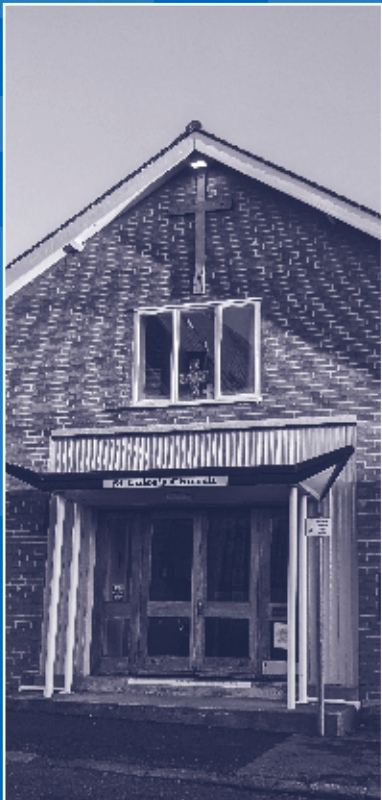




ST JOHN'S & ST LUKE'S
CHURCH & CHURCH

(In the deanery of Harrogate, Archdeaconry of Richmond & Craven in the Ripon Episcopal Area, Diocese of Leeds)

Parish of St John and St Luke, Bilton, Harrogate
PARISH PROFILE



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PARISH INFORMATION

1.(a)	Name of parish to which this information relates:	Parish of St John and St Luke, Bilton, Harrogate
(b)	Name of parish church:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St John the Evangelist Church, Bilton • St Luke's Church Centre
2.	Name of other C of E church/centres for public worship in the parish:	None
3.	Cluster or group of parishes within which you work (formally or) informally:	As part of Harrogate Netmakers (a townwide mission initiative) we work together in mission and outreach projects with other churches across Harrogate and Knaresborough.
4.	Deanery:	The parish is part of Harrogate Deanery, a functional and supportive network of churches. Theological and biblical training is also available to all through the excellent Harrogate School of Theology and Mission.
5.	Population: <i>(The 2011 census information gives the following figures.)</i>	Approximately 163,000 people currently live in the wider Harrogate area, almost 18,000 of them in Bilton. The parish is the biggest in terms of population in the Archdeaconry of Richmond and Craven.
6.(a)	Number on Electoral Roll:	St John's: May 2024 - 198 St Luke's: May 2024 - 57
(b)	Date of APCM when this number was declared:	Sunday, May 19th, 2024

7.	Attendance at worship in each church				
	Church/Service	Time	No. of communicants	Adult attendance	Under 16
	St John's: Sunday	9am	16	16	0
	St John's: Sunday	10.30am	78	80-90	25
	St John's: Wednesday	10.30am	25+	25+	0
	St Luke's: Sunday	10.30am	28	30	3
	St Luke's: Sunday Café Church	10.30am	N/A	30-40	6

8.	Occasional offices: <i>(Numbers are for the last 12 months in each church)</i>						
	Church	Baptisms	Confirmees	Weddings	Funerals in church	Funerals taken by clergy	Burial of ashes
	St John's	20	4	5	16	3	7
	St Luke's	0	0	1	1	0	0

9.	Communications:				
	Church	Clergy	Readers	Lay staff - eg Youth worker, Administrator	Churchwardens
	St John's & St Luke's	Rev Laura Martin Retired Clergy: Rev Judith Ashurst Rev Pam Mills Rev Canon John Carr Ven Paul Hooper	Jan Johnson	Children and Young People's Worker: Emma James Parish Administrator & Safeguarding Officer: Gillian Clarke	Nigel Thompson Jane Reichert Alethea Fry Colin Ashurst

