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St John's and St Luke's Together

St John's Church



September

2025

60 pence

St Luke's Church



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The Grace of Letting Go: Finding God in Autumn's Transitions



Dear Friends,

As September arrives and the first hints of autumn begin to appear, we witness one of nature's acts of faith. Trees begin their slow release of summer's vibrant greens, allowing leaves to transform into brilliant golds and russets before gently letting them fall. In this annual surrender, we see a metaphor for the spiritual rhythms God has woven into our lives.

The autumn season reminds us that letting go is not about loss—it's about trust. When trees shed their leaves, they're not dying; they're preparing for new life. By releasing what they can no longer sustain, they conserve energy for the growth that will come with spring. This mirrors the wisdom found in Ecclesiastes 3:1-6: "To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven... a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted."

For many in our church family, September marks significant transitions. Children nervously clutch new school bags, heading into unfamiliar classrooms. Teenagers navigate the complexities of moving to secondary school or sixth form. University students pack their belongings, leaving home to begin independent

chapters of their lives. Parents experience their own mixture of pride and anxiety as they watch their young ones take these brave steps forward.

These transitions often require us to let go of the familiar—summer's freedom, last year's routines, or the comfort of what we've known. Like the trees, we're called to trust that what we release makes space for new growth. Jesus himself spoke of this principle in John 12:24: "Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But when it dies, it produces many seeds."

The autumn of our lives—whether literal seasons or metaphorical ones—invites us into deeper dependence on God. When we feel uncertain about new beginnings or anxious about changes ahead, we can remember that God goes before us. As we read in Isaiah 43:19, "See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland."

This September, let's embrace autumn's gentle lesson. Perhaps there are worries we need to release, old hurts we need to let fall away, or familiar patterns that no longer serve our growth. Like the trees that trust in cycles they cannot fully understand, we can trust in the God who orchestrates all seasons of our lives.

As we pray for those beginning new academic adventures, may we also ask God to show us what we need to let go of, trusting that in the releasing, we make room for the beautiful new things He wants to do in our lives.

Blessings,

Laura

QUESTION CORNER

Question

My work colleague says the institution of the church is badly flawed, and that she's as good a Christian as those who go to church.

What can I say to that?



Answer

Plenty of non-church people live good lives, including atheists. For the word “Christian” is not a compliment. It’s a description of someone who has faith in, and wants to follow, Jesus Christ. And we don’t claim to be very ‘good’ at that, or morally better than others.

However, when Jesus calls us to follow him, he also calls us to each other. Central to his teaching is ‘love one another, as I have loved you’. The meal he gave his followers to repeat is often called ‘Holy Communion’ - sharing with God and others. So the Christian faith should be personal, but not private. Sadly, yes, the institution is flawed. There are some ‘rotten apples’ in the barrel, and some of the things we read about are deeply distressing. But we are not just members of an institution, but a body of believers, a fellowship where we are encouraged to grow spiritually. Our basic beliefs are not altered by the bad behaviour of some offenders, and we are thankful for the love and support we find at St. John’s and St. Luke’s.

You could also say to your colleague “We’re not perfect (maybe not as good as you) but you are welcome to join us.

David



KIDZ KLUB LEEDS ARE RECRUITING

Full time and part time role working to reach children in inner city Leeds with the love and message of Jesus. Could you make a difference to 1000 children?

Visit www.kidzklubleeds.org.uk get involved/jobs section to find out more and apply!



Turning Trash into Treasure: Nurturing Young Hearts for God's World

Hannah Alderson—Green Team

As a member of the Green Team at St John's and St Luke's, it has been a real joy and privilege to work with our church youth and the children at Richard Taylor School over the last couple of years. Our focus has been on sustainability, caring for the environment, and using creativity to bring new life to old, unwanted items.



Together, we've explored how things that might otherwise end up in the bin and therefore, landfill, can be transformed into something beautiful and meaningful. Through artwork, assemblies, and thoughtful discussions—particularly around issues like fast fashion—we've been encouraging our young people to think about how the choices we make every day affect our planet. The children have created artwork from old bottle tops, put on a table top sale, created a bug hotel at St. Lukes, and thought about changing just one thing to make a difference.



