



Season of Creation

2022

StLuke's Church



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A LETTER FROM LAURA

Dear All,

I love the way that at St John's and St Luke's we use the term 'church family'. Families are all different, and they are of course imperfect, but to me the term 'family' speaks of diversity, care and community. And the church *is* a community rather than just an organisation or an institution. Stephen Cottrell describes church as "a community of people formed



by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and his impact in the world, and constantly being transformed by the activity and outpouring of the Holy Spirit."

Of course, we need organisation, and we also require many characteristics of an institution to operate safely and effectively. But ultimately we remain what we have always been: a body of people centred on Christ, and one in which ministry is shared by everyone according to our individual gifts and callings.

As I write this letter, we have just celebrated the 'swearing in' of our new church wardens at the Archdeacon's visitation service at St Peter's Church in Harrogate.



One of the key phrases that stood out to me as Ven Jonathan Gough gave his address was that church wardens stand before God to represent the people, and stand before the people to represent God. Often when we think about the role of church wardens, one thing that comes to mind is their care for the fabric and property of the church, along with upkeep and repairs. And yet, as the new

(or returning) church wardens made their declarations, I noticed how the stewardship of property was in fact the final element of the declaration. The very first words are that the wardens promise to represent the people of God. It is only after this that the wardens go on to make promises around governance, leadership, fabric and property. First and foremost, church wardens stand before God to represent the people, and stand

before the people to represent God.

I sat in my pew listening to those words and momentarily thought "gosh, what a responsibility - rather them than me!" Then, of course, I realised that this responsibility is also mine.....and it is yours too! For whilst not all of us are called to be church wardens, we are all Christians and together we form the living stones that are 'church'. We are a community that represents God to the people, both collectively and individually, in all of our conversations and in all of our dealings. And each time we offer prayer and worship we stand before God and bring before him the needs and concerns of his people.

In some of the words from 1 Peter 2:10, read at the Archdeacon's visitation, "we are a royal priesthood.....God's own people" and we are the ones who proclaim Christ and his kingdom.

Our church wardens have an important, specific role in the life of the church, and, just as they are charged with supporting Simon, the PCC, myself and all in leadership, we hope that you will continue to support them, care for them and thank them for their service to us all. Church wardens do not minister alone, they minister as part of a community of Christians. We all represent God, and we are stronger together – so please do whatever you can to encourage and support them in their work.

As we return now from our much needed summer holidays and perhaps a break from routine, I pray that we will grow even deeper in community, deeper in faith and deeper in our shared commitment to mission. As we seek to stand before God to represent the people, and stand before the people to represent God, we all have a vital role to play and we give our heartfelt thanks for all that <u>you</u> have done and continue to do as part of this very special church family. And, as we celebrate our church wardens in particular, we thank Nigel Thompson, Jane Reichert and Alethea Fry for

their ministry and all that they give to the life of the church. Thanks also must go to Pat Fenton, who has stepped down after a second four-year term as warden. We are immensely grateful for her dedication, care and diligence over these past four years.

Every blessing,



Laura

MEET OUR NEW WARDEN ALETHEA FRY

I've been in Harrogate for almost 20 years having moved up here from Derby. (I'm originally from Wolverhampton but my mum was born in Masham!) I'm a podiatrist, married to Steve, a software engineer, and we have two teenagers. My son has just done his A-levels and is about to go off to Uni in the Autumn and my daughter will be doing her GCSEs next year.

We're really enjoying being part of St Luke's and getting to know everyone. I'm especially grateful to Pat for all the help and advice she's given me as I take on the role of church warden.

Church was always a big part of my life as a child but it wasn't till I left home and had to make my own decisions that I claimed my



faith for myself and my journey with Jesus really began.

Since then I've been involved in many churches, but for the last 19 years we've been going to a big local church in Harrogate. During covid we felt drawn to something smaller and different and immediately felt at home at St Luke's.



It was good to see some library users and volunteers as well as regulars and other visitors, including one from Australia, at our church coffee morning in August. As usual, the stalls were well-stocked, with the plant stall offering a really wide range of healthy indoor and outdoor plants.

Thank-you to all of you who supported us in any way, especially to those who manned the stalls and refreshments. The financial result was £585, but it was also obvious that those who attended enjoyed chatting as well as shopping.

