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St John's and St Luke's Together

St John's Church



St Luke's Church

March
2025

60 pence



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Dear Friends,

I feel like I probably shouldn't admit this, but I am going to anyway.....in recent years I have struggled with Lent. Before Covid I didn't feel that way. I embraced each of the church seasons, even the more solemn ones, and I welcomed Lent as a chance to introduce new disciplines or habits and make small changes to routines and rhythms. But since 2020, I haven't felt like that. I have found the scarcity of Lent, the dreary weather, and the idea of giving things up and going without, unappealing. I think perhaps it is because Covid gave us a large enough dose of scarcity, and enforced habit changes, to last several years!



That is not to say that I don't 'do' Lent. In church we continue to strip things back (for example we don't have flowers) and our liturgy (the words we say) becomes more focused on penitence and reflection than at other times of the year. We also run Lent courses, which shapes a new weekly habit for many of us as we attend those and seek to engage and transform through what we learn. Personally, I will try to be more disciplined with my prayer and theological reading because I know that it will be helpful for my spiritual growth and development. So, I will be

engaging with the season, I will just find it more challenging than I used to.

However, the truth is that things that we don't find easy are a part of Christian life. There are times of joy, delight and celebration (what a blessing), but there are also times of sorrow, scarcity, discomfort and exile. If we look at the Gospel of Matthew (chapter 3-4), we can read about Jesus' baptism, where a voice from heaven says; "this is my son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased". This will have been a wonderful moment of affirmation for Jesus, a real blessing. But, immediately after this great affirmation and blessing, we read "*then* Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness." After the blessing comes trial and temptation. It is part of the plan, and it is for a purpose. It doesn't mean it is easy, but most of our growth happens when we are stretched beyond what is comfortable.

One thing that is helping me prepare for Lent this year is to remind myself that we know the whole story. Yes, Lent is a time of penitence and change, of temptation and wilderness, of stripping back and looking within. But we always approach these challenges knowing that joy is to come, that wholeness comes after wilderness, that hope comes after exile, that death is defeated and love has won. The whole story, of which Lent expresses an important part, is amazing and nothing short of life changing.

So, if you are feeling a bit fragile, if life is difficult just now, if you are on a pilgrimage through the valley of tears, perhaps you might embrace the season of Lent gently. Make small changes if you can, commit to a Lent course if you would like to journey with others, do a bit of quiet reading (see suggestion below), or intentionally spent time out in creation with God. But whatever you do, remember that just as Spring always follows Winter, the season of Lent is always followed by the joy of the resurrection and the eternal promise that, however vulnerable we might be feeling, our Lord will never leave us nor forsake us.

Every blessing,

Laura

LOOKING FOR IDEAS AND ARTICLES FOR THE MAGAZINE

Hopefully some of you readers might like to have a go at writing an article, setting a crossword or setting a sudoku challenge. It would be nice to get various items to put into the April edition of the Focus.

Even a gardeners section for advice on what to grow and when.

Irene



Little Fishes

Baby and toddler group

**Parents/carers/grandparents
all welcome!**

Every Thursday in term time
Open between 9.30 - 11.30 am

St Luke's Church, Franklin Square,
HG1 5EL (just off Kings Road)

£1 per family, which includes hot
drinks, snacks and childrens drinks

Find us on Facebook or contact Tracey
on 07890 933198





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

GUIDES AND RANGERS UPDATE

It's great to be able to fill you in on all that has happened at Thursday night Guides and Rangers over the autumn term... We started with an autumnal themed weekend residential at Hazel House in Ripon, going to see the Hornblower in the Market Square was an experience for the girls and for the Hornblower himself, he had never



seen anything like it! We held a 'coffee evening' to raise funds for Birk Crag in conjunction with 4th Bilton Brownies and raised over £600 towards the redevelopment, this was massively supported by members of St John's and St Luke's so thank you all for supporting



us, especially Terry and Pat Harrison for coming along on their wedding anniversary. We went to watch the panto at Harrogate Theatre, which was made even more special as one of our Guides, Lucy, was one of the dancers on stage! We went to watch a Guiding exclusive viewing of Moana 2 at the Odeon cinema and then the end of term meeting was held at Stockeld Park without a single injury at ice skating, and amazing hot chocolates to end the term.



