Group) Morning Prayer (SJ) Holy Communion (SJ) Thirst - Coffee at Dene Park Community
	12.15pm	Centre Community Lunch at Bilton Community
Thursday 16 th Friday 17 th	9-9.30am 9.30-11.30am 1-3.00pm	Centre Morning Prayer (SJ) Little Fishes (Parent & Toddler Group) (SL) Wellbeing Café (SL)
Caturday 1 8th	6.30-7.15pm 7-7.45pm 11.00am	Junior Choir Practice (SJ) Adult Choir Practice (SJ)
Saturday 18 th	TT.OUarri	Interment of Ashes (SJ)
Sunday 19 th	9.00am 10.30am 10.30am 6-7.15pm	Holy Communion (SJ) Morning Worship (SJ) All Age Morning Worship (SL) Ignite (Year 7+ Youth Group) (SL)
Monday 20 th	9-9.30am 2.00pm 7.30pm	Morning Prayer (SJ) Start Course at Dene Park Community Centre Confirmation Group (SJ)
Tuesday 21 st	9-9.30am 4-5.00pm	Morning Prayer (SJ) 4twelve at Emma's House (Youth Group)
Wednesday 22 nd	7.30pm 9-9.30am 10.30am 10.30am	PCC Meeting (SJ) Morning Prayer (SJ) Holy Communion (SJ) Thirst - Coffee at Dene Park Community
Thursday 23 rd	12.00noon 9-9.30am 9.30-11.30am	Centre Thirst Table at Dene Park Community Centre Morning Prayer (SJ) Little Fishes (Parent & Toddler Group) (SL)
Friday 24 th	6.30-7.15pm 1-3.00pm 6.30-7.15pm 7-7.45pm	Evening Surgery in Church (SJ) Wellbeing Café (SL) Junior Choir Practice (SJ) Adult Choir Practice (SJ)
Sunday 26 th	9.00am 10.30am 10.30am	Holy Communion (SJ) Holy Communion (SJ) Morning Worship (SL)
Monday 27 th	6-7.15pm 9-9.30am 2.00pm 7.30pm	Ignite (Year 7+ Youth Group) (SL) Morning Prayer (SJ) Start Course at Dene Park Community Centre Confirmation Group (SJ)
Tuesday 28 th	9-9.30am 4-5.00pm	Morning Prayer (SJ) 4twelve at Emma's House (Youth Group)

Wednesday 29 th	9-9.30am 10.30am 10.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ) Holy Communion (SJ) Thirst – Coffee at Dene Park Community Centre
Thursday 30 th	9-9.30am 9.30-11.30am 4.30pm	Morning Prayer (SJ) Little Fishes (Parent & Toddler Group) (SL) Richard Taylor School Lantern Service (SJ)
DECEMBER		
Friday 1 st	1-3.00pm	Wellbeing Café (SL)
	6.30-7.45pm	Choir Practice (SJ)
Saturday 2 nd	10.30am-1.00pm	Christmas Fair (SL)
Sunday 3 rd	9.00am 10.30am 10.30am	Holy Communion (SJ) Parade/Toy Service (SJ) Holy Communion (SL)
	5.00pm	Choir Practice (SJ)
	6.30pm	Advent Carol Service (SJ)
	6-7.45pm	Youth Worship Night at Artizan Cafe

Looking Ahead...

Christingle Coffee Morning	Saturday 9 th December	10.00am (SJ)
Christingle Service	Sunday 10 th December	4.30pm (SJ)
Carol-oke	Saturday 16 th December	tbc
Joint Morning Worship	Sunday 17 th December	10.30am (SJ)
Shine Service	Sunday 17 th December	4.30pm (SL)
Carol Service	Sunday 17 th December	6.30pm (SJ)
Ignite Sleepover/Christmas Party	/ Friday 22 nd December	8.30pm
Joint Morning Worship	Sunday 24 th December	10.30 (SL)
Nativity Service	Sunday 24 th December	4.00pm (SJ)
Carol Service	Sunday 24 th December	5.00pm (SL)
Midnight Communion	Sunday 24 th December	11.30pm (SJ)
Joint Family Communion	Monday 25 th December	10.30am (SJ)
Joint Family Communion	Sunday 31 st December	10.30am (SL)

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

Laura Martin—Curate Tel 07497 865507 laura.martin@leeds.anglican org Laura Martin—Team Vicar (from January) 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@gmail.com

SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING Bilton & Woodfield Our small, friendly Scottish Country Dance group meet at St Luke's Church YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY hall on Mondays from 7.30 to 9.30. You can use computers or find out about local events We welcome new members and information. We run storytimes for pre-school It is not necessary to have experience or children and reading groups for all. YOU could become a member of our team of bring a partner, just soft shoes volunteers and a sense of humour! We are open five days a week: Monday 1.00pm - 5.00pm It's fun. good exercise and sociable. 9.30am - 5.00pm Tuesday The first night is free, Wednesday CLOSED Thursday thereafter the fee is only £3.50. 9.30am - 5.00pm Friday 9.30am - 1.00pm We would love to see you! Saturday 9.30am - 1.00pm Sunday CLOSED Either turn up at the hall or contact: In the grounds of Woodfield School, Woodfield Road Alan Horsfall 01423 863162 Telephone: 01423 564630 or Alan Fox 07879 715557 Email: info@biltonandwoodfield.org.uk www.biltonandwoodfield.org.uk 07917815981 **Hubert Swainson** David Bentley www.dbautorepairs.com **Funeral Services Ltd Private Chapels** Onsite vehicle servicing and repairs Distinctive personal arrangements by: MOT by arrangement Diagnostics **Geoffrey Brewster Dip FD Tim Canavar** 39 Franklin Road JtoRepair Tel 01425 504571 Harrogate

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 Greengrocer 30 King Edwards Drive, Harrogate, HG1 4HL. Telephone: 01423 538445 Opening Times: 7.30am-5.30pm Tuesday - Saturday Supporting the local community