

***Making Disciples who make Jesus known***

## **HEADLINE NEWS!**

As announced last month, our Team Vicar, the Rev'd Laura Martin is soon moving on to take up a new post as Chaplain at Leeds Hospital Trust.

Laura's final Sunday will be February 1st with a **JOINT LEAVING SERVICE** at 10.30am combined with our regular Parade Sunday at St John's, followed by cake (before an ever-popular Laura is whisked off to do baptisms!); we'll continue our farewell 'bash' with refreshments part 2 (!) at St Luke's at 4pm that afternoon (combined with the annual Volunteer Thank-You).

### **Please do attend both/either as suits!**

Laura's final Sundays 'on duty' will be leading worship at St John's on Sunday 18th January, and St Luke's on Sunday 25th January. She'll also celebrate Communion at St John's on Wednesday 28th January.

Please do make the most of all the opportunities to say thank you and bid Laura a fond farewell, especially if you're not around on Sunday 1st February and do continue to hold Laura and her family in your prayers as she goes with all our blessings and prepares for the next step in her vocational journey!



Congratulations to Joyce and Theva Thevarokiam who were married at St John's Church in Bilton 50 years ago last Saturday 3rd January, on a very cold and windy, but bright and sunny Saturday similar to that forecast! We hope they enjoyed celebrating their **Golden Wedding Anniversary** with family and friends last weekend.



## **TODAY'S SERVICES AND EVENTS**

### **SUNDAY 11TH JANUARY (Baptism of Christ)**

9.00am Holy Communion (SJ)

10.30am Holy Communion (SJ)

*Readings: Acts 10:34-43; Matthew 3:13-end*

*Hymns: AMNS 343; SB 87; AMNS 247; AMNS 361*

10.30am Café Church (SL)

*Hymns: SB 74; SB 99; Cornerstone*

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

# CHURCH LIFE

## VOLUNTEER THANK YOU EVENT

**Sunday 1st February, 4-6.00pm at St Luke's**

If you volunteer in any capacity within St John's, St Luke's or any associated activities the clergy team would like to invite you to come along for an informal cheese and wine get-together so they can say thank you for all that you do.

We are also using this as an opportunity to say farewell to Laura as this will be her last day in the parish so the invite is extended to everyone that would like to come

It would be useful to have an idea of numbers for catering so if you are planning to come along please let Gill in the office [know](#)



## CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

Thank you to everyone that took part in this year's festival at St John's, the standard was amazing, we had more entries than ever before and also more votes by our community which were spread across every entry.

The votes have been counted and the following trees were voted as the favourites:

- 1st—Bilton Grange Primary School**
- 2nd—Coppice Valley Primary School**
- 3rd—4th Bilton Brownies**

Well done to Bilton Grange Primary School, your certificate and small prize will be making it's way to you soon. We can't wait to see what everyone's 2026 entries will look like. Look out for details after the summer.

## 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 and donations can be made until the end of January.

If you are able to Gift Aid your donation please fill out the label on the front and HHP will be able to claim that on your giving.

## Baptised at St John's on 4th January 2026

### Constance Margot Styan



We welcome you into the Lord's family.  
We are members together of the body of Christ;  
we are children of the same heavenly father;  
we are inheritors of the Kingdom of God.

We welcome you.  
Amen.

Do you have any unopened boxes of **SAVOURY CRACKERS** left over from Christmas that will still be in date on 1st February? If you do please bring them into church for us to use at the volunteers thank you event/Laura's leaving 'do'.

Join us for a

## Valentine's Day Cèilidh

Saturday 14th February  
7:30pm - 9:30pm

St John's Church, Bilton  
No Dance Experience Required  
BYO Refreshments

Tickets on the door: £5 | Under 18s free

We are hoping to find someone with a **GOOD CAMERA** who would be willing to take photos of the interiors of St John's Church Hall and St Luke's.



These images will help us show on our website prospective hirers the facilities available. If you or someone you know could kindly offer this as a free service, please contact the church office.

Read the latest news from our **MISSION PARTNERS** — John & Vikki Wright [here](#)

We are holding a coffee morning to support their work with YWAM in August this year.

The latest news from Chris & Anna Hembury is available to read [here](#) and they are joining us for this month's coffee morning on Saturday 10th.

## SUPPORTING MINISTRY & MISSION

### Raise funds for us for FREE

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Join as our supporter today at:  
[www.easyfundraising.org.uk/support-a-good-cause](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/support-a-good-cause)

Just search for:

Bilton St John

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They pass  
it on to us  
:-)



### PARISH GIVING SCHEME

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 **PARISH GIVING SCHEME**,  
scan the QR code to find out more.



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# THIS WEEK'S DIARY

## MONDAY 12 JANUARY

9-9.30am Morning Prayer (SJ)

## TUESDAY 13 JANUARY

9-9.30am Morning Prayer (SJ)

10.00am Walking Group (SJ)

## WEDNESDAY 14 JANUARY

9-9.30am Morning Prayer (SJ)

10.30am Holy Communion (SJ)

10.30am Thirst Coffee Morning at  
Dene Park Community  
Centre

7.30pm Open Band Practice (SJ)

## THURSDAY 15 JANUARY

9-9.30am Morning Prayer (SJ)

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

## FRIDAY 16 JANUARY

1.00pm Funeral: Harry Wilson  
(SJ)

1-3.00pm Wellbeing Café (SL)

6.30-7.15pm Junior Choir Practice  
(SJ)

7-7.45pm Adult Choir Practice (SJ)

## SUNDAY 18 JANUARY (Second Sunday of Epiphany)

9.00am Holy Communion (SJ)

10.30am Morning Worship (SJ)

*Readings:* *1 Corinthians 1:1-9*  
*John 1:29-42*

10.30am Morning Worship (SL)

*Readings:* *1 Corinthians 1:1-9*  
*John 1:29-42*

12.30pm Baptism (SJ)

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

Could you help once a month with **REFRESHMENTS** after the 10.30am service at St John's? We are looking for new volunteers to help our team on a rota or we may have to stop serving them every week (!) and we all look forward to a tea/coffee, biscuits and a chat after the services.

If you can help please speak to one of the lovely team on a Sunday morning or get in touch with the office. Full instructions will be given.

## CONTACT US

### SAFEGUARDING

For any queries or concerns, contact

**Gill Clarke (Parish Safeguarding Officer)**

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## THE MINISTRY TEAM

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