This spring term has now started with 15 Rangers a full unit of 24 Guides and a growing waiting list.... it is wonderful that we are able to give so many girls a varied and enriching experience but we

would love to be able to take on more but to do that we need more helpers and leaders. If you think that you could give some of your time, whether that be every week or once a month please speak to Gill in the office or call on her on 07837 186435. And if

Thursdays don't work for you, there are units meeting every weekday evening across Bilton and they would all benefit from more helpers; Rainbows from age 5 to Rangers up to age 18.



Register your interest to help at <https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved/>

ST LUKE'S GETS IT'S BRONZE AWARD!



You may have heard that St Luke's achieved its Bronze A Rocha Eco Church Award in November 2024. This is a great achievement and St Luke's are starting to look at the silver award.

The A Rocha Eco Church Award scheme is open to churches of all shapes and sizes and of all denominations. It provides a framework to support your church and its leadership to take practical action on caring for God's earth, through the Eco Church survey. The survey covers five key areas of church life:

- Worship and teaching
- Buildings and energy
- Land and nature
- Community and global engagement
- Lifestyle

A Rocha UK is a Christian charity working to protect and restore the natural world and committed to equipping Christians and churches in the UK to care for the environment. For more information, please see <https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/>





ST JOHN'S CHURCH BILTON

COFFEE MORNING

SATURDAY 8TH MARCH

ENTRANCE £1

10AM-12NOON

(accompanied children free)

Refreshments included in entry fee

Home-made cakes

Hand-made cards

Large choice of books

Raffle

Tombola



**RAISING MONEY FOR
REPLACEMENT ST JOHN'S
CHURCH HALL TABLES**



*Ash
Wednesday
Service*

Wednesday 5th March

10.30am

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

CONE EXCHANGE TALK

The Green Team are fortunate to have secured a talk by Chris Powell MBE from the Cone Exchange in Harrogate. The Cone Exchange is a veritable treasure trove for crafters, knitters and junk modellers, but it does so much more, repurposing waste materials from local businesses amongst many other things.

Come along on March 4th at 7pm at St Luke's to hear Chris talk about the work of the Cone Exchange and his work with local charities. Entry is free but we are requesting donations towards a new piece of equipment for Chris' work with the local community. Refreshments will be provided.

In other Green Team news, in September 2024 St John's had a free energy audit as part of the Church of England's drive for net zero carbon. We have now received the results of this and an energy audit working group has been formed, working alongside the Green Team, to look at the report as regards things like draught proofing, lighting, heating and reducing our carbon footprint. If anyone has any expertise in these areas and would like to join the team, please contact Claire Golightly at clairelg80@gmail.com.



JOIN US FOR AN EVENING WITH

CHRIS POWELL

'FROM TRASH TO TREASURE FROM PACKER TO PIRATE'

**AN INSPIRING TALK BY CHRIS ON THE IMPACTFUL
WORK OF THE CONE EXCHANGE IN HARROGATE.**

DATE: TUESDAY 4TH MARCH

TIME: 7 PM START

**LOCATION: ST LUKE'S CHURCH CENTRE
FRANKLIN SQUARE, HARROGATE HG1 5EL**

REFRESHMENTS INCLUDED
ADMISSION FREE - DONATIONS GREATLY
APPRECIATED...

ALL DONATIONS FROM OUR EVENT WILL BE USED TO
PURCHASE A NEW PIECE OF EQUIPMENT WHICH WILL BE USED
BY CHRIS IN HIS VOLUNTARY WORK WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY.

HOSTED BY ST JOHN & ST LUKE'S GREEN TEAM



ST. JOHN'S CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

This year's Christmas Tree festival at St John's had even more trees displayed and saw more of our church and community groups as well as local businesses taking part in displaying trees and visitors voting for their favourite.

The trees were in place for Advent Sunday on 1st December and walking into the church for the Toy Service on that morning brought extra light and sparkle to the day which carried on through all the church and school's services that were held throughout December.

Again this year people could vote for their favourite and the entry with the most community votes was Coppice Valley School, followed closely by Blaze Youth Group and Bilton Grange School in joint second, and Richard Taylor School a close 4th, well done to those, but the effort put in by every entry was amazing and I thank them all for joining in.

I can't wait to see the designs that come forward this year, thank you to everyone that took part and to those who took the time to vote.



FEBRUARY COFFEE MORNING

Thank you to everyone who volunteered and/or supported the February coffee morning in aid of our parish youth work. It was a very busy and enjoyable morning raising the wonderful sum of £685.93 which was further increased to £731.93 by donations from people enjoying the board games and soup event which immediately followed.

