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St John's and St Luke's Together

St John's Church



St Luke's Church



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August
2020
50 pence

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Clergy Letter

Dear all,

As many of us emerge from lockdown into a 'new kind of normal', I too find myself emerging from a time of tracksuit bottoms, fluffy slippers, country walks, and home-schooling into a new rhythm of life. I am to be your new Curate at St John's and St Luke's, having been licensed as a Lay Minister via Zoom on 4th July. Under more normal circumstance, I would have been ordained as



deacon on this date. However, as we all know, these are not quite normal times and as such my ordination has had to be delayed until 4th October. Being licensed as a Lay Minister allows me to begin my curacy role whilst I wait for the ordination service to go ahead, in some form at least!

At this point, I begin the second stage of my training process. A time when Simon, assigned as my official trainer, will support me to live and grow into the role of deacon and later – God willing - priest. I am confident that, under the guidance of God, Simon will be a fantastic training incumbent and colleague. But, the responsibility to encourage one another in faith and to recognise the different ways in which we are each called as witnesses of Christ, belongs to all of us. It is not just Simon (or Andy) who will train, equip, shape, and encourage me as I grow into my role as curate. It is also each one of you. As we transition together into a 'new normal', I look forward to learning from you and with you, and to being fellow pilgrims on our faith journeys. I hope that we will bless one another richly over the coming years.



But what about these remaining weeks of summer? Is it merely a liminal space in which I wait for ordination and together we look ahead to schools, universities and workplaces reopening, some activities resuming and the

potential for gathered worship? I must admit, it is tempting to look forward to the return of many things which we have so desperately missed. But, as I begin my new role here at this unusual and challenging time, I am reminded of some words from the book of Esther



“and who knows but that you have come to your position for such a time as this”. (Esther 4:14)

Like Esther, I am reminded that I have been chosen by God to be in exactly this place at this specific time. His planning is never random and His purpose for us and for our lives is set in place by Him.

Let us not wait until normality resumes and life seems more in line with our own plans. Let us trust God and search out His purpose for our lives right here and now, amidst the confusion and disappointment. God has a plan for each of us and He chose us in Him before the creation of the world (Ephesians 1:4). There is much hope and excitement to be found in that promise. Let us step forward with courage into that promise and live out our call, even if it takes us in a completely different direction than we had planned.



Maybe a major life change that you were not expecting has come about because God needs you to be somewhere else at this time. Maybe you are where you are today so that you can support neighbours and friends, or so that you might use this time to strengthen your faith, pray more or even embrace a season of rest. Maybe God is closing and opening doors in your life because He is leading you to explore different opportunities or to serve others in new ways. Trust that God cares for you and has great plans for you, and who knows....you may discover that you have come to your position for exactly such a time as this!



Every blessing,

Laura



Friday 10th July 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We are living through challenging and extraordinary times. The church, committed to the real world and the communities in which we are set, has continued to worship and serve despite the restrictions. Given the nature of the virus, it will be some time before we emerge into something resembling 'normality'. We have to be clear and honest about that.

Thank you for the remarkable ways you have continued to be the church ... in the world ... even if the buildings had to be closed for a long time. I want to say one or two things to encourage you, building on material you might have seen on the diocesan website or had passed to you from letters I have written to the clergy.

Inhabiting the Scriptures

Lockdown and our attempts to innovate ways of worshipping together have been experienced by many as a sort of 'exile'. In the Old Testament prophets (such as Isaiah) we see people exiled to a strange land where nothing is familiar. All that shaped their life and worship had been stripped away. They lamented the loss of their familiar life (and what this said about God and them); they tried to come to terms with the present realities; and they then began to look forward to shaping a different future.

This time in our life enables us to re-read the biblical experience afresh – so much of the Bible was written by and for people whose normality was uncertainty and fragility. This also accords with the daily experience of most Christians around the world, including those in our link dioceses in Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tanzania and Pakistan. Let's not waste the opportunity to learn anew how to live with uncertainty, aware of our own limitations and fragility.

Being the church

The Church of England has a unique vocation in and for England: we are committed to particular places. We are called to pray for those in our

parishes, to be the answer to our prayers when appropriate, to love and serve those in need, to care for the sick and to support those who mourn, and reach out with the good news of God's grace. We have been doing all this – and will continue to do so into the future. We know we are not always strong, but God is and we trust in him ... whatever comes our way.

