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St John's and St Luke's Together

St John's Church



AUGUST

2026

60 pence

St Luke's Church

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Lay Ministers Letter

Dear friends

So by the time you read this, schools and universities will have finished for the holidays, as will our Children and Young people's groups. There will be some of you that will have

done Leaver's Day's, Proms, Graduation ceremonies, parties and all of those events tied in with the cycles of education and life. Looking ahead to summer, there maybe day trips, holidays, stay-cations with family or other breaks from the normal cycle of work or life. Then as the summer progresses, you may be thinking of new starts ahead: new schools, new classes, even a new job, college or university.

It can be difficult to deal with change, even when it's that next stage in life, part of growing up. But, for us all, there is an inevitability in change happening, we cannot control the passage of time and life progresses in familiar cycles every year, which we are to a greater or lesser extent, a part of. This time of year and the cycles of change coming from it, really do bring to mind a particular passage from Ecclesiastes 3, especially the first verse. Reading it through from verses 1 to 14, gives a sense of all of the 'seasons' of life, the good and the bad. But, it can also give support and comfort when we realise that, in the midst of change there is the sureness that comes from God being with us through it all.

It also encourages us to live within the moment and accept that we cannot control life, that we should find joy in what we do and not

live with unrealistic expectations for perfection. We may desire to know it all, to have it all, for our lives to be easy and blessed with everything that we may need materially. There are some of us who would like to have our lives mapped out, with clear paths to be taken and identified goals to achieve. And that is possible, God gives us opportunities to have what we need, to achieve goals and make more of our lives, here on Earth. But really, he just wants us to have a relationship with him, to be in our lives and for us to find peace, purpose and joy in whatever we do. There will be times when we may struggle, perhaps not get all that we want and indeed wonder, 'why me'. But really, we should be thinking 'why not', because no matter how rooted with God we are, how well we walk in Jesus's footsteps, we shouldn't think we are exempt from having 'bad' times along with the 'good'. Human life can be a challenge, it is not always perfect and Christians do not have a magic ticket that excuses us. And we also need to realise that in hard times, our relationship with God can be tested as we are challenged. But take heart, he won't let you down; He is perfect, always loving and always there, always guiding us in good times and bad, always constant.

The idea that God is like this in the midst of the bad things that happen, is an idea that is difficult to understand and equally difficult to explain. But by building the cycle of our life around just being with God, living our life with him at the centre, at least we know that He is always there, a constant in amongst all the change. He is eternally in our hearts and never changes, forever wanting to give us that peace that passes all understanding and reminding us that there is a different, eternal life awaiting us.

So, enjoy the pleasures of summer: long, light warm days to spend time with family and friends, visits to places you have never seen but may grow to love, long indulgent meals that make you happy and replete. Perhaps you will get the chance to volunteer to help children enjoy sport or times outside they never normally get. Maybe you can walk in the footsteps of others

seeing the natural beauty of the countryside or just relax with the latest good book. Be open to any and all possibilities that will make your heart glad and don't worry too much about getting the new shoes or uniforms.

As the saying goes: dance like there's nobody watching, love like you'll never be hurt, sing like there's nobody listening and live like it's heaven on earth. That last one is something for us as Christians to hold on to, live like it is Heaven on Earth.

And remember seasons come and seasons go, but God is always there, always loving, always eternal.

Enjoy your summer, wherever you are and God's deep peace to you all.

Jan



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QUESTION CORNER

Question

Christians are supposed to love everybody.
But how can I love someone I don't even like –
Donald Trump for instance?



Answer

In various ways we distinguish between loving and liking, for example you'll probably know what I mean when I say I love this country, but I don't like it very much at present. I won't get carried away at this point -(even if some think I should be!).

It's not possible to like everyone and, thankfully, we are not required to do so. We know that 'Love' includes various things like romance, deep personal affection, wanting to be with, and care for a particular person or persons etc. But there's another aspect, which is caring for others irrespective of liking them.

