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

*St John's Church*



**Refugee Camp in South Sudan  
see page 10**

**August**

**2024**

**60 pence**

*St Luke's Church*



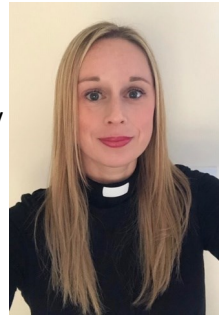
## Contents

Letter from Laura	3
Evensong at St Robert's Pannal	5
Colin Ashurst our new warden at St Luke's	6
Blaze goes green	7
All the Fun of the Fair!	8
Oral Bible Translation	10
Coffee Morning for YWAM (John and Vikki Wright)	12
A Fond Farewell	13
Simon and Fiona's Last Sunday	13
More Farewells and Thanks	14
Flower Club Appeal	14
Green Page	15
Children's Society	15
People	16
August's Calendar	17
Office Closure	18
Looking Ahead	18
Who's Who	19

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Dear Friends,

At some point every year we go away to Northumberland, a beautiful part of the country with lots of Christian history and some stunning beaches (but take a warm jumper!) One famous landmark is Lindisfarne Castle over on the Holy Island of Lindisfarne.



Lindisfarne Castle was strategically vital during the Scottish Wars of the mid-1500s and also the Civil Wars and the Jacobite Rebellion of 1715. On the England-Scotland borders, it provided an excellent watch post in times of unrest.

In more recent years, the castle has become a vantage point for spotting seals, puffins and other marine life. Last year whilst looking out to sea from Lindisfarne, we spotted dolphins – which apparently is uncommon. You must be in the right place at the right time to catch a rare sighting of dolphins, and you must be looking carefully.



At the castle in Lindisfarne, it would be easy to miss the dolphins. They are quite a rare sight, and they are often far out at sea. If you were to have a quick glance out and then become distracted by the beauty of the castle and its antique furniture and ornate artwork, then you probably would not notice them. It was my youngest son's persistence in looking for common seals that made him perfectly placed to spot a rarer dolphin.



He was being a sentinel of sorts, looking and watching and reporting to others what he saw on the horizon. The prophet Isaiah says: "upon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels, all day and all night". One way in which God works through his people is by appointing us to be sentinels. Not looking for dolphins, but nevertheless people who have a skill for looking, listening and discerning.

We are called to be watchful, to see where God is at work and to be ready to join in.

This month Simon leaves us to start his new ministry in Brompton-on-Swale, Bolton-on-Swale, Easby and Skeeby. He and Fiona will be in our prayers as they make that transition, and we thank them for a whole decade of dedicated service to the people of this community. They have made a profound difference in this place and will be greatly missed. It could be around a year before a new Rector joins us, and during this time we will need to pull together as a community, caring for each other and working together to be witnesses of God's love and grace in this place.



We will need to be sentinels of the Lord, people who both look in towards our church and the needs of its people, but also take our place upon the metaphorical watchtower and look out across the whole parish and town to see what is out on the horizon.

As we look and watch, we can be asking ourselves some questions in the coming months:

What is coming our way? How does our culture here speak to us of God? What paths can we see are being carved out but perhaps remain untrodden? Where are we heading? Where is God already at work and how can we join in? What needs pruning? How can our own God-given gifts be used to help? How can we get involved and play our part in being witnesses of God's love in Bilton?



Our two churches will continue to serve this community, and that will happen because everyone will play their part. But as we keep things going, we must also ensure we are people who make time to watch, wait and discern. Because if we become too afraid of change or criticism and don't have the courage to pause, look and discern, then perhaps we risk missing important opportunities.

Part of our calling as Christians is to make time to prayerfully and diligently look out at God and at the world. I'm not sure you will see dolphins in Bilton (sorry), but certainly you might be the first to spot something unexpected on the horizon that shapes the direction of Christian witness in this place.

So, these coming months may we encourage each other, may we work

together as a community and may we continue to bear witness to Christ. But may we also take the time to be sentinels - watchmen and women - scanning the horizon and being fully open to where God is at work and what plans he might have for us here.

