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*St John's and St Luke's Together*

*St John's Church*



*St Luke's Church*

**May**

**2021**

**50 pence**



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## A LETTER FROM LAURA

Dear all,

As I write this letter, we are fast approaching our elder son's fifteenth birthday. Welcoming our first son into the world was, in many ways, the joyous occasion you might imagine. But there were some unexpected complications resulting in a prolonged hospital stay.

Two operations - and many lukewarm jacket potatoes - later I was desperate to escape home with my new baby and get back to normality, doing all those everyday things that we take for granted. I wanted to sit in a café with my friends and show off my new baby. I wanted to go shopping and choose my little boy some tiny baby clothes that would fit him. I was ready for my freedom.



Except that I wasn't.

Those first few weeks of 'freedom' were not quite what I hoped.

I was so weak and tired that just a trip to the shop was thoroughly exhausting. Getting myself and my little one organised and out of the house to meet friends in a café seemed more hassle than it was worth. It became apparent that I would need some time to recover and readjust. I could not just pick back up where I had left off; there were wounds that still needed to heal.

This month, as we emerge further out of lockdown, we may imagine ourselves recovering our freedom and returning to doing things as we did before. In reality, we might discover that some things feel rather different. Maybe we are quite nervous about doing some everyday things that previously we would not have merited a second thought; browsing in shops or coming into church. Or perhaps we are desperate to start doing 'normal' things again but discover that our family and friends are more anxious than we are.



In some ways, we have become quite institutionalised. Many of us will now need time to heal, time to adjust and time to regain our emotional, physical, and perhaps spiritual strength. All of us will probably have been wounded in some way by this experience. Within this place



of wounded vulnerability, we can draw strength from the knowledge that Jesus knows what it is to be fully human, to suffer and to be wounded. He knows each of us as individuals, and he promises to journey alongside us personally as we begin our healing process.

At the end of May, we celebrate the story of the first Pentecost; the point when the disciples receive the Holy Spirit and are transformed and able to do all sorts of things that were previously unimaginable. The Holy Spirit continues to work in unexpected ways today, often giving us the strength and guidance to do the seemingly impossible. We have all learned so much over this past year, and there is plenty to be hopeful about for the future of our churches; not least a gradual return to safe gathered worship in all its fullness and renewed opportunities to engage with our wider community. But first we must journey together through this phase of healing and recovery, gently and compassionately supporting each other as our wounds heal.



It can seem surprising that the risen Christ retains evidence of the physical wounds inflicted upon him at his crucifixion – “he showed them the wounds in his hands and his side (John 20:20)”. Yet, by retaining the scars of his passion, the glorified Jesus shows us that our wounds are not shameful defects to hold us back, but rather a certain kind of beauty that shine as symbols of transformation and possibility. It is encouraging to know that scars can even increase our faith. After all, it was the marks of the wounds of Christ that would confirm faith in the hearts of the disciples.

As Christians we can always look to the future with true and real hope, but there is nothing ‘weak’ about first needing time to heal or about carrying wounds and scars. The words of 1 Peter 3:8 remind us all to “be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble.” This seems fitting as we enter this recovery phase together, acknowledging that some wounds take longer to heal than others, and committing to lovingly support each other for as long as it takes.



Every blessing,

**Laura**

## EASTER NEW LIFE



Sunrise  
Service

Resurrection Joy on Easter Day was enhanced by the joy of being able to worship together 'in the flesh' outside as the day dawned, at St Luke's and at St John's!



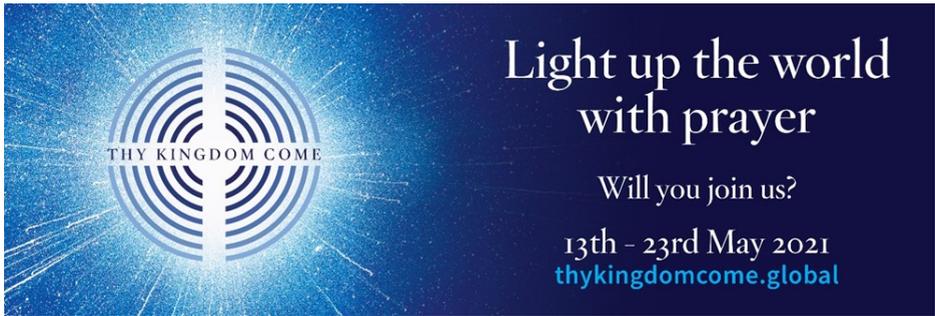
## EASTER YOUTH SERVICE



prayers, music and hot chocolate and

The young people celebrated Easter not with a dawn service, but with a dusk service (which is more aligned with teenagers' body clocks!). Around a blustery campfire, we celebrated the resurrection of Jesus with bible readings,