To illustrate 'loving your neighbour' Jesus told the story of the Good Samaritan. A man lay wounded by the roadside, but a priest and a Levite just passed by on the other side. Then a Samaritan stopped, and spent time caring for him. It's significant that Jesus chose a Samaritan to make the point, because Jesus and Samaritans disliked one another and tried to avoid contact. But the Samaritan 'loved' by simply showing common humanity with a care for, and respect for, human life. It clearly had nothing to do with liking someone.

I'm no fan of Donald Trump either. In fact I dislike everything about him. So here's the question for you and me. If, by any strange chance, we might see him wounded by the roadside, would we walk past, or would we try to do something to help him? To stop and help, as we should, would be a way of loving our neighbour. But we might not like him any better!.

David

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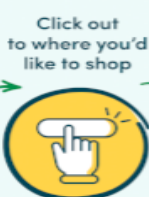
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JOHN
LEWIS



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A warm feeling inside!

Over
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extra cost to anyone



ST JOHN'S CHURCH BILTON

COFFEE MORNING

SATURDAY 8TH AUGUST

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



All proceeds in aid of

**Our YWAM Mission Partners —
John & Vikki Wright**



≡ We're changing days & time! ≡

To better support our community, The Wellbeing Cafe
will **now** be open:

~~FROM:
Every Friday
1pm – 3pm~~



TO:
Every Wednesday
1.30pm – 3.30pm

 St Lukes Church,
Franklin Square, Harrogate

Come and enjoy a
cuppa & a chat! 

Everyone Welcome 



**Coffee Morning Saturday 8 August 2026 for
John & Vikki Wright:
Our mission partners working for YWAM
(Youth With A Mission)**

The next coffee morning is to raise funds for our mission partners, John and Vikki Wright, who have (for the last 23 years) been working in Arua, Uganda. They have just recently returned to the UK where they will continue to work for YWAM.

We are so pleased to be able to welcome them to our coffee morning on the 8th and hope you will be able to join us too.

Anne Grindrod (Coffee Morning Team)

ARTICLES WANTED

Is anyone interested in writing an article for the Focus Magazine. To make the magazine interesting we desperately need people to contribute. Do you have a hobby that you could write about?. Please send any articles to the Editor c/o Church office.



IGNITE

YOUTH GROUP

STARTING BACK!

SUNDAY
13TH
SEPTEMBER

6-7.15PM

AT
ST JOHN'S
CHURCH



ALL THOSE IN YEARS 7+
ARE WELCOME TO COME ALONG!

POETRY PLEASE

I am a lover of poetry and occasionally share with my house group certain poems I have enjoyed or that have resonated with me, particularly ones that touch my heart and bring me closer to God.

In the new year I came across a poem by Jan Richardson called “The House as a Year”. Everyone in house group loved it and from then on I shared it with many other friends with exactly the same reaction, which is why I suddenly (several months later!) thought to share her with my whole church family. She is a writer of blessings in prose poem style and every one I read touches my heart. I have her book, Circle of Grace, a book of blessings for the seasons which I highly recommend. We are not allowed to print the poems here (copyright law) but she is a gracious lady and does allow them to be used in worship situations with an acknowledgment to her of course. She also has a website, The Painted Prayerbook, where fresh blessings spring up regularly. An artist and ordained minister in the United Methodist Church you can discover more about her on janrichardson.com

Anne Grindrod

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 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.



Award
winning care
homes

Harcourt Gardens care home, Harrogate

Funding care

Thursday 29th October, 2pm - 4pm

Meet Elaine Lightfoot, from McCormick solicitors, who will explain the options for funding long-term care, including the benefits you may be entitled to and how you can help your savings go further.

Community cinema

Third Tuesday of every month, 10am - 12 noon

Enjoy classic 'feel good' films and old favourites in our comfy cinema, with a coffee and home-baked treats.

To attend please call 01423 205 880 or email
alexandra.clarke@careuk.com



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Coffee Morning/Summer Fair Saturday 11 July 2026

I am delighted to report that our coffee morning/summer fair raised the brilliant amount of £1001.47. With lovely weather, lots of fun and joyful music a good time was had by all.

