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St John's and St Luke's Together

St John's Church



St Luke's Church

**January
2022
50 pence**



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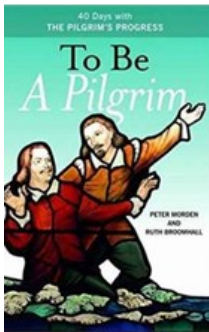
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A LETTER FROM LAURA

Dear All,

A couple of years ago my New Year's resolution was to read John Bunyan's book "The Pilgrims Progress". I think I got about a third of the way through before giving up, which was still notably better than the year I joined a gym.....



Anyway, last Lent I discovered a lovely little book called "To be a Pilgrim – 40 Days with The Pilgrims Progress". With the help of that book, I was finally able to digest the story which portrays Christian encountering a wealth of characters who help him to discover what it means to be a on a journey of faith.

Move on a few more months to the Christmas season (which carries on through January until the festival of Candlemas on 2nd February), and the theme of encounters shaping our faith is evident once again.

Early in the Christmas narratives we read about Mary's visitation to Elizabeth, in which Elizabeth instantly recognises she has had an encounter with the mother of her Lord; "why am I so favoured, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?" (Luke 1:43). In this moment of encounter the two women are united in trust, hope, anticipation (and probably fear) as they recognise that the sons they carry are destined to change the world.



The shepherds have encounters too, firstly with an angel of the Lord and then with Jesus himself. These encounters are so significant that the unlikely shepherds feel compelled to "spread the word concerning what has been told them about this child" (Luke 2:17). Rather than dismissing their unusual testimony, as one



might expect, we are told that everyone who heard their declaration was 'amazed' by it. Similarly, the wise men have an encounter with Jesus, comprehend that they have witnessed the promised Messiah and feel called to "bow down and worship him" (Matthew 2:11).

Finally, in the Candlemas reading from Luke's Gospel, Simeon and Anna have an encounter with Jesus as his parents present him in the temple. They have been preparing for this encounter their whole lives, and as such their eyes are fully open and they recognise who Jesus is instantly "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation" (Luke 2:29-30).

Our own encounters with God - be that through people we cross paths with, through our time in prayer and devotion, through moments enjoying the beauty of creation or through gathered worship – are hugely important. They shape and strengthen our personal journeys of faith as we move through life. As a church community we are privileged to know Jesus already, but that doesn't mean we can forego a lifetime of learning about him more and more deeply. Like Elizabeth, the shepherds, the wise men, Anna and Simeon we need to have eyes and hearts that are open to encounter, so that we recognise Jesus in our daily lives and get to know him more and more. And when we encounter Jesus, we will feel more compelled to spread the word concerning him and to bow down and worship him – one flows from the other.

This New Year, don't worry too much about making resolutions that are really hard to keep. Instead, why not decide to be more open to encounter? Seek to recognise God at work in your day to day life, take time to reflect on encounters that you have had and think more intentionally about where you have noticed God to be present.

I doubt that Elizabeth, the shepherds, the wise men, Anna or Simeon ever joined a gym (I am in good company then)! But they did become some of the first people in history to have encounters with Jesus that would change the course of their lives. What about you? How will your encounters with Jesus during 2022 shape your future? With eyes and hearts that are open to encounter, this year could hold more than you imagine, this could be the year that your relationship with Jesus grows even deeper.

I wish you a very happy and blessed 2022, and I pray that you will have eyes to see, ears to hear and hearts full of expectancy, hope and wonder.

Every blessing,

Laura



QUESTION CORNER



This time, a New Year quiz for **you!**
(Not all questions are serious)

1. Who is known as the Apostle of the Gentiles?
2. What does 'Epiphany' mean?
3. Queen takes a tumble in Africa.
4. What was St Luke's profession?
5. Where does the word 'nave' come from?
6. Biblical place where girl keeps her horse.
7. Where was St Paul born?
8. No square deal in the seat of power.
9. What does the name 'Jesus' mean?
10. Who was St Mark's cousin?
11. Mother's slight altercation with a large dog.
12. Who was the first Archbishop of Canterbury?
13. Who came to consult Jesus at night?
14. What was the name of Philemon's slave?
15. What did the farmer say when his bull swallowed a bomb?

