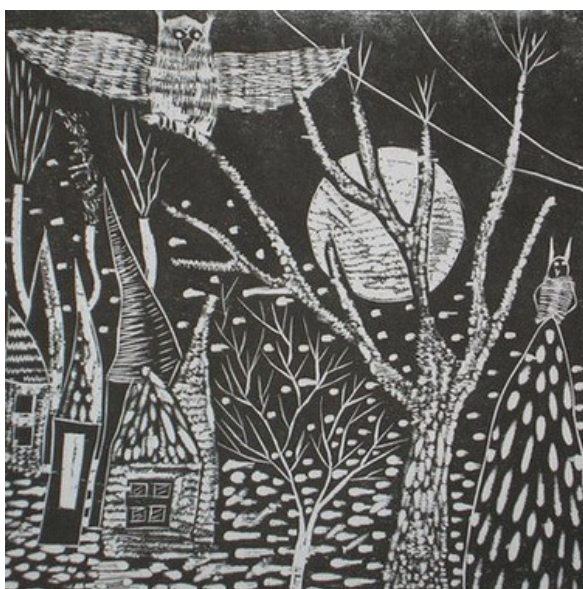


Sand Hutton & Whitwell Group of Parishes

The Circular



Winter edition 2011

November December January

Sand Hutton Claxton Flaxton
Gate Helmsley Upper Helmsley Bossall
Buttercrambe Howsham Harton
Whitwell on the Hill Crambe Foston
Barton Le Willows Thornton Le Clay

Services for the Sand Hutton and Whitwell Benefices

November

Mon 31st Oct - 8.30am Morning Prayer

Bossall

Wed 2nd Nov – 7pm All Souls Service

Bossall

No 10am service

Sunday 6th November		3rd Before Advent
9.00	Holy Communion	Bossall
10.30	Holy Communion	Gate Helmsley
10.30	Family Service	Flaxton
Mon 7th Nov – 8.30am Morning Prayer		Sand Hutton
Wed 9th Nov – 10am Holy Communion		Upper Helmsley

Sunday 13th November		Remembrance Sunday
10.30	Benefice Service of Remembrance	Sand Hutton
<i>Noon- Act of Remembrance at the Memorial</i>		
Mon 14th Nov – 8.30am Morning Prayer		Sand Hutton
<i>Every Monday now at Sand Hutton 8.30am</i>		
Wed 16th Nov	10 a.m. Holy Communion	Foston

Sunday 20th November		Christ the King
10.30	Benefice Eucharist	Buttercrambe
Wed 23rd November – 10am Holy Communion		Crambe

Sunday 27th November		First Sunday of Advent
9.00	Holy Communion	Whitwell
9.00	Holy Communion	Upper Helmsley
10.30	Holy Communion	Foston
6.30	Advent Light Service	Howsham
Wed 30th November – 10am Holy Communion		Sand Hutton

December

Sunday 4th Dec		Advent 2
10.30	Benefice Eucharist	Whitwell
Wed 7th Dec – 10am Holy Communion		Howsham

Fri 9th Dec 6.30 p.m.	Service of Rededication <i>by the Archbishop of York</i>	Crambe
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Sunday 11th Dec		Advent 3
9.00	Holy Communion	Bossall
10.30	Benefice Carol Service <i>With the 'Amici Singers'</i>	Sand Hutton
6.30	Carol Service	Foston
Wed 14th Dec	10am Holy Communion	Buttercrambe

Sunday 18th Dec		Advent 4
9.00	Holy Communion	Buttercrambe
10.30	Nativity and Toy Family Service <i>With the Bishop of Selby</i>	Flaxton
6.30	Carol Service	Howsham
Tues 20th Dec	7.00 Carol Service	Flaxton
Wed 21st Dec	10am Holy Communion - 6.30pm Carol Service	Gate Helmsley Whitwell

