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St John's and St Luke's Together

St John's Church



Lent Begins  
Ash Wednesday

February

2024

60 pence

St Luke's Church



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## LETTER FROM OUR TEAM VICAR

Dear Friends,

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> February (or the nearest Sunday) many churches celebrate the Feast of Candlemas, the day when we remember Jesus - the light of the world -



first being presented in the temple, as was the Jewish custom. Candlemas marks

the end of the Christmas and Epiphany season, a season filled with light, joy and hope. In Ripon Cathedral there will be 5000 candles alight during the annual Candlemas Eucharist – a reminder that

light truly does shine in the darkness!

As the Christmas break begins to fade into a distant memory, whilst the dark nights persist, it can be a difficult time of year to leave the candles and fairy lights of Christmas and Epiphany behind and move into the starker season of Lent, when we are reminded more of wilderness and suffering. Since Covid I find Lent somewhat harder to engage with than previously, and it perhaps doesn't help this year that Lent begins early.



But does there need to be such a stark switch from light and hope to suffering and wilderness? This year it struck me in the Candlemas reading (Luke 2:22-40) how closely hope and suffering are intertwined.

Simeon and Anna both lived in a world where suffering had become a way of life, and they

faithfully journeyed through that with patient waiting and simmering hope.

Within their lifetime they encountered the incarnate Jesus; love come down, hope restored. And yet they also recognised that God would deal with suffering not by wiping it out but rather by fully sharing in it himself, and that hearts and swords - joy and pain - would be combined:

*"And sorrow, like a sharp sword, will break your own heart."*

Luke 2:35 Good News Translation

The two strands of hope and suffering, it seems, cannot be neatly divided



into liturgical seasons. The hope and light of the Christmas season and the challenges and suffering of the Lenten season merge together because we live in a broken world where things are not as they should be. Certainly 20 000+ people should not have died in Gaza, but they have. There should not be food poverty, but there is. The ice caps shouldn't be melting, but they are. Like Simeon and Anna, we live in a world where, sadly, suffering is as much a part of life as sleeping and eating.

And yet in the temple that day Simeon and Anna saw with their own eyes a light break into the suffering; salvation for all people. And that light still shines today, even on the darkest of winter nights and even during the penitential season of Lent.



God has made his home among us and because of that our relationship with God is restored and we have the promise that love will win. There is nothing in all creation, not even death (or indeed liturgical seasons), that can ever separate us from the love of God that is in Jesus Christ, the light of the world.

In this life, hope and suffering will always be entwined together. But as with two entwined ropes, we are strengthened in our suffering by the constant, sturdy strand of light and hope. A hope which will never fail and which will far outrun suffering.

So as you journey through Lent this year, perhaps challenging yourself to pick things up, set things down or adjusting your rhythms of life, by all means engage fully with this season of penitence, reflection and transformation.

But please remember that whatever you do (or don't do) in this season, and however difficult the darker nights can feel, the light of Christ still shines brightly. Even amidst suffering and in times of wilderness, Jesus promises that hope *will* prevail and love *has* already won.

*"For my eyes have seen your salvation,  
which you have prepared in the sight of all nations:  
a light for revelation to the Gentiles,  
and the glory of your people Israel."*

Luke 2:30-32 NIV

Blessings,

**Laura**

## **COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS LUNCH**



Happy New Year to you all from the Community Lunch team. In the last few weeks we entered the Christmas Tree Festival at St John's, and our thanks go to everyone who provided decorations for the tree and helped put them up. Special thanks must go to Joyce and Theva's grandsons who made the most amazing looking culinary delicacies. They were so realistic if it wasn't for their size I am sure people would have been tempted to pick them from the tree and eat them.

Our Christmas lunch took place on 13<sup>th</sup> December, and our thanks again to Roots & Fruits who so generously donated all the greengrocery items and also to Andy of Grimsby Fish who gave us the prawns.



The Winning Tree

## **AND THE WINNER IS ..... ST JOHN'S FLOWER CLUB**

Wasn't it difficult to choose one tree when they were all so wonderful? But lots of you did, and the Flower Club's imaginative 'tree' won.

2nd and 3rd were Bilton Grange School and Thirst.

Thank you to all the groups who contributed to make the church so full of light and celebration, and to all of you who did vote.