Got a few hours to spare? The library is needing volunteers especially on Saturdays. Enquiries to Greta Knight or Jean Burton or pop in to the library, or via *https://biltonandwoodfield.org.uk*

QUESTION CORNER

Q. Should we believe that every bad thing happens for a reason?

A. Surely not! To put it another way, you are asking if everything is God's will. What about a small child killed in a car accident, or someone suffering a bad illness? I can't believe in that sort of God, yet some still say (sometimes at a child's funeral) that we must 'accept that it is God's will'.





NO, IT'S NOT. Jesus teaches us that God is not like that. Yes, at funerals we may say that God takes a person to himself. But that's quite different from saying that God has arranged the death at a particular time. It's saying that God, in his love and mercy, RECEIVES that person into new and eternal life, where there will be no more suffering.

It can be a 'cop-out' to say that everything is

God's will. We have free will, and must take responsibility for our own actions. If I'm stupid enough to drive through a red light at speed, it's MY fault, not God's will, if someone ends up in hospital. (I promise not to do that!)

Bad things happen because of the way some people treat others – against the will of God. Life can be unfair, and no-one has promised that it will always be a bed of roses for us. But God's declared will and purpose is that we might know more of his comfort and strength at all times, and especially in times of grief and sorrow.

David



Wellbeing Café is changing from Thursdays to Fridays from the second week in September. Still at St Luke's 1-3pm.





The summer term ended on a high at 1st Bilton (St John's) Guides as we took part in an archery session to finish our guiding year. It was a lovely warm summer's evening and everybody

improved thanks to the guidance from the experts, Alan and Matthew. It was very competitive and lots of prizes were won.

We finished the session with Maci making her Guide Promise and then I was proud to give out a Silver Award to Katie Harland, and our unit's first Gold Award to Chloe Rogers. Chloe completed all 6 themes and undertook an extra challenge to earn this. Well done on all your hard work Chloe!

We've all taken a well-earned break over the summer but will be restarting in September with some new Guides that are moving up from Brownies as we sadly said goodbye to those moving on from Guides.



We still have some spaces available in Bilton for Brownies (7-10), Guides (10-14) and Rangers (14-18). If you have a girl in those age brackets who may be interested in joining one of our units please register your interest at <u>www.girlquiding.co.uk</u>

Gill Leader-in-Charge

MUGUMU SAFE HOUSE, TANZANIA





Some of you may remember that way back in February 2020 - just before the world came to a standstill - I had the good fortune to participate in a diocesan trip to Tanzania where we, as the Diocese of Leeds, have overseas links with the Diocese of Mara, situated close to Lake Victoria. What an experience it was, and what a welcome we were given!

One of the projects we visited whilst over there was Mugumu Safe House: in 2014 the vicar of the Anglican Church in Mugumu took a young girl from the Kuria Tribe into his care to rescue her from the horrific practice of FGM. From this one act, the idea of the Safe House was born, a haven for girls escaping the horrors of FGM (illegal but still practised by some remote tribes in Tanzania) and forced marriage.

With funding from the Tanzanian Development Trust, and the Anglican Church in Tanzania, the Safe House in Mugumu was built. It accommodates up to 80 girls at any one time, and gets particularly full during the 'cutting season', which occurs every two years during November and December. It was humbling, a privilege and a joy to meet some of these young girls during our visit.

The Safe House provides essential care for the girls including:

- Providing food, safety, shelter, and a 'home'
- Ensuring the girls get an education by taking them to school
- Reconciliation work in the villages between the girls and their families to help mend broken relationships
- Raising awareness of FGM and its devastating effects in the surrounding areas

The Mugumu Safe House is totally dependent on the generosity of others. Our

Anglican Diocese of Leeds has supported it since 2015, and continues to identify prayerful and financial support as a priority for the future.

All monies raised from September's Coffee Morning will go directly to Mugumu Safe House to support the girls seeking refuge there, and the valuable work it does. If you'd like further information, please get in touch. I hope you are able to come and join us.

Many thanks, Jane (Reichert)



AGLOW

International Women's Event

Tuesday 29th September 2022

6.45 pm for 7pm start

Meal (£10)

at Ascot House Hotel 53 King's Road, Harrogate HG1 5HJ

Speaker Adega Ajulo

yorkshire@aglow.org.uk

FLOURISH

Women of Faith Today

Saturday 15th October 2022 10am-4pm

Cedar Court Hotel

Speakers Lynda Ojiakor (Harrogate) Reba Samuel (Keighley) Evie Taller (Manchester) Event is free but need to register https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/ 12th-women-of-faith-today-annualconference-2022-tickets

https://www.womenoffaithtoday.com/ This is Diamond Jubilee Wood today

Aglow, established 50 years ago, is an international and interdenominational gathering for women. This meeting is a relaxed gathering of about 15 – 20 women from Harrogate, Leeds and Ripon. There will be other meetings happening all over the world.