Emergence

We don't know what the future church might look like in every place, but we do have a role in shaping it. There will be things we need to let go of and new ways of being that are being discovered or yet to be discovered. We will emerge at different paces over the coming months and care needs to be taken over how and when we open our buildings and hold onto the new forms we have learned recently. Church House is providing detailed and digested guidance at every step, but your archdeacon and area bishop are there to be consulted for any support as we move forward.

Encouragement and challenge

I mainly want to thank and encourage you. We will face big questions – nationally as well as in our diocese – about finance and buildings, threats and opportunities. But, as a diocese we are confident and well set up to face these. Indeed, we have been doing just this since our creation in April 2014; so, this isn't a new challenge. You can be confident that we will deal with the challenges of the months ahead with confidence in God, confidence in the Gospel, confidence in our clergy and lay leaders, confidence in our unique vocation as a church to worship and serve God together.

So, be encouraged. Use the resources available to you in the diocese and parish. Pray simply and hopefully, knowing that God is never surprised.

And please be assured of the prayers of your bishops and archdeacons, the deans and area deans, our lay staff at Church House and all who are committed to you. May God bless you in all you are and do. I look forward to the time when we can be together again, physically and in person.

In Christ.

Rt Revd Nick Baines

Bishop of Leeds

Dr Margaret Manning



Margaret Pre-school

Dawn on 8th July 1942 saw another life enter this world, Margaret Elizabeth Southcote, two weeks early, and not in her beloved North Yorkshire but in Wiltshire, where her father, an RAF engineer, was stationed prior to serving out the remainder of the war in India. Meanwhile, mother and daughter moved back North where Margaret spent a happy childhood in Osmotherley enjoying village school, Sunday School, long country walks and the arrival of her younger brother, David. She was 10 when the family moved to Redcar. From Cleveland Grammar School she earned a place at Manchester University Medical School. At the Fresher's Ball, a certain lone 'Geordie' called Peter asked a demure young lady for a dance, the start of 60 years of best friends and 54 years of marriage.

Settling in Harrogate, Liz and then Richard arrived early in the marriage. With reciprocal childcare help from friends and neighbours, Margaret managed to do part-time locums and quickly earned a reputation for being a caring family doctor with an ability to recognise and treat often obscure conditions. She also enjoyed the monthly Mobile Clinic that toured the villages of Nidderdale and beyond – no Health Centres in those days. She was offered, and took, a partnership at what became St Luke's Practice on Kings Road, rising to become Senior Partner. The hours were long and hard, but she was fulfilling her ambition and destiny. As a GP, she was privy to intimate details of so many local families which remained locked in her memory.

When complications arose as a result of the breast cancer from which Margaret had been suffering (but few knew about) she was forced into an early retirement. As the cancer developed, coupled with spinal problems, further rounds of treatment were needed. Fortunately, Peter was able to take early retirement in time to provide care. However, the family holidays, mostly camping in Northumberland, Scotland, then in France and beyond were always a welcome break (NO TELEPHONE!). Liz and Richard still laugh at some of our escapades! As the appeal for tenting faded, we bought a static caravan by Ullswater and latterly at Brough, Upper Teesdale being a favourite area for Margaret. Throughout, Margaret has held onto a strong

Christian faith that, alongside her family, has sustained her through her many difficulties. She was very much part of the Church Family at St John's and St Luke's, but also very ecumenical and felt equally welcome at Peter's church, Bilton Area Methodist.

Early in 2020, Margaret developed further secondaries that were proving so difficult to treat that it was decided to concentrate on palliative care to be given at home, which enabled her to die peacefully with her immediate family at her side on 14th June.

Two weeks early? Thereafter, she was forever known for being late - family events, surgeries, and always missing the first hymn at church. But the tables were turned, the Lord kept her waiting long after she was ready to go to Him.



Margaret April 2020



Sadly only close family were able to attend Margaret's funeral service, but many people - friends, colleagues, patients, neighbours, even the chemist's staff - stood in respect as the cortège passed on Kent Road and near the old St Luke's Surgery on its way to Stonefall..



Part of a letter from our link missioners Chris and Anna Hembury in Hull

Phone call

I phoned our friend Louise (name changed), for a long time agoraphobic but who had, with gentle encouragement and a lot of love, become a regular at Orts and at our Tuesday community meals. Louise has several serious health conditions and we have been close to losing her on a few occasions. She has found the lockdown particularly hard (her ill-health means she is in the vulnerable category and has had to stay shielded at home for the whole time), frustrated that she had finally found community and connection and is now cut off from all that and back in an imprisonment from which she had painstakingly walked free. She sounded terrible, which was alarming since she'd been fine when I spoke to her the day before.