One particular highlight has been following on from the



Incredible talk we had at St. Luke's by Chris from the Cone Exchange. He inspired us with his message of "turning trash into treasure," and after visiting the Cone Exchange myself, they generously donated materials such as large plastic sheets and rolls of unwanted vinyl. I took these items into Richard Taylor School and to our Blaze group at St John's, where the children used them to create beautiful stained-glass window-effect pictures. It was such a powerful moment to watch the children take something considered waste and make it into something they were proud of.



It's such an honour to walk alongside our young people in this way, helping them to understand not only the practical aspects of sustainability but also the deeper spiritual call to care for creation. Time and again, I've been struck by just how much our young people already know and how eager they

are to protect the world God has given us

"The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it." – Psalm 24:1



Coffee Morning Saturday 13 September 2025 - Dignity through Education

Our next coffee morning is to raise funds for the charity Dignity Through Education founded by our very own Theva Thevarokiam. The following is from an article in the Harrogate Advertiser in November 2021.

Founded by Theva Sandanam Thevarokiam of **Harrogate** in 2015, Dignity Through Education is led by a group of church members who help secure vital funding for students from low-income families who work on tea plantations in Sri Lanka.

There are thousands of workers in the Sri Lankan tea industry today who work long hours in severe hard weather conditions, sometimes at an elevation of 2,500 metres or more, without cold protective clothing, breaks and with heavy quotas and yet they earn just £4 per day.

There are also around 60,000 young people aged 15-30 living on the tea plantations in Sri Lanka.

Schools aren't often accessible, which means that only around half of young people have undergone primary education.

Passing A levels and entering university is a significant accomplishment. Dignity Through Education supports students who have faced challenges to reach university, and so far has assisted 30 students with their expenses.

Please do join us to raise funds for this amazing charity and help us make a real and lasting difference to several more young people's lives.



ST JOHN'S CHURCH BILTON

COFFEE MORNING

SATURDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER

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



dignity
through education

**Sri Lankan Tea
Workers—
Dignity Through
Education**

HELP NEEDED FOR CHURCH GROUNDS WORKING PARTY!

Do you like gardening, or just being outside in the fresh air?

Our church grounds look amazing, but our hard working gardening team need some help.

We are holding our third **church grounds working party on Saturday 6th September from 9.30am to around 11.30.** Help is needed strimming and raking up the grass. Bring your own rake, strimmer if you have one and gardening gloves. Bacon butties will be provided!

Just turn up on the day, or please speak to Rob Bath, or email robertabath@yahoo.co.uk for further details.



3rd Harrogate Scouts Group Camp

Wednesday Beavers

We went to Great Tower in Cumbria. My Mum (an adult helper) and I went on the coach. When we got there it was raining so much that we slept inside in bunk beds for the first night and I was on a top bunk.

On Saturday it was not raining so much and we could sleep in tents. I slept in a tent with two other boys. For breakfast we had cereal and there was lots to choose from like sausages, bacon and eggs.

We did raft building, crate stacking where you could get really high up and then we went on the low ropes.

On Saturday night we had campfire and sang songs then we had hot chocolate.

On Sunday I had a go at tomahawk throwing and tree climbing. I climbed to the top of the tree and rang the bell.

Then it was time to go home. We all stood in a big circle to say thank you and goodbye. It was great fun. I liked the tree climbing best

Reuben Ritson Age 7



What a precious gift we have!

100 Years of family owned home East View - Part 2

Sunday 6th July 2025 myself, family and friends celebrated the unique occasion of 100 years of family owned property. It was a happy occasion with plenty of fun and laughter.



My Grandad was on site in 1925 as a joiner. He asked if he could buy the plot. Yes was the reply and we will be happy for you to do some of the joinery work. When completed my Grandad Grandma and my Mum moved into the property. Mum met my Dad at Queen Ethelburga's School during the war. They later married at St John's Church Bilton. Mum gave birth to me in one of the bedrooms at East View, they made their home at Oatlands. Unfortunately my Grandma died of cancer when she was 55. The decision was taken for the family to move back to East View and look after my Grandad. I was 2. In 2016 when my Mum died a discussion was held between my two sons Gordon, Paul and myself as to what to do about East View. In the end I said would you like to me to move back to Harrogate. Yes was the reply. At the time I was living in Hunmanby near Filey. The year before 2015 my husband Paul died of kidney problems.