Christmas Eve 24th Dec		
4.30	Crib Service	Foston
5.30	Crib & Christingle Service	Sand Hutton
11.30	Midnight Communion	Bossall
11.30	Midnight Communion A service by candlelight	Crambe

Christmas Day 25th Dec		
9.00	Holy Communion	Upper Helmsley
10.30	Family Communion	Flaxton
10.30	Family Communion	Gate Helmsley

Wed 28th Dec **No service**

January 2012

Sunday 1st Jan		The Naming and Circumcision of Jesus
10.30	Benefice Eucharist	Upper Helmsley
Wed 4th Jan	10am Holy Communion	Howsham

Sunday 8th Jan		Epiphany & The Baptism of Christ
9.00	Holy Communion	Bossall

10.30	Holy Communion	Gate Helmsley
10.30	Family Service	Flaxton
6.30	Epiphany Celebration	Howsham
Wed 11th Jan	– 10am Holy Communion	Bossall

Sunday 15th Jan	Epiphany 2
10.30	Benefice Eucharist
Wed 18th Jan	– 10am Holy Communion
	Foston
	Flaxton

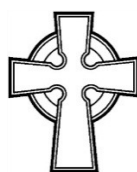
Sunday 22nd Jan	Epiphany 3
9.00	Holy Communion
10.30	Holy Communion
10.30	Holy Communion
Wed 25th Jan	– 10am Holy Communion
	Whitwell
	Sand Hutton
	Buttercrambe
	Gate Helmsley

Sunday 29th Jan	Epiphany 4
10.30	Benefice Eucharist
	Crambe

MONDAY MORNING PRAYER

From 14th November the short weekly service of Morning Prayer
will be in St Mary Sand Hutton at 8.30am.

REMEMBERING DEPARTED LOVED ONES



There will be a special service in St Botolph's Bossall
at 7pm on Tuesday 2nd November.

It is 'All Souls' day and a time we remember those who have died but are still
very much in our hearts.

Names of departed loved ones will be read out and candles lit.
If there are any names you would like read out please let me know.

01904 468844 or e mail: ivan.howitt@btinternet.com

You are most welcome to join us for this service.



is a special time in the church calendar, marked in many ways. The season of Advent helps to prepare us to understand and fully appreciate the meaning of 'Christmas'.

Advent Sunday is 27th November and at 6.30pm that day there will be an 'Advent Light' service in St John Howsham to get the season under way.

This year, in addition to the usual services, there will be an **'Advent Awakening' on Tuesday 13th December 7pm in St Botolph Bossall.** There will be advent singing, readings, poetry candle lighting and meditation. So if you are free, wrap up and come along and join us!

CHRISTMAS EVE

There will be two services for all ages during the afternoon of 24th December.

4.30pm at All Saints Foston 'Crib Service'

5.30pm there will be a Crib and Christingle Service at Sand Hutton

The Christingle is made of an Orange, sweets, candle etc and has special meaning. We invite donations at the service for the work of the 'Children's Society', a charity helping desperate and needy children. It is a wonderful fun service.

Don't forget the Midnight Services, they take place at 11.30pm at both Bossall and Crambe.

We look forward to seeing you at one of these services!

CONFIRMATION

On Easter Day April 8th 2012

**Benefice Service of Confirmation and Holy Communion
at St Botolph Bossall**

led by the Bishop of Selby, Rt. Rev'd Martin Wallace.

If anyone would like to consider being Confirmed at this service then do please have a word with Ivan, 01904 468844 or e mail: ivan.howitt@btinternet.com



BENEFICE HANDBELLS

I am delighted to say that we now have a set of sixteen handbells. The eight original handbells from Whitwell have been totally restored as new, and there are eight new bells to join them.

These are being taken into the schools and the youngsters are enjoying getting to grips with ringing tunes on them. Jingle bells is a big favourite!! Hopefully they will perform at their respective Christmas Services.