"Are you okay?" I asked, my hyper-vigilance panicking straight into overdrive. "Yeah, fine, I do sound croaky don't I? I YouTubed 'how to yodel' last night and I've been up all night practising! I still can't do it!" Phew! Please hold Louise in your prayers, especially for her looking after her physical health. Pray that the risen Jesus she wants to follow will come find her behind her locked door.

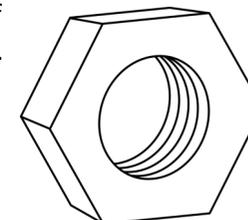
The Jesus nut

We have been used to being givers and bringers of hope, the hope we have in Jesus. We have at times been innovative and ingenious in the ways we have gone about sharing our faith. That said, we have at times struggled to help people to connect. We are on a journey into the great unknown, but

known by Jesus. We are discovering how to engage; on the flip side, one of the hardest tasks at this time is discovering that it may be difficult to engage, and being okay with that. We might call it furlough, a sabbatical or, for some, a mission field.

Like most people across the world we have had to deconstruct the way we live our lives. These are uncertain, unsettling times. Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see (Hebrews 11:1). Faith is required.

During the Vietnam War, with so many helicopters in action, the nut which holds the rotor blades in place gained the nickname "the Jesus nut". There are no accounts of this nut ever failing. In recent years the term has become more generically applied throughout engineering (and many other occupations, from rock climbing to skyrise windowcleaning!) to include any single component whose failure would cause catastrophic failure of the entire system. These components, having the most important role to play, have regular and rigorous checks. It's time to check our Jesus nut is on tight.



Peace,

Anna & Chris



Running a Brownie Unit over the last few months has been a challenge after all "Face to Face" meetings were suspended from the middle of March.

What were 4th Bilton Brownies going to do? We had so much planned, from Pack Holiday at the beginning of April through to Skills Builders and outdoor activities.

The idea of "Brownies by Bike" was then born. But what is "Brownies by Bike"? It is Barn Owl delivering activity packs to all the girls as part of her one form of permitted exercise a day. Bilton is hillier than you think!! Add in a quick trip out to Jennyfields and Killinghall and there are definite hills!



The first activity pack was delivered in time for Easter including an Easter badge, crafts, and of course eggs, as well as the Sunflower Challenge

<https://www.girlguidingnyw.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Sunflower-Challenge-Pack-V2.pdf> if you would like to have a go. This was followed by a “Kim’s game”, “emoji quiz” and a “name the Brownie badges” courtesy of the Young Leaders, Charlotte, Heidi and Macey.



The last packs contained a worksheet about Islam in celebration of Eid and the new holiday badges from Girlguiding, and then “Summer Adventures in a bag” containing 12 different activities and challenges were delivered to all the girls by the Young Leaders and Barn Owl (yes, still on her bike).



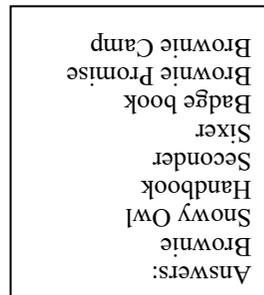
Whilst it has been a strange few months, and I have missed the girls and the regular meetings, finding different ways to continue with Brownies has definitely been a challenge and one that I am pleased to say the rest of the leadership team has risen to. I hope that the girls have had as much fun doing the challenges as we have had designing them. A big thank you to all the parents who have continued to support 4th Bilton Brownies as well as the other Owls, Alice, Laura and Lavinia and our fabulous Young Leaders, Charlotte, Heidi and Macey.

It will be lovely to be able to meet again as I have missed the Brownies these last few months. Hopefully in September we will be able to have a party where we can hand out all of the badges that the girls have worked so hard for during this time as well as saying “goodbye” to those who are leaving us and “welcome” to those that have joined.