PARISH/COMMUNITY INFORMATION

<p>1.(a)</p> <p>(b)</p>	<p>The population mix of the parish in terms of its employment, cultural, ethnic, age and housing mix.</p> <p>Are there any special social problems (eg high unemployment)?</p>	<p>The population of the parish is significantly white British with a large proportion of owner occupiers, and 64% are of working age (18-65). However, this general picture obscures significant pockets of difference: In the Woodfield, Dene Park and New Park areas of the parish there are pockets of deprivation e.g. at one school (New Park Primary) 18.5% of children receive free school meals.</p> <p>The Woodfield and Dene Park areas have a significant number of one-bedroom properties where loneliness and isolation are clear issues. The St Luke's area has a higher proportion of lone parent families in rental accommodation. The parish deprivation rank is 7326 (1=most deprived parish in the Church of England, 12,382=least deprived, IMD, 2023).</p>
<p>2.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Schools: • Youth centres: • Hospitals: • Nursing/elderly persons' homes: • Other Christian churches • Places of worship of other faiths 	<p>Primary Schools within the Parish: Richard Taylor C of E Aided Bilton Grange Coppice Valley New Park Grove Road St Joseph's (RC) (A new specialist school for children with Autism is due to open in 2025)</p> <p>Secondary Schools within the Parish: Harrogate Pupil Referral Unit</p> <p>Local State Secondary Schools outside of the Parish: Harrogate High School St Aidan's C of E Aided High School St John Fisher's Catholic Academy Rossett High School Harrogate Grammar School</p> <p>None in parish</p> <p>Harrogate District Hospital (Not in parish)</p> <p>None in parish</p> <p>Other Christian Churches in parish: Bilton Area Methodist Church Woodfield Gospel Hall Bilton United Reform Church St Joseph's RC Church</p> <p>None in parish</p>

PARISH/COMMUNITY INFORMATION (cont.)

<p>2. (cont.)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Businesses: • Neighbourhood initiatives: • Associations eg tourist group: • Describe any civic responsibilities which the clergy have: 	<p>2 x Co-Op Sainsbury's Local Morrison's Local Various independent traders and coffee shops 1 pizza restaurant 1 bar/restaurant Two pubs Bilton Cricket Club Bilton Club (Formerly WMC) North Yorkshire Council Offices North Yorkshire Sport Ltd</p> <p>Many and varied, a selection of which are detailed below: Bilton and Woodfield Community Library Bilton Community Centre Bilton Community Forum Bilton Conservation Group Bilton Health and Wellbeing Hub Bilton Historical Society Bilton Ladies' Forum Dene Park Community Centre Resurrected Bites Community Grocery (at New Park School)</p> <p>None in parish</p> <p>Responsibilities as school governor at Richard Taylor School. Through Netmakers Clergy are involved in a service at the cenotaph in Harrogate town centre on Good Friday.</p>
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CHURCH INFORMATION

<p>1.(a)</p> <p>(b)</p>	<p>What percentage of the congregation lives outside the parish?</p> <p>Describe the mix of the congregation in terms of age, employment, cultural, ethnicity, age and gender.</p>	<p>11%</p> <p>Due to the demographic of the Bilton area of Harrogate, both congregations are predominantly White British with a very small percentage of regular Eastern European worshippers and occasional other backgrounds and ethnicities.</p> <p>Both congregations span an age range from babe-in-arms to 90+, with the majority of those of working age in employment or education.</p> <p>Gender around 60% female to 40% male.</p>
<p>2.(a)</p> <p>(b)</p> <p>(c)</p>	<p>How would you describe the churchmanship tradition of each church and give details of robes and vestments worn by officiants?</p> <p>What is the regular average weekly giving of those 16 years & over and what proportion of the giving is gift aided?</p> <p>When did you last have a stewardship campaign?</p>	<p>The Sunday 9am Holy Communion and mid-week Holy Communion at St John's are Common Worship Order One and the clergy wear an alb and stole.</p> <p>At the 10.30am service we have Holy Communion twice a month, Morning Worship once a month and an All-Age (usually parade) service once a month. For most services at St John's there is an organist and robed choir, while at All-Age Worship we offer a worship band and the clergy do not robe.</p> <p>St Luke's offers formal worship, All-Age worship and informal café style services with piano and guitar accompaniment or occasionally recorded music. Clergy do not robe at St Luke's.</p> <p>In 2024, average weekly giving across all categories has amounted to £15, of which 89% is gift-aided. As most givers have signed up to the Parish Giving Scheme, those contributions are also index-linked.</p> <p>There is a stewardship campaign at both churches every year, although the last major initiative took place in 2016-17. Since then there have been specific appeals and a Gift Day in the Spring of 2023 in support of the Youth Worker.</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p>How does each Church supplement its direct giving in order to meet its financial needs?</p>	<p>In addition to direct giving, lettings of church rooms and properties, fund-raising at summer and autumn fairs, and fees, are our main sources of income. Coffee mornings are generally held to raise funds in support of our Mission Giving, i.e. grants to charities. Occasional fund-raising social events are also held.</p>