If anyone is interested in learning to ring tunes on the bells and joining a Benefice team, do let Ivan know. 01904 468844 or e mail:

ivan.howitt@btinternet.com

BENEFICE COUNCIL

Meetings are planned for **Wednesday 9th November 7.30pm** at Orchard House Gate Helmsley, and **Tuesday 31st January 2012 7.30pm** at a venue to be confirmed.

Discussions have been going on for a long time now on how the ten churches should formally work together under a Priest in Charge. We are in the process of legally uniting the two current groups of Churches called 'Benefices' into one group, or 'Benefice'. This has the provisional agreement of all the Church Councils and is being formulated into a 'Pastoral Measure' which has to be formally agreed by many parties including the Church Councils. Once agreed and the measure is signed by the Queen, then the ten churches will be part of one Benefice called 'The Benefice of Harton' and the Priest in Charge will formally become 'The Vicar'!

The name was chosen because Harton has never had a place of worship and is at the geographical centre of the area covered by the ten churches.

TAPESTRY

The Benefice study group will meet 7.30pm at The Vicarage on:

Tuesday 1st November

Tuesday 29th December

Tuesday 10th January 2012.

You are welcome to come along.

Greetings from St Botolph's Cottage, Bossall,

70 REASONS TO GIVE THANKS

My Dear Friends,

My feet have hardly touched the ground since my Birthday Celebrations in mid September. What a weekend that was! All week things seemed to be happening. Every day the postman was bringing cards and parcels. On the Wednesday at the old peoples' luncheon club, there was a cake with candles on it. Then in Sand Hutton School on the Friday the staff and children wanted to join in the celebrations. So by the time we got to Sunday I really knew my 70th birthday was upon me.

My brother John and his wife Janet travelled up from Essex and joined us for the United Benefice Service at Upper Helmsley. A total surprise to me!! And if that is all that had happened, it would have made my day. Unknown to me there was much more to come.

John and Janet took me out to Dinner at the Tanglewood, and very good it was too! There, I was able to spend quality time with them both. It had been a while since I last saw them and we had a lot of catching up to do. It was their first visit this far north, would you believe! Didn't know what they were missing – did they?

John just said, 'I have been told to get you to Sand Hutton Village Hall for 4pm. Again, a total surprise to me.

As I stood in the doorway of the Village Hall I was totally gobsmacked – so many of our church family, local villagers and friends too awaited me to share in my celebration, and what a party!

Thank you to everyone who contributed to it, made the tea and made everyone feel so very welcome – not forgetting the men who cleared up afterwards.

What a party – what a party! Thank you all so very much. The tea, the cards and gifts, the cake – delicious, the balloons, the champagne toast. All those amazing things that were said about me. The beautiful bouquet of flowers, I understand that was put together by our own dear flower girl, Angela.

Then the cheque! How very generous of you all, thank you so much. One thing I want for the garden is a new bird table, so I will buy one and think of you all as I feed and watch my birds. The rest I will, I promise, spend wisely. But thank you all so very much!

Sometimes we don't know why things happen, but just remember – 'God always knows what he is doing'- He brought me here to live and work among you. You opened your hearts and lives to me. It is an absolute privilege to be

here. And remember, the door to St Botolph's Cottage in Bossall is always open to you all. You will always be very welcome. My kettle and tea pot work overtime and it will always be good to see any of you who would like to call.

In the twenty years I have been here I have walked alongside so many of you, sitting around your kitchen tables drinking your tea and, yes Teddy, drinking your whisky! Listening to your stories I have shared with you all in your celebrations, Weddings, Christenings and anniversaries. Trying also to support you in those difficult times too. Thank you to you all for sharing so much with me. I am very humbled by your faith and trust in me and I thank God that I have been allowed to be part of your lives and families. THANK YOU!

Winding down? Retiring? I don't think so! I shall be here for as long as you want me to be, and for as long as God sees fit.

May the God of Peace continue to bless you all.