The meal is followed by a short time of worship before the speaker, who will share some testimony and encouragement. Finish by 9.30pm.

The **Flourish** event is a larger lively event with worship, testimonies and Bible teaching.

Drinks provided. Bring packed lunch.

Women attend from all over Yorkshire and beyond. It is a regular Harrogate event established over 8 years ago by Lynda Ojiakor who lives in Harrogate.

For more information see Cathy McHutchon, (St John's)



God writes the gospel not in the Bible alone but on trees and flowers and clouds and stars *Martin Luther*







This summer we took 31 young people, from three different churches across Harrogate, to Satellites, a summer camp at Peterborough showground. It was a week spent with thousands of other teenagers, worshipping, praying, playing loads of sports, dancing, keep fit classes, listening to great teaching, karaoke, quizzes, spray art, milkshakes, donuts.....and



too many other exciting things to mention!

And through all this, the young people learned about putting God at the centre of their lives and about how much they are loved as children of God.

It was a pleasure and privilege to be alongside the young people during the week; to see hearts softened; to witness them really worshipping for the first time and to see them praying for each other.



Roll on 2023!

CREATIONTIDE

This is the period in the annual church calendar, from 1st September to 4th October, dedicated to God as Creator and Sustainer of all life, during which we give thanks for God's gift of creation, and renew our commitment to caring for our one planet home.



The **burning bush** is the Symbol for the Season of Creation 2022. Wild fires are one of the devastating impacts of climate change on the most vulnerable of our planet. But the fire that called to Moses did not consume or destroy the bush. The flame revealed God's presence.

This symbol of God's Spirit calls us to listen to the voice of creation.

We give thanks for God's gift of creation:

Come and join our Harvest Weekend at St John's and at St Luke's to worship God and celebrate and give thanks for the beauty of the earth, and for what it yields to us so that we have food, shelter and comfort.



Join us as we share God's generosity by

bringing gifts of dry goods and toiletries to be shared between Resurrected Bites and Harrogate Homeless Project, or bring gifts of pot plants or flowers to go to the recently bereaved and housebound folk of the parish.

We renew our commitment to caring for our one planet home:

As a church family we use eco-friendly cleaning materials, and we recycle as much as possible. Will you, church members, do the same





in your homes and at work?

As well as using kerbside recycling, you can bring to church ink cartridges, domestic batteries, (boxes by the entrance) used postage stamps (drawers behind the choir stalls at St John's) and take 'soft plastics' - biscuit wrappers etc - to the Co-op or some other supermarkets.

Other actions to consider: cut down use of plastic; turn out lights; switch off instead of stand-by

Heard it all before? Yes, but we need reminding!

The Green Team need YOU!

aller9

Since its inception in 2018, the Green Team has been working hard to raise awareness of environmental issues at St John's. In 2019 we were awarded a bronze medal in the A Rocha Eco-Church scheme. In March 2022, we were absolutely delighted to be awarded a silver medal, thanks to all the work everyone (and, in particular, the Gardening Team) has put into making St John's a more environmentally friendly building and grounds.

We are now starting to grow our mission and have begun a conversation with other local churches to swap ideas. We will be putting up a display of environmental ideas and tips at Bilton & Woodfield Library as part of Libraries Week between 3rd and 10th October. We would also like to start a new Green Team at St Luke's if there is sufficient interest.

But, to be able to build on our success and do more for the environment, we need more volunteers to join our small group. Is this something you could be interested in? Are you a member of St Luke's who would enjoy starting a Green Team? If so, we would love to hear from you. We meet roughly every six weeks, in addition to attending fund raising events, etc. where appropriate. For further information, please contact Claire Golightly by email on clairelg80@gmail.com or through the church office.