CHURCH INFORMATION (cont.)

<p>4.(a)</p> <p>(b)</p> <p>(c)</p>	<p>What amount of working expenses were paid to the clergy in the last financial year?</p> <p>Were these met in full?</p> <p>Is there an annual discussion with the clergy about their level of expenses as part of the PCC's budgeting process?</p>	<p>Rev Simon Dowson £1,085 for clergy expenses. Rev Laura Martin £855 for clergy expenses. Mrs Emma James £27,874 for Young People's Worker Expenses, Wages and Pension Costs.</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>An annual budget for clergy expenses is set which is approved by the PCC.</p>								
<p>5.(a)</p> <p>(b)</p>	<p>What amount of Share has (a) been requested; and (b) been paid from the parish in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • last year? • current year? • next year ? <p>Will this year's be met?</p>	<table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>Share requested</i></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>Share Paid</i></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>148,245</td> <td>120,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>155,608</td> <td>126,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>159,888</td> <td>tbc</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>(Share arrears up to 2023 amounted to £85,328)</p> <p>No</p>	<i>Share requested</i>	<i>Share Paid</i>	148,245	120,000	155,608	126,000	159,888	tbc
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155,608	126,000									
159,888	tbc									
<p>6.(a)</p> <p>(b)</p>	<p>Is there any capital project in hand at the moment?</p> <p>Please give brief details with costs and state how they are to be met.</p>	<p>St Johns - Work is ongoing to complete the installation of low-level lighting columns to the Church drive/pathway.</p> <p>Early-stage investigative work is underway regarding an opportunity to install 2 rapid EV charging bays to the Church Drive.</p> <p>No capital projects at present at St Luke's.</p> <p>St John's low level lighting columns – this is already funded by a commuted sum obtained from North Yorkshire Council and a legacy – approximate final cost £13k, with an additional sum of c. £5000 will be needed to replace damaged columns.</p> <p>St John's rapid EV charging points – if this to progress, there would be no cost to St John's and St Luke's as this would be funded by the Charge Point Operator.</p>								
<p>7.</p>	<p>Last PCC accounts:</p>	<p>Please see attached:</p>								



CHURCH INFORMATION (cont.)

<p>8.(a)</p>	<p>What is the general state of repair of the Churches.</p>	<p>St Johns – The last quinquennial was completed in December 2021 and stated that <i>‘The Church and Churchyard are well cared for’</i>.</p> <p>Works completed prior to the quinquennial included</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New fuseboard and consumer unit June 2020 • During 2020, the Church and Church Hall lighting was largely changed to LED • The upper levels of the tower, north, south and west elevations have been repointed • The tower roof was remodeled and covered in stainless steel and a man-safe system installed <p>In addition to ongoing planned preventative maintenance / works, in 2023 major repairs to the Church Hall Bell Tower were completed.</p> <p>St John’s Church Hall – Internal painting to be undertaken shortly to the church hall, kitchen, entrance and upstairs room at a cost of £7K, funded from a legacy allocated to church and church hall maintenance.</p> <p>St Luke’s: overall in good repair with some redecoration planned.</p>
<p>(b)</p>	<p>Please give details of major maintenance needed following the last quinquennial.</p>	<p>No major maintenance has been identified at St John’s since the last quinquennial.</p> <p>The same for St Luke’s, with all works cited completed, including most recently fire boarding within the church building.</p>