Your loving sister,

Margaret Ann + CSPH

Ode (Owed) to Sister Margaret Ann

To us from Horbury she came,
All dressed in black and large in frame,
A cheerful smile, a real nice name,
She's Sister Margaret Ann

She stayed in Claxton for a while,
And everyone admired her style,
She got to know us mile for mile,
Our Sister Margaret Ann.

A vacant cottage up the road,
Became her very own abode,
Her happiness to live there showed,
It suited Margaret Ann.

A car would prove an extra boon,
Some driving lessons came quite soon,
She passed her test, now she can croon,
Our happy Margaret Ann.

Her travels take her far and wide,
For twenty years she's worked with pride,
A preacher, teacher, friend and guide,
Our Sister Margaret Ann.

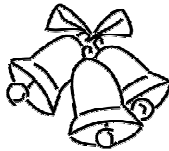
You came this way out of the blue,
We give you thanks for all you do,
Don't look around for pastures new,
Stay with us Margaret Ann!

Dot Mills



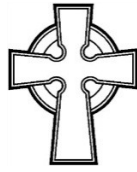
Welcome to those newly baptised

Alice McKenna Dilley	24 th July	Foston
Bertie Wilfred Henry Haynes	31 st July	Bossall
Freddie Peter Hammond	14 th August	Gate Helmsley
Liam Gunther	11th September	Flaxton



**Congratulations to those newly married
at St Mary's Church Sand Hutton**

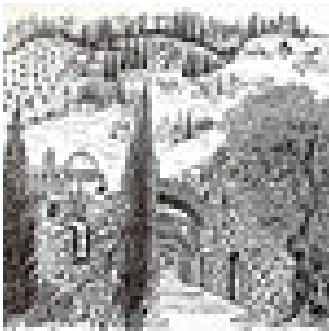
Andrew Michael East and Hannah Creelman	29 th July
Philip Stockton and Louise Elizabeth Marsey	30 th July



Our condolences to the families and friends of

Harry Plews aged 83	30 th August	Flaxton
Alan Wilson aged 82	8 th September	Howsham
Frances Baxter aged 94	12 th September	Flaxton
Brian Maltby aged 72	17 th September	Sand Hutton

We commend them into God's gracious keeping



PILGRIMAGE

Plans are well advanced now for the Benefice Trip to the Holy Land next year. **Places are filling nicely, so if you would be interested in joining the party do contact Ivan on 01904 468844 or ivan.howitt@btinternet.com**

I prefer to take small groups as it is so much better when visiting busy and small sites, and of course it is more intimate. Numbers are limited so please express an interest if you haven't already done so.

The dates for the Pilgrimage are Tuesday 9th October, returning Friday 19th October. The cost including most meals and excursions is £1635. It is planned to hire a coach to take us to the Airport at Luton, and pick us up on arrival at Manchester.

SANDHUTTON AND CLAXTON VILLAGE HALL

Forthcoming events

- Friday 18 November** QUIZ NIGHT with Pie and Peas Supper:
Tickets £5 from Pete Tidball 468470 or David
Brewer 468484
- Saturday 10 December** Saturday Social 10 -12 am
- Thursday 15 December** "A Yorkshire Christmas Carol": another
Badapple production ("Landgirls of Yorkshire"):
tickets available soon from Caroline Hall
01904 468376

Caroline Hall
Events Co-ordinator
Sand Hutton and Claxton Village Hall

*Remember remember the 5th of
November!!!
It's the day of
"GIFTS for CHRISTMAS"
Sand Hutton Village Hall (10am to 3pm)
Quality stalls at affordable prices
for all your Christmas giving.*

For list of stallholders & details

01904 468481 / giftsforchristmas@hotmail.co.uk

SJ'S Nursery

Sue & Jayne would like to thank all our children & parents/carers who helped us in gaining our recent Good 'strong provision' Ofsted inspection rating. We were inspected on Fri 16th Sept 2011, you can read our full report on the Ofsted website, but some of the inspectors comments were:" the newly developed exciting natural outdoor area is bordering on outstanding, enabling all children to have a range of experiences which supports them in making progress in all areas of learning"

She also complimented our children on "being confident & independent learners, experiencing a range of play & learning opportunities, allowing them to progress successfully for their futures".