As always so many thanks to our wonderful coffee morning team and a special thank you to Lynda who has “held the fort” so kindly and efficiently throughout my absence.

Immense gratitude also to Juliet and the Social Committee ; Jill and her Brownies and Guides; Judith and her Children and Young People volunteers; our talented Worship Band; Alan Smith and last but not least our extremely hard working Church Wardens, Nigel, Debs and Alethea (who are always so gracious no matter how much we add to their load!). Thank you also to Richard Taylor School for the kind loan of two gazebos.

Thank you to everyone who donated goods of every kind (including a beautifully restored patio table from a member of St Luke’s congregation) enabling us to raise such a fabulous amount. Also to our amazing church family for their overwhelming support and generosity. We couldn’t do it without you!

On a very personal note; it was lovely to be so warmly welcomed back to coffee morning by everyone and fantastic to be with the team again but above all I wish to thank you all for your prayers, love and immense kindness following my accident.

Finally thank you Matthew for being at the helm and holding us all together brilliantly: and for being there practically 24/7 for all our many queries and problems.

Anne Grindrod (Coffee Morning Team)

Welcome Sunday at St John's Church

Sunday 13th September

Holy Communion Service at 10:30am

*Start of a new school year and re-start
of children's groups for all ages.
Stay for a bring-and-share lunch
afterwards.*



All Welcome



Fantasy Football at St John's and St Luke's

The Premier League season kicks off again on Friday 21st August, and this year St John's and St Luke's will be getting involved with the launch of a church fantasy football league.

All are welcome to get involved and in this purely social contest.

How the game works Managers use a (fantasy) multi-million-pound budget to build and manage a squad of Premier League stars, from which they can select a team. Points are accrued for the real-life statistics those selected players record during their actual matches. Those points build over the year and give the standings in the SJSL league table.

How to take part For those familiar with the platform – and perhaps already planning their team for the news season – simply watch out for the relevant codes, which will be publicised once they become available. These will give access to the league.

For any would-be Thomas Tuchels looking to get involved for the first time, head to **fantasy.premierleague.com** to start your managerial career. Once you've registered, you'll be able to name your team, build a squad and plan for the season. Once those league codes come out, you'll be able to add them in.

The competition and leagues are completely free to enter and offer a great way to connect over a purely friendly footballing contest.



WEBSITE



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

Befriending service



Check in and Chat



Age UK North Yorkshire & Darlington are now providing a Check In & Chat Service. Do you or a loved one need a friendly voice to check in and brighten your day?

Our Check in and Chat Service provides caring volunteer callers who will reach out with a friendly conversation and a wellness check, ensuring you're not alone.

Let's Connect

Welfare Check Service

Do you live alone or worry about what would happen if you were unresponsive? Do you have pets or responsibilities that need attention if something goes wrong?

Let's Connect provides a simple, caring service- Our staff and volunteers will check in with you daily via text or phone call to ensure you're okay. If we don't hear from you, we'll reach out to a trusted next of kin, friend or designated contact to make sure you're safe.

Heart and Home Companions



Are you or a loved one looking for a friendly, reliable companion? Heart & Home Companion Service is here to offer warmth, conversation and support through our companionship services.

Our companions can provide Weekly Home Visits, enjoy a friendly chat, a cup of tea in the comfort of your own home.

Whether you need a companion for yourself or a loved one, we're here to make each day brighter.