*“I will stand at my watch-post,  
and station myself on the rampart.  
Upon your walls O Bilton,  
I have posted sentinels,  
all day and all night.”*



Every blessing, **Laura**

## EVENSONG - ST ROBERT'S PANNAL 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE



Twenty-one St John's Choristers joined forces with five other churches at our Annual Joint Evensong. This special service followed a traditional format of hymns, Magnificat & Nunc Dimitis, Psalm & Anthems which used to be a regular part of St John's worship. We enjoyed learning new and very challenging music and being part of a 60-strong choir. Thirteen of our young

choristers attended and I was particularly impressed by their behaviour and maturity. (They got a special vote of thanks!)

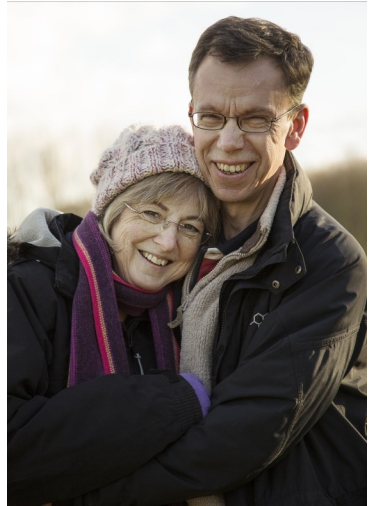
Our next Open Choir Practice is Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September  
6.30 - 7.15 children; 7 - 7.45 adults **\*All Welcome\***

Watch out for a free course coming soon for men's voices - channel your 'football' voices into a melodious sound in 6 weeks! We are hoping to start on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September 8-8.30pm

**Ruth Yarborough St John's Choir**

## **COLIN ASHURST, OUR NEW WARDEN AT ST LUKE'S**

My story is one of movement and change: I was born in Wolverhampton, lived briefly in Birmingham then started school in Cleethorpes and stayed there until I went to university in Durham and met Judith at MethSoc (the Methodist Society) in our final years. Then it was starting work in London in 1980, getting married to Judith and continuing our journey together - Richmond, Crawley, Woking and then Crawley again. Then up to Huddersfield and working at Asda House in Leeds. Our daughters Rachel and then Sarah joined us there when we adopted them. I survived the redundancies when Archie Norman joined Asda and stayed for a few years before moving to Cambridge (Milton). The company went bust within a year, but after a stressful few months I ended up working at Microsoft in Reading as a consultant and had a great time for a while. In Milton we became Anglicans and Judith a Reader.



Then it was up to Durham to work at the business school for me. Judith got ordained while we lived there. Walking to work, church and college was great. Then it was Chester-le-Street and working at Newcastle University Business School. We retired and moved to Braithwaite near Keswick. Rachel and Sarah stayed in the north east.

We then 'unretired', Judith to be priest-in-charge of the parish and me to work at Church House for 12 months. Cumbria was a real time of learning through working with a range of great people and getting involved there in the movement for 'fresh expressions' of church / new places for new people and being church in new ways. It was great to find the synergy with what I'd been learning about leadership and creativity, learning and development.

Then, next, or is it finally, we came to Harrogate in 2020 and here we are. We've loved being here in Harrogate. We've met so many great people. I love being in the kitchen, the garden, reading, walking most places and visiting the beach at Filey. I wonder what's next...



Laura with wardens Colin and Alethea

Finally, 3 things I love about St Luke's...

- Being part of a home group where we can share life and faith very openly.
- Having a go at Cafe Church and getting to know others more deeply along the way.
- Being part of something that matters, as we explore together what growing God's kingdom means for us and our community.

## **BLAZE GOES GREEN**

This mural was a result of a collaboration between the children in the Sunday morning group Blaze and the Green team. It is made of old bottle tops that the church community collected, and the children came up with the design.



Blue represents water, green the land, pink, the diversity of all creation and red for the things we do wrong. The cross in the middle represents Jesus with his light shining onto every part of our world. We hope you enjoy looking at it in church and that it reminds you of three things: that God's love is everywhere, that our world is beautiful, and that we need to look after it.



**ALL THE  
FUN OF  
THE FAIR!**





## ORAL BIBLE TRANSLATION

*Vikki and John Wright, our Mission Partners, visited us in July.*

*Here is part of Vikki's talk at St John's:*

I was reflecting on the Scripture reading for today, and was struck by the first bit of the first sentence: "If I speak in the tongues of men ... but have not love."