If you would like to visit us or gain more information or perhaps comment on our recent Ofsted report then please contact Sue 01904 481339 or email us on susan409@btinternet.com

*Remember loved ones
"PAST & PRESENT"
this Christmas*



*Dedicate a bauble on our tree
in St. Mary's Church Sand Hutton,
as a simple way of remembering someone special, who is
in your thoughts, at this time of the year*

Each bauble is £3

**ALL MONIES RAISED WILL GO TO
"St. Mary's Church Sand Hutton"**
*contact Rosy Miers, Water Meadows, Sand Hutton.
The tree will be going up next week!
Tel. 468481*

Come to

A NIGHT AT THE RACES!

Saturday November 19th 7.30 p.m.

***at Barton le Willows Village Hall
have some fun, bring your friends!***



entrance including light refreshments is FREE!

tickets available from

***Fiona Le Masurier 01653 619368 email: fiona@crambehouse.co.uk
or***

Espie Bleasdale 01653 619358 email: espie3@hotmail.co.uk

***all proceeds from this evenings event will go to
Barton Le Willows Village Hall
and St Michael's Church, Crambe***

Licensed pay bar or BYO

CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING



***Thursday November 24th
10.30 - 12 noon
at Crambe House, Crambe***

entrance £2 (includes refreshments)



***there will be a range of Christmas
gifts on sale together with a bottle
tombola, raffle and cakes***

***all proceeds for
St Michael's Church, Crambe***

CAROL SINGING!



MONDAY 19th DECEMBER

***please meet at Middle Cottage, Claxton
at 6.15 p.m.***

(Anne White's house)

***collection for
Macmillan Cancer Support***

For more information

***Tel: Anne Atkinson
01904 468226***

GATE HELMSLEY VILLAGE HALL

Thank you again to everyone who attended, contributed, to the barbecue in Maureen and Tony Parker's garden, the event raised £1052. This will be split between the hall's upkeep, utility bills and our fund for improving the access for the disabled and new cloakroom facilities.

Our next big fund raising event will be on 29 October - Hallowe'en dance. The committee would also like to give notice that the Village Hall AGM will be on MONDAY 28 NOVEMBER at 7.30 PM. We hope as many people in Upper and Gate Helmsley will attend this meeting and express their views regarding what they want from their village hall. All new ideas will be very welcome as would new committee members. If anyone would be interested in joining the committee please give Lorraine Thirsk a ring on 01759 373052 or tell any of the committee members.

GREEN FINGERS GARDENING CLUB.

**Thursday 3rd November
Members Social Evening.
End of year "Show and Tell".**

Have you an interesting or amusing garden story or garden experience or a poem with gardening connections? This is your evening, send in your application with a brief description of content (5 min spot) before 14th October. We will provide the rest - lights, camera and refreshments.

Photographic Slot

Share your digital photographs taken through the year, this evening will allow members to show photographs of their garden or visited gardens along with any other photos they may have taken throughout the year which they would like to share with fellow members.

**Don't forget..... we want amusing, artistic and yes...
any photos that will make it a fun evening.**

This is our last meeting of the year and it's a social get-together where cake, cheese and light refreshments will be served.

Don't forget to supply your images in digital format, camera memory card, USB stick, CD or e-mail (1024 x 768). You can give these in throughout the year. Contact Bill Heath for any help.



St Mary's Church Gate Helmsley

Christmas Fayre

Saturday 3rd December

2—4 p.m

Orchard House

Tombola

Raffle

*Cakes * Gifts * cards*

Adults £3.00 : Children 50p

Includes tea/coffee & mince pie

Around the Parishes.....