Thank you

Jill (aka Barn Owl)

How are you at working out the Emoji clues?
(Thank you to Macey Payne, Young Leader)



Helping Sri Lankan students

The last time I wrote an article about our association for Focus was in July last year, a few months after the Easter bombings in Sri Lanka, prior to our coffee morning. Fortunately neither our students nor their families were affected. I am writing now during the Covid pandemic with no sign of holding our usual coffee morning in September. Our students and their families are safe and well. Students are in their final semester of their final year and are busy looking for jobs. Unfortunately the pandemic has caused restricted travel movement, a postal strike and recurrent curfews, and the country has not yet returned to normalcy. Even so two students have been offered trainee management positions, one in a bank and the other in a big commercial company, and they seem to be coping well.

I have given below a number of students’ comments that show their appreciation of our help and how much they have benefitted during the last four years. It seems unlikely that we will be able to hold our usual fund-raising coffee morning in September but you can contact me or Jean Burton, if you would like to make a contribution. We have recruited 11 new students for this year and 3 students have already gained admission to their respective universities. The system of university admission in Sri Lanka is different from the system we are used to here but once students have begun their courses we will send our contribution to them. We very much look forward to having more donors.

Jean Burton burtonjeanm@ntlworld.com 569907

Theva Thevarokiam, theva1@outlook.com 886230

Some students’ comments:

M. Krishnasoban, Bogawantalawa

The money given to me by my donor through Dignity Through Education has been of great help for my university education for the past 4 years. I spent the scholarship money for my university studies and for publishing a Human Geography multiple-choice questions (mcq) book for Advanced Level students. During my university time I have been to many schools to give talks to A level Students in Geography and have taken part in Geography seminars. My thanks to my donor and to DTE.



U. Anjalin, Punduloya

My sincere thanks to Mr Thevarokiam for his regular contact and timely advice. I am proud to say that I am a child of a tea estate labourer and even more proud that I am a Degree holder, a very rare privilege for someone from a forgotten community. With all the financial difficulties of my parents, the financial help and encouragement that Mrs Burton gave me was much appreciated. I wish DTE could help many children like me to escape the poverty trap. I have been offered a job by the government but the appointment is delayed because of Covid-19. My thanks to the NPCS also for selecting me to receive this scholarship. Education is the only way we can gain our dignity.



N. Nirubana, Hali-Ela, Badulla



I was selected by the NPC selection Panel on behalf of DTE for the Faculty of Management, University of Wayamba in 2016. Along with myself 15 others were also selected from the tea plantation areas for different universities. I have received messages regularly from members of the DTE to motivate and to encourage me and to achieve success in my academic and extra-curricular activities. Currently I am attached to a well-reputed commercial company in Colombo as

a management trainee and hope to receive full-time employment at the end of the training period. I am very grateful to my donor and Mrs Burton for financial help and encouragement. I look forward to helping future children from the tea plantation areas.

N. Prashanth, Punduloya

I am honoured to be one of the recipients of the Scholarship, thanks to my donor's generous support. I am the first in my family to attend University. I am now in my final year at Eastern University of Sri Lanka following major in Geography. Eastern University offers one of the finest programs in the country and I consider myself fortunate to be able to attend. The Scholarship was really useful to continue my academic career. I spent part of the money for my major in Geography and part of the money to successfully complete one Diploma in Office Management at Eastern University, Sri Lanka and 2 Diplomas, one in Disaster Management and the other in Human Resource Management conducted. Thank you for enabling me to achieve these qualifications.



Summer is here!

'Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.

They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.' Isaiah 40: 30,31.

After what must be the most difficult school year for our young people, we have a host of summer events and meet-ups planned for them: BBQs, RISE groups, hot chocolate drop-ins! The aim of all of these face-to-face meetings is to give them some much-needed social interaction with peers,



to build relationships with each other, and the leaders, and to share Jesus' love and care with them by being present and interested in their lives: fears, joys, worries and blessings.

Youth work nationally (and internationally I'm sure) has had to change just like everything else has in the last few months. And as we plan, dream and pray for what youth and children's work will look like in September, I would love it if you could join with us in praying for our young people as they go through this summer:

Father, every child and young person is known and loved by you. We pray that the young people in St John's and St Luke's will reach out for you and will find you. Bless them in their homes. Bless them online. Bless them out on the streets. Bless them as they sleep. Bless them as they continually adjust to lockdown easing. Above all, may they see and understand how wonderfully they are made and how powerfully they are loved by you. Amen.

Emma



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PEOPLE

BAPTISMS / BLESSINGS & THANKSGIVINGS

Elliot Jacob Dimelow
Jessica Heather Dimelow



WEDDINGS

Abigail Davis and Richard Jobling



FUNERALS/ MEMORIALS

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

Wendy Shepherd
Dora Storey



SUNDAY 9th AUGUST

is Copy Date for the September 2020 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

There are no set hours at the moment.