## ELFRIEDA NOKES

Friede was a remarkable woman. Her mantra in life from an early age was 'Friede can' and Friede certainly did. Even at the time of her birth, which was difficult, **Friede could**, and so she ignored the midwife's stark words that she probably wouldn't live for more than a week. And this set the tone for the rest of her life. She was not diminished but rather enhanced by a childhood with many difficulties, not the least of which was the discrimination her family faced because her father was staunchly anti-Nazi, and then because of the war which broke out when she was just 11 years old. Because they lived in Hamburg, the target of a lot of bombing, she was evacuated but even then she turned this into a virtue, making lifelong friends with her fellow evacuees and her teacher, and she kept up with them even when she moved to England.



This move came about because after the war she worked for the RAF and an officer noticed how hard she worked – **Friede can** – and recommended her for domestic service – so she came over and worked as a cook in a big house up in Hebden, near Grassington, alongside her friend, Ilsa. And it was here that she fell in love with Yorkshire and the beautiful countryside.

It was also here that she met Tom, her husband to be, who was working as a chauffeur. At first they were friends, but things evolved, and they married in Feb 1957. It was no doubt a big step to take, meaning life would always be in England, but **Friede could**.

The same attitude saw her come through the challenge of moving into the house on Burke Street when they moved to Harrogate – it was in a real state, but with Tom's help, **Friede could**, and they made a new life for themselves here, and over time they developed a wide circle of friends

This was no doubt because Friede had a great capacity for seeing the best in people and working hard at getting alongside people, saying to Tom, 'I think we can be friends with them'. She would see the best in people and was generous with her time, and if my experience over the last 9 years was anything to go by, she was always pleased to see people and they left her company feeling more positive than when they arrived.

And this capacity for friendship was not diminished by the years – during lockdown, in the church we paired up some of our young people with some of our older ones for mutual support, and it was no surprise that Friede's relationship with her young person developed into a lasting friendship. Perhaps all this was because she was genuinely interested in people and gave them a precious gift – her time and attention – though it has to be said that sometimes this did mean it was hard to get away, not least because tea was always on offer and because she had a habit of saying as you were about to leave, 'And by the way' or 'Just another thing'.

But as well as having this outgoing, optimistic, friendly personality, Friede was also precise, determined and organised. Thus it will come as no surprise to you that she left all her affairs in order, and left clear instructions for her funeral service including the hymns and the reading – which points us to another very important part of her life, namely her strong and enduring faith. She had no particular denominational affiliation, for example while Tom was till alive they worshipped at the Methodist church, but then came to St John's since it was more local to her. This deep faith gave her strength, solace and perspective and she had no fear of dying, only that she wanted to be in her own home when it happened – and **Friede could**, on 30<sup>th</sup> November aged 95 years, feeling that she had had a life well-lived. In St Paul's words in 2 Corinthians, her earthly tent is no more, but her mortality has been swallowed up by life – because **God can** do this.

### **RHYTHM OF LIFE GOES LIVE!**

*Jesus said,*

*'Walk with me and work with me - watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly.'*

(Matthew 11:29-30, Message version)

We spent much of the autumn learning about our new Rhythm of Life initiative, so now we are moving from talk to action.

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> January was the official launch date, so if you haven't signed up yet or haven't asked to be paired with a 'Fellow Traveller', please talk to Simon or Laura or contact the office.





### **INTERESTED IN THE HISTORY OF ST JOHN'S**

Don't miss Alan Gould's presentation about **John Sheepshanks**,  
third vicar of St John's

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 7.30 pm

Bilton Community Centre



### **THE GREEN TEAM CRAFTERNOON**

– Sustainable Living Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2pm—4pm  
St John's Church Hall

Learn how to make beeswax wraps and mend clothing using the Sashiko technique – take home your own items. Please sign up on the sheet at the back of church to give an idea of numbers .



### **SUPPORTING THE GREEN TEAM**

We are grateful to the Green Team for their work in raising awareness of ways we can reduce our damage to the planet, especially in recycling more than the kerbside collections take:

- toothbrushes, toothpaste tubes, floss etc
- pens, pencils, ink cartridges
- blister packs
- household batteries
- ink cartridges
- used postage stamps

Don't bin them; bring them to St John's





## **BLAZE GLOWS GREEN**

We're delighted to shout about the great work our youth group, Blaze, have been doing alongside the Green Team and the recent success of our collaborative suitcase sale of pre-loved items just before Christmas.