News views and information from:

BARTON LE WILLOWS

Village Hall Draw

The August Draw was also won by a lucky winner from Harton.

Village Barbeque

A BIG thank you to everyone for your very kind donations of salads, puds and raffle prizes, which made the BBQ such a great success. £576 was presented to the village hall to help with the refurbishing.

Saturday 19th November. Race Night. Entrance including light refreshments is FREE. Licensed pay bar or BYO

All proceeds from the evening's event will go to Barton le Willows Village Hall and St. Michael's Church, Crambe.

Tickets available from Fiona Le Masurier on 01653 619368 or Espie Bleasdale on 01653 619358

and finally GREAT NEWS. The Village Hall has been awarded a £1,000 grant from the Howardian Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty towards the insulation of the Hall.

Ryedale Environmental Action is giving a grant of £1,000, also for the insulation and Awards for All (The Big Lottery Fund) has given us a grant of £10,000 to double glaze the Hall!

BOSSALL

A Circular was sent to every household in Harton suggesting support for the Church as a village asset for all. Regrettably this produced only 3 responses - and those were from existing supporters. It was a very disappointing result if one draws the conclusion that all but 3 were not interested in whether the village maintained a church for the future as a village asset irrespective of religious beliefs.

Grand Rummage Sale - Crambe. A most enjoyable day preceded by hard work and organisation. **Bossall raised a total of £155.00.**

Repair work to the entrance stonework will be finished by the time this is in print. Hopefully all is well for another 100 years or so!

Reminder. We will be holding a Hog Roast and Auction of Promises in

Sand Hutton Village Hall on the 24th February 2012. More details to follow. Cutting of the Churchyard has been completed, once again many thanks to Ryedale District Council.

CRAMBE

It has been a quiet summer for St Michael's with the only services being two Wednesday services held at Pilgrim's Cottage – many thanks Dorothy. This has allowed work on the chancel to proceed unhindered and we are expecting all to be back to normal by October. One added bonus to the restoration work has been the opportunity to 'get up close and personal' and examine our beautiful church in detail from the scaffolding, and also to talk to the experts involved in the work.

The Grand Rummage sale held in September in Bobby Cook's garden was blessed with a fine warm day and turned out to be a social, just as much a financial success. All the parishes who took part enjoyed themselves and made a profit of some sort getting rid of an awful lot of jumble along the way. Most of all it was a relaxed social occasion involving most of the benefice. It is perhaps best summed up by two senior benefice figures, floppy hats pulled well down, seen relaxing in easy chairs within convenient range of the tea tent, while putting the world to rights! Thank you Bobby it was a brilliant idea, and thank you to all who took part.

On November 19th we are holding 'A Night at the Races' in Barton Le Willows village Hall. This is a joint effort with the village hall committee with the profits from the evening shared between the village hall and St Michael's Church. Do come and join in the fun entrance is free!

On November 24th Lynda Teale and Fiona are holding a coffee morning at Crambe House – not too early to start thinking of useful Christmas presents. December 9th at 6.30 pm will be the Service of rededication for St Michael's Church after the completion of all the building work. We look forward to welcoming Archbishop Sentamu who will take the service.

Whilst we are not holding our usual carol service this year we are hosting Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve, this will be by candlelight. Rachel Benson will be conducting this service.

Thoughts of Christmas somehow seem incongruous; with the marvellous Indian summer, all is still warm, David Cole still wearing shorts, and I am writing this in a garden in Queensland, Australia.

Signs of the passing year? Ron and Florence's lambs are now old enough to carry on the winning tradition at the local shows and two shiny black Dexter calves have appeared in Sam Cook's paddock. Days are drawing in. Finally thank you for all the support from Ivan, Sister Margaret Ann (you kept THAT birthday pretty quiet!), Rachel and Tony.