OUTREACH AND MISSION

<p>1.(a)</p>	<p>What are the regular mission and outreach activities of the parish?</p>	<p>Comfort Café (bereavement), Wellbeing Café (the isolated and those with dementia), Thirst coffee morning at Dene Park, Little Fishes toddler group, community coffee mornings, monthly community lunches (primarily for the elderly), small groups, Monday First (Fresh Expression at Dene Park).</p>
<p>(b)</p>	<p>What are you doing to help people find out about Jesus?</p>	<p>We have run a number of Alpha courses over preceding years which undoubtedly have brought an influx of newcomers to church - some new to faith, others who had drifted but come back.</p> <p>We are trialling a new worship service, Monday First, in the Dene Park Community Centre. This is the location of the Thirst coffee morning and is a response to a growing feeling that this is a part of the parish we are not reaching very well. The service is very informal and relaxed, and we believe more appropriate to people who may not be familiar with 'traditional' church.</p> <p>For our secondary school young people we have a flourishing monthly Youth Worship Night, supported by adult helpers but largely youth-run, which has Harrogate-wide attendees.</p> <p>For the youngest in our church family we have a flourishing Sunday School (Little Sparks, Bright Sparks and Blaze) and take this responsibility seriously, ensuring continued support for our young people, encouraging them to remain of faith.</p> <p>We hold Easter, Christmas and some other services for Richard Taylor School and several other local primary schools, plus monthly parade services for our local uniformed organisations.</p> <p>We also annually take young people to residential youth camps, hold Easter events for younger children and hold collective worship in 5 schools.</p>
<p>(c)</p>	<p>What are you doing to help grow people in discipleship?</p>	<p>We hold many and varied services across both our churches throughout the year to try and engage and encourage and grow each and every member of our congregations in their individual faith journey. We run home groups all year round, Lent courses, café church and more recently have established our own Rhythm of Life initiative. We also hold occasional parish residential weekends away, combining teaching with relationship-building.</p>
<p>(d)</p>	<p>What are you doing to grow people in leadership?</p>	<p>Before the COVID-19 pandemic we had Growing Leaders courses. During the vacancy home groups are leading services and a lay team lead Monday First alongside one retired clergy person.</p>

OUTREACH AND MISSION (cont.)

<p>2.(a)</p> <p>Please give details of the support of the Church (not individual members) for work overseas:</p>		<p>Mission Partners in Uganda, Diocesan Overseas Links such as Sri Lanka Tea Plantation students and Christian Aid.</p> <p>Our DEC giving is a standard £500 when appeals are sent out. Monthly Coffee Mornings raise funds to support individual mission links to the tune of between £500 and £800 per month.</p> <p>We offer both financial and prayerful support and our mission partners make annual visits to speak at one of our Sunday services, as well as sending regular updates.</p>
	<p>(b)</p> <p>How much is given annually?</p>	<p>In 2023 £7,116 was given to overseas missionary and development agencies.</p>
<p>3.(a)</p> <p>Give details of the support for home missions and charities:</p>		<p>In 2023 support was given to the following:</p> <p>Hull-based Mission Partners, the Hemburys. Horticap Resurrected Bites The Children's Society Tockwith PCC Ukraine Appeal Harrogate Netmakers Bilton & Woodfield Library Ripon Cathedral Project</p>
	<p>(b)</p> <p>How much is given annually?</p>	<p>In 2023 £8,543 was given to Home missions, Church societies, and other charities.</p>
<p>4.(a)</p> <p>Does the parish have an overseas link?</p>		<p>Mission partners in Uganda: John & Vikki Wright</p> <p>Sponsorship through university of students from Sri Lankan tea plantation families.</p> <p>Past individual work with diocesan overseas links with Tanzania.</p>
	<p>(b)</p> <p>If so, please state where/who?</p>	<p>As above</p>
<p>5.(a)</p> <p>Is there an organised system of outreach and welcome to new families?</p>		<p>A new welcome strategy has recently been developed and implemented to improve/increase the ability of both clergy and laity to be proactive in welcoming newcomers.</p>
	<p>(b)</p> <p>If so, please describe:</p>	<p>The new lay-led welcome strategy is just being implemented. This includes two people at the Sunday service being proactive in welcoming people new to church and talking to them over refreshments. This is followed up by a visit, from clergy where possible, and in time people will be invited to join nurture courses or house groups.</p>

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OUTREACH AND MISSION (cont.)

