

St John's Church



t Luke's









May 2024 60 pence

St Luke's Church_



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LETTER FROM THE RECTOR

Dear friends

It won't have escaped your notice, unless you have been living as a hermit for the past few years, that the world is in a very sorry state. War is raging in Sudan and more than 8 million people there are at risk of famine; bitter and bloody fighting continues between Russia and Ukraine;



the fractures and the hatred between Palestinians and Israelis seem worse than ever; truth seems to have become an inconvenient word to be exploited, manipulated or ignored; NHS waiting lists and waiting times for trials to come to court even for offences such as rape are simply too long; there is a mental health epidemic among our young people; the Church of England is deeply divided over the issue of same sex marriages; and on top of all of this, and perhaps more serious than the rest of them combined, we are facing a climate crisis which threatens to affect each and every one of us in profound and lasting ways.

And all of this without mentioning the various different personal challenges that we all have to face in one form or another at various points in our lives.

So what are we to do in the face of such depressing circumstances? The hermit option suddenly seems a little more attractive! But assuming this isn't a realistic option for most of us, I want to suggest three realistic responses or practices that we can all take up if we want to. They might seem a little trite given what I have been talking about, but do consider them, because I don't think passive resignation or escapism in its various forms can help.

Practice 1 – cultivate a daily practice of thankfulness – however bad things are, there are always things that we can be grateful for, and being thankful to God for them is a right response. We might think this won't help in the grander scheme of things, but the line of a song from the 1990s comes to mind; 'May your kingdom be established in our praises as your people declare your mighty works'. There is a spiritual truth to be gleaned here, that as we are grateful to God, as we praise and thank him for who he is and what he has given us and keeps on giving us, this advances his kingdom,

changes the world, and, I believe, changes our hearts and minds in the process.

Practice 2 – **catch the hermit habit** after all! What I mean by this is that one of the reasons why some early Christians went off into wilderness areas and lived in isolation was that the Christianity of their day had become mainstream and a little moribund, and the 'desert fathers' as they became known went off to live in solitary places in order to pray for the church and the world.

We can't, as a rule, go off into the desert, but what we can do is follow Jesus' advice in Matthew 6:5-8 and each day find space for secret, private prayer. In the face of a difficult, challenging world it is even more important that this sort of prayer is integral to who we are as disciples. We might think it is escapism, that practical action is what is needed, and I am not saying that is unimportant, but what the church and the world needs more than anything else now is women and men who are shaped by their time with God, not their time in the world. It is no coincidence that as the desert fathers sought out their secret places, and sought deeper relationship with God in those places, people sought out them. Why – because I think they had something different based on love - note this quote from John Mark Comer – 'We become more loving by experiencing love' (by which he means the love of God) - and isn't this what our world needs more than anything else – for there to be not the outbreak of war or of wealth but of love.

Practice 3 – 'Consider'. Let me explain. The history of humanity is the history of adversity, conflict and struggle. There have always been troubling times – and this was certainly the case when Jesus walked this earth – but nevertheless he told his disciples not to worry – and instead told them to **consider** the ravens and the wild flowers. And by this he meant that we should put our trust in God – if he looks after the birds, and if he adorns the wild flowers with beauty beyond description, then **he can be trusted** to look after us. Thus what we need to work at, by actively considering, is to put our trust in God rather than worrying. This is what I think Jesus meant when he said to seek first the kingdom of God.

Now all this might seem like wishful thinking in the face of the world's problems, but two quick things to say — Christianity as a force for good and for change is unequalled in human history — yes there have been serious blips and distortions on the way, but Jesus' church has changed the world

before, and it can do so again. And secondly, whether or not we see the results of our trying to be a force for love, for good, or not, our vocation is to be light for the world. Jesus didn't offer us another option. We are to get on and bring that light, and that task becomes even more important in places and times of darkness.

Blessings

Simon

A SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY





On Trinity Sunday 1964, David Williams was ordained Priest in Manchester, so Trinity Sunday 26^{th} May 2024 is his 60^{th} anniversary - an amazing milestone to have reached!

When he was priested he had been curate at Wythenshawe church for a year, during which he was asked to visit a nurse called Linda who was ill in hospital. She soon became his wife!

He served as a chaplain in the navy, and was also vicar of churches in the Essex area, becoming area dean and an honorary canon of Chelmsford Cathedral.