## **ST JOHN'S AND ST LUKE'S**



## **THY KINGDOM COME**

At St John's and St Luke's we are passionate about wanting to see God's Kingdom come and for lives to be transformed as a result. Therefore we are delighted to once again be joining with other Christians across the country and indeed across the globe in using the 11 days between Ascension (13<sup>th</sup> May) and Pentecost (23<sup>rd</sup> May) to pray for more people to come to know God.

We will be providing various resources to help people join in, but at its heart, the 'Thy Kingdom Come' campaign is very simple – it aims to encourage Christians to identify and pray for 5 people to come to faith, or, in the wake of the pandemic, to come back to faith.

More details will follow but please be praying for this initiative to result in 'fruit that will last'!

### **YOUTH GROUPS RESTART**

Please pray for our young people as our in-person groups begin again. We would love prayers that relationships are re-built and strengthened after a time apart, that everyone has fun and most of all, that the young people would encounter Jesus and experience his deep and unchanging love for them.

### **PREPARATION FOR UNI/COLLEGE**

On Sunday 2nd May, our 6th form young people are invited to an event run by Fusion which is all about preparation for leaving school and going on to the next stage of their lives. Topics included are practical basics of cooking, finding positive friendships and living as a Christian.

# SMALL GROUPS

## Introduction

Home groups are a vital element of a healthy church – indeed in his book *Natural Church Development*, Christian Schwartz identifies ‘Holistic Small Groups’ as one of the 8 quality characteristics of a healthy, growing church, saying, ‘*Research shows that multiplication of small groups is a universal church growth principle. It also showed that for these groups to have a positive effect on both quality and numerical growth within a church, they must be holistic—they must go beyond just discussing Bible passages to applying it to daily life. In these groups people can safely share personal life concerns and learn to serve others, both inside and outside the group, with their spiritual gifts.*’ And no doubt some of us will have experienced significant and deep fellowship in our home groups.

Moreover, COVID19 and the impact it has had on the church seems to have given us/forced upon us a great opportunity to evaluate our groups – their purpose/vision, function/effectiveness.

And this evaluation has led us to want to establish some new groups while renewing existing ones.

We believe small groups can/should:

- increase a sense of **belonging** to Christ and His church
- stimulate **spiritual growth** through shared exploring of the Bible, prayer and mutual encouragement
- **equip people** for service of God in the church and the world

So the crucial principle is that groups follow the ‘**Up, In, Out**’ triangle:

1. **Up** to God and understanding His love for us through worship, getting to grips with the Bible and prayer.
2. **In** by sharing our lives, challenges and joys – what we would often call fellowship
3. **Out** by sharing God’s love through service, action and mission

## **Update**

In the past few weeks we have set up several new groups as well as supporting existing groups to re-start as we can meet again. We’re following some key principles:

Size – 6 for the moment to meet Covid rules but larger eventually.

Frequency – fortnightly unless groups want to meet weekly.

When – a variety of times and days

Leaders – two leaders for each group

Support and challenge – for the leaders of groups who will have a mentor and termly meetings as well as optional materials

Service, action and mission – we're encouraging groups to develop a particular theme for their 'Out' activity e.g. prayer and service for a particular street or area, or supporting a particular church activity or developing connection with a school or other institution so as to share God's love.

### **If you would like to join a group**

In the meantime, we want to encourage as many people as possible to consider prayerfully joining a new group. In order to facilitate this, you can express your interest in the following ways:

- Emailing the church office [church@stjohnsandstlukes.org.uk](mailto:church@stjohnsandstlukes.org.uk)
- Putting your name on the sign-up list on the notice boards at St John's or St Luke's
- Speaking to/contacting Rev Simon Dowson, 07735 532821  
[simon.dowson@leeds.anglican.org](mailto:simon.dowson@leeds.anglican.org)  
or Sarah Shepherd 07771 847149 [sarah.shepherd@btinternet.com](mailto:sarah.shepherd@btinternet.com)

## **STAMPS UPDATE**

On behalf of Debs (Guide leader in Starbeck) and Girl Guiding NYW, please can I say a massive thank you for the generous donation that has been received as well as all the stamps that have been flooding in. The *first* sackful was sent off in early February and we have received £25. It all helps and we are very grateful for all the support that we have received. Thank you once again and keep collecting, Jill.





