FOCUS

St John's and St Luke's Together

St John's Church



St Luke's Church

December 2026

60 pence

CONTENTS

Letter from Matthew, Team Rector 3
Question Corner 6
October Coffee morning thank you 7
Coffee Morning on 14th November 8
Coffee Morning December Poster 9
Advent and Christmas at St John's and St Luke's 10
Poetry Please 11
Yorkshire Oven Clean Poster 12
Harcourt Gardens Poster 13
Poem: Christmas Bells 14
Lego Sessions Poster 16
Understanding our Parish Share 17
Prison Chaplaincy 19
Cinderella - A Christmas Carol 20
Green Team recycling update 21
Easy funding Poster 23
December Calendar 24
Community Groceries Poster 27
Brownies Sleep over - October 2026 28
Volunteers Wanted Poster 29
Weddings - Baptisms - Funerals & Memorials 30
Church Notices 30
Information and adverts 31
Editors Disclaimer 31
Who's Who 32

Dear Friends,



Advent (as I'm sure you're all no doubt aware) marks the beginning of the church year rather than being merely a preamble to Christmas. And liturgically it's a purple patch of penitence in which thoughts turn even further into the future and we reflect on readiness in the somewhat apocalyptic context of Christ's return - which seems about as far removed from the comforting commercialism of chocolate calendars as it's possible to get!
In the spirit of looking ahead and taking stock and cultivating a psychology of preparedness, we've been doing and will continue to do some serious thinking about our finances.

Thank you so much to all of you for participating supportively with the Giving Campaign, hopefully we've raised awareness and will begin to see tangible results in terms of increased unrestricted regular giving from now on - not a terribly memorable mouthful of a phrase, but very much what's necessary right now. And as well as prompting conversations, there have been some really lovely gestures such as Darren the dance class teacher at St Luke's putting on a fundraiser in the new year (6:30pm, Saturday 23rd January – please do support!). It feels only responsible however to reiterate that our cash flow remains problematic, the general fund is at least £20K short of recommended reserves, and we're really struggling on our parish share (well short of the 2 clergy the current calculation presupposes, and likely to miss even 1.5 posts by a significant margin this year despite committing to £130K).

As a result of this broader reality, and after the current contract (which concludes at the beginning of November next year), we're likely to be budgeting for the children and young people's post being reduced from 40 to 16 hours per week (as of November 2027). Congregational giving and generous support from the Richard Taylor Education Trust plus the slight lottery of external grants should hopefully make this sustainable and viable (what we can more or less definitely cover appears to be just 12.5 hours per week).

In terms of the children and young people's post, the previously fundraising pot is almost now exhausted and so in order to honour the current contract we'll effectively have to pay from general funds and in terms of knock-on impact parish share contributions are likely to fall further in the short term.

The PCC are currently in the (inevitably somewhat protracted) process of selling a property that has previously been rented out. If and when the sale eventually goes through, funds will need to be used to address the deficit owed to the general fund from the children and young people shortfall, replenish the general fund to recommended levels, and we'll need to top-up our parish share payments considerably. The remainder of the property sale may well be earmarked for net zero projects across both churches in order to make practical progress towards the Church of England's ambitious 2030 target.

It may be that there is some short-term fundraising for the children and young people post, alongside ongoing grant applications (a huge, huge thank-you to John Carr for all his hard work on this) but these are not guaranteed to be successful – we didn't get £10K over the summer from a fund that had previously been able to support us – and we cannot countenance a large fundraiser as in the past when we are so short on covering our ministry costs (parish share payments) - the broader financial landscape has worsened considerably in recent years, we're not immune from that and hard as it is, we need to reassess what is and isn't realistic.

As well as cutting costs where possible, we also urgently need to improve our income. One way we might do this is by utilising St John's church as a concerts/events venue - using the model pioneered by York Opera and Echo 42 to such good effect (50:50 ticket sales, and a church-person involved in the external organisation as a link). Please do spread the word that we're open for business!
In order to provide a reliable and professional service we would benefit from a dedicated member of 'staff' present on such occasions (especially when hosting entirely external organisations), so with this in mind and for more everyday tasks which simply cannot continue to be done by churchwardens we may well employ a caretaker/verger

for 4 hours a week. Admittedly this feels counterintuitive and a bit ‘speculate to accumulate’, and though we’ve budgeted for this (as a necessary/worst case scenario), it would be tremendously helpful if someone were willing to do this on a voluntary basis instead?