Over the last two years I have witnessed the incredible impact of honoring and valuing the tongues of men, especially the mother tongue ... the first language taught a child in his mother's arms. This language is so connected to our hearts that it forms a major part of our identity. I didn't realize the significance of this before we started working with African tribes who are in danger of losing their mother tongue, but over the last two years I have seen the lengths people will go to preserve their mother tongue.

So let me first give you some background ...

John and I work with a mission organization called Youth With A Mission, and we are based in Uganda but are focused on the war-torn nations nearby of Sudan, South Sudan and Congo. Our work has brought us into contact with the people of Nuba Mountains in Sudan.

NM is a hilly region in the southern part of Sudan right on the border with South Sudan. It has been at war with the Arabic Muslim government in Khartoum for decades, and many refugees have fled into South Sudan. There are around 100 different tribes in NM, each with their own language and



identity, but they communicate with Arabic between tribes and read Arabic. The majority of those tribes are predominantly Muslim, although more and more of the tribes are getting exposed to Christianity.

We have been visiting the camps in South Sudan and crossing into the Nuba Mountains of Sudan since 2017. When we first met the refugees, God was already at work among them. The war had brought many of the tribes that had been isolated in the mountains together in the camps, and the few Christian tribes were mingling with the Muslim tribes and telling them about Jesus, and many were turning to the Lord.

We were looking for ways to join in on what God was already doing and help disciple some of these new believers.

This photo is of a special celebration of one of the formerly Muslim tribes we have been working with who are wearing their traditional dress for this celebration.



The people have a very rich culture with a strong sense of identity not only as individual tribes, but as people of the Nuba Mountains as a whole.

While we were building relationships with the people of Nuba Mountains, we discovered that YWAM had been getting involved in a global move of Bible translators who were starting to focus on Oral bible translation. Many of the bibleless languages remaining are in tribes of people who are mainly oral learners. Some may be educated and literate, but many are not. Some of the languages don't have an alphabet, so to get the Word in their mother tongue quickly, they decided the best thing to do would be to translate it orally into their mother tongue.

When we in Arua heard about this move towards Oral Bible Translation (OBT) we got very excited because we recognized that OBT could be a tool to reach the bibleless tribes in Nuba more quickly. One of our YWAM staff is from NM and he knew another Nuba guy who had become a Christian as a refugee in South Sudan, and then gone on to do five years of Bible college. This guy, Pastor Mahadi, was the first Christian in his tribe, and he had gone back to NM to plant a church. When Mahadi heard about OBT and our plans to run a seminar, he asked if he could bring some of his tribesmates so they could work on getting the Word of God in his language.

In January last year, five members of his tribe came to Arua and spent four weeks with us to translate the Book of Ruth into the Logol language. But the interesting thing was, the two main guys who did the translation were Mahadi's muslim uncles, and the only reason they had come was because they were worried that their language was about to die out completely. Their tribe has roughly 40 000 members, and less than 200 speak the Logol language. So the motivation for translating the book of Ruth wasn't to get the Bible into their mother tongue, it was a way to preserve their language.



But God is God, right, and He met with those two men during this process.

Aldau admitted 'This book has power!'

Momo created a song and dance in Logol from Ruth ... first time ever to have biblical songs and dance in Logol language!

*Vikki went on to tell us how a Muslim tribe decided to stop FGM because of Christian influence in the camps!*

***Our August coffee morning will raise money for John and Vikki. Please come along and support their amazing work. Bring or meet friends for a coffee and a chat. Donations of money, or raffle or tombola prizes, or cakes etc will be very welcome.***

**COFFEE MORNING**  
**St John's Church Hall**  
**Saturday 10th August**  
**10 till 12 noon**  
**£1 inc drink & biscuit**  
 SUPPORTING  
**MISSION PARTNERS**  
**RAFFLE**  
**CAKES**  
**TOMBOLA**  
**CARDS**  
**BOOKS**  
**PLANTS**



Girlguiding

## A FOND FAREWELL



The July church parade was going to be the last one that Simon would be leading before he heads to pastures new so it was the perfect opportunity for 3rd Harrogate Scouts and Guiding in Bilton to say goodbye to Simon and Fiona. Well, it would have been perfect if the Scouts had not been on Group Camp!



Undeterred, the rainbows, brownies, guides and leaders were there to wish them both well and

present Simon and Fiona with mementos to remind them of their time at St John's and St Luke's.

