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st John's and st Luke's Together

St John's Church



**November
2026**

60 pence

St Luke's Church

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Letter by John Carr

At St John's and St Luke's we seem to have been having a musical season recently. Concerts by the Harrogate Band, York Opera and Echo 42, not to mention the Ceilidh, have entertained us in various ways. It made me wonder what my go-to style of music would be, and here I'm about to indicate something of my age! Perhaps something from the Kinks in their later years: rhyming "consortium" with "awarded 'em" is a mark of genius. Or Paul Simon's solo career - Gracelands is a particular joy. I will admit to a fondness for a good brass band too, but I am deeply concerned by the range of oddball and one-off songs that I recall. My wife even more so.

No doubt you can think of music that has been important to you at different stages in life, or are associated with a particular event that you have experienced. A wedding hymn, a song from a memorable holiday or a spectacular live performance.

When it comes to Christian music what floats your boat? What brings you closer to God. Traditional hymns? Plainsong? Contemporary worship songs? Gospel? The options are many. A good number of hymns, both new and traditional, are based on or inspired by phrases from Scripture. Examples that spring to mind include "At the name of Jesus" (Philippians 2:10) and "Great is thy faithfulness" (Lamentations 3:22). And from my wayward memory banks I can dredge up a number of cheesy songs and choruses sung with enthusiasm in Sunday School many years ago. "My glory and the lifter of my head" (Psalm 3:3); "Be thou strong and very courageous" (Joshua 1:7); "I delight greatly in the Lord" (Isaiah 61:10) are just a few of them. Many of

these songs are definitely past their sing-by date, but sometimes they can gain a new life for a new generation. Listen, for example, to Elle Limebear's reworking of "Give Me Joy in My Heart".

It seems to me that the best music, secular or spiritual, says something and does something. Through the tune, through the words or through both working together. It might speak of joy, of sadness, of hope, of lament, of despair, of thanksgiving – of any and all our emotions. Somehow, when we listen to that music it resonates deep within us, it articulates the longings of our heart. And singing has other benefits: it helps us learn and remember; it binds us into a community, it makes us a people of purpose. A football crowd singing "You'll never walk alone", family and friends singing "Happy Birthday", a Karaoke evening. And a congregation singing in worship draws us both closer to each other and closer to God.

The book of Psalms is often described as the Bible's song book and, as well as the value it has in its own right, it has inspired many hymns and songs. Psalm 23, The Lord's my Shepherd, has been interpreted musically by an unknown Scottish composer and, more recently, Stuart Townend. Psalm 100 inspired "All people that on earth do dwell" and "O God, our help in ages past" is based on Psalm 90. "Psalm Praise", published in 1973, was an attempt to provide a range of hymns and songs based on the Psalms and often set to well-known tunes. Unfortunately it didn't stand the test of time but, amongst others, it contained a lovely version of Psalm 1, "Blessed is the man", Psalm 98, "Sing to God new songs of worship" to Beethoven's "Ode to Joy" and Psalm 46, "God is our strength and refuge" to the tune of The Dambusters!

The church lectionary includes a Psalm for each day although we very rarely use them, yet their words are never out-dated. They remind us of universal and timeless emotions and feelings. Are we angry? Try Psalm 2. Are we fearful? Psalm 62. Does God seem distant? Psalm 74. Are we joyful? Psalm 150. The book affirms that we can bring our feelings to God without fear or pretence. We can be honest about how we are. Honesty is a mark of a loving relationship. Honesty allows conversation to start. Honesty allows God to work with us and within us.

You might not actually sing the Psalms (although please feel free to do so), but as we head into the darkness of the winter season here's a suggestion. Why not try reading a Psalm a day to explore the range of emotions that they contain. If you started on November 1st it would take you until around the end of March (although I might allow you an extension to cope with Psalm 119).

And as you read, and as you sing, may the words of your mouth and the meditation of your heart be pleasing in God's sight. That's Psalm 19. And Boney M.

Every blessing

John

SLIGHTLY DOTTY CHURCH NOTICES



No questions have been sent in for Q.C. this month. So here are some notices which could have been worded differently:

Due to increasing problems with litter louts and vandals,= we must ask anyone with relatives buried in the churchyard to keep them in order.