It is likely that 2027 will prove extremely challenging for our churches financially, but we do have a provisional plan of sorts to get through it and hopefully emerge healthier on the other side. At the time of writing I think this is the likely direction of travel - but very much subject to input and alteration from Finance & Buildings Committee and PCC (November meetings). Almost on that note it’s perhaps worth reminding ourselves that adjusting our approach and adapting is okay; when circumstances change that’s arguably the only sensible course of action.

Advent is not about short-termism but a future focus and accountability towards an upcoming reckoning. Whether we call it future-proofing or frame it more theologically in terms of what we’re called to be and do in this season, the more we can pivot towards breaking even the better.

Harrogate Deanery’s turn in the diocesan parish share consultation is due to come round in Q3 of next year. We really need to be able to show how we’re going to work towards paying our parish share in full by that point (assuming an adjusted figure for 1.5 posts).
Please see further article in this issue from diocese re parish share (our figure still assumes 2 full-time stipendiary clergy and will hopefully be adjusted soon).

Jesus was born into circumstances of scarcity, incarnate not into riches but relative poverty. As Western European Christians were probably not much accustomed to admitting these kind of limitations, but moderation is a mark of maturity. And in the ongoing cost of living crisis exacerbated by a multitude of almost incomprehensible external factors way beyond our influence or control we too need to cut our cloth accordingly - pragmatically as well as prayerfully.

Best wishes,

Matthew

QUESTION CORNER



Question

In the Christmas story, how long did Mary and Joseph stay in the stable?

Answer

We don't know. In Luke 2 we simply read that Mary gave birth to Jesus. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, as there was no room available. And that's it. But we often print a pretty picture, with fresh hay and a stable specially cleaned – all very cosy. Personally, I think that Joseph and Mary were desperate to find shelter, and managed to dodge into a stable just in time for the baby's birth. And let's face it, a young woman who places her new-born baby in a cattle trough has to be desperate! Presumably it was the only option, and reasonably clean (even if health and hygiene officials might disagree). My guess is that they moved out of the stable as soon as possible. In Matthew 2 we read that a number of wise men from the East followed a star to Bethlehem. This was much later – maybe a year. Remember that Herod ordered the killing of all boys aged TWO and under, to get rid of a possible rival king. The wise men entered a HOUSE (not a stable) and found Jesus with Mary (no mention of Joseph). Even if this was just a year later, there's no way that Mary and Joseph would still be sitting in a stable with Jesus in a manger! It seems that they moved into a house in the locality. Who knows?

The season of Epiphany follows Christmas, and is about the light of Christ being shown to people in various ways, starting with the wise men. These are often added to the shepherds in the stable on Christmas cards, and in Nativity plays, but let's not be pedantic about that. I'm sorry if some think I've spoilt the picture but, essentially, Christmas and Epiphany together say that Jesus came to be our Saviour, offering us eternal life. And he came right into the darkness and dirt, to shine as a light, and to be with us in whatever darkness we experience in our lives. St, John wrote 'The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has never (and can never) overcome it.

But to rephrase your question – how soon did Mary and Joseph

manage to get out of that stable? Your guess is as good as mine.

Happy Christmas – David

Girlguiding
Birk Crag Centre

On behalf of Harrogate North Guiding I would just like to say a really big "Thank you" to everyone who came and supported the October coffee morning. We were raising money for our new Girlguiding Centre, Birk Crag

It was wonderful to see so many people there supporting Girlguiding.