I hope you will all join us again next time (March 8th) when we will be raising funds for some much needed parish hall tables. (see poster on page 12)

PEOPLE



FUNERALS/ MEMORIALS

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

John MacInnes

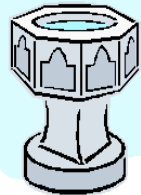
Olive Ward

Thomas Wilkinson

Robert Renicor

BAPTISMS

Max Elijah Warne



SUNDAY 10th MARCH

is Copy Date for

APRIL 2025 FOCUS

Items for inclusion to:

SJSFocus@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



UNANSWERED PRAYER

A 5-week course by Peter Greig

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

Mondays, 7.30pm
starting on 3rd March

St Luke's Church, Franklin Square, HG1 5EL

Thursdays, 12.45pm
starting on 6th March

All are welcome to join us for either course

www.stjohnsandstlukes.org.uk

MARCH'S CALENDAR

| | | |
|---|-----------------|---|
| Sunday 2nd | 9.00am | Holy Communion (SJ) |
| | 10.30am | Parade Service (SJ) |
| | 10.30am | Holy Communion (SL) |
| | 11.45am | Rhythm of Life Meeting (SJ) |
| | 6-7.30pm | Youth Worship Night at Wesley Chapel |
| Monday 3rd | 9-9.30am | Morning Prayer (SJ) |
| | 2-3.00pm | Monday First at Dene Park Community Centre |
| | 7.30pm | Lent Course (SJEE) |
| Tuesday 4th | 7.30pm | Baptism Information Session (SJ) |
| | 9-9.30am | Morning Prayer (SJ) |
| | 3.30-5.00pm | Pause (Year 6-13 Youth Drop-In) (SJ Hall) |
| Wednesday 5th <i>Ash Wednesday</i> | 7.00pm | Cone Exchange Presentation (SL) |
| | 9-9.30am | Morning Prayer (SJ) |
| | 10.30am | Holy Communion with Ashing (SJ) |
| | 10.30am | Thirst – Coffee at Dene Park Community Centre |
| Thursday 6th | 9-9.30am | Morning Prayer (SJ) |
| | 9.30-11.30am | Little Fishes (Parent & Toddler Group) (SL) |
| Friday 7th | 12.45pm | Lent Course (SL) |
| | 1-3.00pm | Wellbeing Café (SL) |
| | 6.30-7.15pm | Junior Choir Practice (SJ) |
| Saturday 8th | 7-7.45pm | Adult Choir Practice (SJ) |
| | 10.00am-12.00pm | Coffee Morning in Church Hall (SJ) |
| Sunday 9th | 9.00am | Holy Communion (SJ) |
| | 10.30am | Holy Communion (SJ) |
| | 10.30am | Café Church (SL) |
| | 6-7.15pm | Ignite (Year 7+ Youth Group) (SL) |
| | 9-9.30am | Morning Prayer (SJ) |
| Monday 10th | 7.30pm | Lent Group (SJ) |
| Tuesday 11th | 9-9.30am | Morning Prayer (SJ) |
| | 10.00am | Walking Group (SJ) |
| | 2-3.30pm | Comfort Café (SJ) |
| | 3.30-5.00pm | Pause (Year 6-13 Youth Drop-In) (SJ Hall) |
| Wednesday 12th | 7.00pm | PCC Meeting (SJ) |
| | 9-9.30am | Morning Prayer (SJ) |
| | 10.30am | Holy Communion (SJ) |