(Answers next month)

David

SONGS OF PRAISE



Since we are still required to wear masks when singing, with regret we have to say that there will be NO Songs of Praise at the end of January. Will the end of April be better?

Who knows?



David Williams

ADVENT - TIME OF PREPARATION

In Worship

“People look East. The time is near of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth and set the table.
People look east and sing today - Love the guest is on the way.”



The joint Advent Carol Service was a wonderful introduction to the season of preparation for Christmas; the training choir sang beautifully with the adults in leading our worship.

In Worship and Giving - The Toy Service at St John's



So many gifts, of all shapes and sizes, were brought to the Toy Service that Helen from Martin House had to recruit some Scouters to help her to take them all to the shop!

Thank you for taking this opportunity to respond to God's gift of Jesus.

Scouting and Guiding members turned out in force; it was so good to see them at this Church Parade service, and also at the evening Christingle service.

CHRISTMAS - TIME OF CELEBRATION

Community Christmas Lunch

'Twas the season to be jolly, the hall was decked with boughs of holly (well, not really, but it was beautifully decorated!).

It was Wednesday the 8th of December and the Community Christmas Lunch was underway. The diners were “welcomed” with sanitiser and masks, but were then



offered a glass of

sherry and Christmas crackers, to get them in the party spirit.



Pam Mills said Grace, and then the first course – prawn cocktail – was served. Next came roast turkey, pigs in blankets, carrots, sprouts, parsnips, roast potatoes and all the usual

trimmings, along with an optional glass of non-alcoholic wine. After a short pause (pewh!) the meal was rounded off by Christmas pudding with rum sauce, followed by tea/coffee and chocolate mints.

The diners left Bilton Community Centre replete and went on their way with a gift bag of a mince pie and chocolates.

The volunteers (some older, and others not much younger, than the diners) were exhausted but very happy, and thanked God that the weather had been kind and that there were no culinary disasters!

Special thanks go to Alan’s Fish of Grimsby, for supplying the prawns free of charge, Roots and Fruits, for supplying the vegetables free of charge, and Kendall’s Butchers, who gave a generous discount on the delicious turkey. These acts of kindness show what a loving community we live in.

The next lunch will be held on Wednesday the 12th of January, and we still have a few places left. If you are interested, please contact Sheena on 01423 525787 or Ann on 07772 169172.

Best wishes to all our lovely diners and volunteers, and to Laura and Simon for their prayers.

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a safe and healthy New Year!

Christingle Services



All three of our Christingle services were inspiring and illuminating! The video of a Young Carer gave us all something to think about; our donations will go to help the

Children's Society support them. As always the moment when the church was lit only by candlelight was quite emotional.

Look out next month for a report on the total money given at the three services.

Wellbeing Café 16th December

The Christmas theme was evident as we arrived, with crackers and table decorations.

Thanks to Victoria and Lizzie and all the helpers it has been so good to be meeting again and sharing food and fellowship. Let us hope and pray that we can continue to meet after Christmas!



Christmas Dinner

At Christmas some cultures have a tradition of laying an extra place for the **UNEXPECTED GUEST**, who could be Jesus. We were invited to do this, but to put on the plate what we would have spent on the meal, and to bring this to church during January, to be given this year to our Church Mission Society partners, Chris and Anna Hembury in Hull. Paper plates and envelopes are still available at both churches.



WHICH BRINGS US TO 2022!

What changes will you make in the New Year?

- Could you do one thing that will help the environment? Recycle more? Use up food leftovers? Save wrapping paper to reuse? Everyone making one small change is more effective than one person making big changes!
- Have you considered regular giving to the church by direct debit through the 'new' parish giving scheme - easier for you and for our finance team. (see below)
- Could you join the 'JAM' team when it restarts in the New Year?