For those of you who have followed our journey for the last few years (and have been busy collecting stamps!) the building is now able to be used. In fact the three St John's Brownie packs are having a sleep over there at the end of October – watch this space.
What started out as a wooden hut 1967 (following a fire) was demolished in 2016 and rebuilding of the new Birk Crag Centre commenced in 2019





when the steel frame was put in place. In October 2026, we are pleased to be able to say that, following a grant from The National Lottery Community Fund in October 2024, the Ground Floor and Basement are ready for use. The First Floor bedrooms are all painted and furniture is going in and they are almost ready for use.
If you would like to find out more about Girlguiding in general, please visit www.girlguidingnyw.org.uk and for more information about the Birk Crag Centre please visit www.birkcragcentre.org.uk. Thank you again for your support, Jill



COFFEE MORNING SATURDAY 14 NOVEMBER for ARTIZAN

I am delighted to report that we raised the wonderful sum of £556.50 for our mission partners Artizan who are based here in Harrogate. I never fail to be filled with gratitude for our wonderful volunteers and our immensely generous church family. The commitment and generosity of everyone is appreciated so much and contributes immensely to the continuing success of our much loved coffee mornings. Thank you all and thank you to our lovely visitors whose loyalty to our events is valued always, we couldn't do it without you.

Our next coffee morning is Saturday 12 December and is to raise funds for The Children's Society, a much loved charity who we support, very appropriately, each December. We will also be making Christingles at the coffee morning, in readiness for our Christingle service. We would love you to join us at our final event of 2026.

Anne (Coffee Morning Team)

Christingle Coffee Morning



Saturday 12th December
10am – 12noon
St John's Church Hall

Entrance £1
includes tea/coffee and biscuits
(accompanied children free)



Stalls include:

- Home-made cakes
- Handmade cards
- Tombola
- Raffle
- Jigsaws
- Large Choice of Books

Come along and help make Christingles ready for the service at St John's.

All Proceeds this month are for **The Children's Society**



ADVENT & CHRISTMAS AT ST JOHN'S & ST LUKE'S

SATURDAY 28TH NOVEMBER	10.00am-1.30pm CHRISTMAS FAIR @ ST LUKE'S
SUNDAY 29TH NOVEMBER	6.30pm ADVENT CAROL SERVICE @ ST JOHN'S (followed by mulled wine & mince pies)
SUNDAY 6TH DECEMBER	2.00pm MONDAY FIRST CAROLS @ DENE PARK COMMUNITY CENTRE 4.00pm CANDLELIT COME & SING @ ST LUKE'S
SATURDAY 12TH DECEMBER	10.00am-12noon CHRISTINGLE COFFEE MORNING IN CHURCH HALL @ ST JOHN'S
SUNDAY 13TH DECEMBER	4.00pm CHRISTINGLE SERVICE @ ST JOHN'S
THURSDAY 17TH DECEMBER	7.30pm CAROLS AT LILYPAD, KINGS ROAD
SUNDAY 20TH DECEMBER	6.30pm NINE LESSONS & CAROLS @ ST JOHN'S (followed by mulled wine & mince pies)
THURSDAY 24TH DECEMBER	4.00pm NATIVITY SERVICE @ ST JOHN'S 11.30pm MIDNIGHT MASS @ ST JOHN'S
FRIDAY 25TH DECEMBER	10.30am JOINT CHRISTMAS DAY ALL AGE COMMUNION @ ST JOHN'S

St John's
Bilton Lane, HG1 3DT

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

St Luke's
Franklin Square, HG1 5EL

The editor would like to apologise for mixing up this poem and for duplicating a section in the middle. I am taking this chance to reprint the poem correctly.

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,
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 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.)
Translated by Daniel Ladinsky

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

Anne



YORKSHIRE
OVEN CLEAN
Proper Yorkshire,clean

- Professional oven cleaning
- Single, double & full appliance deep cleans
- Hobs, extractors, ranges & Agas
- Non-toxic, child & pet-safe products
- Local, reliable, fully insured

Contact
01423 800788
07747 841610
info@yorkshireovenclean.co.uk
Serving Harrogate & Yorkshire


Award winning care homes
Harcourt Gardens care home, Harrogate
Adjusting to a dementia diagnosis
Tuesday 1st December, 2pm - 4pm
Listen to dementia specialist Barbara Stephens share insights into how your journey with dementia might unfold following a diagnosis and how to live positively with dementia.
To attend please call 01423 205 880 or email harcourt-gardens
CHA
Trusted to care
care UK

POEM: CHRISTMAS BELLS

A very happy and blessed Christmas season to my lovely church family.

I started writing this monthly article in response to our lovely editor's appeal for more articles but it would be so nice to have some feedback from people re if they enjoy (or not) the monthly recommendations. Also if anyone would like to share poems or information about a poet and their work that they really enjoy it would be greatly appreciated, bearing in mind we can't print poems unless the author has been deceased for 70 years; so just an overview in that case. Please send any correspondence to the editor, thank you.