Thanks to the hard work and dedication of our incredible Blaze members, they organised and led the pre-loved sale which was a roaring success! The children's enthusiasm made it a memorable event, showcasing a commitment to sustainable practices.



Together with the Green Team, the children explored innovative ways to make positive changes in how we buy and sell to foster a more sustainable and eco-friendly community, aligning our actions with our shared commitment to caring for God's creation.



As we embark on a new year, we encourage everyone to continue exploring the world of second-hand treasures. By choosing pre-loved items, we contribute to reducing waste and minimizing our environmental footprint and can collectively make a positive impact on our community and the planet.

***The Green Team & Blaze***

## **HELPING OUR NEIGHBOURS IN HULL**



Generous donations of prizes and cakes, cards, jigsaws and books meant that those who patronised our January coffee morning had plenty to choose from. They seem to have appreciated it, contributing to a total of £690 to support our mission partners Chris and Anna Hembury in Hull.

Thanks  
to all

who supported in any way.



## **SAINT MICHAEL'S HOSPICE**

**Saint Michael's offers personalised and responsive care during the advanced stages of a person's illness and last days of their life. Everyone accessing our care can expect to be treated with kindness, compassion, respect and dignity.**



Our end of life care services are offered from our hospice building and out in the community. We take a holistic approach which supports your ongoing social, emotional, spiritual and practical needs, as well as those of friends, family and carers.

Here you can find information about care at our hospice inpatient unit, and care at home.

*Most of us have known someone whose last days were eased by the care provided by the hospice, either at the beautiful premises overlooking Crimple or in their own homes. Professionals and volunteers work together to ensure that the family and friends as well as the patient feel supported and comforted.*

*Will you help us raise a contribution towards the enormous costs of running the hospice as well as Just B and other groups supporting people struggling with bereavement and addiction? Come to our coffee morning (See facing page) or donate prizes or cakes or cash.*

# COFFEE MORNING

## ST JOHN'S CHURCH HALL

### Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> February

**Entrance £1**

**INCLUDES  
DRINK AND  
BISCUIT**



**10 – 12**



**RAFFLE**



**CAKES**

**BOOKS**

**TOMBOLA**

**JIGSAWS**

For **St Michael's  
Hospice**

## **AN INSPIRING ACHIEVEMENT!**

On 5<sup>th</sup> December 2023, 2nd Bilton Brownies had a fantastic evening celebrating Lottie Beardshall's Gold Award. This was the first time one of our girls has earned this award: it involves a lot of effort, spanning around three years. Lottie joined Brownies during COVID and initially took part on Zoom, doing activities with her aunt's Brownie pack in Worcester.

She earned her first "Skills Builder" badge before joining us when we returned to face-to-face meetings, though all our activities were outdoors for a few months. These unusual circumstances didn't deter her from working on "Interest badges" at home and completing another five "Skills Builders" during our weekly meetings, gaining her Bronze and Silver Awards along the way.



After earning all the necessary badges, Lottie also had to organise an activity for the rest of our Brownies to enjoy. She decided to invite Kate Hammond from Guide Dogs to join us; Kate has a degenerative visual impairment and recently got a new guide dog. Her original guide dog is still part of the family but is happy for the new dog to take over the hard work. Kate and her husband brought both dogs, Sheba and

Sulla, along to our meeting. She answered some brilliant questions from the Brownies and then they were able to meet the dogs. Kate also gave Lottie a special Guide Dog pin badge, in recognition of the fund raising she has done for them.

After Lottie was presented with her Gold Award certificate and badges, she finished the evening by having a bake sale, again in aid of Guide Dogs.

## IT'S OFFICIAL!

At her licensing on 25<sup>th</sup> January we joyfully welcomed Laura Martin in her new role as our Team Vicar. Having experienced her sympathetic pastoral caring, her thoughtful preaching, her friendship, and her imaginative leadership, we look forward to working with her to continue sharing God's love with each other and our neighbours.