Wishing you both all the best for whatever adventures the future brings.

## SIMON AND FIONA'S LAST SUNDAY

On 4<sup>th</sup> August we will have a joint 10.30 service at St John's Church followed by a Bring-and-Share Lunch in the church hall, which will give us an opportunity to express our thanks and good wishes to Simon and Fiona. Everyone is welcome to take part. Just come along.



## MORE FAREWELLS AND THANKS

The end of the summer term saw us say “goodbye” and “thank you” to two of our leaders.

**Jane Thompson** joined Girlguiding just over 24 years ago when in 2000 she joined 4th Bilton Brownies before completing her leadership in February 2002. Jane moved to become Brown Owl at 1st Bilton Brownies in April 2004 and went on to complete her Pack Holiday Licence in November 2009.

**Tracey Tyler** started as a unit helper with 1st Bilton Rainbows back in 2006. Who knew that nearly 18 years later we would be saying goodbye to her. As well as remaining at 1st Bilton Rainbows since getting her leadership in 2008, Tracey has also helped with the admin for both 2nd Bilton and 5th Bilton Rainbows.



On behalf of the many rainbows and brownies you have guided on their way along with all of the leaders both past and present, we would like to say a big THANK YOU to you both for all you have done both in units and behind the scenes and to wish you all the best for the future. Enjoy your free evenings ... though we may still call on you from time to time.

*If you are interested in joining Girlguiding  
or would just like to know more, please follow the link:*

[https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved/  
become-a-volunteer/register-to-volunteer/](https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved/become-a-volunteer/register-to-volunteer/)

### AN APPEAL FROM THE FLOWER CLUB

Can you knit or crochet? If so, we would love your help! The flower team at St John's would like to use knitted poppies (approximately four inches in size) as part of the flower display for Remembrance Season in November. There is plenty of time, so we hope we can gather quite a few poppies. Please place your donations of poppies in the labelled box near the welcome desk at St John's – thank you!





## THE GREEN PAGE



Our green team are continuing to work at encouraging the community in Bilton to explore ways of caring for the environment. They were at our local library Community Event, selling reusable replacements for clingfilm, cotton wool and other items, and giving away leaflets.

With their help St Luke's is working towards becoming more eco-friendly and gaining the A Rocha bronze award.



Thank you for your continued support recycling PRINTER CARTRIDGES; the latest box sent off raised £66.50 for church funds and saved all that plastic from going to landfill!

Don't forget that we have a mini-recycling centre at St John's for household batteries, printer cartridges, dental empties, pens and pencils, contact lenses, blister packs and soft plastic - and plastic milk bottle tops (no other bottle tops, thank you!) Thank you for what you bring, and thanks to those who take the recycling from church to the collection points in town.

## The Children's Society



As well as the Christingle coffee morning and services at Christmas time, we can also support the Children's Society by popping our loose change into a collecting box at home.

If you have a box, thank you for your ongoing support. Please bring your box to St John's during August for emptying and counting. Or contact the editor (details on page 19) if you would like it to

be collected from you.

(St Luke's members may have other arrangements)

We do have some spare boxes; if you would like to support the work of the society in this way, please contact the editor as above.



# PEOPLE



**BAPTISMS / BLESSINGS**  
WE WELCOME INTO THE CHURCH FAMILY

Isla Anne Howard  
Talia Grace Rita Mcclean  
Rosalie Josephine Lee Rushton

**INTERMENT OF ASHES**  
WE OFFER OUR SYMPATHY TO THE  
FAMILY OF

Leslie Turner



**FUNERALS/ MEMORIALS**  
WE OFFER OUR SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILY OF THOSE WHO  
HAVE RECENTLY DIED

Sarah Hogan  
Joanna MacInnes  
Peter Jennings

**SUNDAY 11<sup>th</sup> AUGUST**  
is Copy Date for  
**SEPTEMBER 2024 FOCUS**

Items for inclusion to:  
[SJSLFocus@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:church@stjohnsandstlukes.org.uk)



