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St John's and St Luke's Together

St John's Church



**Otober
2023**

50 pence

St Luke's Church



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RECTOR'S LETTER

Dear friends

You may remember that in the August issue of Focus I wrote to you about our plans to encourage people to adopt a **Rhythm of Life (RoL)** in order to help us on our journey through life, and you might even remember that we were suggesting that there could be four broad areas that we would look to help us think about a life-giving and sustainable rhythm, namely,



- **Transforming**, which is about together seeking to become more like Jesus in all we do;
- **Treasuring**, which is all about wanting/learning to receive and share the great spiritual treasures God longs to lavish on us;
- **Travelling**, where we recognise the importance of being on a shared, mutually supportive journey;
- **Rhythming**, which is about learning to live lives that are life-giving and life-enhancing – lives based on those ‘unforced rhythms of grace’ that Jesus speaks about in Matthew 11:29 (Message version) which will allow us to live freely and lightly.



And I said that more information would be forthcoming in the Autumn – so here it is: to begin with, there will be two identical one hour meetings where I will speak more about/introduce our Rhythm of Life – the first is on **Sunday 1st October at 12 noon in St John's**, so it would be a case of staying around after the morning service at St John's or coming up from St Luke's; and the second will be at **7.30pm on Wednesday 4th October, also at St John's**.

In addition, if you are part of one of our small groups (groups of up to 10 people) that meet on a fortnightly basis in people's homes, then the material this term will be focused on the RoL and the four areas mentioned above. If you are not part of one of these groups but would like to find out

more, then why not contact me – simon.dowson@leeds.anglican.org or 07786 282214.

Finally, also starting in October, there will be a sermon series about the Rhythm of Life – all of which means that I hope you will be well informed about how to join in – and the idea is that armed with all this information, people can make an informed choice for when we formally launch the RoL, most likely in the early New Year.

But **why** would you want to join in and start a RoL journey? Perhaps an illustration from my summer holiday will help. As part of our time away, Fiona and I went to Herefordshire and walked what is known as the Mortimer Trail, passing through the ancestral lands of the Mortimer family, starting at Ludlow Castle and ending up in the market town of Kington. It was a 30-mile trek, spread over two days, with an overnight stay at the halfway point at a lovely riverside inn with amazing vegetarian food.

For the most part, the trail was well signposted, and the first thing to say was that we really enjoyed ourselves – the scenery was beautiful and varied, it was very quiet, and it was great to spend some uninterrupted time with each other. So, the journey was a good one. But it would have been much more difficult if we hadn't had the Ordnance Survey map on our phones, helping us find our way and get back on track



when we lost our bearing, which we did on a few occasions. I hope that the RoL will act in a similar way, giving us freedom to move forward with God, but also help keep us heading in the right direction, thus enabling us to go deeper and further on our journey of faith.

Likewise, as the saying goes, two heads are better than one, and the journey was both easier and more enjoyable because we had each other's company – and our RoL journey is a shared journey – shared with those others from church who are embracing the RoL, and shared with the one particular person we will be calling our 'fellow traveller' or 'soul mate', who will help us see if we are making good progress and also help us see where we might need to go next.

Then there is one other lesson from our trek which I think is applicable –

sometimes the trail was hard either because it was overgrown with nettles or because there were steep uphill sections – but overall, it was a great experience – and likewise having a RoL helps us see that while our progress as pilgrims can sometimes feel slow or unrewarding, the journey with God is the best journey to walk, as we learn from Jesus ‘the unforced rhythms of grace.’ I do hope and even expect, therefore, that our RoL will be a blessing to us all. So please, take the trouble to find out more.

Blessings,

Simon

WONDERFUL NEWS!

A NEW TEAM VICAR HAS BEEN APPOINTED



**AND IT IS
LAURA MARTIN,
OUR CURATE!**

She is going on placement with Leeds Hospitals Chaplaincy for two months before returning to take up her new position.

LIMITLESS

This summer we took nineteen young people to Limitless, a Christian festival for young people. The festival is all about living in community, connection to God and being transformed through a relationship with Jesus. The days were book-ended with a morning and evening worship, teaching and prayer session all together with 5000 other teenagers! Then during the day, the young people either went to seminars, played sports, took part in activities such as a zip wire or a colour run, or hung around and ate chips or crepes!



Our prayer before we went to Limitless was that no one left the camp without being changed in some way. And that certainly happened! God was so kind and really showed us some of the work he was doing in the young people: As the week went on, they became more and more open to the sung worship and started to join in singing and dancing! And on the last night, four of them stood up and made a commitment to follow Jesus, which was just amazing to witness. God was also at work in our leaders too, and I think our prayer that no one returned unchanged was answered overwhelmingly. Thank you Lord Jesus.

