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St John's and St Luke's Together



St John's Church



February

2026

60 pence

St Luke's Church





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Dear Friends,

Conscious that this month begins with Candlemas (The Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple) but inevitably writing this in January off the back of thinking about the Baptism of Christ, turning points and New Year's resolutions - plus it's only just been Christmas, is still Epiphany, and yet somehow will 'soon' be Lent! Time does shift through the seasons alarmingly quickly.



Having perhaps overstayed my word count in previous issues, and not entirely evading the temptation to turn over a new leaf [indeed not too many], forgive me if I attempt uncharacteristic brevity...

Also mindful of Laura's impending exit, and resisting the urge to write 'Farewell, best Team Vicar ever' over and over again in slightly varying ways for the rest of this article - if there's ever a Reverend Laura Martin fan club, sign me up too!

Seriously though, joking aside, Laura's pastoral and organisational contribution has been immense and the benefit of her ministry will be felt for many years to come in these parts. Many thoughts and prayers from everyone I'm sure for Laura and her family as she embarks on an exciting new chapter as a hospital chaplain in Leeds.

Anyway, back to Candlemas and Simeon & Anna in the Temple and one of those passing the baton type moments from one generation or era to the next. From the prophetic patriarch and pious matriarch to the infant Christ brought by his parents, still 30 years off the business-end of his destiny, and yet somehow receptacle for all our hopes and fears (as the famous carol puts it).

It's always hard saying goodbye, and bringing something to a close, and yet for almost every ending there is also a beginning. Remarkably Simeon and Anna had waited many years for the fulfilment of promise, and yet rather than being tired or jaded they were still evidently excited by what was to come, the foretaste of which had finally appeared, incarnate before their very eyes.

I think I mentioned this previously, but we're very intentionally in a period of prayerful discernment between Christmas and Easter, thoughts from which will feed in to PCC reflections over the summer as we attempt to discern the sustainable shape of things, the character of our vision, and the branding (perhaps for want of a better word) through which we communicate it; somehow still leaving space for all this to grow and expand and adapt over the years to come - we're not aiming for narrow, restrictive priorities but rather an ethos against which the merits of individual initiatives can be judged and decisions can be made (does 'x' match who we are and what we're trying to be; perhaps not, but 'x with a bit of y, modified by z' could take us there, that sort of thing).

If this sounds abstract, I don't think it's a million miles from my take on how Jesus grows into his own understanding of who he is as Son of Man (that being the title he arguably seems to prefer) throughout the Gospels: early promise and miraculous childhood; breakout moments like his baptism, unrolling the scroll in the synagogue, the calling of the disciples; blips and missteps or at least modifications along the way, such as his dealing with the Canaanite woman; ultimately turning towards Jerusalem and the inevitable showdown with the religious and political authorities that follows.

For Jesus to have been fully human (as well as fully divine), he must presumably have had the capacity to learn and change and

even make mistakes [not moral ones (being sinless), but everyday -type errors]? And perhaps that kind of permission extends to us too, especially at this time of year - an opportunity to recover our own promise and sense perhaps of vocation, individually and collectively as a joint church community; to return to dreams long since abandoned or set aside, to dust off the accumulated cobwebs of life and (with resurrection on the horizon) begin again; but also to go gently and not attempt to achieve too much too quickly, to wait for brighter and warmer days ahead before we put our aspirations and actions into practice.

Take care,

Matthew



Since 2022, the charities Greenpeace and Everyday Plastic have teamed up to run the Big Plastic Count in the UK. In 2022, nearly 250,000 people from schools, households and communities signed up to count the amount of plastic thrown away in their establishment in one week. By gathering the data from this form of citizen science, Greenpeace and Everyday Plastic raise awareness of the issues surrounding plastic, both with the general public and with the government to advocate for change. Results in 2022 showed that around one billion pieces of plastic were thrown away in the UK every

year, with hardly any of it being recycled.