A Brilliant Brownie Well Done goes to Orla and Ella who have both achieved their Brownie Silver Awards.

To earn a Brownie Silver award you needed to complete four theme awards. The last two that we completed at Brownies were Express Myself and Take Action.



Ella says that “The hardest badge to do was inventing because you had to make a plan that would work and then build it.” Ella made and designed an automated watering system for her plants.

Orla has worked on her Charities badge and says “During lockdown 2020 I ran 5km to raise money

for Henshaws to achieve my Charities badge. I also had to complete a skills builder badge which we did with the whole brownie unit. We recently completed the Influence badge together over Zoom and along with some other unit meeting activities these activities completed my Take Action theme award.”



***Congratulations to the girls, and to their leaders for adapting their programme to the present situation. We would love to hear about other groups; send your report to [sjslfocus@gmail.com](mailto:sjslfocus@gmail.com)***

## QUESTION CORNER

*No questions this month. So here is a quiz for you –  
some not to be taken too seriously!*



1. How was Matthias chosen to replace Judas Iscariot?
2. What was the name of John the Baptist's mother?
3. What was the first thing to come out of Noah's Ark?
4. Why can't tired kangaroos come here?
5. Who is the Primate of England?
6. What does 'Hosanna' mean?
7. Who was Zebedee in the New Testament?
8. Who was Didymus?
9. How does an Eskimo build his house?
10. Who did Jesus call a fox?
11. What does 'Christ' mean?
12. Who was the first British martyr?
13. What, according to Paul, is the root of evil?
14. What follows 'goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life'?
15. Why do humming birds hum?



Answers next month

**David**

*Questions for David on anything to do with church and faith can be sent via the office or magazine, or put in the drawer at the back of St John's.*

## YOUNG PEOPLE'S ART WORK

Have you seen the beautiful pictures of scenes from the Easter Story?

Each one was inspired by a short Bible passage.

Why not have a look next time you are in church?

The pictures are on the north wall of St John's Church



**Christian Aid exists to create a world where everyone can live a full life, free from poverty.**

This climate crisis hurts us all. But people living in poverty fight the worst of it every day.

From drought to flooding, climate change robs people of control over their lives. Extreme weather means people like Rose are struggling to survive without a reliable source of water.



A gift could help a community build an earth dam, so when the rains do come, they will have the water they need to live. A reliable source of water will help families withstand long drought or relentless rainstorms.

## **Christian Aid Week is coming**

**10-16 May 2021**

### **No House-to-House Collection, so what can we do instead?**

We can deliver envelopes for people to make donations direct to Christian Aid; offers to Vicky or Simon or the Church Office

Jean Burton is undertaking a 24-hour Sponsored Fast

will you

- join her in fasting, perhaps being sponsored too, or be sponsored for something else
- sponsor her  
<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/JBurton24>
- or go without one meal and donate the value of the meal

Look out for other opportunities to support Christian Aid

## **ST JOHN'S CHURCHYARD - 'GOD'S ACRE'**

Before he very sadly died last year, Terry Wagner kindly spent a lot of time making a plan of the church grounds for the Green Team. Our aim is to be able to see just what we have there from the point of view of nature. Terry drew the grounds and named as many plants as he could, including also listing trees which had been planted as memorials to people. These plans have been digitised with the kind assistance of Colin Fuller (Claire Golightly's father), but we need more information to be able to add to them, with details of plants from throughout the seasons. We would be really grateful for help naming plants, but also in particular for details of any memorial trees and the stories behind them, so that these details can be recorded for posterity.

If you are able to help in any way, please contact Claire Golightly by e-mail ([clairelg80@gmail.com](mailto:clairelg80@gmail.com)) or Gill in the church office (telephone 01423 565129). Many thanks in advance.

### ***Here is one response , from Chris Smith, to our request for information:***

Have you noticed the magnolia tree opposite the Church Hall in full bloom this April? People must pass this lovely tree countless times throughout the year and not give it a second thought. It has been growing there for approximately 36 years. Back in the middle 1980's Shirley Anderson enrolled 7-year-old Rachel into 4th Bilton Brownies, a special moment for her family as Rachel had Downs Syndrome. With the help of the leaders and other Brownies she joined in all the activities and became a valued member of the Pack. The most memorable achievement was of her learning to skip.