*'Anyone united with the Messiah gets a fresh start, is created new.
The old life is gone; a new life emerges! Look at it!'*
2 Corinthians 5: 17 (MSG)



OUR CREATIONTIDE INSTALLATION - RE/A/DRESS

*'We celebrate, we mourn, then we act.
We work to readdress that which we can change'*

The four trees, round the church, loaned by Horticap, represent the four seasons of the Church's year:

- **Celebration (gold)** - of the beauty of the world God made.
We cut out gold leaves to hang on the tree
- **Mourning (purple)** - We hung purple squares on the tree as we thought of the disasters caused by our abuse of the world: floods, wildfires, climate change
- **Action (green/everyday)** - We were invited to write on a strip of green paper one action we'll try to make ourselves eg reusing/ recycling more, reducing car journeys
- **ReAddress (red)** - We can write to our MP about some of the political issues for example the release of sewage into rivers. We tied a piece of red wool to the tree.



The bark path symbolises a tree, with the roots outside coming in to church and culminating at the front of the church. It represents bringing the outside in and the inside out.

Thinking, praying, discussion, can we make a difference?
Can we re/a/dress?

COFFEE MORNING

14th OCTOBER 2023

ST JOHN'S CHURCH HALL 10 - 12

FOR HORTICAP

£1 INCLUDES DRINK + BISCUIT

Cakes - Preserves - Books - Plants

Raffle - Tombola

Everyone welcome



The coffee morning on 14th October is being held in aid of Horticap. Located at Bluecoat Wood Nurseries on Otley Road (past RHS Harlow Carr, on the way to Beckwithshaw), Horticap is an independent, registered charity which provides adults with learning or other disabilities with training in horticulture, rural skills and crafts. Founded in 1984, Horticap supports students to develop their social and communication skills and trains them using professionally qualified staff and volunteers.

On site there is an excellent garden centre with a wide range of plants, and Hopkins café and shop. There is also a garden which members of the public can enjoy, including a wildlife and bird spotting area and picnic areas. Horticap will be bringing a range of their plants, bird seed and bird boxes to the coffee morning, so please do come along and support this excellent local cause.



Thank you to all those who supported us by making generous donations and by attending or helping at last Saturday's coffee morning. In total £494 was raised, all of which will go to help the children of poor tea plantation workers in Sri Lanka to gain a university education.

Dignity through Education started in 2015 by supporting three students, and currently we are supporting 33 thanks to the ongoing support and generosity of donors. The students whom we support are very appreciative.

Of the original three students one qualified in law and is currently working as a solicitor in the tea plantation areas. Another graduated in communications and IT and is working in a government department holding a responsible position within the tea plantations. One student was unable to finish his studies.

With additional donors we could support more than the present 32.. To support an individual student, donors commit to paying £144 per year for the 3 or 4 year course. Donations can be made either by paying £144 annually; or by paying £12.00 monthly by bank direct debit; or by a single one-off donation. Donors are put in touch with the individual they support.

More information about Dignity Through Education can be found on www.dignitythrougheducation.co.uk and we hope soon to have details of our students' successes on a new facebook page.

Theva Thevarokiam

theva1@outlook.com

01423 886230

BILTON COMMUNITY LUNCH

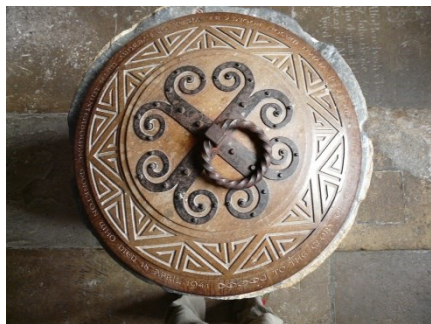
We celebrated the 20th anniversary at the beginning of September, having served the first lunch after a meeting of the pastoral committee all those years ago. We serve a three course meal with tea or coffee once a month in the Bilton Community Centre and you would never know (!) but the years are catching up with some of the volunteers.

Is there anybody who has a few hours to spare once a month to help with the preparation and serving of the meal? Please get in touch with Gill in the church office if you feel able to help.

QUESTION CORNER

Q. Once a baby is baptised, does God love him or her more than before?

A. No. In the Middle Ages priests taught that babies had to be baptised to save their souls from hell, and that all flesh was evil. So it had to be by TOTAL immersion, and 'holy water' was kept in large



fonts with lids which were locked (to keep the devil out). What a terrible view of God behind all that!

Let's turn these ideas upside down. Baptism is not a lucky charm, and babies are not baptised to make God accept them and love them more. Parents should bring baby for baptism precisely because they know that God

loves that child ALREADY. He or she is brought into the church family to learn, with others, what that means, especially through the teachings of Jesus. Hopefully this will lead to a personal commitment to Christ, made public in Confirmation – confirming the promises made by parents and godparents.