This month I wanted a Christmas poem for you; anything else would have seemed incongruous in the December magazine, but so many were purely beautiful compositions of praise which for all the skill of the poet and the attractiveness of the poem didn't shoot an arrow into my heart. So the poem I chose is still beautifully crafted but packs an additional message. I hope you enjoy it.

Christmas Bells by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807-1882)

I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Their old, familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet
The words repeat
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

And thought how, as the day had come,
The belfries of all Christendom
Had rolled along
The unbroken song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

Till, ringing, singing on its way
The world revolved from night to day,
    A voice, a chime,
    A chant sublime
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

Then from each black, accursed mouth
The cannon thundered in the South,
    And with the sound
    The Carols drowned
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

And in despair I bowed my head;
‘There is no peace on earth,’ I said;
    ‘For hate is strong,
    And mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!’

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
‘God is not dead; nor doth he sleep!
    The Wrong shall fail,
    The Right prevail,
With peace on earth, good-will to men!’

Warmest regards

Anne

Bilton & Woodfield Community Library

Working in partnership with NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNCIL



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

Understanding our Parish Share

As we head towards the end of one year and the start of the next, the Diocese of Leeds has confirmed the amount of money they will be requesting as our Parish Share payment in 2027 – for us, this will total £167,144.

Parish Share is the money paid by churches and used by the diocese to enable the work of ministry to thrive everywhere by funding the work of clergy. Every penny given in Parish Share is used to support local ministry by paying for clergy stipends, housing costs and pensions.

Biblical first principles are followed in how Parish Share works – the system is based on what we see in the early church. All churches give and all churches receive but this is not a straight 'you get what you pay for' calculation. All Parish Share contributions are combined to support every parish in the diocese, regardless of size or wealth. Those who have more are asked to give more to support others, those who have less are asked to give what they can so that everyone contributes. As Bishop Toby says in his introductory letter: "It's about what God does with it all, which is always far greater than the sum of the parts, so what we come out with at the end is wonderful abundance."

We are being asked to pray and to talk about Share especially because the money given in Parish Share now covers less than three quarters of the costs of frontline clergy in the diocese. The cost of clergy ministry will be around £17.5 million in 2027 but the diocese is only expecting around £12.1 million to come in through Parish Share to fund it. The remainder will need to be met by other income sources such as Church of England grants, parochial fees, investment and rental income, plus the sale of property. However, this approach is unsustainable in the long term and so we are all being asked to talk and pray about how the vital ministry work of clergy in our parishes can be supported into the future.

The diocese is currently a third of the way through the Parish Share

Agreement programme – where the stewardship team will aim to visit every single parish over a three-year period to listen to each parish's local context and financial situation, agree on a parish share contribution that will value and empower parishes, and offer help with stewardship advice, guidance and additional resources.

There is lots more information available about Parish Share, how it's calculated and what it pays for on the Diocese of Leeds website here, including a video from Bishop Toby and a special E-guide setting out all the information. Do have a look or chat to our Treasurer for more information.

You can also scan this QR code which will take you to the Parish Share page:



PRISON CHAPLAINCY

"You must stay at home". Many of us will remember COVID restrictions such as not being allowed to go to school or work, limited fresh air, not visiting family in hospital or care homes. It was painful.

Prison protects the public by restricting prisoners, replacing normal freedoms with prison rules and a strict regime. My role as a Prison Chaplain is to help families and prisoners to adjust to their loss. The impact of a serious illness or death is particularly hard, so much of my time is spent supporting those who are bereaved.

Prison Chaplains work as members of a Chaplaincy Team which must perform daily "Statutory Duties" under the Prison Act 1952: we visit newly arrived prisoners within 24 hours to check their welfare and confirm their faith needs; we must visit those who are kept apart from the rest of the prison population, either for their own safety or to protect other prisoners; and we must visit the sick in the prison's Health Care wing. We offer pastoral care to all prisoners who request it, whatever their circumstances or faith. This support can sometimes help prisoners to transform their attitudes and change their behaviour, contributing to their rehabilitative journey. We work alongside the prison's Governors and Staff, who value the calming presence that Chaplains can provide through listening and bringing hope.