JAM is a free fortnightly group at St John's for babies, toddlers and pre-schoolers (and their carers) and each session includes bible stories, chat, dance, games and is followed by craft and refreshments. JAM is hoping to restart in the new year but we need more volunteers to make this happen. If you are available to help on a Tuesday morning once a fortnight please get in touch with Tracey on 875768.

PARISH GIVING SCHEME

The PGS helps regular givers donate safely to their church by direct debit either monthly, quarterly or annually. You can make regular donations by completing a PGS Gift Aid form (available



from Gill in the office or pick up a leaflet in church) and posting it directly to the PGS team in Gloucester, using the new dedicated telephone service which allows you to set up your own direct debits quickly and easily by telephone instead of completing the Gift Form (0333 002 1260) or via the new Digital Service at www.parishgiving.org.uk. **Our parish code is 460646071** To watch a short video on the scheme click here [https:// www.youtube.com/watch?v=B9MxcXudSGg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B9MxcXudSGg)

FUNDRAISING

Christmas Fair

Those who came to our Fair at St Luke's Church on 4th December found a warm welcome, and a generous range of stalls and activities, some with a Christmas theme. The Craft stall offered stockings, both Christmas and ordinary, decorations, and lots of other hand-made items. The cake stall was well-stocked, as was the home preserves stall. Refreshments included delicious home-made cakes - and meringues! - and drinks, and there was an amazing array of jigsaws and books and toys. The raffle and tombola were well-patronised as usual. And there was an inviting selection of bulbs, including narcissi, hyacinths and amaryllis.



This very enjoyable event raised around £1200 for church funds. Thanks go to everyone who contributed.

Coffee Morning

Although discretion demanded that we didn't invite patrons to help with making Christingles, the Christmas coffee morning was still very well-attended. And Jan was handing out Christingle packs for us to make our own.



The bumper raffle, including a beautiful hand-made Christmas wreath, was very popular, and yet again the tombola almost sold out.

Also popular were the jigsaws, but there are still lots left for next month! Cakes, cards, books, preserves and bulbs ... lots to choose from!

The Children's Society will receive an amazing £750, along with the donations from the Christingle services. Their emphasis this year is on caring for Young Carers.

RESURRECTED BITES AT NEW PARK



Resurrected Bites is a Harrogate and Knaresborough based community organisation aiming to reduce food waste and food poverty.

We work with local businesses and suppliers to divert good quality food from landfill. Instead, we convert it into meals in our cafes, and provide it to families through our community groceries scheme. We now have a new outlet at New Park School offering food, toiletries and cleaning materials.

The community groceries are run through a subscription scheme and are for people on a low income. For a small annual fee, you can have access to the shop and pay a very low rate for whatever you buy. It costs just a fraction of a normal supermarket shop and it saves thousands of tonnes of food from going to landfill every week.



Visit our website <https://resurrectedbites.co.uk> to find how you can help, or to access help. Donations from 'ordinary' people are also welcome.



Coffee Morning
in St John's Church Hall

in aid of

Church Mission Society

Saturday 8th January 2022

10 am - 12.00 noon

Admission £1.00

Including coffee or tea and biscuits
(accompanied children free)

Cakes, scones, jams etc, raffle, books,
greeting cards, tombola and bring & buy
stalls

All proceeds in support of our mission partners
Chris and Anna Hembury in Hull

We appreciate your help so much!

The great success of our coffee mornings means that your donations of prizes, books, cakes and plants are very welcome and much appreciated, but are used up very quickly. Thanks to all of you who give so generously - and please keep on doing so! Please label foodstuffs with their ingredients.

PEOPLE

BAPTISMS / BLESSINGS & THANKSGIVINGS

Lyla O'Grady



FUNERALS/ MEMORIALS

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

Robert Stead

Sarah Denise Wilson

David Pickering



INTERMENT OF ASHES

Nora Jewitt



Church Office will reopen on Wednesday 5th January 2022

SUNDAY 9th JANUARY

is Copy Date for
FEBRUARY 2022 FOCUS

Items for inclusion to:

SJSLFocus@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 to WEDNESDAY

9.30am to 1.00pm

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JANUARY'S CALENDAR

St John's 10.30 services will be on Facebook each Sunday

<https://www.facebook.com/stjohnsandstlukes>

NB Services in the churches may change according to guidelines

Those who attend should wear masks unless exempt

No need to book a place now - everyone is welcome.