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PEOPLE

BAPTISMS / BLESSINGS & THANKSGIVINGS

We welcome into the church family

Kayden John Card Wren Olivia Trinder Georgia Marie Walker Charlie Edward Walker



MOVING ON

Our prayers and good wishes go to all those, especially young people, starting primary school, or moving on to secondary school, college or university, or into a job, or into any new situation. May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you Wherever you may wander

HOLIDAYS

The Church Office will be closed until Wednesday 7th September Phone and email checked only irregularly

SUNDAY 11th SEPTEMBER is Copy Date for OCTOBER 2022 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 to THURSDAY 9.30am to 1.00pm FRIDAY CLOSED telephone 565129 (+ Answerphone) email 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



We are extremely proud to support older people in our community to live independently in their own homes.

- Outings & activities
- Household tasks
- Medication support
- Wellbeing
- Dementia care
- Personal care

Our team is passionate about delivering the highest standard of care and will always go above and beyond to help our clients.

<image>

SEPTEMBER'S CALENDAR

Dates and places may change - please check online or by ringing the church office (Contact details on page 19}

Thursday 1 st	9-9.30am 1-3.00pm	Morning Prayer (SJ) Wellbeing Café (SL)
Sunday 4 th	9.00am 10.30am 10.30am	Holy Communion (SJ) All Age Service (SJ) Holy Communion (SL)
Monday 5 th	9-9.30am 7.30pm	Morning Prayer (SJ) Baptism Information Session (SJ)
Tuesday 6 th	9-9.30am 7.00pm	Morning Prayer (SJ) Alpha + (SJ)
Wednesday 7 th	9-9.30am 10.30am 10.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ) Holy Communion (SJ) Thirst – Coffee at Dene Park Community Centre
Thursday 8 th	9-9.30am 9.30-11.30am 6.30-7.15pm	Morning Prayer (SJ) Little Fishes (Parent & Toddler Group) (SL) Evening Surgery in Church (SJ)
Friday 9 th	1-3.00pm 6.30-7.15pm 7-7.45pm	Wellbeing Café (SL) Junior Choir Practice (SJ) Adult Choir Practice (SJ)
Saturday 10 th	10.00am-12noon 2.30pm	Coffee Morning in Church Hall (SJ) Baptism (SJ)
Sunday 11 th	9.00am 10.30am 10.30am 12.30pm 6-7.45pm	Holy Communion (SJ) Holy Communion (SJ) All Age Parade Service (SL) Baptisms (SJ) Ignite (Year 7+ Youth Group) (SL)
Monday 12 th	9-9.30am 7.30pm	Morning Prayer (SJ) Finance and Buildings Committee Meeting (SJ)
Tuesday 13 th	9-9.30am 10.00am 2-3.30pm 7.30pm	Morning Prayer (SJ) Walking Group (SJ) Comfort Café (SJ) Time to Pray (SJ)
Wednesday 14 th	9-9.30am 10.30am 10.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ) Holy Communion (SJ) Thirst - Coffee at Dene Park Community Centre
	12.15pm	Community Lunch at Bilton Community Centre

Thursday 15 th	9-9.30am 9.30-11.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ) Little Fishes (Parent & Toddler Group) (SL)
Friday 16 th	1-3.00pm 6.30-7.15pm 7-7.45pm	Wellbeing Café (SL) Junior Choir Practice (SJ) Adult Choir Practice (SJ)
Sunday 18 th	9.00am 10.30am 10.30am 4.00pm 6-7.45pm	Holy Communion (SJ) Morning Worship (SJ) Morning Worship (SL) Welcome Event (SJ) Ignite (Year 7+ Youth Group) (SL)
Monday 19 th	9-9.30am 7.30pm	Morning Prayer (SJ) PCC Meeting (SJ)
Tuesday 20 th Wednesday 21 st	9-9.30am 9-9.30am 10.30am 10.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ) Morning Prayer (SJ) Holy Communion (SJ) Thirst - Coffee at Dene Park Community Centre
	12.00noon	Thirst Table at Dene Park Community Centre
Thursday 22 nd	9-9.30am 9.30-11.30am 6.30-7.15pm	Morning Prayer (SJ) Little Fishes (Parent & Toddler Group) (SL) Evening Surgery in Church (SJ)
Friday 23 rd	1-3.00pm 6.30-7.15pm 7-7.45pm	Wellbeing Café (SL) Junior Choir Practice (SJ) Adult Choir Practice (SJ)
Sunday 25 th	9.00am 10.30am 10.30am	Holy Communion (SJ) Holy Communion (SJ) All Age Morning Worship (SL)
Monday 26 th Tuesday 27 th Wednesday 28 th	6-7.45pm 9-9.30am 9-9.30am 9-9.30am 10.30am 10.30am	Ignite (Year 7+ Youth Group) (SL) Morning Prayer (SJ) Morning Prayer (SJ) Morning Prayer (SJ) Holy Communion (SJ) Thirst - Coffee at Dene Park Community Centre
Thursday 29 th	9-9.30am 9.30-11.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ) Little Fishes (Parent & Toddler Group) (SL)
Friday 30 th	1-3.00pm 4.00pm	Wellbeing Café (SL) Parish Weekend at Scargill House
OCTOBER Sunday 2 nd	9.00am 10.30am 6-7.45pm	Holy Communion (SJ) JOINT Holy Communion (SJ) Ignite (Year 7+ Youth Group) (SL)
Monday 3 rd Tuesday 4 th	9-9.30am 9-9.30am 7.00pm	Morning Prayer (SJ) Morning Prayer (SJ) Alpha + (SJ)
Wednesday 5 th	7.00pm	Morning Prayer (SJ)