### ***LAURA, WE WELCOME YOU***

**It was good to welcome our new Bishop of Ripon Anna Eltringham to license Laura, and earlier in the week when she confirmed five members of our congregation.**

## CHOIR NEWS



Our junior choristers at St John's are growing in number and enthusiasm and experience. A number of them are confident enough to enter the church chorister class at our local Competitive Festival in March.



Over the first three weekends as well as singing there is instrumental music, drama, poetry and reading.

Audiences are welcome, and entry is very reasonable.

Or do you like the idea of volunteering as a steward or scribe? Talk to Ruth Yarborough or Jean Burton

A parish **LENT COURSE** will be running for 6 weeks at St John's, starting on 20<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm.

More details of which book will be used will be available soon

# PEOPLE

## WEDDINGS

*Congratulations to those recently married:  
Matthew Arthur Lars Wilson and Isabella Sarah Newbery*



## FUNERALS/ MEMORIALS

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

*Eileen Elsworth*

*Elfriede Noakes*

## CONFIRMATIONS

*We welcome into full membership of the church family*

Helen Curley-Baxter

Elouise Foster

Jemma Hoddy

Belinda Worsell

Doreen Sienkiewicz

### SUNDAY 11<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY

is Copy Date for

#### MARCH 2024 FOCUS

Items for inclusion to:

[SJSLFocus@gmail.com](mailto: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, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY

9.30am to 1.00pm

TUESDAY 11.30am to 1.00pm

FRIDAY CLOSED

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- Dementia care
- Personal care

We are extremely proud to support older people in our community to live independently in their own homes.

Our team is passionate about delivering the highest standard of care and will always go above and beyond to help our clients.





# FEBRUARY'S CALENDAR

## **FEBRUARY**

Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup>	9-9.30am 9.30-11.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ) Little Fishes (Parent & Toddler Group) (SL)
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	1-3.00pm	Wellbeing Café (SL)
<b>Sunday 4<sup>th</sup></b>	9.00am 10.30am 10.30am 2-4.00pm 6-7.30pm	Holy Communion (SJ) Parade Service (SJ) Holy Communion (SL) Crafternoon (SJ Hall) Youth Worship Night at Artizan Café
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup>	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup>	9-9.30am 12-1.30pm 4-5.00pm	Morning Prayer (SJ) Time to Pray (SJ) 4twelve (Year 7+ Youth Group) (Harrogate Chocolate Factory)
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup>	9-9.30am 10.30am 10.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ) Holy Communion (SJ) Thirst – Coffee at Dene Park Community Centre
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup>	9-9.30am 9.30-11.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ) Little Fishes (Parent & Toddler Group) (SL)
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup>	6.30-7.15pm 1-3.00pm 6.30-7.15pm 7-7.45pm	Evening Surgery in Church (SJ) Wellbeing Café (SL) Junior Choir Practice (SJ) Adult Choir Practice (SJ)
Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am-12noon	Coffee Morning in Church Hall (SJ) for St Michael's Hospice
<b>Sunday 11<sup>th</sup></b>	9.00am 10.30am 10.30am	Holy Communion (SJ) All Age Holy Communion (SJ) All Age Service (SL)
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup>	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup>	9-9.30am 10.00am 2-3.30pm	Morning Prayer (SJ) Walking Group (SJ) Comfort Café (SJ)
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup>	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 15 <sup>th</sup>	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)