And we are serving tea and coffee after the 10.30 services!

JANUARY

Sunday 2nd	9.00am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	10.30am	Joint Holy Communion (SL)
Tuesday 4th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	11.00am	Funeral (SJ)
Wednesday 5th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	10.30am	Holy Communion (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)
	6.30-7.15pm	Evening Surgery in Church (SJ)
Friday 7th	6.45-7.45pm	Choir Practice (SJ)
Saturday 8th	10am-12noon	Coffee Morning (SJ Hall)
Sunday 9th	9.00am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	10.30am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	10.30am	Parade Service (SL)
	12.30pm	Baptisms
	6-7.15pm	Ignite 1 (Year 7-9 Youth Group) (SL)
	7.30-8.45pm	Ignite 2 (Year 10+ Youth Group) (SL)
Monday 10th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	7.30pm	Baptism Information Session (SJ)
Tuesday 11th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	2-3.30pm	Comfort Bereavement Café (SJ)
	7.00pm	Youth Alpha (SJ)
	7.30pm	Time to Pray (SJ)
Wednesday 12th	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
	4-5.00pm	4twelve (Year 7-13 Youth Group) (Everyman Cinema)
Thursday 13th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)

	9.30-11.30am	Little Fishes (Parent & Toddler Group) (SL)
	1-3.00pm	Wellbeing Café (SL)
	6.30-7.15pm	Evening Surgery in church (SJ)
Friday 14 th	7.15-9.15pm	Harrogate Theatre Choir Rehearsal (SJ)
	6.15-6.45pm	Junior Choir Practice (SJ)
	7-7.45pm	Choir Practice (SJ)
Sunday 16th	9.00am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	10.30am	Morning Worship (SJ)
	10.30am	Morning Worship (SL)
	6-7.15pm	Ignite 1 (Year 7-9 Youth Group) (SL)
	7.30-8.45pm	Ignite 2 (Year 10+ Youth Group) (SL)
Monday 17 th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	7.00pm	Alpha Course (SJ)
Tuesday 18 th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
Wednesday 19 th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	10.30am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	10.30am	Thirst - Coffee at Dene Park Community Centre
	4-5.00pm	4twelve (Year 7-13 Youth Group) (Everyman Cinema)
Thursday 20 th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	9.30-11.30am	Little Fishes (Parent & Toddler Group) (SL)
	1-3.00pm	Wellbeing Café (SL)
	6.30-7.15pm	Evening Surgery in Church (SJ)
	7.00pm	Team Vicar Appointment Paperwork Meeting (SJ)
Friday 21 st	6.45-7.45pm	Choir Practice (SJ)
Sunday 23rd	9.00am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	10.30am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	10.30am	All Age Worship (SL)
	6-7.15pm	Ignite 1 (Year 7-9 Youth Group) (SL)
	7.30-8.45pm	Ignite 2 (Year 10+ Youth Group) (SL)
Monday 24 th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	7.00pm	Alpha Course (SJ)
Tuesday 25 th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
Wednesday 26 th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	10.30am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	10.30am	Thirst - Coffee at Dene Park Community Centre
	4-5.00pm	4twelve (Year 7-13 Youth Group) (Everyman Cinema)
Thursday 27 th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	9.30-11.30am	Little Fishes (Parent & Toddler Group) (SL)
	1-3.00pm	Wellbeing Café (SL)
		NO Evening Surgery
Friday 28 th	6.45-7.45pm	Choir Practice (SJ)
Saturday 29 th	7.00pm	Volunteers Thank You Event (SJ)
Sunday 30th	9.00am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	10.30am	JOINT Holy Communion (SJ)
	6-7.15pm	Ignite 1 (Year 7-9 Youth Group) (SL)

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

www.facebook.com/stjohnsandstlukes - for livestreaming

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