2024 results showed that 17% of plastics were recycled, 14% were exported, 11% were buried and 58% were incinerated. An estimated 1.7 billion pieces of plastic were thrown away every week by UK households. The most counted category was snack packaging (699,932 pieces), closely followed by fruit and vegetable packaging (697,085 pieces). The UK produces more plastic waste per person than any other nation in the world – second only to the USA. (Source: The Big Plastic Count, Greenpeace)



This year's Big Plastic Count will take place between March 9th and 15th. All you need to do is sign up to the website: <https://thebigplasticcount.com/>. You will then be sent details of what to do, what to count and what not to count. You can print out a list of the various types of plastic to put by your rubbish bin, then make a tally of what you put in the bin or recycling every time you throw something away and send Greenpeace the count at the end of the week. I can guarantee that the results will be eye-opening! So many products that we take for granted in every day use contain plastic. Do we really need

so much? Of course, the answer is no. Whilst recycling is great, really we all need to reduce the quantity of plastic used in the first place.

What are big businesses doing? The UK Plastics Pact brings together businesses from across the plastics value chain with the UK governments and NGOs to tackle plastic waste. Pact members aim to eliminate or reduce plastic packaging and to design packaging that can be recycled easily. Some great progress has been made already, which you can read about here: <https://www.wrap.ngo/resources/report/eliminating-problem-plastics>.

And globally? The Global Plastics Treaty had been in negotiation for several years but sadly collapsed in Geneva in August 2025. Talks covered a wide range of issues including plastic production, the regulation of chemicals found in plastics, product design, reuse and recycling, a just transition for workers in the plastics and waste industries, and a financial mechanism to support implementation of the treaty. The most crucial part of the treaty concerned plastic production, which is currently set to nearly triple by 2050 and use at least 21-31% of the remaining carbon budget to limit global warming to 1.5°C. It had been estimated that a 75% in plastic production was needed by 2040 to keep global warming to 1.5 degrees. The most effective way to reduce plastic production was through a legally binding global target. Sadly, in the end, petro-states, including the USA, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait resisted, arguing for a focus on waste management instead of reducing production, and the talks failed. However, negotiations are due to resume at some point. Some countries, including the UK, are regrouping and calling for changes to the decision-making process and to push for a more ambitious draft treaty. As individuals, we need to make sure that our elected representatives in parliament know they have our backing and that we need, nay demand, a reduction in plastic production and the related environmental destruction. Please do contact our local MP about this issue if you feel you can. If he doesn't know we care, he can't do anything about it.

Join us for a

Valentine's Day Cèilidh

Saturday 14th February

7:00pm - 9:30pm

St John's Church, Bilton

No Dance Experience Required

BYO Refreshments

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

QUESTION CORNER

Question

In the creed we say we believe in the catholic and apostolic church. But isn't the Church of England protestant?



Answer

'Catholic' does not mean 'Roman'. It means 'universal' with beliefs and a heritage stretching back to the apostles. So our church was not founded by Henry VIII (a widespread misconception) and it's not a protestant sect. But in the European religious reformation between the 14th and 17th centuries we also embraced essential protestant doctrines. Quite apart from Henry's reason for breaking with Rome, we denied the false claims of the pope at that time - e.g. if you buy papal indulgences your sins will be forgiven (a far cry from the gospel message?) Those who protested were called 'Protestants', but the Reformation was a gradual process about various things. Henry declared himself head of the English church but, unlike the continental reformers (who rejected bishops as well as the pope) NO new church was set up. The basic creeds and historic ministry of bishops, priests and deacons continued as before, with protestant and reformed doctrines adopted in stages.

So we are part catholic and part protestant. Some will say that's a typical Anglican answer! Yes it is. For we value our catholic heritage and what we share with our friends in the Roman Catholic church (which has itself had various reforms). And we value with our Protestant friends the basic idea of 'justification by faith'. This means that, as we put our faith in Christ who died for us, God accepts us as though we ARE 'just' and righteous and in a right relationship with him (we cannot earn our salvation).

In the C of E, those more catholic minded lay more importance on the sacraments. And those more protestant stress the Word, the Bible. Both are essential, although there are extremists at either end, with various mixtures in between (labels don't help), however, most of us believe in a balance of Word and Sacrament. That creative balance is one of the good things about the C of E and it should help us to appreciate the insights of differing traditions, and be prepared to learn from each other.

David

PLEASE KEEP SENDING IN ARTICLES FOR THE MAGAZINE.
IF YOU ARE LOOKING FOR HELPERS/VOLUNTEERS THE
MAGAZINE IS THE PLACE TO DO IT!