In the 1960s, in Manchester, lots of non-church parents asked for baptism. It seemed to be regarded as a spiritual inoculation (against what?) Many said 'I want him 'done' so he'll get on all right! Somehow that word made me think of things cooking in the oven – 'Are they done yet?' So I was tempted to ask 'how do you want him done – fried, boiled or roasted? But no, I never said it!

Now, as then, parents not choosing baptism can have a service of blessing and thanksgiving for their baby. And they should be assured that God loves their child just as much as those who are baptised.

David



GUIDING NEWS

In August girls from 1st and 2nd Bilton Guides joined with over 120 other Brownies, Guides and Rangers for County Camp in Stainforth, just north of Settle.

The theme was “The Crystal Maze” and the girls took



part in various challenges to earn crystals to give them time in

the dome at the end. As well as various on-site activities including a climbing wall and archery, the girls took part in the “It’s a Knock-out” inflatable obstacle course. A swim and a shower was to be found in Settle. The weather held and the girls all had an aMAZEing time!

HARVEST FESTIVAL

On 1st October, in both churches, we will be celebrating and giving thanks for the beauty of the earth and the bountiful harvest that God provides.

Harvest gifts will be welcome, to decorate the churches, and to share with those in need.

Dry goods and cash will go to ‘Community Groceries’ providing affordable food to struggling families.

Flowers, potted plants and fruit/vegetables will go with our good wishes to ill, housebound or bereaved parishioners.

Come and celebrate with us!



St. John's Church welcomed visitors to two guided walks, hosted by Bilton Historical Society, as part of September's national 'Heritage Open Days' festival of history and culture. The walks, which each lasted nearly 2 hours, toured the graveyard and entered the church for a close-up view of the stained-glass windows dedicated to members of the Sheepshanks and Nicholson families.

The tours visited some of the interesting graves to hear about their background stories. For example:

- husband and wife **Joseph Johnson** (c1826-1902) and **Mary Jane Johnson** nee Fryer (c1835-1893) first met while they were both in service in the 1860s as gardener and cook at Parsonage House on Park Parade to the first vicar **Thomas Sheepshanks**.
- two organists are buried here: **Thomas Admiral March** (c1829-1896) was St John's organist for 35 years and most probably its first organist, and **Dr Edwin Crow** (1841-1907), a Fellow of the Royal College of Organists, was Ripon Cathedral's organist and choirmaster 1873-1907.
- **John Dixon** (1829-1896) is buried in the churchyard and also has a dedicated window in the south wall of the church,. He was part of the antiquarian community in Leeds, contributed articles to the journal 'Reliquiae Antiquae Eboracenses' and, although not the greatest of poets, was a talented amateur artist. He held the important post of Secretary and Collector at Leeds General Infirmary for nearly 40 years, which explains the scenes and inscriptions in his window depicting Jesus surrounded by the sick and disabled from His healing miracles. John's funeral service



was conducted by the Rev Thomas Sheepshanks over thirty years after he had left Bilton to become vicar at St Peter's Church, Arthington.

Bilton Historical Society is grateful to the Reverend Simon Dowson for permission to host the events.

QUIZ TIME

at the school

ForTS Fish & Chip Quiz Night

celebrating 50 years of
Richard Taylor School on Bilton
Lane.

Wednesday 18th October | Arrive from 7pm (Quiz Starts 7.30pm) - 9pm

£10 per ticket

Tickets includes Quiz entry and Fish and Chips from our
local takeaway

Drinks will be available for donations

**Teams of up to 8 people or buy a single ticket and
teams can be formed on the night!**

Maximum of 8 people per team

To book your place, please pay via Parent Pay or cash in a labelled envelope to the office.

PEOPLE

BAPTISMS / BLESSINGS

Bethany Sarah Worsell

Ava Daniella Worsell

Jonah James Towse



FUNERALS/ MEMORIALS

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

Barry Ridsdale

Enid Rispin

Betty Waddington



Enid and Betty died within a few days of each other. Guiding in Bilton has much to thank them for - Enid as Captain of 1st Bilton Guides which met in St John's Church Hall, and Betty as District Commissioner.