When they retired, David and Linda moved into Jennyfield and soon became involved in St John's and St Luke's. We have appreciated the contribution they have both made to the life of the parish, David leading worship and preaching and supporting the clergy team in many ways, including playing organ and piano for services and 'Songs of Praise', and Linda helping run 'Songs of Praise' and the monthly community lunches, and quietly caring for people.

David will be preaching at the 10.30 Communion Service at St John's on Trinity Sunday.



How your support makes a difference

With your support, more families can build reliable and diverse incomes that bring them food security, better health, safer homes, increased resilience and hope.

Poverty pushed Aline to the brink of survival.

Aline felt the full force of extreme poverty when an early marriage ended in abuse and violence.

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But Aline was determined to push back against the inhumanity of poverty, driven by hope, faith and the love of her children. She transformed her life with a little help from Christian Aid.

Read her story at www.christianaid.org.uk



COFFEE MORNING for CHRISTIAN AID

Saturday 11th May 10-12

St John's Church Hall

Cakes - Cards - Books - Raffle -

Tombola - Refreshments



CAN YOU HELP?

Christian Aid Week is starting from the coffee morning at St John's on Saturday 11th until 18th May. Donation envelopes will be available at both

churches. If you feel you could deliver some to your local area please let the office know and we can arrange to have them ready for you.

REVISION OF ELECTORAL ROLL

The Church Electoral Roll has to be revised each year and done before the APCM which takes places this year on Sunday 19th May. People can join the roll throughout the year but removal of names can only be done at the time of revision. Having your name on the roll entitles you to vote at the APCM, stand for election to the PCC and election to the Deanery/Diocesan Synod. The revision will finish on 4th May. Application forms for enrolment can be found in Church or can be obtained from the Churchwardens/Electoral Roll Officers (Jean Burton/Sarah Shepherd). Completed forms for inclusion on the roll should be returned to the above or left in the church office for them.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Sunday 19th May, after the morning services, approximately 11.45am at St John's Church East End Room

Election of Churchwardens, PCC members, Electoral Roll Officers and Deanery Synod Representatives

Nomination forms are available in both churches and should be signed by the individual nominated and proposed and seconded by someone on the Parish Electoral Roll. Forms can be returned to any Churchwarden or the Parish Administrator. We have 1 Deanery Synod and 5 PCC vacancies.

Why should you come to the APCM?

It is a great opportunity to find out what has been happening in the life of the church and to listen to and pray for our plans for the coming year.

NB all church members are welcome to attend but you must be on the electoral roll in order to vote.

OUR YOUNG PEOPLE CELEBRATE EASTER

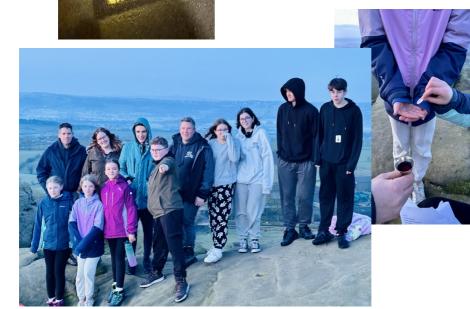
On Easter Saturday, we had the Youth Big Easter sleepover at St John's. We had a wonderful time eating (of course!), playing games, thinking about the Resurrection,

spray painting the pavements outside church and NOT sleeping!! Then we set off to Almscliffe Crag to watch the sunrise on Easter Sunday

and had our

own Easter service, sharing the bread and wine together on top of the crag. This was really special. Then we made our way down and finished the whole thing off with a trip to MacDonald's before heading home to bed!







I would like to say a huge thank you to all your volunteers for your help with setting up and running the coffee morning in aid of Artizan International on Saturday. As always, it was a great event, and we are so thankful to the many faithful helpers who made it possible. It was great to see so many members of the local community supporting the event too.

The funds which have been raised (a fabulous £620) are extremely appreciated and will enable us to serve the needs of people with disabilities both locally and overseas. Thanks to your help we will be able to transform the lives of many more people with disabilities who would otherwise be living in extreme poverty, in Ecuador and Peru, where we have social enterprises that provide training and employment opportunities for them.

If anyone who attended the event would like to be a volunteer at our local centre here in Harrogate, which also provides training and work experience for adults with disabilities, we would love to have you on the team! Do get in touch via our website at www.Artizaninternational.org Many thanks again, Susie

VOLUNTEER AND HELP SHAPE THE LIVES OF YOUNG GIRLS ACROSS BILTON

1st Bilton Brownies are looking for a leader to run their unit on a Monday evening at St John's church hall. The unit has willing regular helpers (3 Adults), but needs a leader.