Thursday night Pot Luck Supper. Prayer and medication to follow.

Topic for next Sunday evening – ‘What do we mean by Hell these days? Come early and listen to the choir practising.

Dieting group will meet in the hall at 7pm. Please use the large double door at the side entrance.

After the Tea Break please empty the teapot and stand upside down on the draining board.

Good second hand clothes available. The church ladies will have cast off clothing in the hall on Friday at 2pm.

For those who have children and don't know it, there is a creche on the first floor.

(Yes, these are real notices – but not from this parish of course?)

David



Lego Sessions

Our Lego sessions are 10.00 am – 12.00 noon,
on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of each month.

5yrs to adult, Primary age children must be
accompanied by an adult.

It's FREE and no booking is necessary,
just turn up and have fun!

Bilton & Woodfield Community Library, Woodfield Road, HG1 4HZ
(former school site)

Follow us on facebook: [bilton and woodfield community library](#)

Email: info@biltonandwoodfield.org.uk

Phone: 01423 564630



Coffee Morning Saturday 10 October 2026

We had a really busy fun filled morning raising money for the Girl Guiding project at Birk Crag. A grand total of £805 was raised. It was lovely to welcome Jill (Barn Owl) and her many helpers. The hall was buzzing with activity, chatter, laughter and joy as people perused the stalls, partook in the games and enjoyed many cups of tea and coffee; not forgetting the biscuits and toasted teacakes of course!

Thank you Jill for bringing the information boards and literature to showcase what the morning was about and for the generous amount of prizes on your stall. Thank you as always to our wonderful church family who never fail to volunteer, bake, donate and support our monthly charity events.

Anne (Coffee Morning Team)

Puppetry Workshop

Saturday 14th of November 2026

1pm – 3pm at St. Andrews, High Street, Starbeck HG2 7JE

This will be a wonderfully uplifting session on a winter afternoon, full of creativity, laughter, and simple techniques that anyone can learn.

Puppetry is a brilliant tool for all ages – not just children. Puppets can engage people of all ages through gentle, memorable storytelling that brings worship and outreach to life. They offer creative ways to explore faith, spark the imagination, and draw people into shared moments.

The workshop will be practical and hands on, giving you plenty of opportunities to have a go, experiment and discover how puppets can enhance ministry. Whether you've used puppets before or are completely new to them, you'll find ideas and techniques you can take away and use straight away in a variety of settings. It's fun, confidence building and full of possibilities.

It's led by our own Alissa Reilly, so it's a lovely chance to support her ministry and enjoy what she has to share. Alongside that, it's a great opportunity to meet people from across the Deanery, share ideas and enjoy some time together.

Please come along to have fun, try something new and discover the creative potential of puppetry.

To book your place email gaylebryonelm@gmail.com by Friday, 6th November 2026.



Coffee Morning 14 November 2026 - Our Mission Partners: **Artizan International**

Our November event is to raise Money for Artizan who I am sure most people will know as they have a friendly, welcoming coffee shop and a beautiful gift shop in our town.

This lovely charity works incredibly hard for differently abled people in both Peru and the UK, transforming so many lives. The following is the introduction to their website.

Through social inclusion, enterprise and hospitality we foster diverse, joyful communities where everyone is listened to, valued and has the space to grow and succeed.

The warmth of the welcome and happy atmosphere in their coffee shop is truly testament to this.

We look forward to welcoming you in November.

Anne (Coffee Morning Team)



ST JOHN'S CHURCH BILTON

COFFEE MORNING

SATURDAY 14th NOVEMBER

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

**Our Local Mission Partners:
Artizan International**

St John's & St. Luke's
in collaboration with Hannah Rae Arts

CHRISTMAS WREATH EVENT

Sunday 22nd November

St John's Hall

2.00pm - 5.00pm

We'll begin with a gentle
foraging walk around St Johns
Church yard, gathering fresh,
seasonal foliage. You'll then
create a beautiful handmade
wreath to take home for you to
enjoy throughout the festive
season.



£40 PER PERSON
INCLUDES ALL MATERIALS ,
WARM MULLED WINE AND
MINCE PIES, TEA AND COFFEE.