# AUGUST'S CALENDAR

Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup>	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
Saturday 3 <sup>rd</sup>		Limitless Youth Camp
<b>Sunday 4<sup>th</sup></b>	9.00am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	10.30am	<b>JOINT</b> All Age Worship (SJ)
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup>	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup>	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	12.30-1.30pm	Time to Pray Lunch (SJ)
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup>	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	10.30am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	10.30am	Thirst - Coffee at Dene Park Community Centre
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup>	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am-12.00pm	noon Coffee Morning in Church Hall (SJ)
<b>Sunday 11<sup>th</sup></b>	9.00am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	10.30am	All Age Holy Communion (SJ)
	10.30am	All Age Worship (SL)
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup>	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup>	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	10.00am	Walking Group (SJ)
	2-3.30pm	Comfort Café (SJ)
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup>	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	10.30am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	10.30am	Thirst - Coffee at Dene Park Community Centre
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup>	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
<b>Sunday 18<sup>th</sup></b>	9.00am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	10.30am	All Age Morning Worship (SJ)
	10.30am	All Age Morning Worship (SL)
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup>	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup>	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</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 22 <sup>nd</sup>	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
<b>Sunday 25<sup>th</sup></b>	9.00am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	10.30am	<b>JOINT</b> All Age Holy Communion (SL)
Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup>	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup>	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	10.30am	Holy Communion (SJ)

Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am 9-9.30am	Thirst – Coffee at Dene Park Community Centre Morning Prayer (SJ)
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**SEPTEMBER**

<b>Sunday 1<sup>st</sup></b>	9.00am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	10.30am	All Age Worship (SJ)
	10.30am	All Age Holy Communion (SL)
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	7.30pm	Baptism Information Session (SJ)
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	12.30-1.30pm	Time to Pray Lunch (SJ)
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup>	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	10.30am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	10.30am	Thirst – Coffee at Dene Park Community Centre
	7.30pm	Finance & Buildings Committee Meeting (SJ)
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup>	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	9.30-11.30am	Little Fishes (Parent & Toddler Group) (SL)
	6.30-7.00pm	Evening Surgery in Church (SJ)
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup>	1-3.00pm	Wellbeing Café (SL)
	6.30-7.15pm	Junior Choir Practice (SJ)
	7-7.45pm	Adult Choir Practice (SJ)

Office will be closed from Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July  
and reopen on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> August

Office will be closed from Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> August  
and reopen on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September

# Looking Ahead...

Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> September	2-3.30pm	Comfort Café (SJ)
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> September	7.00pm	Simon’s licensing (Easby Church)
Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup> September	10am-12noon	Coffee Morning for Dignity Through Education (SJ Hall)
Friday to Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> -24 <sup>th</sup> November		Parish Weekend at Scargill House

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

Parish Office Phone No: 01423 565129

Parish Office email: [church@stjohnsandstlukes.org.uk](mailto:church@stjohnsandstlukes.org.uk)

For parish information including services and events

visit Parish Websites: [www.stjohnsandstlukes.org.uk](http://www.stjohnsandstlukes.org.uk)

[www.stlukesharrogate.org.uk](http://www.stlukesharrogate.org.uk)

[www.facebook.com/groups/stjohnsandstlukes.harrogate](https://www.facebook.com/groups/stjohnsandstlukes.harrogate)

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

## The Ministry Team

**Simon Dowson—Team Rector**

Tel 01423 561030

[simon.dowson@leeds.anglican.org](mailto:simon.dowson@leeds.anglican.org)

**Laura Martin—Team Vicar**

Tel 07497 865507

[laura.martin@leeds.anglican.org](mailto:laura.martin@leeds.anglican.org)

**Emma James—Young People's  
Worker**

Tel 07803 586566

[YouthWork@stjohnsandstlukes.org.uk](mailto:YouthWork@stjohnsandstlukes.org.uk)

## Churchwardens

### St John's

Mr Nigel Thompson

[janeandnige1962@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:janeandnige1962@hotmail.co.uk)

Mrs Jane Reichert

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[Alethea.fry@gmail.com](mailto:Alethea.fry@gmail.com)

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[colin.ashurst@gmail.com](mailto:colin.ashurst@gmail.com)

## Editorial Team

**Collation:** Katie Burke 569563 and team

**Editor:** Jean Burton 569907

**Magazine email:** [SJSJLfocus@gmail.com](mailto:SJSJLfocus@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](mailto:info@biltonandwoodfield.org.uk)  
[www.biltonandwoodfield.org.uk](http://www.biltonandwoodfield.org.uk)

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**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