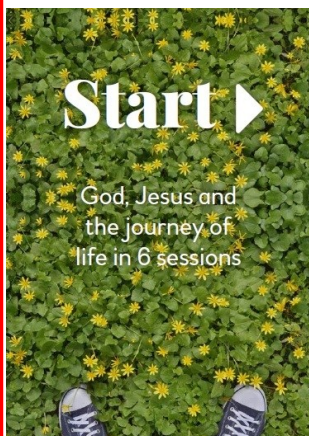


Making Disciples who make Jesus known

HEADLINE NEWS!



GOT QUESTIONS ABOUT LIFE AND THE CHRISTIAN FAITH?

If you're looking for answers then maybe it's time to make a Start. Normally run in groups of about 6 to 10 people, each session involves video clips, exercises, group discussion and time for reflection. Each session lasts about an hour and is free to attend.

Start will help you discover more about God, Jesus and the journey of life.

Starting on Tuesday 29th April at 7.30pm at St John's. Any questions contact:

church@stjohnsandstlukes.org.uk and we'll get back to you. There's still time to join!

Pie and a Pint Men's Night: Friday 6th of June

Starting from the Bilton Cycleway 6.45pm.

The proposal is to walk to the Boars Head at Ripley, if you don't want to do the walk you would be more than welcome to join us at the Boars Head for 7:30pm for the meal. A provisional booking for 20 people has been made.

Price: £21 to include Steak Pie, Chips and Mushy Pees and your first drink. **The price includes a tip.** Veggie or allergies alternative available on request. Please contact **Lee Jones 07773354063** to book your place, a £10 deposit is required.



TODAY'S SERVICES AND EVENTS

SUNDAY 4TH MAY (*Third Sunday of Easter*)

9.00am Holy Communion (SJ)

10.30am Parade Service (SJ)

Reading: John 21:1-19

10.30am Holy Communion (SL)

Readings: Acts 6:8-15; John 6:22-29

CHURCH LIFE

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Sunday 18th May, after the morning services, approx. 12pm at St John's Church

Election of Churchwardens, PCC members and Electoral Roll Officers

Nomination forms are available in both churches and should be signed by the individual nominated and proposed and seconded by someone on the Parish Electoral Roll. Forms can be returned to any churchwarden or the Parish Administrator. We have the following PCC vacancies:

3 vacancies for 3 years; 1 vacancy for 2 years; and 1 vacancy for 1 year

Why should I come to APCM?

It is a great opportunity to find out what has been happening in the life of the church and to listen to and pray for our plans for the coming year.

NB All church members are welcome to attend but you must be on the electoral roll in order to vote.

Why would I want to be on PCC?

Service on PCC is a really important role within the church, not least because the PCC helps to shape the ongoing direction of St John's & St Luke's. It involves 6 meetings and 1 awayday each year.



Our next BAPTISM INFORMATION SESSION

is on Monday 12th May 7.30pm at St John's.

If you are thinking about having your child baptised at St John's or St Luke's you are welcome to join our list of attendees for this session.

Please get in touch with the parish office to find out more.

The May 2025 issue of our parish **FOCUS MAGAZINE** is available to buy at both churches for 60p. The copy date for the June issue is **Sunday 11th May**, articles to be sent to sjslfocus@gmail.com or left in the drawer at the back of St John's.

EXTENDED SUMMER COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 14th June, 10.00am-12.30pm

St John's Church Hall and Outside Area

(weather permitting!)

This year we are not having the usual summer fair but are having an extended coffee morning with all proceeds going to church funds.

We will have all the usual stalls but also extras including local guiding hosting stalls, chocolate and bottle stalls; and prosecco and refreshments will be available to buy.

We are looking for donations of chocolate and sweets, bags and bars; and bottles—any type from bubble bath to fizz. You have time to have a clear out or grab an extra item when you do your weekly shop. Donations can be left at either church in the marked boxes.

As usual we are looking for raffle and tombola prizes, so if you have any or know of any local businesses that would be able to donate anything please do get bring those in.

This is the biggest fundraiser for the church funds each year and your help and support is appreciated.





ST JOHN'S CHURCH BILTON

COFFEE MORNING

SATURDAY 10TH MAY

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



**RAISING MONEY FOR
CHRISTIAN AID**

We are in need of tombola and raffle prizes for this month's coffee morning, these can be dropped off in either church or brought before 9.30am on Saturday morning.

Donations for the cake stall can also be brought on the morning.