BOOK ON
ST JOHN'S
& ST LUKE'S
EVENTBRITE USING
THE QR CODE OR
CONTACT THE
OFFICE ON
01423565129



POETRY PLEASE

This month I thought I would go back a few centuries to showcase a poem by the Persian mystical poet Hafez Shirazi 1325ce to 1390ce

You can find lots of information about him on the internet (Britannica.com). He is highly revered in Iran where October 12 is Hafez day. I do hope you enjoy it.

Tired of Speaking Sweetly

Love wants to reach out and manhandle us
Break all our teacup talk of God.
If you had the courage and
Could give the Beloved His choice, some nights,
He would just drag you around the room
By your hair,
Ripping from your grip all those toys in the world
That bring you no joy.
Love sometimes gets tired of speaking sweetly
And wants to rip to shreds
All your erroneous notions of truth
That make you fight within yourself, dear one,
And with others,
Causing the world to weep
On too many fine days,
God wants to manhandle us,
That make you fight within yourself, dear one,

And with others,
Causing the world to weep
On too many fine days,
God wants to manhandle us,
Lock us inside of a tiny room with Himself
And practice His dropkick.
The Beloved sometimes wants
To do us a great favor
Hold us upside down
And shake all the nonsense out.
But when we hear
He is in such a “playful drunken mood”
Most everyone I know
Quickly packs their bags and hightails it
Out of town.
From: ‘The Gift

(Hafez, a Sufi poet, expressed in poetry love for the divine, and the intoxicating oneness of Translated by Daniel Ladinsky union with it. Hafiz, along with many Sufi masters, uses wine as the symbol for love. The intoxication that results from both is why it is such a fitting comparison. Hafiz spoke out about the hypocrisy and deceit that exists in society, and was more outspoken in pointing this out than many poets similar to him.)

From the website medium.com where you can find further Hafez poetry.

Anne Grindrod



Award
winning care
homes

**Join us for our next events at
Harcourt Gardens care home, Harrogate**

Parkinson's awareness

Tuesday 17th November, 2pm - 4pm

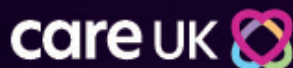
Adjusting to a dementia diagnosis

Tuesday 1st December, 2pm - 4pm

To attend please call 01423 205 880 or email
alexandra.clarke@careuk.com



Trusted to care





ST JOHN'S & ST LUKE'S

CHRISTMAS FAIR

SATURDAY
28 NOVEMBER 10.30 TO 1.00

St Luke's Church ~ Franklin Sq. Harrogate

Tombola ~ Books ~ Cakes ~ Jams ~ Jewellery
Raffle ~ Plants ~ Preserves ~ Jigsaws ~ Traidcraft
Gifts ~ Light Refreshments
Admission £3.00 which includes coffee and cake
(accompanied children free)

WEBSITE
www.stjohnsandstlukes.org.uk

International Justice Mission (IJM) - Update

A brief update on the work of International Justice Mission. In their own words:

“Right now, 50 million people are trapped in slavery. 1 in 4 is a child – that’s the equivalent of every child in England and Wales.

We believe every person deserves freedom and justice. Our team works with authorities and partners in 33 regions across 19 countries to combat slavery, trafficking, violence against women and children, and police abuse of power.”

A story from the IJM 2025 impact statement

12,224 PEOPLE BROUGHT TO FREEDOM

And one baby born into freedom.

No baby should be born into slavery. But for families trapped in generational debt bondage, this is a reality.

Nikita was one of 27 people forced to work on a sugarcane farm in South-East Asia even through her pregnancy.

The day she held her baby for the first time was the day her family was brought to freedom after 10 years.

When one labourer escaped and sought help, local police—recently trained by IJM—were equipped to act.

They brought all 27 people to safety and secured Release Certificates within 24 hours, cancelling their false debts for good.

Today, Nikita can watch her daughter take her first steps in freedom.

A current IJM campaign: end live-streamed sexual abuse

A call to meet with or contact our MP - see:

<https://www.ijmuk.org/stories/meet-with-your-mp>

Live streamed sexual abuse is now the main form of commercial sexual exploitation of children. Horrifyingly, the UK is among the top three global consumers of for-profit live-streamed abuse.