I arrived back home in 2017 after a complete refurbishment had occurred at East View. My youngest son Paul had expressed the wish at an early stage that he would like to follow in his great Grandad's footsteps and be a joiner. Mum knew that a lot of work was needed to be done at East View. Paul had promised that he would oversee the work for her. A lot of the initial work i.e. knocking down walls, installing the kitchen, creating a larger bathroom was done by Paul and the family. During this time you can imagine how emotional it was particularly for Paul with seeing pencil marks which had been done by the joiners. I hasten to add

the window frames are the original timber from 1925. The whole completion of East View took a further year. A conservatory was added and the garden was landscaped. My grandad had built a porch at the front of the house when he first retired. Unfortunately when inspecting the porch at close hand it was obvious the paint was peeling, some of the wood was wood rot. The firm who built the conservatory refitted the porch with PVC double glazing to the same dimensions as the original porch. The ceiling of the porch is the original one built by grandad. Yes it has been modernised but there is a lot of fixtures here which are the original fittings.



A lot of memories have been created in the last 100 years. My friends attending the celebration all being part of East View life and they represented my growing years through school, guiding, work, my social life and not forgetting the family. Gordon, Paul and myself were regular visitors to East View and later with their families.



The photographs attached to this article.

1. My Grandad as a World War 1 Soldier.
2. My wedding day 2007 at St Oswalds Church Filey. I had so much wanted to walk the bridge into church on my wedding day, my wish was granted with a beautiful fine day. I hasten to add the day before Friday the bridge was swept by the then church wardens Peter Thompson and Graham Simpson in readiness for my walk. At the entrance to the church was Mary (the then vicar of Filey) Don Tordoff (a previous vicar of St John`s Bilton). Don was wearing

the stole that had been made specially for him when he left St John's. The stole had on it an embroidered motif of St John's Bilton Church.

3. 18 years later my return to St Oswald's Church Filey for the special service held in the church led by the St John's Church Choir.

Christine Raper

Coming up...

Parish Office will be closed from Monday 25th August until Tuesday 2nd September.

Sunday 12th October is Harvest Festival in both churches. Donations or dry goods items will be given to Resurrected Bites and can be brought to services on 5th or 12th October.

Christmas Tree Festival is happening again in December

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 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.



Bilton Historical Society
presents

Second World War Bilton

Sunday 14th September 2025

11:00 – 16:00

Bilton Community Centre

**An exhibition about the impact the
Second World War had on Bilton**

Displays include

Bilton's Fallen, The Bilton Bomb, Schooldays,
Memories of Bilton's residents', Civil Defence,
Home Guard, Rationing and local shops,
The local church's Rolls of Honour, VE-day,
WW2 artifacts

Refreshments of the period &
local history booklets on sale

FREE entry



To find out more, visit:
www.heritageopendays.org.uk



Congratulations and Thank You from 2nd Bilton Brownies!

Huge congratulations to Clara, the latest Brownie at 2nd Bilton Brownies to achieve her Gold Award. Inspired by her friend's sparkly badge, Clara decided to go for it and worked on her final three interest badges in her last two weeks with us - after earning her first three in 2023.



Clara showed us her collection of football cards to earn her Collecting badge, described her dream job as part of the Jobs badge and made a list of 50 things that fly for her Aviation badge. With the completion of these badges, she'd also earned all six Theme Awards, picking up a Silver Award and qualifying for Gold.



ECHO 42 BIG BAND

Jazz at St John's

with vocalist Tessa Smith

Featuring music by

EARTH WIND & FIRE

QUINCY JONES

SANTANA

STEVIE WONDER

Saturday 4th October

Music from 7.30pm - 9.30pm

Doors from 6.30pm

Picnics welcome!

**ST JOHN'S CHURCH • BILTON LANE
HARROGATE • HG1 3DT**



Adults - £10

Concessions & teenagers - £5

Under 12's - free

Proceeds to the church

Climate change "Doom and gloom" or an opportunity to be Ecowise ?

In my last Church. The Vicar asked if I could arrange the annual Christian Aid Big Breakie Event in May of the following year. Nine months away to raise money for flood victims in Bangladesh attributed to climate change. I said OK . Time ticks away. I was beginning to get concerned about getting people stirred up to get the event up and running. Let alone fund raise. A country we don't know much about, apart from cricket and bad weather. Far, far away.