<p>6.</p>	<p>What part does the church play in community care?</p>	<p>For many years a committed team of volunteers has prepared a monthly 3 course hot lunch in Bilton Community Centre for elderly residents, with a regular attendance of 40+ people.</p> <p>For 15 or so years we have been running a highly successful weekly community coffee morning, with a monthly soup lunch, in Dene Park, a more deprived area of the parish, with a regular attendance of 30+. The clientele is mixed, but mainly elderly and vulnerable.</p> <p>Prior to COVID-19 two of our congregation set up a now popular dementia-friendly lunchtime café, which meets weekly at St Luke's, with an attendance of approx. 30.</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>Are there any Lay Eucharistic Assistants who take communion to the sick?</p>	<p>Not currently, although 5 lay people have recently been trained to do so. We also have a strong relationship with the local Hospital Chaplains.</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p>What work does the church undertake with young people, other than in church-based organisations (eg open youth work)?</p>	<p>Mentoring a child through TLG (Transforming Lives for Good - mentoring scheme in schools).</p> <p>Occasional after-school drop-ins outside church, with doughnuts, cake and soft drinks.</p> <p>Monthly Youth Worship session (in partnership with other churches) held at a café in town.</p>

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ECUMENICAL RELATIONS

<p>1.(a)</p>	<p>State involvement in local Council of Churches:</p>	<p>We are part of Harrogate Netmakers, a group of churches working together for mission across the Harrogate area.</p>
<p>(b)</p>	<p>Is there a formal covenant with any other denomination?</p>	<p>No.</p>
<p>2.</p>	<p>What informal ecumenical contacts are there?</p>	<p>For our schools' ministry we work alongside the local Methodist and URC ministers, with the URC also being part of Harrogate Netmakers.</p>

CHURCH EDUCATION AND SOCIAL PROVISION

1.(a)	Name of Church School(s) if applicable:	Richard Taylor C of E Primary School (RTS)
(b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aided? • Controlled? • Foundation? 	Aided
(c)	Number of pupils on roll (approx.)?	RTS - 278
(d)	If aided, does the PCC support the school?	<p>The Rector is a foundation governor at RTS and is entitled to be a trustee/director of the Richard Taylor Educational Trust which owns both the school site and the Bilton Hub (formerly Youth Centre). There are two other foundation governors who are part of our worshipping community, and the Chair of the governing body at RTS is a licensed lay minister and member of our PCC.</p> <p>The PCC also appoints one of the directors of the Yorkshire Causeway Schools Trust, a multi-school trust which includes RTS and St Aidan's C of E High School.</p>

LAY EDUCATION AND PARTICIPATION

<p>1.</p>	<p>What education and training work takes place in the Church for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children • Young People • Adults 	<p>For young people: our Young People’s Worker runs training sessions and regular gatherings for those leading Youth and Children’s Work (approximately 15 leaders). Some young people have themselves been supported to take on leadership roles, such as running prayer gatherings, helping lead worship, playing in the band and running games/activities for younger children.</p> <p>For adults: training in Eucharistic Ministry (7 people this year), training for leading intercessions (4 new people this year), informal training and ongoing support for those leading small groups (8 current group leaders), training for those being ‘Fellow Travellers’ on the Rhythm of Life journey (15 people).</p>
<p>2.(a)</p>	<p>Give details of house/prayer groups:</p>	<p>There are currently 6 house groups with approx. 40 members.</p>
<p>(b)</p>	<p>Are the leaders clergy or lay?</p>	<p>All house group leaders are lay.</p>
<p>3.(a)</p>	<p>How do you rate the strength of lay leadership?</p>	<p>We have always felt blessed with the number of lay leaders that we have had over the years. It appears there is no better time to put this to the test than during the vacancy due to our Team Rector moving on and a depletion in our clergy “ranks” from 3 F/T clergy (Team Rector, Team Vicar, Curate) to one paid F/T Team Vicar across two very busy churches. Our congregations are stepping up with leadership roles where possible and it is hugely uplifting to see the raft of individuals prepared to lead groups and take part in services.</p>
<p>(b)</p>	<p>To what do you credit this strength, or lack of it?</p>	<p>We have a strong tradition of clergy who have been able to discern the depth of faith and strengths of individuals and have encouraged them in their own personal journey of discernment either towards lay leadership or ordination.</p>