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Lent Group 2026 – study group pilot!

If I might begin with a bit of a personal digression before getting on to the diary details...



When I was at theological college I did a dissertation on the use of the Bible (specifically the Nativity stories) in a CofE primary school. My essential takeaway was that (even, and indeed ironically/interestingly in a Church of England primary school) the children were understanding the birth and infancy stories in Matthew and Luke's gospels in the same sort of ballpark genre as fairy tales – angels for example, seen as not real (ie fictional). This stayed with me and was expanded upon when I attempted to do a part-time PhD – unfortunately I didn't manage to stay the course of study alongside ministry, but I've kept pondering over the years.

Here's my take on Bible reading in general (forgive a foray into academic jargon):

- Since the Reformation there's been an emphasis within Protestant churches (and indeed the reformed tradition of the Church of England) to open up interpretation as an individual task for every Christian – so the Church doesn't issue an authoritative reading of Scripture, we encounter the Bible in the vernacular (mostly in our case, English, rather than Latin), we've got loads of different translations, it doesn't hurt to go back to the original Hebrew and Greek if you get that kind of intellectual opportunity, and so on and so forth.
- But once you've opened the [hermeneutical] can of worms, can a text mean whatever you happen to decide it does? Obviously not, there need to be checks and balances, and a degree of common sense consensus, but what might working this out look like?
- In our postmodern and secular (almost 'post-truth') context I think it's important to cultivate countercultural opportunities to come together

as a joint Christian community to explore our response to the Bible and what it might mean to us; respecting that each reader responds subtly or even dramatically differently; acknowledging the multiplicity of authors, editors, and redactors (and that consequently different parts of Scripture can be contradictory rather than consistent – it's more a varied library than a carefully curated collection of terms and conditions); noting the limitations of certain texts making it into the canon and others missing the cut; God's incarnate Word (Christ as portrayed in the Gospels) the guiding lens through which we read; crucially the ongoing role of the Holy Spirit – an assumption that what connects with us is not necessarily personal/arbitrary, sometimes something really does 'speak to us' [I'm not saying this is a peculiarly Christian experience, just that within a Christian context we'd probably articulate this as a prompting of the Spirit].

Put simply(ish), we can be postmodern Christians (or Christians in post-modern times) without lapsing into reducing our reading of Scripture to a defensive kind of 'that's my opinion' lowest common denominator as if that's the last word; the Bible can't mean whatever we happen to think it can or should in a particular moment, but also interpretation does and always will legitimately vary – all of our various readings shaped in joint reflection might just about equip us to cultivate responsible readings that are healthy and helpful.

I'd intended to come back to this once PCC had discerned priorities in the summer, but a bit like working with children and young people, it seems fairly self-evident that learning and discipleship is something that we 'should' be doing as a church, and might even be one of the aspects of our identity that we start to specialise in or choose to concentrate on as part of our collective calling.

In that hopefully not too presumptuous spirit, I proposed using a Lent group as a pilot for a new kind of learning community experiment and have been sharing thoughts with Churchwarden Colin (St Luke's) and Rev'd Dr Judith C. (our C&YP Chaplain, but in this case wearing her Associate Priest 'hat'). We've decided to begin with Archbishop Sarah Mullally's Lent Book for 2026, and I'm fairly sure we'll pick up an equivalent seasonal suggestion during Advent, but in term time in the other half-terms we'll do a simple and accessible Bible Study – don't worry about everything I've waffled on about above (that's just my academic aspiration talking): the group will literally be just rock up, bring

your lunch if you wish, and discuss at most six or so chapters of the Bible per week (so no more reading than approximately a chapter a day in advance, which hopefully isn't too much).

In a terms of a pilot experiment, we're proposing Thursdays at 12 noon at St Luke's from Thursday 19th February (with 6 opening sessions running through to 26th March).

Colin has kindly ordered 10 copies of 'Dancing to the Heartbeat of God' – donations suggested to C&YP fund – which are available to be collected from St John's Parish Office, or Colin directly at St Luke's. Please do pick up your copy and read the week 1 material prior to the first session!

We've provisionally earmarked making our way through Genesis after Easter, and perhaps Luke's Gospel for the second half of the summer term.