What's Happening

MAY

Sunday 11th	9.00am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	10.30am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	10.30am	Café Church (SL)
	12.30pm	Baptisms (SJ)
	6-7.30pm	Youth Worship Night at Wesley Chapel
Monday 12th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	7.30pm	Baptism Information Session (SJ)
	7.30pm	Green Team Meeting
Tuesday 13th	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) Drop-In Space (SJ Hall)
	7.30pm	Start Course (SJ)
Wednesday 14th	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
Thursday 15th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	9.30-11.30am	Little Fishes (Parent & Toddler Group) (SL)
Friday 16th	1-3.00pm	Wellbeing Café (SL)
	6.30-7.15pm	Junior Choir Practice (SJ)
	7-7.45pm	Adult Choir Practice (SJ)
Saturday 17th	9.30am	Green Team Litter Pick in Church Grounds (SJ)
Sunday 18th	9.00am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	10.30am	Morning Worship (SJ)
	10.30am	Morning Worship (SL)
	12.00pm	Annual Parochial Church Meeting (SJ)
	6-7.15pm	Ignite (Year 7+ Youth Group) (SL)
Monday 19th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	7.30pm	Energy Audit Working Group Meeting
Tuesday 20th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	3.30-5.00pm	Pause (Year 6-13) Drop-In Space (SJ Hall)
	7.30pm	Start Course (SJ)
Wednesday 21st	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 22nd	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	9.30-11.30am	Little Fishes (Parent & Toddler Group) (SL)
	10.30am	Wedding Rehearsal (SJ)
Friday 23rd	1-3.00pm	Wellbeing Café (SL)
Sunday 25th	9.00am	Holy Communion (SJ)

	10.30am	All Age Holy Communion (SJ)
	10.30am	All Age Holy Worship (SL)
Tuesday 27 th	7.30pm	Start Course (SJ)
Wednesday 28 th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	10.30am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	10.30am	Thirst – Coffee at Dene Park Community Centre
Thursday 29 th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	6.00pm	Wedding Rehearsal (SJ)
Saturday 31 st	1.00pm	Wedding (SJ)
<u>JUNE</u>		
Sunday 1st	9.00am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	10.30am	Parade Service (SJ)
	10.30am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	12.00pm	Emma's Leaving Lunch in Hall (SJ)
	6-7.30pm	Youth Worship Night at Wesley Chapel
Monday 2 nd	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	2-3.00pm	Monday First at Dene Park Community Centre
Tuesday 3 rd	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	3.30-5.00pm	Pause (Year 6-13 Youth Drop-In) (SJ Hall)
	7-8.00pm	Limitless Camp Meeting (SL)
	7.30pm	Start Course (SJ)
Wednesday 4 th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	10.30am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	10.30am	Thirst – Coffee at Dene Park Community Centre
	7.15pm	Finance & Buildings Committee Meeting (SJ)
Thursday 5 th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	9.30-11.30am	Little Fishes (Parent & Toddler Group) (SL)
Friday 6 th	1-3.00pm	Wellbeing Café (SL)
	6.30-7.15pm	Junior Choir Practice (SJ)
	6.45pm	Men's Pie & Pint Night at Boars Head, Ripley
	7-7.45pm	Adult Choir Practice (SJ)

UPCOMING EVENTS

The next 6 weeks are very busy in the parish and we have both Emma's celebration service and Matthew's licensing service quite close together, for both events we are wanting to provide refreshments afterwards for everyone to enjoy, Val Carr will be drawing up a list of food items to donate on the day in the hope you can bring something to one or the other, but please do not feel that you have to put your name down at this time if you are not able to, we always get lots of contributions and we do not want anyone feeling like they have to if they are not in a position to.

The sign-up lists will go onto the noticeboards at both churches.

Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy the refreshments whether you have contributed or not, we are joining together as a community in these occasions.

THE GREEN TEAM

Sewers and Stitchers needed!

Help needed to complete the new welcome banner!

Our new banner created from surplus material is now well on its way but we need some more pairs of hands to stitch to the finish. A small team will be working on the banner on Wednesday 7th and 14th May 1pm-3pm East End room. Please contact Claire on 07734 277450 for more information.



The Green Team are hosting a **LITTER PICK** on Saturday 17th May at 9.30am for around a hour, starting from St John's church.

All welcome, many hands make light work!

Picking equipment will be provided, you may wish to bring gloves.
All children must be accompanied.

CALLING ALL GARDENERS! Did you know that you can get subsidised compost bins from the council? They are available at the West Harrogate (Penny Pot) municipal tip for £20 for a 330 litre compost bin, or online. See <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/bins-recycling-and-waste/reduce-reuse-and-recycle/composting> for further details and information on how and what to compost. It is **INTERNATIONAL COMPOST WEEK** from 4th-10th May so why not have yours in place by then!