This is an opportunity that is open to everyone inside or outside Girlguiding. You may already be involved in Girlguiding in some way and want to take the next steps into leadership.

Equally if you are not currently involved in Girlguiding but would like to get involved, it is a fantastic way to help shape the lives of young girls and is very rewarding. You may have a friend that you would like to share the role with.

If you are interested in the above opportunity, and would like more information about what is involved, please contact Gill Flanigan gill.flanigan@btopenworld.com or Sam Jennings sam1jennings@hotmail.com District Commissioners, Girlguiding UK. Alternatively, you can catch me at church for a chat or my email address is 1stbiltonbrownies@gmail.com

Many thanks, Jane Thompson



ELIZA GAINS GOLD

At the end of February, 2nd Bilton Brownies had another Gold celebration. Eliza Comley is only the second Brownie from our pack to achieve her Gold Award, which she finished by organising a Brownie meeting based on World Book Day. The girls all brought in a favourite book to share with us; they made origami bookmarks, played bookthemed games and we finished the evening with cupcakes, complete with

World Book Day cake toppers.

Eliza turned seven in 2020 so she joined Brownies while we were still facing restrictions due to Covid. After lockdown, we started meeting on Zoom, with Brown Owl going door-to-door to deliver the materials needed for the various activities. Eliza made her promise on Zoom and didn't meet the rest of the Brownies face-to-face until the end of the summer term in 2021.

Since starting Brownies, Eliza has earnt six "Skills Builders" badges which we all worked on together during our weekly meetings. She also worked on interest badges at home; there are 18 badges to choose from and Eliza did the following: Baking, Collecting, Languages, Charities, Aviation and Mindfulness. By gaining all these badges, she also earnt her Bronze and Silver Awards – and finally, her Gold Award. Well done Eliza!

SUMMER FAIR AT ST JOHN'S Saturday 29th June 11.00am-2.00pm

The annual summer fair is back and we have some fantastic stalls and entertainment planned.

We are looking for donations for the tombola and raffle; perhaps you or your place of work could donate something to be raffled? We are also looking for gazebos to provide shelter (from the sun?!?)

Could you help serve refreshments for an hour or so, or help on one of the stalls? If you can't come along, could you bake a cake or make some jam?

Everyone is invited to come along and enjoy the day; all proceeds will go towards parish funds.



THE GREEN PAGE



NO MOW MAY

The environmental charity, Plantlife, is again running its annual No Mow May campaign. Starting at the beginning of May, it calls all garden owners and those who manage green spaces to not mow during May. Sadly, as a



nation, we have lost nearly 97% of flower rich meadows since the 1930s and with them have gone a vital food source for pollinators, such as bees and butterflies.

A healthy lawn with some long grass and wildflowers benefits wildlife, helps tackle pollution and can even lock away carbon below ground. All you need do is not mow your lawn in May. If you choose to carry on after the end of this month, even better, as the benefits will keep coming. You might find all sorts of interesting

wildflowers pop up in your lawn that you never knew were there!

With over 20 million gardens in the UK, even the smallest patches of grass add up and can, if looked after effectively, deliver great gains for nature and the climate.

For further information and to sign up, see: https://www.plantlife.org.uk/campaigns/nomowmay/

ALTERNATIVE RECYCLING

It is heartening that so many people are bringing dental products, writing implements, contact lenses and blister packs, as well as batteries and ink cartridges, to church for recycling. However we do need a few more people to take small bags of the

blister packs to Superdrug please. The box is very full!

WORLD THINKING DAY



Thursday 22nd February saw two Brown Owls join with Brownies, Guides, Rangers and Leaders to celebrate World Thinking Day in St John's Church Hall. We thought of girls not only in England but all over the world. There were pictures of Lord Robert (the founder of Scouting) and Lady Olave Baden-Powell (Guiding's

first Chief Guide) whose birthdays are 22nd February.

Two quizzes on guiding tested our knowledge, and Barn Owl gave us the answers later. We made a small book showing the five world centres: in England Pax Lodge, Switzerland Our Chalet, India Sangam, Africa



Kusafiri and Mexico Our Cabana. Joining together in a very large circle everyone renewed their Promise and by the light of our LED mini torches made earlier we sang 'This little Guiding light' and we all received a World Thinking Day badge.