Some prisoners choose to explore and practise a faith, reading relevant material, meeting with a Chaplain of their chosen faith privately and/or in small groups, and joining in collective Corporate Worship services (usually weekly) in the Chaplaincy spaces. Chaplains may offer faith-specific courses supported by external agencies such as the Alpha UK's "The Alpha Course" and the Bible Society's "Bible Course". Some Chaplaincy Teams arrange prison-wide programmes such as Prison Fellowship's "Angel Tree" which provides a Christmas present to prisoners' children. We work closely with the Security team and prisoners' Offender Managers to ensure that Chaplaincy activities are conducted safely, helping to prepare each prisoner for their release and resettlement back into the community.

Since my retirement from full-time employment as a Prison Chaplain I serve as a regular volunteer, which is how I started out on this ministry of mercy in the 1980s. Do ask if you would like to know more.

The Revd Glen Hocken
25th October 2026



GREEN TEAM RECYCLING UPDATE



Following on from the Green Team's talk during the Creationtide harvest festival service, we thought it would be useful to give an update on where you can recycle your items, as well as a list of other local organisations worth noting. If you find any other schemes not listed below, please do let us know!

Empty pill blister packs: St John's recycling centre (at the back of church); Superdrug; Boots
Used contact lenses and glasses: St John's recycling centre (at the back of church); Specsavers

Used batteries: St John's recycling centre (at the back of church); Tesco; B&Q; The Works

Printer ink cartridges: St John's recycling centre (at the back of church). These are sent off to raise money for church funds: on average, we get around £50 for six months' worth of ink cartridges, so definitely worth doing!

Bras: the Tesco store on Skipton Road
Plastic coat hangers: the Tesco store on Skipton Road
Soft plastics: Tesco; the Coop on Skipton Road; Aldi (next to B&Q)
Other items: the new Tesco store on Skipton Road also has a food bank and cat food bank collection point and a small book swap section. Aldi also has a food bank collection point.
B&Q accepts the following to be recycled: fluorescent light bulb tubes, light bulbs and small electrical appliances. It also has a small book swap section.

Boots will recycle make-up. The Works takes good quality books, craft, stationery, toys and art supplies in aid of Barnardos.



USEFUL LOCAL ORGANISATIONS FOR REPURPOSING OR REPAIRING ITEMS:

Resurrected Bites: **https://resurrectedbites.co.uk/** - reducing good waste, loneliness and food poverty in our local community.

Resurrection Bikes: **https://resurrectionbikes.org.uk/** - recycling donated bikes to raise money for charity.

Harrogate Repair Café: https://www.harrogaterepaircafe.co.uk/ - a monthly meeting where you can bring household items in need of repair and volunteers do their utmost to fix them.

Harrogate Clothes Bank: https://harrogateclothesbank.co.uk/ - free preloved shoes and clothes to people in need.

Cone Exchange: https://www.coneexchange.org/ - repurposes waste materials from businesses alongside donations from our local community – literally turning trash into treasure, raising funds for local good causes and creating a sense of community and new skills for all those involved.

Essential Needs: https://essentialneeds.org.uk/ - reuse and redistribution of good quality used furniture, household items and white goods to Harrogate district residents in need of support and to lessen the burden of landfill waste.

St Michael's Hospice furniture shop: https://saintmichaelshospice.org/stores/househome/ - second hand furniture shop raising money for this vital local charity.

Olio: https://olioapp.com/en/ - sharing and reducing food waste app connecting local people with each other.

Freegle: https://www.ilovefreegle.org/ - give, and get, stuff for free locally (great for clearing out cupboards!).

Terracycle: https://www.terracycle.com/en-GB - helps recycle hard-to-recycle rubbish such as some coffee capsules.



Seagulls Reuse: https://seagullsreuse.org.uk/ - diverting paint from landfill. They collect paint from the household waste sites in Leeds, bring it back to Seagulls, check it, mix it and sell it cheaply from their shop.