NO MOW MAY

The environmental charity, Plantlife, is again running its annual No Mow May campaign. Starting at the beginning of May, it calls all garden owners and those who manage green spaces to not mow during May. Sadly, as a nation, we have lost nearly 97% of flower rich meadows since the 1930s and with them have gone a vital food source for pollinators, such as bees and butterflies. A healthy lawn with some long grass and wildflowers benefits wildlife, helps tackle pollution and can even lock away carbon below ground. All you need do is not mow your lawn in May. If you choose to carry on after the end of this month, even better, as the benefits will keep coming. You might find all sorts of interesting wildflowers pop up in your lawn that you never knew were there! With over 20 million gardens in the UK, even the smallest patches of grass add up and can, if looked after effectively, deliver great gains for the nature and the climate. For further information and to sign up, see: <https://www.plantlife.org.uk/campaigns/nomowmay/>

We recycle printer cartridges and batteries at both churches, do you also know you can bring in other items to be recycled at St John's too? Terracycle have stopped their recycling scheme for dentail products but you can still bring in your

MEDICINE BLISTER PACKS, WRITING INSTRUMENTS AND CONTACT LENSES. These can all be taken to various

shops/outlets to be recycled and there are bags available, so if you know you will be near one of the recycling hubs, maybe you could take the products with you? Let's work together!



SUPPORTING MINISTRY & MISSION

Many of us give regularly to our churches, but beyond our regular lifetime, a **GIFT IN A WILL** can be a final and powerful expression of gratitude and thanksgiving towards God that will help transform a church's future and support mission here in this country, and overseas. Here at St Johns and St Lukes we welcome all gifts in wills, however large or small, and we promise to use your gift to make a difference in our parish. Our PCC legacy policy is to use gifts to help fund significant development projects; whether this be to buildings, to purchase equipment, or to support mission. If you would like to have more information on this, pick up a leaflet in church, visit our website [here](#) or contact Rob Bath on 07817 799640, or by email robertabath@yahoo.co.uk.

 Choose the UK's most trusted home insurer and we'll donate **£130** to your church. At Ecclesiastical, we pride ourselves on providing honest and specialist insurance, and our home insurance is no different. To benefit, all you have to do is quote **'Trust130'** when you take out your policy, and we will arrange the rest. To get a quote: speak to one of our team who will be happy to help: phone 0345 777 3322; or email household@ecclesiastical.com; or visit www.ecclesiastical.com/trust130



 easyfundraising

Shopping at these supermarkets?



Raise free donations for us
when you order online



EASYFUNDRAISING

Do you do your grocery shopping at Tesco, Sainsbury's, Morrisons, ASDA, Waitrose, Iceland, or Ocado? If so, you can easily raise regular free donations for us! Just sign up to easyfundraising to become one of our supporters, then shop online at your fave supermarket. Your shopping will cost the same, but we'll receive a free weekly donation. How great is that? Support us today: https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/biltonstjohnandstluke/?utm_campaign=pmc&utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=social&utm_content=weekly-food-shop-wa1



We love welcoming everyone into our churches, whether it's to mark an important time in someone's life, to worship regularly, or to come together in the heart of the community. If you'd like to support your local church, perhaps you'd consider making a gift? You can make a regular or one-off gift simply and safely online, through the **PARISH GIVING SCHEME**, scan the QR code to find out more.



THIS WEEK'S DIARY

MONDAY 5 MAY

NO Morning Prayer

TUESDAY 6 MAY

9-9.30am Morning Prayer (SJ)

3.30-5.00pm Pause (Year 6-13)
Drop-in Space (SJ Hall)

7.30pm Start Course (SJ)

WEDNESDAY 7 MAY

9-9.30am Morning Prayer (SJ)

10.30am Holy Communion (SJ)

10.30am Thirst at Dene Park
Community Centre

1-3.00pm Green Team Banner
Session (SJ)

THURSDAY 8 MAY

9-9.30am Morning Prayer (SJ)

9.30-11.30am Little Fishes (Parent
& Child Group) (SL)

7-8.00pm Limitless Camp Meeting
(SL)

FRIDAY 9 MAY

1-3.00pm Wellbeing Café (SL)

6.30-7.15pm Junior Choir Practice
(SJ)

7-7.45pm Adult Choir Practice (SJ)

SATURDAY 10 MAY

10.00am-12noon Coffee Morning in
Church Hall (SJ)

SUNDAY 11 MAY (*Fourth Sunday of Easter*)

9.00am Holy Communion (SJ)

10.30am Holy Communion (SJ)

Readings: Acts 9:36-43

John 10:22-30

10.30am Café Church (SL)

12.30pm Baptisms (SJ)

6-7.30pm Youth Worship Night at
Wesley Chapel

A **FATHER'S LOVE LETTER** is an intimate message from God to you, from Genesis to Revelation, and it is available at both churches for you to take away and read

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CONTACT US

SAFEGUARDING

For any queries or concerns, contact

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THE MINISTRY TEAM

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