We both thoroughly enjoyed the evening being part of this special celebration, and appreciate the work that had gone into organising it. A huge thankyou to all the leaders; older Owls are certainly not forgotten in Bilton, and we just "turned up" which was lovely. Guiding is still very active with great leaders giving their time and providing a safe place for the girls. Old habits die hard and as Joyce and I are still G.C.U.s (Good Clearer Uppers) it was inevitable that we both had bin bags as we moved from one activity to another.

Yours in Guiding

Brown Owls Chris and Joyce





Congratulations to Lottie, Isobel, Sophie and Milia on completing your Brownie Gold.

They organised and ran a fantastic night for the rest of the Brownies which included learning about musical notes and instruments and then the four "golden girls" taught the rest of the Brownies some guiding songs.

A very big "Brownie Well Done" goes to the girls for all of the hard work that they have put in to achieving the highest award you can get as a Brownie and a thank you to their parents and Brown Owl for helping behind the scenes.

We are all very proud of you and whilst we will be sorry to say goodbye to you as Brownies now that your Brownie Adventure is coming to the end, we all hope that you have a great time as Guides.



Well done, Barn Owl, Sooty Owl and Forest Owl

https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/ register-your-daughter/

PEOPLE



FUNERAL & INTERMENT OF ASHES

We extend our sympathy to the family of **IIII Pullman**

BAPTISMS / BLESSINGS

We welcome into the church family

Delilah Rosie Parker



The church office will be closed from Friday 24th May, and reopen on Monday 4th June.

PARISH WEEKEND

In 2022 a group from St John's and St Luke's enjoyed spending time together in the beautiful peaceful surroundings of Scargill.

Why not join the next visit 22^{nd} - 24^{th} November this year? More details soon.

Contact the church office to register your interest.



SUNDAY 12th May is Copy Date for JUNE 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
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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.



MAY'S CALENDAR

Wednesday 1 st	9-9.30am 10.30am 10.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ) Holy Communion (SJ) Thirst - Coffee at Dene Park
Thursday 2 nd	2.00pm 9-9.30am 9.30-11.30am	Community Centre Wedding (SJ) Morning Prayer (SJ) Little Fishes (Parent & Toddler Group) (SL)
Friday 3 rd	6.30-7.15pm 1-3.00pm	Evening Surgery in Church (SJ) Wellbeing Café (SL)
Sunday 5 th	9.00am 10.30am 10.30am 6-7.30pm	Holy Communion (SJ) Parade Service (SJ) Holy Communion (SL) Youth Worship Night at Artizan Cafe
Tuesday 7 th	9-9.30am 1-2.30pm 4-5.00pm	Morning Prayer (SJ) Time to Pray Lunch (SJ) 4twelve (Year 7+ Youth Group) (Harrogate Chocolate Factory)
Wednesday 8 th	7.00pm 9-9.30am 10.30am 10.30am	Alpha Course (SJ) Morning Prayer (SJ) Holy Communion (SJ) Thirst - Coffee at Dene Park Community Centre
	12.15pm	Community Lunch at Bilton Community Centre
Thursday 9 th	8.30am-1.15pm 6.30-9.30pm	Common Mission Forum (SJ) Common Mission Forum (SJ)
Friday 10 th	1-3.00pm 6.30-7.15pm 7-7.45pm	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 10.30am 12.30pm 3.30pm	Holy Communion (SJ) Holy Communion (SJ) Parade Service (SL) Baptisms (SJ) Leeds Diocese 10 Year Anniversary Service at Ripon Cathedral
Monday 13 th	6-7.15pm 9-9.30am 2.00pm 7.30pm	Ignite (Year 7+ Youth Group) (SL) Morning Prayer (SJ) Lay Eucharistic Training Session (SJ) Baptism Information Session (SJ)