Turn your daily shopping into everyday magic for us with easyfundraising

You shop, brands donate to us. It won't cost you any extra!

easyfundraising

Help us make a difference when you shop.
Visit **www.easyfundraising.org.uk**

Download on the App Store

GET IT ON Google Play

1. Visit **www.easyfundraising.org.uk**
2. Sign up and search for us
3. Your favourite brands donate to us whenever you shop with them

Shop with 8,000+ brands including:

Booking.com · ebay · M&S · GROUPON · Argos · TUI · JOHN LEWIS · Viking · ASOS · BT · Uber Eats

DECEMBER

Tuesday 1st	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	1.30am	Bilton Grange School Nativity Rehearsal (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
	1.30-3.30pm	Wellbeing Café (SL)
	1.30pm	Bilton Grange School Nativity Rehearsal (SJ)
Thursday 3rd	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	9.30-11.30am	Little Fishes (Parent & Child Group) (SL)
	1.30am	Bilton Grange School Nativity Rehearsal (SJ)
Saturday 5th	11.00am	Interment of Ashes: Victor Collier
Sunday 6th	9.00am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	10.30am	All Age Parade/Toy Service (SJ)
	10.30am	Holy Communion (SL)
	12.00pm	Christingle Rehearsal (SJ)
	2.00pm	Monday First Carols at Dene Park Community Centre
	4.00pm	Candlit Come and Sing (SL)
	4-5.30pm	Confirmation Prep Class (SJ)
	6-7.30pm	Youth Worship Night at Wesley Chapel
Monday 7th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	10.00am	Bilton Grange School Nativity (SJ)
	1.30pm	Bilton Grange School Nativity (SJ)
Tuesday 8th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	10.00am	Bilton Grange School Nativity (SJ)
	10.00am	Walking Group (SJ)
	1.30pm	Bilton Grange School Nativity (SJ)
	7.00pm	Advent Course (SL)
Wednesday 9th	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 10th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	9.30-11.30am	Little Fishes (Parent & Child Group) (SL)
Friday 11th	6.30-7.15pm	Junior Choir Practice (SJ)

Friday 11th Continued	7-7.45pm	Adult Choir Practice (SJ)
Saturday 12th	10.00am-12noon	Christingle Coffee Morning in Church Hall (SJ)
Sunday 13th	9.00am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	10.30am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	10.30am	Café Church (SL)
	4.00pm	Christingle Service (SJ)
	6-7.15pm	Ignite Christmas Party (Year 7+ Youth Group) (SJ)
Monday 14th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	10.00am	Coppice School Carol Concert (SJ)
Tuesday 15th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	7.00pm	Advent Course (SL)
Wednesday 16th	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 Christmas Party (SL)
	6.00pm	New Park School Carol Service (SJ)
Thursday 17th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	9.30-11.30am	Little Fishes (Parent & Child Group) (SL)
	10.30am	Richard Taylor School Carol Service (SJ)
	7.30pm	Lilypad Carols
Friday 18th	6.30-7.15pm	Junior Choir Practice (SJ)
	7-7.45pm	Adult Choir Practice (SJ)

Sunday 20th	9.00am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	10.30am	Morning Worship (SJ)
	10.30am	Morning Worship (SL)
	5.00pm	Choir Practice (SJ)
	6.30pm	Nine Lessons and Carols (SJ)
Monday 21st	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
Tuesday 22nd	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	5.00pm	Wedding Rehearsal (SJ)
	7.00pm	Advent Course (SL)
Wednesday 23rd	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	10.30am	Holy Communion (SJ)

Wednesday 23rd	10.30am	Thirst – Coffee at Dene Park Community Centre
Continued	1.00pm	Wedding (SJ)

Thursday 24th	4.00pm	Nativity Service (SJ)
Christmas Eve	11.30pm	Midnight Mass (SJ)
Friday 25th Christmas Day	10.30am	JOINT All Age Christmas Holy Communion (SJ)

Sunday 27th	9.00am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	10.30am	All Age Holy Communion (SJ)
	10.30am	All Age Worship (SL)

JANUARY 2027

Sunday 3rd	9.00am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	10.30am	All Age Worship (SJ)
	10.30am	Holy Communion (SL)

Coming up…

Confirmation Service	10.30am	Sunday 17th January (SJ)
Alpha Course	7.15pm	Starts Thursday 14th January for 12 weeks
Volunteers Thank You Event		Sunday 7th Feb (SL)
Marriage Preparation Session	9.30am-12noon	Saturday 20th February (SJ)



WEBSITE

RESURRECTED BITES

FILLING BELLIES NOT BINS

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



Brownies

On the first weekend of half term, just as the clocks were changing! (What were you thinking Barn Owl?) Brownies from 1st, 2nd and 4th Bilton Brownie packs went on a ‘Sleepover Adventure’ at the Birk Crag Guiding centre.