Christmas time came and we had some serious rain in Leeds with flooding. The centre of Leeds was under water. We were on National BBC News. The Hotel I was working out of was making provision for floods. I remember watching peoples furniture, sofas, chairs, chest of drawers you name it all floating down the Kirkstall Road on TV while visiting my Mum in Somerset .This is a perfect picture, and experience for my campaign. I remember calls going out to people at church to go and help the flood victims. I thought brilliant this is the catalyst that solves my Bangladesh problem. It has transformed the abstract into a tangible reality. We are experiencing flooding here in our homes and businesses in the developed world. It must be a nightmare in a third world country. It set me up to get a campaign off the ground.

The subsequent Christian Aid Event was well supported and a lot of fun. We were able to contribute to the appeal. Job done.

The general public are presented with graphs and bar charts conveying worrying data. Sargent Fraser from Dad's Army would say "We are all doomed" I tend to just take note of the data. I want to find out for myself. Is this really an issue or Media hype?

I was travelling in Cyprus a few years ago. A glorious country quite arid as most of you know. I was in a taxi going to the Airport to come home. The Driver asked me. How many seasons do you think we have over here for growing potatoes? I had no idea. I thought I would say two. He responded. Wrong. It is five. I said how ? Plenty of crop irrigation and careful land use. Water is a

resource we use carefully in Cyprus.

I was in Side Turkey in May this year. I was talking to an elderly Turkish gentleman. He said you don't want to come here in June July or August. In the last 2 to 3 years temperatures get to 40 to 45 degrees Celsius. It is so uncomfortable even for us. Nobody can work. It is climate change. "I can only see it getting worse" he said "This is a challenge to agriculture. We need to grow different types of crops. We need to think about water conservation". It is all detrimental to our economy and jobs.

My personal encounters with folk abroad further underscore the global reach of this issue.

I chat to my nieces in Bristol about Climate Change, 16 and 18 years of age. "It is all your generations fault." Is the response "You have stolen our futures." I think a fairly harsh assessment. I just keep quiet. It underscores the urgency felt by younger generations.

I am now on Synod, PCC and Green team. I sometimes ask myself when it is cold ,dark and wet in winter. What am I doing here? The Green Team is very different to the run of the mill committee. It is a hub of learning, energy, exchange of ideas, discussion of strategy and delivery. You can't but help get sucked into this, and go with the flow. We are doing our best to create an energy efficient environment for us all to thrive in. It is not easy as the churches i.e. St Johns were not built with this issue in mind. The Church of England has a massive task transforming these buildings into energy efficient structures. However needless to say it is being done very carefully trying to keep costs as low as possible.

Ultimately the narrative shifts from fear to a proactive call for collective intelligence and action transforming "Doom and gloom" into an opportunity for an Ecowise future.

So the younger generations understand this .We all pray they take up the challenge to innovate in water conservation. Land

use. Research into crops for changing climates. Flood defences for our cities. Innovation through Science and Technology and sharing with others around the world. Let's us all become Ecowise.

Clive Davis



**Over £1.2 million was
raised through travel
bookings last year!**

**What could you raise for us
with your 2025 holiday?**



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

NETMAKERS
YOUTH

Tackling Modern Slavery – A Brief Update

Last autumn, we held a *Freedom Sunday* service at St John's to explore the reality of modern slavery and the work being done International Justice Mission (IJM) and others to address it. This is a brief reminder and an update.

The scale of the problem is staggering: an estimated **50 million people** around the world are trapped in slavery today. This includes forced labour, sexual exploitation, and human trafficking—often hidden but alarmingly widespread.

IJM has been working internationally for over 20 years. Their model starts with building local teams and partnerships, rescuing individuals, supporting survivors, and helping to bring perpetrators to justice. Over time, these efforts contribute to systemic change, strengthening law enforcement and judicial responses. In areas where IJM has worked, the incidence of slavery has fallen by **50–86%**—a powerful sign that change is possible.

One of the key insights from Gary Haugen, IJM's founder, is that slavery often thrives where justice systems fail to protect the poor from violence. Without legal protection, people can be exploited with impunity. Tackling slavery, therefore, is also about tackling deeper injustices and enabling people to flourish.