Tuesday 14 th Wednesday 15 th	7.30pm 9-9.30am 10.00am 2-3.30pm 4-5.00pm 7.00pm 9-9.30am 10.30am 10.30am	Rhythm of Life Fellow Traveller Meeting (SJ) Morning Prayer (SJ) Walking Group (SJ) Comfort Café (SJ) 4twelve (Year 7+ Youth Group) (Harrogate Chocolate Factory) Alpha Course (SJ) Morning Prayer (SJ) Holy Communion (SJ) Thirst - Coffee at Dene Park Community Centre Thirst Table at Dene Park Community
Thursday 16 th	9-9.30am 9.30-11.30am 6.00pm	Centre Morning Prayer (SJ) Little Fishes (Parent & Toddler Group) (SL) Wedding Rehearsal (SJ)
Friday 17 th	1-3.00pm 6.30-7.15pm 7-7.45pm	Wellbeing Café (SL) Junior Choir Practice (SJ) Adult Choir Practice (SJ)
Saturday 18 th	1.00pm	Wedding (SJ)
Sunday 19 th	9.00am 10.30am 10.30am 12.00noon 6-7.15pm	Holy Communion (SJ) Morning Worship (SJ) Morning Worship (SL) Annual Parochial Church Meeting (SJ) Ignite (Year 7+ Youth Group) (SL)
Monday 20 th Tuesday 21 st	9-9.30am 9-9.30am 4-5.00pm	Morning Prayer (SJ) Morning Prayer (SJ) 4twelve (Year 7+ Youth Group) (Harrogate Chocolate Factory)
Wednesday 22 nd	7.00pm 9-9.30am 10.30am 10.30am	Alpha Course (SJ) Morning Prayer (SJ) Holy Communion (SJ) Thirst - Coffee at Dene Park Community Centre
Thursday 23 rd	7.30pm 9-9.30am 9.30-11.30am	Rhythm of Life Fellow Traveller Meeting (SJ) Morning Prayer (SJ) Little Fishes (Parent & Toddler Group) (SL)
Friday 24 th	1-3.00pm 6.30-7.15pm 7-7.45pm	Wellbeing Café (SL) Junior Choir Practice (SJ) Adult Choir Practice (SJ)
Sunday 26th	9.00am 10.30am	Holy Communion (SJ) All Age Holy Communion (SJ)
Tuesday 28 th	10.30am 9-9.30am 7.00pm	All Age Morning Worship (SL) Morning Prayer (SJ) Alpha Course (SJ)
Wednesday 29 th	9-9.30am 10.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ) Holy Communion (SJ)

	10.30am	Thirst - Coffee at Dene Park Community
Thursday 30th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
Friday 31st	1-3.00pm	Wellbeing Café (SL)
JUNE 2 ml	• • •	
Sunday 2 nd	9.00am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	10.30am	Parade Service (SJ)
	10.30am	Holy Communion (SL)
Manday 2rd	6-7.30pm	Youth Worship Night at Artizan Café
Monday 3 rd	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
Tuesday 4 th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	12-1.30pm	Time to Pray Lunch (SJ)
	4-5.00pm	4twelve (Year 7+ Youth Group) (Harrogate
	7.00pm	Chocolate Factory) Alpha Course (SI)
	7.00pm	Archdeacon's Visitation Service (St Peter's)
Wednesday 5th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
wednesday 5	10.30am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	10.30am	Thirst - Coffee at Dene Park Community
	10.30aiii	Centre
	6.30pm	Wedding Rehearsal (SJ)
	7.30pm	Finance & Buildings Committee Meeting (SJ)
Thursday 6 th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
•	9.30am-3.30pm	Prayer Spaces for Schools (SJ)
	6.15pm	Wedding Rehearsal (SJ)
	6.30-7.00pm	Evening Surgery in East End (SJ)
Friday 7 th	1-3.00pm	Wellbeing Café (SL)
	1.30pm	Wedding (SJ)
	6.30-7.15pm	Junior Choir Practice (SJ)
	7-7.45pm	Adult Choir Practice (SJ)
Saturday 8 th	10.00am-12noon	Coffee Morning in Church Hall (SJ)
-	12.00noon	Wedding (SJ)

Office will be closed from Friday 24^{th} May and reopen on Monday 3^{rd} June

Looking Ahead...

PCC Meeting Saturday 15th June 9.30am-12noon Hampsthwaite

& Vision Morning

Summer Fair Saturday 29th June 11.00am-2.00pm SJ

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

The Ministry Team

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simon.dowson@leeds.anglican org

www.facebook.com/stlukesharrogate

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Emma James—Young People's Worker Tel 07803 586566

YouthWork@stjohnsandstlukes.org.uk

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Editorial Team

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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



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

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 Monday
 1.00pm - 5.00pm

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 Wednesday
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 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

Email: <u>info@biltonandwoodfield.org.uk</u> www.biltonandwoodfield.org.uk

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MOT by arrangement



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.



30 King Edwards Drive, Harrogate, HG1 4HL.

Telephone: 01423 538445

Opening Times: 7.30am-5.30pm Tuesday - Saturday

Supporting the local community