SATURDAY 14TH OCTOBER

is Copy Date for

NOVEMBER 2023 Focus

Items for inclusion to:

SJSFocus@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

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OCTOBER'S CALENDAR

Sunday 1st	9.00am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	10.30am	Harvest Festival Parade Service (SJ)
	10.30am	Harvest Festival Holy Communion (SL)
	12-12.45pm	Rhythm of Life Introduction (SJ)
	6-7.45pm	Youth Worship Night at Artizan Cafe
Monday 2nd	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	9.30am	Bilton Grange Harvest Festival (SJ)
Tuesday 3rd	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SL)
	11.30am-1.00pm	Time to Pray (SJ)
	4-5.00pm	4twelve at Emma's House (Youth Group)
Wednesday 4th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SL)
	10.30am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	10.30am	Thirst - Coffee at Dene Park Community Centre
	7.30pm	Rhythm of Life Introduction (SJ)
Thursday 5th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	9.30-11.30am	Little Fishes (Parent & Toddler Group) (SL)
		Wellbeing Café (SL)
Friday 6th	1-3.00pm	Junior Choir Practice (SJ)
	6.30-7.15pm	Adult Choir Practice (SJ)
	7-7.45pm	
Sunday 8th	9.00am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	10.30am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	10.30am	Parade Service (SL)
	12.30pm	Baptisms (SJ)
	6-7.45pm	Ignite (Year 7+ Youth Group) (SL)
Monday 9th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	7.30pm	Confirmation Group (SJ)
Tuesday 10th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	10.00am	Walking Group (SJ)
	2-3.30pm	Comfort Café (SJ)
	4-5.00pm	4twelve at Emma's House (Youth Group)
	7.30pm	Finance & Buildings Committee Meeting (SJ)
Wednesday 11th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	10.30am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	10.30am	Thirst - Coffee at Dene Park Community Centre
	12.15pm	Community Lunch at Bilton Community Centre
Thursday 12th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)

Friday 13 th	9.30-11.30am	Little Fishes (Parent & Toddler Group) (SL)
	6.30-7.15pm	Evening Surgery in Church (SJ)
	1-3.00pm	Wellbeing Café (SL)
	6.30-7.15pm	Junior Choir Practice (SJ)
Saturday 14 th	7-7.45pm	Adult Choir Practice (SJ)
	10.00am-12noon	Coffee Morning in Church Hall (SJ)
Sunday 15th	9.00am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	10.30am	All Age Morning Worship (SJ)
	10.30am	Morning Worship (SL)
	6-7.45pm	Ignite (Year 7+ Youth Group) (SL)
Monday 16 th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
Tuesday 17 th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	4-5.00pm	4twelve at Emma's House (Youth Group)
Wednesday 18 th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	10.30am	Morning Worship (SJ)
	10.30am	Thirst – Coffee at Dene Park Community Centre
	12.00noon	Thirst Table at Dene Park Community Centre
Thursday 19 th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	9.30-11.30am	Little Fishes (Parent & Toddler Group) (SL)
Friday 20 th	1-3.00pm	Wellbeing Café (SL)
	6.30-7.15pm	Junior Choir Practice (SJ)
	7-7.45pm	Adult Choir Practice (SJ)
Sunday 22nd	9.00am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	10.30am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	10.30am	All Age Worship (SL)
	6-7.45pm	Ignite (Year 7+ Youth Group) (SL)
Monday 23 rd	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	7.30pm	Confirmation Group (SJ)
Tuesday 24 th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	4-5.00pm	4twelve at Emma's House (Youth Group)
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)
	6.30-7.15pm	Evening Surgery in Church (SJ)
Friday 27 th	1-3.00pm	Wellbeing Café (SL)
Sunday 29th	9.00am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	10.30am	Joint All Age Worship (SL)
Monday 30 th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	2.00pm	Start Course at Dene Park Community Centre
Tuesday 31 st	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)

NOVEMBER

Wednesday 1 st	9-9.30am 10.30am 10.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ) Holy Communion (SJ) Thirst – Coffee at Dene Park Community Centre
Thursday 2 nd	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
Sunday 5 th	9.00am 10.30am 10.30am 3.30pm 6-7.45pm	Holy Communion (SJ) Parade Service (SJ) Holy Communion (SJ) Service to Remember and Give Thanks (SJ) Youth Worship Night at Artizan Cafe

LOOKING AHEAD

Coffee Morning for Sudan	Saturday 11 th November 10.00am-12noon (SJ Hall)
Christmas Fair	Saturday 2 nd December 11am-1.00pm (SL)
Advent Carol Service	Sunday 3 rd December 6.30pm (SJ)
Christingle Coffee Morning	Saturday 9 th December 10.00am-12noon (SJHall)
Christingle Services	Sunday 10 th December tbc
Carol Service	Sunday 17 th December 6.30pm (SJ)
Nativity Service	Sunday 24 th December tbc



It's Finished!

St John's Hall bell tower looks magnificent. Thanks to I & C Watts and Michael Crone

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

www.facebook.com/stlukesharrogate

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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



Bilton & Woodfield
Community Library



YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY

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YOU could become a member of our team of volunteers

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Thursday	9.30am - 5.00pm
Friday	9.30am - 1.00pm
Saturday	9.30am - 1.00pm
Sunday	CLOSED

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