| | | |
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| | 10.30am | Thirst – Coffee at Dene Park Community Centre |
| | 12.15pm | Community Lunch at Bilton Community Centre |
| Thursday 13 th | 9-9.30am | Morning Prayer (SJ) |
| | 9.30-11.30am | Little Fishes (Parent & Toddler Group) (SL) |
| Friday 14 th | 12.45pm | Lent Course (SL) |
| | 1-3.00pm | Wellbeing Café (SL) |
| | 6.30-7.15pm | Junior Choir Practice (SJ) |
| | 7-7.45pm | Adult Choir Practice (SJ) |
| Sunday 16 th | 9.00am | Holy Communion (SJ) |
| | 10.30am | Morning Worship (SJ) |
| | 10.30am | Morning Worship (SL) |
| | 6-7.15pm | Ignite (Year 7+ Youth Group) (SL) |
| Monday 17 th | 9-9.30am | Morning Prayer (SJ) |
| | 7.30pm | Lent Group (SJ) |
| Tuesday 18 th | 9-9.30am | Morning Prayer (SJ) |
| | 3.30-5.00pm | Pause (Year 6-13 Youth Drop-In) (SJ Hall) |
| Wednesday 19 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 20 th | 9-9.30am | Morning Prayer (SJ) |
| | 9.30-11.30am | Little Fishes (Parent & Toddler Group) (SL) |
| Friday 21 st | 12.45pm | Lent Course (SL) |
| | 1-3.00pm | Wellbeing Café (SL) |
| | 6.30-7.15pm | Junior Choir Practice (SJ) |
| | 7-7.45pm | Adult Choir Practice (SJ) |
| Sunday 23 rd | 9.00am | Holy Communion (SJ) |
| | 10.30am | Youth Led Morning Worship (SJ) |
| | 10.30am | All Age Worship (SL) |
| | 2-4.00pm | Crafternoon (SJ Hall) |
| | 6-7.15pm | Ignite (Year 7+ Youth Group) (SL) |
| Monday 24 th | 9-9.30am | Morning Prayer (SJ) |
| | 7.30pm | Lent Group (SJ) |
| Tuesday 25 th | 9-9.30am | Morning Prayer (SJ) |
| | 3.30-5.00pm | Pause (Year 6-13 Youth Drop-In) (SJ Hall) |
| Wednesday 26 th | 9-9.30am | Morning Prayer (SJ) |
| | 10.30am | Holy Communion (SJ) |
| | 10.30am | Thirst – Coffee at Dene Park Community Centre |
| | 7.00pm | Synod |

| | | |
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| Thursday 27 th | 9-9.30am 9.30-11.30am | Morning Prayer (SJ) Little Fishes (Parent & Toddler Group) (SL) |
| Friday 28 th | 12.45pm 1-3.00pm | Lent Group (SL) Wellbeing Café (SL) |
| Sunday 30th <i>Mothering Sunday</i> | 9.00am 10.30am 6-7.15pm | Holy Communion (SJ) JOINT Holy Communion (SL) Ignite (Year 7+ Youth Group) (SL) |
| Monday 31 st | 9-9.30am 7.30pm | Morning Prayer (SJ) Lent Group (SJ) |
| <u>APRIL</u> | | |
| Tuesday 1 st | 9-9.30am 3.30-5.00pm | Morning Prayer (SJ) Pause (Year 6-13 Youth Drop-In) (SJ Hall) |
| Wednesday 2 nd | 9-9.30am 10.30am 10.30am 7.15pm | Morning Prayer (SJ) Holy Communion (SJ) Thirst – Coffee at Dene Park Community Centre Finance & Buildings Committee Meeting (SJ) |
| Thursday 3 rd | 9-9.30am 9.30-11.30am | Morning Prayer (SJ) Little Fishes (Parent & Toddler Group) (SL) |
| Friday 4 th | 12.45pm 1-3.00pm 6.30-7.15pm 7-7.45pm | Lent Group (SL) Wellbeing Café (SL) Junior Choir Practice (SJ) Adult Choir Practice (SJ) |

COMING UP

| | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Coffee Morning for Anna & Chris Hembury | Saturday 12th April (SJ Hall) |
| Harrogate Band Concert | Saturday 26th April (SJ) |
| Confirmation Course (4 weeks) | Starting on Tuesday 29th April (SJ) |
| Annual Parochial Church Meeting | Saturday 18th May, 12pm (SJ) |
| Summer Fair Coffee Morning | Saturday 14th June (SJ) |
| Confirmation Service | Sunday 14th September (SJ) |

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

The Ministry Team

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YouthWork@stjohnsandstlukes.org.uk

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Alethea.fry@gmail.com

Editorial Team

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HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES

Palm Sunday 13th April 10.30am Holy Communion at St John's
10.30am Café Church at St Luke's

Tuesday 15th April 7.00pm Reflective Gathering at St Luke's

Wednesday 16th April 7.00pm Reflective Gathering at St Luke's

Maundy Thursday 17th April 7.00pm Holy Communion at St John's

Good Friday 18th April 2.00pm Reflections at the Cross at St Luke's
6.30pm Choral Service at St John's

Easter Day 20th April 10.30am All Age Holy Communion at St John's
10.30am All Age Holy Communion at St Luke's

St John's: Bilton Lane, HG1 3DT
St Luke's: Franklin Square, HG1 5EL

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
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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