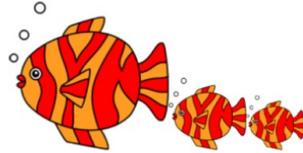


Sadly Rachel became ill and passed away in hospital. During her short life time she loved coming to Brownies. Brownies and Guides in Bilton held a sponsored sing in Church and raised money to purchase a tree in her memory. A magnolia was bought and Les Anderson planted it outside the Church where it grew rapidly. He then moved it to its present site. The next time you pass the hall look up; it may not be in flower but it is a special tree for a special little girl.

## “LITTLE FISHES” IS BACK

at St Luke’s starting on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 9.30- 11.00am.

Tracey and her team are really looking forward to welcoming up to 15 parents/ carers and their pre-school children to come along to play. At this time there won’t be any singing taking place and they won’t be able to serve refreshments but that will hopefully come in time. As places are limited, they have set up a booking system via Eventbrite :



<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/little-fishes-at-st-lukes>

## “MY CHAINS FELL OFF!”

You may remember at St Luke’s the horrible lights hanging from chains - with their broken covers tied on with plastic ties. They are no more - all replaced by LED ones fixed to the ceiling beams - they look terrific!



Great news! You can now raise free donations for

**Bilton St John & St Luke Yorkshire** with even more retailers via **#easyfundraising**, including Homebase, Deliveroo, Disney+ and many more.

If you're not supporting them yet, it's simple and only takes 2 minutes to sign up! With **over 5,000 retailers** to choose from, raising FREE donations has never been easier.

<http://efraising.org/xQUNmDKWKP>  
*xQUNmDKWKP*





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# PEOPLE

THANK  
YOU!

to the clergy and our wardens, Nigel and Jane, Pat and Jean,  
for ensuring that our churches were ready for the Easter  
reopening, and to those who cleaned and polished, as well as  
the Flower Club for the beautiful flowers.

## Office Closure

The office will be closed 3<sup>rd</sup> May, & 31<sup>st</sup> May to 4<sup>th</sup> June

## Daily Variation!

Gill is in the office in church on Tuesdays and Fridays,  
and working from home on Mondays and Wednesdays.

## SUNDAY 9<sup>th</sup> MAY

is Copy Date for the  
**JUNE 2021**  
edition of Focus.

Items for inclusion to:

***SJSLfocus@gmail.com*** 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

THURSDAY CLOSED

FRIDAY 9.30am to 1.00pm

TELEPHONE 565129 (+ Answerphone)

email -

*church@stjohnsandstlukes.org.uk*

# MAY'S CALENDAR

One of the 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**

**BOOK YOUR PLACE AT PUBLIC WORSHIP AT ST JOHN'S AND ST LUKE'S**

All our services at St John's and St Luke's are now loaded onto Eventbrite for you to book your place.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/st-johns-and-st-lukes-30850527525>

**If you aren't able to access Eventbrite you can still book your place via email or a call to the parish office.** There is no need to print off your ticket before coming along; we have a list of who has booked a place.

<b>Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	9.00am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	10.30am	Morning Worship (SJ)
	10.30am	Holy Communion (SL)
	7.00pm	Evening Prayer (Compline) (FB)
<b>Monday 3<sup>rd</sup></b>		Office Closed
<b>Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup></b>	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
<b>Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup></b>	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	10.30am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	7.00pm	Evening Prayer (Compline) (FB)
	7.30pm	Alpha Course (Zoom)
	7.30pm	Finance & Buildings Committee meeting (Zoom)
<b>Thursday 6<sup>th</sup></b>	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	9.30-11.00am	Little Fishes (Parent & Toddler Group) (SL)
<b>Friday 7<sup>th</sup></b>	6.30-7.15pm	Evening Surgery in Church (SJ)
	6.45-7.45pm	Choir Practice (SJ)
<b>Sunday 9<sup>th</sup></b>	9.00am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	10.30am	Morning Worship (SJ)
	10.30am	All Age Worship (SL)
	6-7.00pm	Ignite 1 (Year 8-9 Youth Group) (SL)
	7.00pm	Evening Prayer (Compline) (FB)
<b>Monday 10<sup>th</sup></b>	7.30-8.30pm	Ignite 3 (Year 10+ Youth Group) (SL)
	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
<b>Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup></b>	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	7.30pm	Time to Pray (SJ)
	7.30pm	Ignite 2 (Year 7 Youth Group) (SL)

Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup>	9-9.30am 10.30am 7.00pm 7.30pm	Morning Prayer (SJ) Holy Communion (SJ) Evening Prayer (Compline) (FB) Alpha Course (Zoom)
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup>	9-9.30am 9.30-11.00am 6.30-7.15pm 7.30pm	Morning Prayer (SJ) Little Fishes (Parent & Toddler Group) (SL) Evening Surgery in Church (SJ) Ascension Day Prayer Meeting (SJ)
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup>	6.45-7.45pm	Choir Practice (SJ)
<b>Sunday 16<sup>th</sup></b>	9.00am 10.30am 10.30am 6-7.00pm 7.00pm 7.30-8.30pm	Holy Communion (SJ) Morning Worship (SJ) Morning Worship (SL) 4Twelve Junior (Year 7-9 Youth Group) (SL) Evening Prayer (Compline) (FB) 4Twelve Senior (Year 10+ Youth Group) (SL)
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup>	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup>	9-9.30am 7.30pm	Morning Prayer (SJ) PCC Meeting (SJ)
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup>	9-9.30am 10.30am 7.00pm	Morning Prayer (SJ) Holy Communion (SJ) Evening Prayer (Compline) (FB)
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> <i>Ascension Day</i>	9-9.30am 9.30-11.00am 6.30-7.15pm	Morning Prayer (SJ) Little Fishes (Parent & Toddler Group) (SL) Evening Surgery in Church (SJ)
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup>	6.45-7.45pm	Choir Practice (SJ)
<b>Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup></b>	9.00am 10.30am 10.30am 6.00pm 7.00pm 6-7.00pm 7.30-8.30pm	Holy Communion (SJ) Morning Worship (SJ) All Age Worship (SL) Thy Kingdom Come Joint Worship (SJ) Evening Prayer (Compline) (FB) Ignite 1 (Year 8-9 Youth Group) (SL) Ignite 3 (Year 10+ Youth Group) (SL)
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup>	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup>	9-9.30am 7.30-8.30pm	Morning Prayer (SJ) Ignite 2 (Year 7 Youth Group) (SL)
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup>	9-9.30am 10.30am 7.00pm	Morning Prayer (SJ) Holy Communion (SJ) Evening Prayer (Compline) (FB)
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup>	9-9.30am 9.30-11.00am 6.30-7.15pm	Morning Prayer (Zoom) Little Fishes (Parent & Toddler Group) (SL) Evening Surgery in Church (SJ)
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup>	6.45-7.45pm	Choir Practice (SJ)
<b>Sunday 30<sup>th</sup></b> <i>Pentecost</i>	9.00am 10.30am 10.30am 7.00pm	Holy Communion (SJ) All Age Morning Worship (SJ) Morning Worship (SL) Evening Prayer (Compline) (FB)

Monday 31 <sup>st</sup>	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
<b><u>JUNE</u></b>		
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup>	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	10.30am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	7.00pm	Evening Prayer (Compline) (FB)
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	6.30-7.15pm	Evening Surgery in Church (SJ)
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup>	6.45-7.45pm	Choir Practice (SJ)

The Church Office will be closed Monday 31<sup>st</sup> May to Friday 4<sup>th</sup> June

## **LOOKING AHEAD**

### **Laura's Priesting Ordination**



Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> June, 11 am

All are very welcome to attend,  
book via Eventbrite

### **Service to Give Thanks and Remember**



Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> July, time tbc

### **Pentecost Prayer**

*God of power,  
may the boldness of your Spirit transform us,  
may the gentleness of your Spirit lead us,  
may the gifts of your Spirit  
be our goal and our strength,  
now and always. Amen.*



# 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 Website: [www.stjohnsandstlukes.org.uk](http://www.stjohnsandstlukes.org.uk)

Twitter: [//twitter.com/stjohnsstlukes](https://twitter.com/stjohnsstlukes)

[www.facebook.com/groups/stjohnsandstlukes.harrogate](https://www.facebook.com/groups/stjohnsandstlukes.harrogate)

[www.facebook.com/stjohnsandstlukes](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnsandstlukes) - for livestreaming

For tickets to services:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/st-johns-and-st-lukes-30850527625>

## The Ministry Team

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**Editors:** Jean Burton 569907 Liz Hickling

**Magazine email:** [SJSLfocus@gmail.com](mailto:SJSLfocus@gmail.com)

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Scottish Country Dancing**

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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.

See page 19 for contact details

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30 King Edwards Drive, Harrogate, HG1 4HL.

**Telephone:** 01423 538445

**Opening Times:** 7.30am - 5.30pm Monday - Saturday

**Supporting the local community**