For more information or if you would like to volunteer for any of these services, please contact us

Email: clare.hardie@ageuknyd.org.uk



VOLUNTEERS



North Yorkshire Opportunities

**Promotion Team Volunteers
Group leaders
Befriending**

AGE UK North Yorkshire and Darlington
Bradbury House
Beaumont street west
Darlington
DL15SX
0300 30 20 100
Email enquiries@ageuknyd.org.uk

ENQUIRIES@AGEUKNYD.ORG.UK

AUGUST'S CALENDAR

Sunday 2nd	9.00am 10.30am 10.30am	Holy Communion (SJ) All Age Service (SJ) Holy Communion (SL)
Monday 3rd	9-9.30am 2-3.00pm	Morning Prayer (SJ) Monday First at Dene Park Community Centre
Tuesday 4th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
Wednesday 5th	9-9.30am 10.30am 10.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ) Holy Communion (SJ) Thirst – Coffee at Dene Park Community Centre
Thursday 6th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
Friday 7th	12.30pm	Wedding Rehearsal (SJ)
Saturday 8th	10.00am-12noon 2.00pm	Coffee Morning in Church Hall (SJ) Wedding (SJ)
Sunday 9th	9.00am 10.30am 10.30am	Holy Communion (SJ) All Age Holy Communion (SJ) All Age Worship (SL)
Monday 10th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
Tuesday 11th	9-9.30am 10.00am	Morning Prayer (SJ) Walking Group (SJ)
Wednesday 12th	9-9.30am 10.30am 10.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ) Holy Communion (SJ) Thirst – Coffee at Dene Park Community Centre
Thursday 13th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
Sunday 16th	9.00am 10.30am 10.30am 12.30pm	Holy Communion (SJ) All Age Morning Worship (SJ) Morning Worship (SL) Baptisms (SJ)
Monday 17th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
Tuesday 18th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
Wednesday 19th	9-9.30am 10.30am 10.30am 12.00pm	Morning Prayer (SJ) Holy Communion (SJ) Thirst – Coffee at Dene Park Community Centre Thirst Table at Dene Park Community Centre
Thursday 20th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)

Sunday 23rd	9.00am 10.30am 10.30am	Holy Communion (SJ) All Age Holy Communion (SJ) All Age Worship (SL)
Monday 24 th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
Tuesday 25 th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
Wednesday 26 th	10.30am 10.30am	Holy Communion (SJ) Thirst – Coffee at Dene Park Community Centre
Thursday 27 th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
Saturday 29 th	11.00am 7.30pm	Family Fun Dog Walk meeting at Nidderdale Greenway, Bilton Lane Pub Trip (The Knox)
Sunday 30th	9.00am 10.30am	Holy Communion (SJ) JOINT All Age Holy Communion (SJ)
<u>SEPTEMBER</u>		
Tuesday 1 st	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
Wednesday 2 nd	9-9.30am 10.30am 10.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ) Holy Communion (SJ) Thirst – Coffee at Dene Park Community Centre
Thursday 3 rd	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
Sunday 6th	9.00am 10.30am 10.30am 12.30pm	Holy Communion (SJ) All Age Service (SJ) Holy Communion (SL) Baptisms (SJ)

Coming up...

Welcome Sunday – Sunday 13th September at both churches

Harrogate Band Concert – Saturday 26th September at St John's

Harvest Supper & Ceilidh – Saturday 3rd October at St John's

York Opera Concert – Saturday 10th October at St John's

Harvest Services – Sunday 11th October at both churches

Echo 42 Concert – Saturday 17th October at St John's

*The Parish Office is closed from 27th July to 6th August and from
31st August to 7th September*

PEOPLE

Baptisms

Keagan Philip Keith Symes
Oaklee Wryn Symes
Claudia Jane Phillipson
Marty Claudia Phillipson
Maeva Linda Phillipson

We welcome you into the Lord's family.
We are members together of the body of Christ;
we are 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:*

John Derek Butler
Kenneth Harrison

SUNDAY 9TH AUGUST

is Copy Date for

September'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 1.00pm

TUESDAY 11.30am to 1.00pm

FRIDAY CLOSED

565129 (+ Answerphone)

church@stjohnsandstlukes.org.uk

St John's Church Hall and St Luke's Church

can be hired for single occasions or
for regular events, £20 per hour

Contact the Church Office for more
information.

See page 24 for contact details



Bilton & Woodfield
Community Library



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

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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

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

Churchwardens

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janeandnige1962@hotmail.co.uk

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