	10.30am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	10.30am	Thirst - Coffee at Dene Park Community
		Centre
Thursday 6 th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	9.30-11.30am	Little Fishes (Parent & Toddler Group) (SL)
Friday 7 th	1-3.00pm	Wellbeing Café (SL)
	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)

LOOKING AHEAD

Green Team Exhibition at our library (Libraries Week)	3 rd -10 th October
Harrogate Hub Event (see below)	Tuesday 1 st November
Coffee morning for Artizan	Saturday 12 th November
Confirmation Service	Sunday 20 th November 6.30pm
Safeguarding Sunday	Sunday 20 th November

OPPORTUNITIES FOR GETTING MORE INVOLVED

Could you

Help count the collection at St John's once a month? Help serve refreshments at St John's once a month?

Help clean St John's for one hour on one Friday a month?

There are many other opportunities at both churches, but these are our greatest needs at the moment. Contact the Parish Office (details on page 19) for more information.

Your Church needs you!

HARROGATE HUB EVENT

How can we show and share Jesus' wisdom and love with the people we meet in the places we usually find ourselves – at work, the gym, or the coffee shop? Come and hear more at an evening talk by Mark Greene from LICC, 1^{st} November 7.30-8.30pm at Life Destiny Church.

Book now https://theharrogatehub.org/frontlines/

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

Parish Office Phone No: 01423 565129 Parish Office email: church@stiohnsandstlukes.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 www.facebook.com/stjohnsandstlukes - for livestreaming

The Ministry Team

Team Vicar

Vacant

Simon Dowson—Team Rector Tel 01423 561030 simon.dowson@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

St Luke's

Churchwardens

St John's

Mrs Alethea Fry Alethea.fry@gmail.com

janeandnige1962@hotmail.co.uk

Mrs Jane Reichert janereichert@hotmail.com

Mr Nigel Thompson

Editorial Team

Treasurer: Could you do this job? Collation: Katie Burke 569563 and team Editors: Jean Burton 569907 Liz Hickling Magazine email: SJSLfocus@gmail.com

Harrogate Strathspey and Reel Club Bilton & Woodfield Scottish Country Dancing **Community Library** Every Monday Night 19.30 - 21.30 The season runs from September to June YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY Dance Jigs, Reels and Strathspeys with a fun and friendly group! 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 Come and join us, no experience needed Sunday CLOSED It costs £3.50 per session, £39 per half year In the grounds of Woodfield School, Woodfield Road or £62 for the full year. Telephone: 01423 564630 Sandie Fagan 07824 458725 for more information Email: info@biltonandwoodfield.org.uk www.biltonandwoodfield.org.uk David Bentley 07917815981 Hubert Swainson Funeral Services Ltd www.dbautorepairs.com **Private Chapels** Onsite vehicle servicing and repairs Distinctive personal arrangements by: MOT by arrangement Geoffrey Brewster Dip FD Diagnostics Tim Canavar 39 Franklin Road (IL Tel 01425 504571 Harrogate St John's Church Hall and St Luke's Church EXPERIENCED PIANO TEACHER can be hired for single occasions Jean Clay GTCL LTCL CTABRSM or for regular events. Welcomes Contact Church Office for more information. **BEGINNERS TO ADVANCED** See page 19 for contact details Children and Adults 01423 548899

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