I'm painfully aware that it's always difficult getting a time that suits everyone, and this is very much a pilot – please could I stress that this is intended to be extremely informal, so for example if you work from home or in town and can pop in during your lunchbreak, even just for half an hour or so, then this is absolutely intended for you, as well as those of us who have the privilege of being able to be flexible with our time. There's no expectation of prior knowledge or intensive prep, just bring yourself and your takes on Scripture!

Please don't by any means feel obliged to come for my sake, and this is very much a joint enterprise with Colin and Judith, but it would mean a lot to me if we could give this a good go. If it falls flat or doesn't work, that's fine – at least we'll have tried... And we'll somehow do our best to heed the amusingly apposite warning of Ecclesiastes 12:12: 'Of making many books there is no end, and much study is a weariness of the flesh'!

Rev'd Matthew



Creating engaging all age worship

**Are you passionate about creating worship
that truly engages every generation?**

Join us for a dynamic and interactive learning session focused on all-age worship. Led by Sue and David Kirby, this session will offer practical insights, creative ideas, and hands-on activities designed to inspire and equip you. Together, we'll explore imaginative approaches and discover practical ways to make worship services accessible, inclusive, and engaging for all ages. Whether you're new to leading all-age worship or looking to deepen and refresh your practice, you'll find a welcoming space to connect, learn, and grow.

Saturday 7th March 2026

10 am – 12 pm

St Andrew Church, High Street, Starbeck, Harrogate HG2 7JE
Refreshments will be provided

For further information and booking please contact: Gayle Bryon
Encouraging Lay Ministries Coordinator gaylebryonelm@gmail.com



www.harrogatedeanery.org/encouraging-lay-ministries.html



York Opera are coming to St John's!

Many readers of this magazine will know me through my leading of music worship at both St John's and St Luke's over many years – you may have heard me sing while playing the guitar or keyboard, or sometimes standing at the back of the choir. You may not know, however, that since 1995 I have been fortunate to be a principal singer with York Opera, one of the highest regarded amateur opera groups in the north of England.

I was not a fan of opera growing up, sharing with many the perception that it was entertainment for an elite audience, and involved overweight singers warbling in a foreign language. However, my first production with York Opera was *Hugh the Drover*, an English opera by Vaughan Williams that centres around a boxing match! This was followed by a foray into Gilbert and Sullivan's *Princess Ida*, and by the time I was cast in Mozart's *The Magic Flute* at York Theatre Royal I was well and truly hooked! I have been daunted at times by the quality of the singers I have been lucky enough to share the stage with, and always proud of the standard of performances we have been able to present. There are not many companies who can successfully mount productions of Puccini's *Turandot*, or Britten's *Peter Grimes*, complete with full orchestra.

This year York Opera celebrates its 60th anniversary. Since its

founding as City Opera Group in 1966, it has produced 51 different operas and 109 productions, as well as innumerable concerts and staging of excerpts. The company continues to pride itself on making its own costumes, building its own sets and props, and recruiting producers, musical directors and accompanists from within its membership. As we celebrate this special anniversary, we are presenting concerts that showcase our history, and on **Saturday 7th March** I have persuaded my fellow singers to come to Harrogate, with a programme that revisits our light opera memories. The programme includes choruses, solos, ensembles and scenes from works such as *Orpheus in the Underworld*, *Die Fledermaus* (which is also to be our anniversary production at York Theatre Royal in June), *Hansel and Gretel*, and, of course, many favourites from the Gilbert and Sullivan repertoire. There may even be a guest appearance from another member of the St John's congregation! Proceeds are to be split between the church and the group.

It promises to be a highly entertaining evening, suitable for all ages, and an excellent introduction to opera for those who may have thought it wasn't for them. I hope to see you there!

Ian Thomson-Smith



HOW DO I MAKE MY FAITH COUNT?