IJM is calling on the UK Government to legislate to require all devices sold in the UK, for both adults and children, to include on-device safeguards that block live-streamed child sexual abuse.

IJM teams are at work in many locations around the world. Find out more and sign up for their news at: <https://www.ijmuk.org/>

Colin & Judith Ashurst



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CHARITY BINGO NIGHT

St John's Church Hall
Bilton Lane, HG1 3DT

Saturday 21st November
at 6pm

Tickets
£10 | **£5**
per adult | per child

Includes
6 FREE GAMES
(more available to buy
on the night)



Scan here
to buy
tickets



Refreshments
available



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Viking

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Uber Eats



WEBSITE



DONATE

IF YOU ARE FINDING IT HARD TO FEED YOURSELF & YOUR FAMILY



**PLEASE POP IN TO ONE OF OUR COMMUNITY
GROCERIES IN HARROGATE OR
KNARESBOROUGH TO SEE IF WE CAN HELP**

COMMUNITY GROCERIES - LOCATIONS & OPENING TIMES

ADDRESS	New Park Community Hub New Park Primary Academy Corner of West St (through the blue gates) Harrogate HG1 3HF	Gracious St Methodist Church Chapel Street Knaresborough HG5 8AN
OPENING HOURS	Every Tuesday 12.30pm – 2.30pm (last entry 2.15pm) Every Tuesday 6pm – 7pm (last entry 6.45pm) Every Thursday 9.30am – 12pm (Last entry 11.45am)	Every Friday 8.00 - 2.00pm Last Entry 1.45pm
CONTACT	Simon - 07434 639911	

www.resurrectedbites.co.uk

NOVEMBER

Sunday 1st	9.00am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	10.30am	All Age Parade (SJ)
	10.30am	Holy Communion (SL)
	12.30pm	Baptisms (SJ)
	3.30pm	All Souls' Service (SJ)
	6-7.30pm	Youth Worship Night at Wesley Chapel
Monday 2nd	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	7.30pm	Baptism Information Session (SJ)
Tuesday 3rd	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	7.00pm	Deanery Synod (SJ)
Wednesday 4th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	10.30am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	10.30am	Thirst – Coffee at Dene Park Community Centre
	1.30-3.30pm	Wellbeing Café (SL)
Thursday 5th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	9.30-11.30am	Little Fishes (Parent & Child Group) (SL)
Friday 6th	6.30-7.15pm	Junior Choir Practice (SJ)
	7-7.45pm	Adult Choir Practice (SJ)
Sunday 8th	9.00am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	10.30am	Holy Communion with Act of Remembrance(SJ)
	10.30am	Remembrance Café Church (SL)
	6-7.15pm	Ignite (Year 7+ Youth Group) (SJ)
Monday 9th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	7.00pm	Finance & Buildings Committee Meeting (SJ)
Tuesday 10th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	10.00am	Walking Group (SJ)
Wednesday 11th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	10.30am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	10.30am	Thirst – Coffee at Dene Park Community Centre
	1.30-3.30pm	Wellbeing Café (SL)
	7.00pm	Team Vicar Shortlisting Meeting (SJ)
Thursday 12th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	9.30-11.30am	Little Fishes (Parent & Child Group) (SL)

Friday 13th	6.30-7.15pm	Junior Choir Practice (SJ)
	7-7.45pm	Adult Choir Practice (SJ)
Saturday 14th	10.00am-12noon	Coffee Morning in Church Hall (SJ)
Sunday 15th	9.00am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	10.30am	Morning Worship (SJ)
	10.30am	Morning Worship (SL)
	12.00pm	Information Sessions for Year 3-5 (SJ)
	4-5.30pm	Youth Confirmation Preparation Session (SJ)
	6-7.15pm	Ignite (Year 7+ Youth Group) (SL)
Monday 16th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
Tuesday 17th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
Wednesday 18th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	10.30am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	10.30am	Thirst – Coffee at Dene Park Community Centre
	12.00pm	Thirst Table at Dene Park Community Centre
	1.30-3.30pm	Wellbeing Café (SL)
Thursday 19th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	9.30-11.30am	Little Fishes (Parent & Child Group) (SL)
Friday 20th	6.30-7.15pm	Junior Choir Practice (SJ)
	7-7.45pm	Adult Choir Practice (SJ)
Saturday 21st	6.00pm	Charity Bingo Night (SJ)
Sunday 22nd	9.00am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	10.30am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	10.30am	All Age Worship (SL)
	2-5.00pm	Christmas Wreath Making Workshop (SJ Hall)
	6-7.15pm	Ignite (Year 7+ Youth Group) (SL)
Monday 23rd	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
Tuesday 24th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
Wednesday 25th	9.00am	Team Vicar Interview Day (SJ&SL)
	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)