Closer to home, North Yorkshire has its own Modern Slavery Partnership, where police, councils, charities, and others collaborate on local issues including trafficking and county lines gangs. Slavery is not just a distant issue—it's happening nearby, sometimes in nail bars, car washes, or other hidden workplaces.

So why does this matter to us?

As Christians, we believe in a God of justice. Jesus' ministry was rooted in proclaiming freedom for the oppressed, and throughout the Bible we find a deep concern for justice, especially for those most vulnerable. Slavery—whether past or present—has no place in the vision of the Kingdom of God.

There are practical things we can do. We can be conscious consumers, using company statements (required under the UK Modern Slavery Act) to understand how businesses are addressing their supply

chains. We can stay alert to signs of exploitation in our communities. And we can support organisations like IJM or The Clewer Initiative, which was set up to raise awareness and action across the Church of England.

We might also want to ask how is the wider church is responding today?

To learn more see the links below.

Let's keep praying, learning, and acting—because justice matters.

Colin Ashurst

Further Information

International Justice Mission – www.ijm.org

Gary Haugen – 20-minute talk (search YouTube for “Gary Haugen IJM TED Talk”)

Books by Gary Haugen (probably available second hand):

The Locust Effect (in-depth)

Just Courage

Good News About Injustice

The Clewer Initiative – www.theclewerinitiative.org

AUGUST COFFEE MORNING

A huge thank you to everyone who supported our lovely coffee morning on Saturday 9th August when we raised the wonderful sum of £712.26 for our mission partners John and Vikki Wright. I am sure they will be so grateful for these funds as the work they do is unpaid.

Thank you wonderful volunteers, lovely visitors and anonymous doners. You all make such a difference to peoples lives.

SEPTEMBER'S CALENDAR

Monday 1 st	9-9.30am 2-3.00pm	Morning Prayer (SJ) Monday First at Dene Park Community Centre
Tuesday 2 nd	7.30pm 9-9.30am	Baptism Information Session (SJ) Morning Prayer (SJ)
Wednesday 3 rd	9-9.30am 10.30am 10.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ) Holy Communion (SJ) Thirst – Coffee at Dene Park Community Centre
Thursday 4 th	9-9.30am 9.30-11.30am 6.15pm	Morning Prayer (SJ) Little Fishes (Parent & Toddler Group) (SL) Confirmation Service Rehearsal (SL)
Friday 5 th	1-3.00pm 6.30-7.15pm 7-7.45pm	Wellbeing Café (SL) Open Junior Choir Practice (SJ) Open Adult Choir Practice (SJ)
Saturday 6 th	9.30-11.30am	St John's Grounds Working Party (SJ)
Sunday 7 th	9.00am 10.30am 10.30am 12.30pm	Holy Communion (SJ) All Age Worship (SJ) Holy Communion (SL) Baptisms (SJ)
Monday 8 th	9-9.30am 7.30pm	Morning Prayer (SJ) Energy Audit Working Party Meeting
Tuesday 9 th	9-9.30am 10.00am 2-3.30pm 7.15pm	Morning Prayer (SJ) Walking Group (SJ) Comfort Café (SJ) Finance & Buildings Committee Meeting (SJ)
Wednesday 10 th	9-9.30am 10.30am 10.30am 12.15pm	Morning Prayer (SJ) Holy Communion (SJ) Thirst – Coffee at Dene Park Community Centre Community Lunch at Bilton Community Centre
Thursday 11 th	9-9.30am 9.30-11.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ) Little Fishes (Parent & Toddler Group) (SL)
Friday 12 th	1-3.00pm 6-7.15pm	Wellbeing Café (SL) Junior Choir Practice (SJ)