Come along and find out...
Events 2026

10 February 2026, 7pm-9pm @Leeds Minster

Discussion Evening - Bishop Chris Edmondson will help us think about how we hear God's call

22 April 2026, 6pm-9pm @Wakefield Cathedral

Vocations Fayre - connect with people from a broad range of ministries, including lay, ordained and chaplaincy. Pre-event Choral Evensong at 5:30pm

13 June 2026, 10am - 3pm @Bolton Abbey Priory

Vocations Retreat Day - Spend time discerning with God and others whilst immersed in the history and beauty of Bolton Abbey

23 September, 7pm-9pm @St Peter's Huddersfield

Discussion Evening - Hear about real experiences of starting a new ministry for lay and ordained

18 November, 7pm-9pm @Church House Leeds

Discussion Evening - Hear perspectives on ordained ministry from the new and the retiring

For more details email vocations@leeds.anglican.org

Registration via Eventbrite

Exploring Vocation Together



Jenice Guild
Administrator
jenice.guild@leeds.anglican.org

Contacts

Revd Canon Sean Robertshaw
Diocesan Director of Vocations
sean.robertshaw@leeds.anglican.org

GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

I wanted to write and mention that my parents Joyce and Theva Thevarokiam were married at St John's Church in Bilton 50 years ago this Saturday 3rd January, on a very cold and windy, but bright and sunny Saturday similar to that forecast! And will be celebrating their Golden Wedding Anniversary this weekend.

They (and indeed we all, including my younger brother and I) were regular churchgoers and members of the St John's and Bilton community, from that time for many decades, my brother and I moved away from Harrogate when we went to university but my parents carried on coming to St John's regularly, first from Burke Street where we lived in Bilton, and then from across town, until reluctantly my Dad's health has made it impossible these last few years. They even brought me to St John's on the way back from hospital at my birth, before taking me home and asked the then Vicar to open up the church so they could bring me there first! My brother and I went to Richard Taylor Primary School and then on to St Aidan's High School so had strong links with all that went on at St John's. Mum regularly helped out with church coffee, coffee mornings and community lunches as well as at Bilton Library, and my Dad was involved heavily with CMS and links to Sri Lanka, My husband Ben and I were also married at St John's in 2009.

They have a strong faith and I'm sure would be delighted to know that they and their special anniversary have been remembered by their community at St John's. I know sadly many of their contemporaries and friends at St John's have died in recent years (Friede Nokes, Shirley Anderson, Jean Burton to mention a few) so there are few around now to mark or celebrate it with them but I didn't want it to go unnoticed.

Many thanks, and wishing you a happy new year with all good things for 2026 and many blessings,

Best wishes,
Rebecca Tate (nee Thevarokiam)

ENCORE!

Our Light Opera Memories

YORK OPERA'S 60th Birthday CONCERTS

6 MARCH – YORK UNITARIAN CHAPEL, ST SAVIOURGATE

7 MARCH – ST JOHN'S CHURCH, BILTON, HARROGATE

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT

www.yorkopera.co.uk

KIDZ KLUB HAMPER APPEAL2025



Thank you so much for making a big difference to many families living in inner-city Leeds by providing Christmas hampers and gifts. They are an extra special way of showing families how much they mean to us and how valued they are. Your church has gone above and beyond with its generosity. You and your army of helpers are amazing. It is a wonderful demonstration of God's love.

Because of your donations of food, toys, and money we blessed 217 families with Christmas hampers. We also gave each child attending our activities a wrapped Christmas present, that's over 1155 presents! All thanks to the support of churches, individuals, shops and businesses across the region. Your generosity and kindness brought joy, hope, and love this Christmas.

This is the tenth year that I have been organising the hamper appeal. Each year I am amazed by the response of churches like yours. Everything given was thoughtfully selected and creatively presented to make wonderful hampers. You will probably never meet these families. You didn't see the smile on happy faces or hear joy and laughter on the doorstep, but you have helped create moments that will be remembered for a long time.

Please pass on our thanks to everyone at St John and St Luke's Church, Harrogate. We almost supplied 2 out of every 5 hampers thanks to the generosity of everyone in the parish and to Foresters.

Alex Joiner

Kidz Klub Leeds

WORSHIP | FAITH | FOOD | FRIENDSHIP

**1ST SUNDAY
OF THE MONTH**

Youth
**WORSHIP
NIGHT**

6 - 7.30pm

**WESLEY CHAPEL
28 Oxford St, Harrogate**



**Register
online**

netmakers.org.uk/harrogate-youth

In partnership with



COFFEE MORNING SATURDAY 10TH JANUARY 2026

It was a delight to welcome Chris and Anna Hembury to our coffee morning on Saturday 10 January which was to raise funds for the wonderful work they are doing in Hull. I am so pleased to report that we raised £587.64 for them. They also kindly brought many copies of their latest newsletter for us (available on the welcome table in church). They really enjoyed the morning and extended their thanks to everyone.