FLAXTON

Several years ago, with dwindling numbers attending Sunday evensong, the PCC at Flaxton discussed ways of encouraging people along to an alternative style of evening worship. Since then we have had many interesting times of learning, fellowship and prayer. The hour in church together on the fourth Sunday of around eight months each year, is usually based on a theme indicated by the speaker, who might be a visitor or someone from the village. Subjects have ranged from music to world religions, poetry to churchyards, travel to bereavement; speakers' jobs have been wide-ranging too, including being a nurse, prison chaplain, headmaster, gardener, undertaker. Sometimes we simply bring along a favourite verse from the bible or hymn and say what it means to us, and we do aim to have prayer book evensong from time to time too. **Next service will be 22nd January at 6.30 p.m. The speaker will be Sister Kate Wiley from the Church Army.**

A small group normally weaves worship appropriate to the themes around the talk and questions; sometimes we use part of Compline. Do look out for announcements about these evenings and join us whenever you'd like to. We have had two funerals in recent weeks for Flaxton people. Harry Plews of Village Farm and Frances Baxter of Wesley Cottage were very much friends of the village and loyal supporters of events; Frances was formerly a churchwarden. We shall remember both with thanks and affection.

GATE HELMSLEY

Harvest celebrations

We enjoyed a wonderful harvest festival service at St Mary's Church on 6th October, followed by a splendid harvest supper in the Village Hall, which was attended by over 90 people. Thank you to Sister Margaret Ann who led the service and set a very happy tone to the evening with her tales of an over-provision of pumpkins. We are very grateful to Christine and Keith Potts and

their staff who, as usual, provided an excellent supper, to Dick Garnons-Williams for running the raffle, and to the parishioners for decorating the church so beautifully.

Pipe Up !

Our Centenary Organ Restoration Fund got off to a great start with the Flower Festival “In Praise of Music” over the May bank holiday weekend.

We have launched our “Sponsor a Pipe” appeal and hope that you might consider sponsoring one or more pipes – perhaps you would like to make a dedication to someone special. Sponsors can receive a certificate and an entry into the Centenary Organ Restoration Fund book of sponsors. Leaflets explaining the “Sponsor a Pipe” appeal – including an application form – will be circulated soon. They are also available in the church or from Michael Harran (01759 372215).

Look out for further fundraising events which will include music, fine food, a golf tournament, an auction of promises and many more! Pipe organs are at risk as they fall into disrepair or as churches close. The organ in St Mary’s Church Gate Helmsley is small, but has been acknowledged as being of historic interest and worthy of restoration after its first hundred years of continuous service. Please help us to give this instrument renewed life for the next hundred years! Further information from Michael Harran (01759 372215) and donations, Gift Aided if possible, to St Mary’s Gate Helmsley PCC, Apple Tree House, Gate Helmsley, York YO41 1JT (Mark your envelope “Organ Fund”).

SAND HUTTON

St Mary's Church Yard.

We express our grateful thanks to John Morris and team for the considerable amount of maintenance / renewals / and facilitation that has been carried out within the curtilage and boundary fencing. We are truly thankful.

Saint Leonard's 12th century ruin - update

Due to frost damage winter 2010/11, a modified lime mortar mix has now been determined and will be applied to any damaged areas following the winter months. The crypt railings are completed and will be installed by the contractors shortly (we hope!)

Sketches and ideas from pupils of Sand Hutton School have been incorporated into a final design for the restoration commemorative monument. The angled stone carving will be undertaken by a local stone mason, subject to faculty approval. We hope to celebrate completion of the project with an event during the summer months.

“ Nursing On A Front Line”

We wish to thank Lt Col. Jan Pilgrim, Chief Instructor Army Medical Services Training Centre, Strensall for organising and presenting with colleagues a most enlightening evening. It was felt that we had actually travelled to a front line and learned of the provision of medical care to our armed forces personnel. Also we are grateful for all those assisting to make the evening so successful. A sum of £530.25 was raised via refreshments, raffle and donations which will be shared between British Limbless Ex Servicemen’s Association and St Mary's Church Tower fund. This amount will be enhanced by the gift aids.