viii **MISSION**

<p>1.</p>	<p>List areas of Church life which you consider in need of development.</p>	<p>A deepening of our spirituality and prayer life.</p> <p>A desire for greater diversity and inclusivity.</p> <p>More outreach geared at younger generations. Outreach for families whose attendance has been lost recently due to the pandemic and/or a change in personal circumstances (e.g. move to secondary school or university. Non-Sunday worship e.g. 'Crumpet church'</p> <p>Outreach through community events, some of which were lost during the pandemic (e.g. church panto, suppers and social events generally).</p>
<p>2.</p>	<p>What are the main areas of mission that you think the new priest should prioritise in their ministry?</p>	<p>As above, but we are also open to our new Rector discerning what we may have missed in terms of our priorities and working together in a new future at St John's & St Luke's.</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p>In summary, what are the top three challenges with which you and the new priest need to engage?</p>	<p>We believe that we are welcoming but, with a large number and variety of worshippers attending each week, we may not always be as friendly or as hospitable as we would like to be, and appreciate that some feel on the periphery or lost in the crowd. We want to do better.</p> <p>We are concerned that although various stewardship campaigns have undoubtedly increased planned giving, the impact of the pandemic initially on church numbers, followed by the cost-of-living crisis, has meant that we have not been able to pay our Parish Share in full over recent years. We are committed to paying at least £120,000 of our Parish Share each year but have not been able to pay the full amount in recent years. This remains a thorn in our side and we will continue to strive to meet our Share dues.</p> <p>We have trialled and held many and varied forms of prayer meetings over recent years but are conscious they can be "poorly" attended and that we need to work on our prayer life and prayer that prompts action.</p>



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Our parish embraces two churches with very different buildings, atmosphere and, to a certain extent, congregations. We therefore need a Team Rector who is happy and willing to work across both churches, and engage with both the formal and informal in terms of liturgy and worship generally, as well as a newly planted congregation in a community centre.

In terms of church fabric, whilst St John's is a magnificent Victorian building, it remains very hard to heat adequately, which we are aware makes it a less welcoming place. We are currently in the process of investigating other more environmentally friendly ways of heating the building, and have recently undertaken a free environmental audit through the diocese. We have also looked into the pros and cons of an infra-red heating system through Herschel but are conscious costs would be very high. As a newer building, St Luke's is a very warm worship space, both figuratively and literally.

We are proud to have an active Green Team across both our sites which began 6 years ago. Recently St John's was awarded the Eco A Rocha Silver Award, and St Luke's has applied for its Bronze Award. Following the Arocha schemes, and actively monitoring our environmental impact, has led to achieving a number of solid steps to reduce the carbon footprint of our church and parishioners. The diocese are very supportive and are regularly in contact with both the Clergy and Green Team with new initiatives and support to reach their goal of carbon neutral by 2030. We have recently had a grant awarded for the installation of solar panels and storage batteries on the vicarage, an energy audit of St John's with a grant available for works, and an option to consider the installation of electric vehicle charging points under parish buying.

St JOHN'S



St LUKE'S



CHURCH HALL





www.stjohnsandstlukes.org.uk

St John's Church | Bilton Lane | Bilton | Harrogate HG1 3DT