As always it was a very happy and vibrant event, keeping all our volunteers very busy, so many thanks to everyone and to all who donated cakes, prizes, books etc.

Thank you also to our valued visitors for supporting us so generously. We do hope you will join us next month.

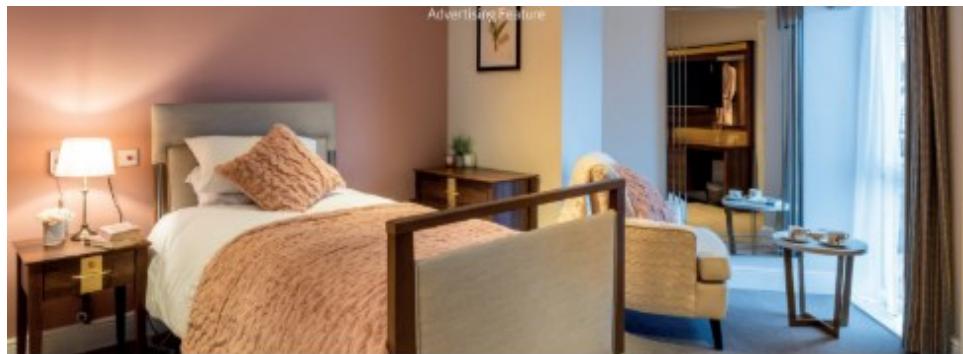
COFFEE MORNING SATURDAY 14TH FEBRUARY 2026

February's coffee morning is to raise funds for Monday First. This is led by John and Val Carr and their team on the first Monday of each month 2-3pm at Dene Park Community Centre. It is a relaxed informal worship service followed by cake and a cuppa, which is growing in popularity each month. If you enjoy St Luke's café church service then perhaps pop in to the Dene Park community centre and give Monday First a try. A warm friendly welcome is assured.

We do hope everyone will join us on the 14th February for our coffee morning in support of Monday First.

Kindest regards

Anne



Advertisement Feature

Why families choose Harcourt Gardens care home

At Care UK's Harcourt Gardens in Harrogate, your loved one can experience quality residential, nursing and dementia care in comfortable and homely surroundings.

Elegance and luxury

There are many reasons why families choose our beautiful care home in Harrogate besides our expert care. Renowned for our luxury care suites, vibrant bistro and beautifully landscaped gardens thoughtfully designed by residents, it's no wonder Harcourt Gardens is the care home of choice.

Luxury care suites

Kite View luxury care suites at Harcourt Gardens offer a boutique collection of twenty-five care suites, each elegantly furnished with plush décor. Each of the three floors features a bright and airy shared lounge so residents can enjoy spending quality time with friends and loved ones.

A busy social hub

When residents and relatives are asked what's so remarkable about living at Harcourt Gardens, having a great social life and feeling connected with the community is always top on their list. Residents marvel about starting a new chapter in their life, reviving their faded social lives and discovering new friendships. Harcourt Gardens is also a popular social

hub with the older members of the local community, offering a welcoming shared space for those looking for companionship and interaction.

Landscaped gardens and peaceful surroundings

Our stunning outdoor spaces provide a peaceful retreat, with an oasis of colour and beauty to enjoy all year round, enriched by the calming scents of lavender, rosemary and mint. Designed in collaboration with our residents, our gardens feature beautifully landscaped lawns, raised flower beds, secluded patios and a thriving herb and fruit garden. We are also proud to announce that we have won a silver award at the recent Harrogate in Bloom Awards – recognising the passion and hard work of everyone involved in creating a beautiful outdoor space for Harcourt Gardens.

To find out more about Harcourt Gardens, call 01423 205 871.



Harcourt Gardens care home
Harcourt Road, Harrogate, Yorkshire HG1 5NL
careuk.com/harcourt-gardens

*T&C's apply. We're offering all new permanent residents six weeks free, during their first 6 months of stay with us.