Emails will be read regularly: church@stjohnsandstlukes.org.uk
Messages to 565129 will be checked.

Urgent calls should be made to one of the clergy - see details on page 19.

The office will be closed from 10th-14th August and also 31st August to 9th September. Messages will be picked up, but not always immediately. See details above for urgent calls.

AUGUST'S CALENDAR

Some Sunday Services are on Facebook -
<https://www.facebook.com/stjohnsandstlukes>
 and then will be available on Youtube

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8L4u20U49m-1zutZMRJdIQ/>

Join us for a chat after the services on Sundays at 11.15am

PLEASE NOTE THAT FACE MASKS SHOULD BE WORN AT SERVICES IN CHURCH

Saturday 1 st	10.00am-12noon	Private Prayer (SJ)
Sunday 2nd	8.00am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	9.30am	Children's Service (FB)
	10.30am	Morning Worship (FB)
	11.15am	Coffee Time (Zoom)
Monday 3 rd	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
Tuesday 4 th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	10.00am-12noon	Private Prayer (SJ)
Wednesday 5 th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	10.30am	Holy Communion (SJ)
Thursday 6 th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	6-7.30pm	Private Prayer (SJ)
Saturday 8 th	10.00am-12noon	Private Prayer (SJ)
Sunday 9th	8.00am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	9.30am	Children's Service (FB)
	10.30am	Morning Worship (FB)
	11.15am	Coffee Time (Zoom)
Monday 10 th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
Tuesday 11 th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	10.00am-12noon	Private Prayer (SJ)
Wednesday 12 th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	10.30am	Holy Communion (SJ)
Thursday 13 th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	6-7.30pm	Private Prayer (SJ)
Saturday 15 th	10.00am-12noon	Private Prayer (SJ)
Sunday 16th	8.00am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	9.30am	Children's Service (FB)
	10.30am	Morning Worship (FB)
	11.15am	Coffee Time (Zoom)
Monday 17 th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
Tuesday 18 th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	10.00am-12noon	Private Prayer (SJ)
Wednesday 19 th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	10.30am	Holy Communion (SJ)
Thursday 20 th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	6-7.30pm	Private Prayer (SJ)

Saturday 22 nd	10.00am-12noon	Private Prayer (SJ)
Sunday 23rd	8.00am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	9.30am	Children's Service (FB)
	10.30am	Morning Worship (FB)
	11.15am	Coffee Time (Zoom)
Monday 24 th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	2-4.00pm	Hot Choc and Hang Out (Youth Drop-In) at Café Nero
Tuesday 25 th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	10.00am-12noon	Private Prayer (SJ)
	7-8.00pm	RISE Group (Youth Group) (SL)
Wednesday 26 th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	10.30am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	3-4.00pm	RISE Group (Youth Group) (SL)
Thursday 27 th	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	6-7.30pm	Private Prayer (SJ)
Saturday 29 th	10.00am-12noon	Private Prayer (SJ)
Sunday 30th	8.00am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	9.30am	Children's Service (FB)
	10.30am	Morning Worship (FB)
	11.15am	Coffee Time (Zoom)
	12.30pm	Wedding (SJ)
	7-8.00pm	RISE Group (Youth Group) (SL)
Monday 31 st	2-4.00pm	Hot Choc and Hang Out (Youth Drop-In) at Café Nero

SEPTEMBER

Tuesday 1 st	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	10.00am-12noon	Private Prayer (SJ)
	7-8.00pm	RISE Group (Youth Group) (SL)
Wednesday 2 nd	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	10.30am	Holy Communion (SJ)
	3-4.00pm	RISE Group (Youth Group) (SL)
Thursday 3 rd	9-9.30am	Morning Prayer (SJ)
	6-7.30pm	Private Prayer (SJ)
Saturday 5 th	10.00am-12noon	Private Prayer (SJ)

A new Alpha course will be starting in September



Andy leading online Children's Worship from a rearranged St John's in July.

On 19th July the first communion service in church since March was an emotional return for the 12 people who attended.

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 Website: www.stjohnsandstlukes.org.uk

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

www.facebook.com/groups/stjohnsandstlukes.harrogate

www.facebook.com/stjohnsandstlukes - for livestreaming

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See page 19 for contact details

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