Wednesday 25th continued	10.30am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	10.30am	Thirst – Coffee at Dene Park Community Centre
	1.30-3.30pm	Wellbeing Café (SL)
	7.00pm	PCC Meeting (SJ)
Thursday 26th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	9.30-11.30am	Little Fishes (Parent & Child Group) (SL)
Friday 27th	6.30-7.15pm	Junior Choir Practice (SJ)
	7-7.45pm	Adult Choir Practice (SJ)
Saturday 28th	10.30am-1.00pm	Christmas Fair (SL)
Sunday 29th	9.00am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	10.30am	JOINT All Age Morning Worship followed by Kidz Klub Hamper Collation (SL)
	5.00pm	Choir Practice (SJ)
	6-7.15pm	Ignite (Year 7+ Youth Group) (SL)
	6.30pm	Advent Carols (SJ)
Monday 30th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)

DECEMBER

Tuesday 1st	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	7.00pm	Advent Course (SL)
Wednesday 2nd	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	10.30am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	10.30am	Thirst – Coffee at Dene Park Community Centre
Thursday 3rd	1.30-3.30pm	Wellbeing Café (SL)
	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	9.30-11.30am	Little Fishes (Parent & Child Group) (SL)

Coming up...

Christmas Tree Festival Sunday 29th Nov – Sunday 3rd Jan (SJ)

Advent Course – 4 weeks Starting Tuesday 1st December 7.00pm (SL)

Advent and Christmas Services

Volunteers Thank You Event Sunday 7th Feb (SL)



VOLUNTEERS WANTED

A little time, a big difference



**Could you offer 2-3 hours a week or fortnight
to give unpaid carers a break?**

Spend time with someone who is cared for, in their home or out and about.

Sit inside for a
chat

Visit a Garden
Centre

Go out for a
coffee

Training provided

Travel costs reimbursed.

DBS check and references required.

Carers' Resource is an independent Yorkshire charity supporting unpaid carers.

01423 500555
carerstimeoff@carersresource.org

Get in touch

 Carers' Resource
www.carersresource.org



Wedding

David James Vaux
and
Claire Melanie Govender

Baptisms

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

We welcome you.
Amen



Funerals & Memorials

Victor John Collier
Keith Baines

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

SUNDAY 8th NOVEMBER

is Copy Date for
December'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

01423 565129 (+ Answerphone)

church@stjohnsandstlukes.org.uk

St John's Church Hall and St Luke's Church

can be hired for single
occasions or for regular
events, from £18 per hour

Contact the Church Office
for more information.

See page 24 for contact
details



Bilton & Woodfield
Community Library



YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY

You can use computers or find out about local events
and information. We run storytimes for pre-school
children and reading groups for all.

You could become a member of our team of
volunteers

We are open five days a week:

Monday	1.00pm - 5.00pm
Tuesday	9.30pm - 5.00pm
Wednesday	CLOSED
Thursday	9.30pm - 5.00pm
Friday	9.30pm - 5.00pm
Saturday	9.30pm - 5.00pm
Sunday	CLOSED

In the grounds of Woodfield School, Woodfield Road

Telephone: 01423 564630

Email: info@biltonandwoodfield.org.uk

www.biltonandwoodfield.org.uk

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The views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of the editor or the Clergy and whilst every care is taken not to change the original meaning, the editor and Clergy reserve the right to cut or alter articles submitted, as they deem necessary.

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

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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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Judith Clark—Children & Young

People's Chaplain

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