<b>Sunday 18<sup>th</sup></b>	9.00am 10.30am 10.30am 6-7.15pm	Holy Communion (SJ) Morning Worship (SJ) Morning Worship (SL) Ignite (Year 7+ Youth Group) (SL)
<b>Monday 19<sup>th</sup></b>	9-9.30am 7.30pm	Morning Prayer (SJ) Finance & Buildings Committee Meeting (SJ)
<b>Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup></b>	9-9.30am 4-5.00pm	Morning Prayer (SJ) 4twelve (Year 7+ Youth Group) (Harrogate Chocolate Factory)
<b>Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup></b>	7.30-9.00pm 9-9.30am 10.30am 10.30am	Lent Course (SJ) Morning Prayer (SJ) Holy Communion (SJ) Thirst – Coffee at Dene Park Community Centre
	10.30am	Thirst Table at Dene Park Community Centre
<b>Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	9-9.30am 9.30-11.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ) Little Fishes (Parent & Toddler Group) (SL)
<b>Friday 23<sup>rd</sup></b>	1-3.00pm 6.30-7.15pm 7-7.45pm	Wellbeing Café (SL) Junior Choir Practice (SJ) Adult Choir Practice (SJ)
<b>Saturday 24<sup>th</sup></b>		Ceilidh (SL)
<b>Sunday 25<sup>th</sup></b>	9.00am 10.30am 10.30am 5-6.00pm	Holy Communion (SJ) Holy Communion (SJ) All Age Morning Worship (SL) Ignite (Year 7+ Youth Group) (SL)
<b>Monday 26<sup>th</sup></b>	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
<b>Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup></b>	9-9.30am 4-5.00pm	Morning Prayer (SJ) 4twelve (Year 7+ Youth Group) (Harrogate Chocolate Factory)
<b>Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup></b>	7.30-9.00pm 9-9.30am 10.30am 10.30am	Lent Course (SJ) Morning Prayer (SJ) Holy Communion (SJ) Thirst – Coffee at Dene Park Community Centre
<b>Thursday 29<sup>th</sup></b>	9-9.30am 9.30-11.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ) Little Fishes (Parent & Toddler Group) (SL)
<b><u>MARCH</u></b>		
<b>Friday 1<sup>st</sup></b>	1-3.00pm	Wellbeing Café (SL)
<b>Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	9.30am-12noon	Marriage Preparation Session (SJ)
<b>Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	9.00am 10.30am 10.30am 6-7.30pm	Holy Communion (SJ) Parade Service (SJ) Holy Communion (SL) Youth Worship Night at Artizan Cafe
<b>Monday 4<sup>th</sup></b>	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)

Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm 9-9.30am 4-5.00pm	Baptism Information Session (SJ) Morning Prayer (SJ) 4twelve (Year 7+ Youth Group) (Harrogate Chocolate Factory)
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm 9-9.30am 10.30am 10.30am	Lent Course (SJ) Morning Prayer (SJ) Holy Communion (SJ) Thirst – Coffee at Dene Park Community Centre
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm 9-9.30am 9.30-11.30am	Deanery Synod (SJ) Morning Prayer (SJ) Little Fishes (Parent & Toddler Group) (SL)
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup>	1-3.00pm 6.30-7.15pm 7-7.45pm	Wellbeing Café (SL) Junior Choir Practice (SJ) Adult Choir Practice (SJ)
Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am-12noon	Coffee Morning in Church Hall (SJ)

## Looking Ahead...

Good Friday Children's Activity  
Alpha Course  
Service to Remember and Give Thanks  
Family Walk  
Annual Parochial Church Meeting  
Summer Fair  
Parish Weekend at Scargill House

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March, time tbc (SJ)  
Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 7.30pm (SJ)  
Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April, 3.30pm (SJ)  
Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May, time/ place tbc  
Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May, 12noon (SJ)  
Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June, 10.30am-1pm  
22<sup>nd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> November

### PARISH WEEKEND

In 2022 a group from St John's and St Luke's enjoyed spending time together in the beautiful peaceful surroundings at Scargill.  
Why not join the next visit 22<sup>nd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> November this year?  
More details soon.



### POSTPONED

Last month we advertised a soup lunch after the coffee morning on 11<sup>th</sup> February.

Apologies that it will not take place then.



We'll let you know when it is rearranged.

# ST JOHN'S AND ST LUKE'S TOGETHER WHO'S WHO

Parish Office Phone No: 01423 565129

Parish Office email: [church@stjohnsandstlukes.org.uk](mailto:church@stjohnsandstlukes.org.uk)

For parish information including services and events

visit Parish Websites: [www.stjohnsandstlukes.org.uk](http://www.stjohnsandstlukes.org.uk)

[www.stlukesharrogate.org.uk](http://www.stlukesharrogate.org.uk)

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## The Ministry Team

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Worker**

Tel 07803 586566

[YouthWork@stjohnsandstlukes.org.uk](mailto:YouthWork@stjohnsandstlukes.org.uk)

## Churchwardens

### **St John's**

Mr Nigel Thompson

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Mrs Jane Reichert

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## Editorial Team

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**Editor:** Jean Burton 569907

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## **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:

Alan Horsfall 01423 863162  
or Alan Fox 07879 715557



**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

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