ST JOHN'S CHURCH BILTON

COFFEE MORNING

SATURDAY 14TH FEBRUARY

ENTRANCE £1

10AM-12NOON

(accompanied children free)

Refreshments included in entry fee

Home-made cakes

Jigsaws



Hand-made cards

Raffle

Large choice of books

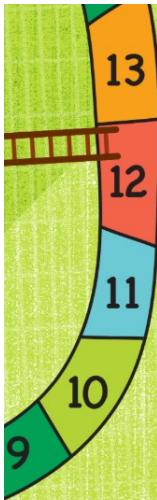
Tombola

Refreshments



All proceeds in aid of

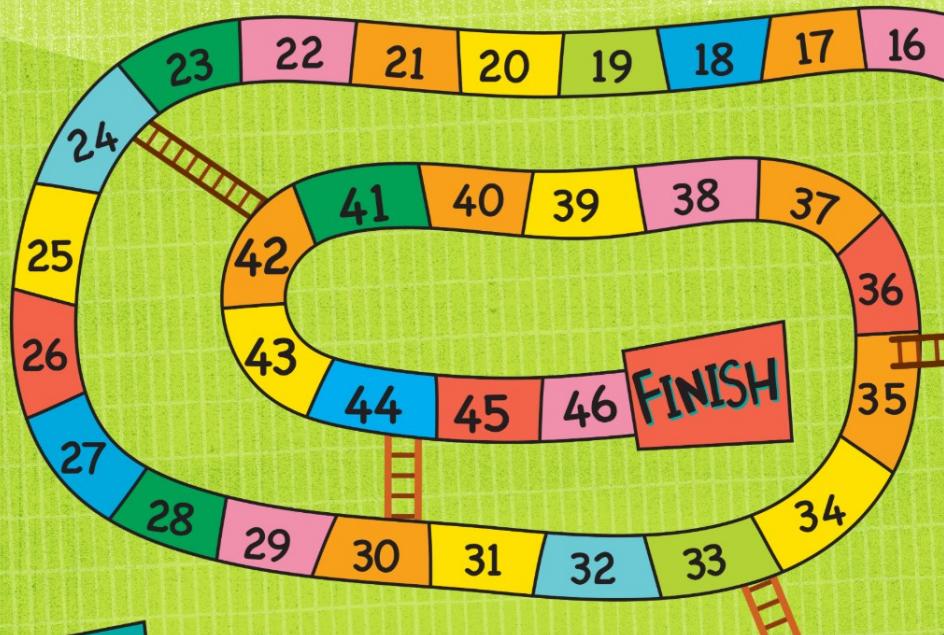
Monday First
at Dene Park Community Centre



Men's Group Presents...

Board Game Night

St Luke's Church
Friday 20th February
8pm onwards
BYO board games &
refreshments



FEBRUARY'S CALENDAR

Sunday 1st	9.00am 10.30am 1.00pm 4-6.00pm 6-7.30pm	Holy Communion (SJ) JOINT All Age Parade Service and Laura's last service (SJ) Baptisms (SJ) Volunteers Thank You and Laura's Leaving Event Youth Worship Night at Wesley Chapel
Monday 2nd	9-9.30am 2-3.00pm	Morning Prayer (SJ) Monday First at Dene Park Community Centre
Tuesday 3rd	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
Wednesday 4th	9-9.30am 10.30am 10.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ) Holy Communion (SJ) Thirst – Coffee at Dene Park Community Centre
Thursday 5th	9-9.30am 9.30-11.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ) Little Fishes (Parent & Toddler Group) (SL)
Friday 6th	1-3.00pm 6-7.15pm 7-7.45pm	Wellbeing Café (SL) Junior Choir Practice (SJ) Adult Choir Practice (SJ)
Sunday 8th	9.00am 10.30am 10.30am 6-7.15pm	Holy Communion (SJ) Holy Communion (SJ) Café Church (SL) Ignite (Year 7+ Youth Group) (SL)
Monday 9th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
Tuesday 10th	9-9.30am 10.00am	Morning Prayer (SJ) Walking Group (SJ)
Wednesday 11th	9-9.30am 10.30am 10.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ) Holy Communion (SJ) Thirst – Coffee at Dene Park Community Centre
Thursday 12th	9-9.30am 9.30-11.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ) Little Fishes (Parent & Toddler Group) (SL)
Friday 13th	1-3.00pm 6.30-7.15pm 7-7.45pm	Wellbeing Café (SL) Junior Choir Practice (SJ) Adult Choir Practice (SJ)
Saturday 14th	10.00am-12noon 7-9.30pm	Coffee Morning in Church Hall (SJ) Valentine's Day Ceilidh (SJ)
Sunday 15th	9.00am 10.30am 10.30am	Holy Communion (SJ) Morning Worship (SJ) Morning Worship (SL)
Monday 16th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)