Saturday 13 th	7-7.45pm 10.00am-12noon 3-4.30pm	Adult Choir Practice (SJ) Coffee Morning in Church Hall (SJ) Ladies Cream Tea Event (SJ)
Sunday 14th	9.00am 10.30am 10.30am	Holy Communion (SJ) Holy Communion (SJ) Confirmation Service with Holy Communion (SL)
	1.00pm	Baptisms (SJ)
Monday 15 th	6-7.15pm	Ignite (Year 7+ Youth Group) (SL)
Tuesday 16 th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
Wednesday 17 th	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
Thursday 18 th	7.00pm	PCC Meeting (SJ)
	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	9.30-11.30am	Little Fishes (Parent & Toddler Group) (SL)
Friday 19 th	1-3.00pm	Wellbeing Café (SL)
	6-7.15pm	Junior Choir Practice (SJ)
	7-7.45pm	Adult Choir Practice (SJ)
Sunday 21st	9.00am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	10.30am	Moening Worship (SJ)
	10.30am	Morning Worship (SL)
	6-7.15pm	Ignite (Year 7+ Youth Group) (SL)
Monday 22 nd	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
Tuesday 23 rd	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
Wednesday 24 th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	10.30am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	10.30am	Thirst – Coffee at Dene Park Community Centre
Thursday 25 th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	9.30-11.30am	Little Fishes (Parent & Toddler Group) (SL)
Friday 26 th	1-3.00pm	Wellbeing Café (SL)
	6-7.15pm	Junior Choir Practice (SJ)
	7-7.45pm	Adult Choir Practice (SJ)
Sunday 28th	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 29 th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
Tuesday 30 th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)

OCTOBER

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 9.30-11.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ) Little Fishes (Parent & Toddler Group) (SL)
Friday 3 rd	1-3.00pm	Wellbeing Café (SL)
Saturday 4 th	7.30pm	Echo 52 Big Band Concert (SJ)
Sunday 5 th	9.00am 10.30am 10.30am 5.00pm 6-7.30pm	Holy Communion (SJ) All Age Parade Service (SJ) Holy Communion (SL) Joint Choral Evensong for Harvest at Christ Church Youth Worship Night at Wesley Chapel

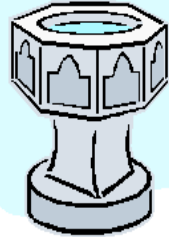
Bishop Nick's Farewell Service - save the date

Bishop Nick's farewell service from the diocese will take place at 3.30pm on Sunday 23 November at Ripon Cathedral. All welcome! Bishop Nick says: 'I do not look forward to this event, but I do want to take the opportunity to thank clergy and lay people in this unique diocese and lay down my pastoral responsibilities well.'

PEOPLE

Baptisms

Eloise Marie Bresson
Frederick George Oscar McGahey
Chelsey Nicole Bradley
Jack Ian Garforth
Lola Rose Garforth
Myla Millie Garforth



FUNERALS/ MEMORIALS

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

Joseph Stephen Swales
Irene Walker

Sunday 14th September

is Copy Date for

OCTOBER 2025 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



MISSING DAY OR NIGHT

Missing from home or education. Not knowing where they are or who they are with.



NEW PLACES

Discovering they have been going to new places where they have no obvious connections.



ONLINE USE

Spending more time online. Secretive activity, refusal to come offline. Have they distanced themselves from family, friends and usual activities?



CHANGE IN APPEARANCE

Clothing, personal hygiene, talking differently, tired.



CHANGE IN BEHAVIOUR

Have they become unusually secretive, fearful or withdrawn, aggressive, distanced themselves from family and friends, involved in anti-social behaviour.



CHANGE IN FRIENDS

Sudden changes in who they are 'hanging out' with including meeting new people from social media.



COPING MECHANISMS

Alcohol/drug use/self-harm – what they may be doing or using in order to cope.



POSSESSIONS

Unexplained items e.g. New clothing, money, phone, drugs.



INJURIES

Unexplained bruises, cuts, burns, marks. Reluctance to seek medical attention.

HELP US STOP EXPLOITATION

SAY SOMETHING, IF YOU SEE SOMETHING SUSPICIOUS. CONTACT:

Crimestoppers **OR** Police **OR**
0800 555 111 101

WWW.STOP-CE.ORG

Contact:

**SAY
SOMETHING**
IF YOU SEE
SOMETHING.

STOPCE

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:**



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	9.30am - 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

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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

Supporting the local community

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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Take some
time to ...

PAUSE



A free after school drop-in space for
young people in Y6 to Y13

Tuesdays

St John's Church Hall

3.30-5pm

toast / biscuits

**hot and
cold
drinks**

music



**help with
homework**

**friendly
faces to
chat to**

games

REGISTER HERE:



Contact Emma for more info:
youthwork@stjohnsandstlukes.org.uk