With not only the clocks changing to contend with Storm Austen and Storm Boelo blew through as well.



Plans were changed and we set off for a morning visit to Harlow Carr gardens. A spooky plant trail was completed before we headed back down the hill arriving home just in time to picnic inside in the dry.

The afternoon was spent doing various craft activities including making fairy houses and decorating biscuits to look like people … can you guess which Owls these are?



With the storms raging outside, the Brownies didn’t notice as they excitedly set up camp and ‘pitched’ An extra hour in bed was greeted with more snoring and no one seemed to notice.

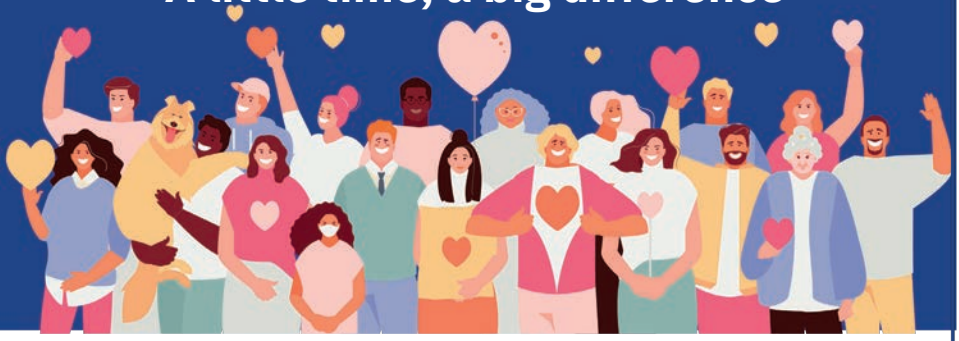
Sunday was time to strike camp before more fun activities including ‘armpit fudge’ (tastes better than it sounds!).

Thank you to all the Owls who helped, it really couldn’t happen without you.

carers' resource
Carers' Time Off

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.

Get in touch

01423 500555
carerstimeoff@carersresource.org

Carers' Resource
www.carersresource.org

Baptisms

Cora Sophia Trinder

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

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

SUNDAY 13th DECEMBER
is Copy Date for
January'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 1:00 pm
TUESDAY 11:30am to 1:00pm
FRIDAY CLOSED

01423 565129 (+ Answer phone)
church@stjohnsand stlukes.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

Follow us on facebook

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.biltonand woodfield.org.uk

Hubert Swainson
Funeral Services Ltd
Private Chapels
Distinctive personal arrangements by:
Geoffrey Brewster Dip FD
Tim Canavar

39 Franklin Road
Harrogate
Tel 01425 504571

David Bentley 07917815981
www.dbautorepairs.com

Onsite vehicle servicing and reairs
MOT by attangment
Diagnostics

DB AutoRepairs

EDITORS DISCLAIMER

The Editors of Focus magazine take every reasonable care to avoid errors in the advertisements and articles contained in this magazine. However, the inclusion of an article or advertisement in Focus does not imply either endorsement of or liability for the opinions expressed or of goods or services advertised, whether by the Editor, St John's and St Luke's PCC or St John's and St Luke's churches.

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

Parish Office Phone No: 01423 565129

Parish Office email: *church@stjohnsandstlukes.org.uk*
Parish Office address: c/o The Vicarage, Bilton Lane, Harrogate, HG13DT
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

The Ministry Team

Matthew Hunter-Team Rector
Tel 07394 239772 / 01423 787575

matthew.hunter@leeds.anglican.org

Judith Clark-Children & Young People's Chaplain
Tel 07946 492097
youthwork@stjohnsandstlukes.org.uk

Church wardens

St John's

Mr Nigel Thompson
janeandnigel962@hotmail.co.uk

Deb Pritchard
biltonconnection@aol.com

St Luke's

Mrs Alethea Fry
alethea.fry@gmail.com

Editorial Team

Collation: Katie Burke 569563 and team
Editor: Irene 07762 552610
Magazine email: sjslfocus@gmail.com