Tuesday 17 th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
Wednesday 18 th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
<i>Ash Wednesday</i>	10.30am	Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes (SJ)
	10.30am	Thirst – Coffee at Dene Park Community Centre
	12.00pm	Thirst Table at Dene Park Community Centre
Thursday 19 th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	12-1.00pm	Lent Course (SJ)
Friday 20th	8.00pm	Men's Group Board Game Evening (SL)
Sunday 22nd	9.00am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	10.30am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	10.30am	All Age Worship (SL)
	6-7.15pm	Ignite (Year 7+ Youth Group) (SL)
Monday 23 rd	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
Tuesday 24 th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
Wednesday 25 th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	10.30am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	10.30am	Thirst – Coffee at Dene Park Community Centre
Thursday 26 th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	9.30-11.30am	Little Fishes (Parent & Toddler Group) (SL)
	12-1.00pm	Lent Course (SJ)
Friday 27 th	1-3.00pm	Wellbeing Café (SL)
MARCH		
Sunday 1st	9.00am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	10.30am	All Age Parade Service (SJ)
	10.30am	Holy Communion (SL)
	12.30pm	Baptisms (SJ)
	6-7.30pm	Youth Worship Night at Wesley Chapel
Monday 2 nd	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	2-3.00pm	Monday First at Dene Park Community Centre
	7.30pm	Baptism Information Session (SJ)
Tuesday 3 rd	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
Wednesday 4 th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	10.30am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	10.30am	Thirst – Coffee at Dene Park Community Centre
Thursday 5 th	1.00pm	Funeral: Graeme Chisholm (SJ)
	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	9.30-11.30am	Little Fishes (Parent & Toddler Group) (SL)
	12-1.00pm	Lent Course (SJ)
Friday 6 th	1-3.00pm	Wellbeing Café (SL)
	6-7.15pm	Junior Choir Practice (SJ)
	7-7.45pm	Adult Choir Practice (SJ)
Saturday 7 th	7.30pm	York Opera 60 th Anniversary Concert (SJ)

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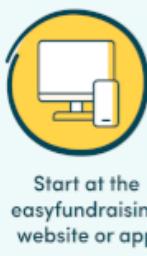
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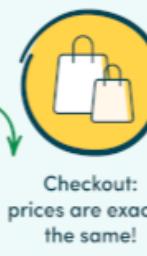
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PEOPLE

Baptisms

Constance Margot Styen
Zoey Scarlett Heeles



FUNERALS/ MEMORIALS

*We extend our sympathy to the families of those
who have recently died:*



Wendy Ridgway
Melissa Bristow
Graeme Chisholm

SUNDAY 15TH FEBRUARY

is Copy Date for

MARCH'S FOCUS

Items for inclusion to:

SJSLFocus@gmail.com

or **Editor, 20 Redhill Close**

HG1 3JG

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

Candlelit Choral Evensong and Faure's Requiem

Sung by local singers including
Lay Clerks from Ripon Cathedral
and Leeds Minster with Philip
Wilby (organ)

Hampsthwaite Church
7th February 2026
5pm

Donations in aid of Hampsthwaite Church
Drinks and Canapes afterwards



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:

Hubert Swainson
Funeral Services Ltd

Private Chapels

Distinctive personal arrangements by:

Geoffrey Brewster Dip FD

Tim Canavar

Tel 01425 504571

39 Franklin Road
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 & Fruits
your local greengrocer

30 King Edwards Drive, Harrogate, HG1 4HL.

Telephone: 01423 538445

Opening Times: 7.30am-5.30pm Tuesday - Saturday
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Bilton & Woodfield
Community Library

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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
www.biltonandwoodfield.org.uk

David Bentley

07917815981

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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@stjohnsandstlukes.org.uk

Parish Office address: c/o The Vicarage, Bilton Lane, Harrogate, HG1 3DT

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

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