Rainbow Activity

Many thanks to all those who contributed in any way to make 'Rainbow Activity Day' in August so successful. Adults and children alike had a wonderful day of fun especially when it came to building Noah's Ark (Ivan showing his DIY skills!!) and the acting out the story to an audience of mums / dads / grandparents and friends. It certainly calls for another such occasion! Suggestions from local parents would be helpful.

RadioFun

We thank Margaret Silver for hosting this presentation by Dominic and Rosemary Goodwin and chums at The Barn, The Old Forge Sand Hutton, a most entertaining evening. A total of £90.50 was raised in aid of the church tower fund.

Christmas 2011

Christmas is rapidly approaching!. We look forward to "Amici" joining us again for our Carol Service in St Mary's Church on December 11th at 10.30am. You are most welcome to join us. A great way to begin the Christmas celebrations!

Vacancy for Treasurer. St Mary's Church Sand Hutton has a vacancy for the office of treasurer to the Parochial Church Council, PCC. If any one feels they would be interested in undertaking this role and would like to know more, please ring 01904 468809.

Church Cleaning We ask if anyone is available to help for around 2 hours per month with cleaning and tidying of our church? Every offer of help strengthens the team, reduces the individual work load and provides an opportunity to meet with others and share together the task of keeping our lovely building presentable for worship and mission to our community. If anyone would like to consider this service please contact on us on 01904 468809 for further details.



News from our schools.....

SAND HUTTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

This term at Sand Hutton we received the news we had been waiting for, we have been granted long awaited planning permission for our outside classroom! The classroom will be completed during the first week in November giving us a well deserved excuse for a party. The Grand Opening is planned for Friday 18th November when the children will be joined by parents, governors and friends of the school for food and fun. At the heart of the opening is our 'wishes for wildlife' tree on which will be recorded the children's hopes for the future for all wildlife to be protected and cherished. Plans for the further development of the school grounds will be shown on this day....exciting times!

In fact it has been an exciting term so far and planned events will ensure it is to continue. Class 3 have begun their work on WW2 by attending an action packed activity day at the Castle Museum followed by a day as evacuees in school where parents excelled themselves by dressing up in 40's costume to bring added reality. The dressing up will continue for our World War 2 evening on 11th November when the children will entertain us with songs and sketches from the era marking 11.11.11., a true day of remembrance.

Class 1 found out about Dinosaurs and Class 2 were able to look into Space and Beyond on visits to the Yorkshire Museum all underlying the benefit of first hand experiences to bring learning alive. This was very much the case when the Sky Dome came to school to allow children to gaze at the night sky in the warm! As a school we are so very fortunate to be supported by a wonderfully active PTA who subsidise transport costs for such visits benefitting all children.

Finally, we are looking forward to taking Years 4, 5 and 6 to Robin Wood Outdoor Centre to experience activities from abseiling to caving from the canoeing to the climbing. We go at the beginning of December, fingers crossed for kind weather although no doubt the children will be hoping for snow – not necessarily the staff!

Dates for your diary:

- **World War 2 Entertainment Evening 11 November**
- **Christmas Fair Thursday 8 December 6 - 8 00 p.m.**
- **Christmas Nativity Wednesday 14 December St Mary's Church Sand Hutton 6 30 p.m.**

FOSTON CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

A new school year sees Foston Primary School flourishing with 25 children on roll and predicted full intake for 2012. Looking back on last year we are all extremely proud to achieve an Ofsted inspection that recognised the hard work from staff, governors, parents and of course our wonderful children. The school was recognised for the good teaching that is evident in all lessons and good progress made by all children. The inspector also recognised the outstanding behaviour of our children and the outstanding care guidance and support staff in school give to the children. This inspection was shortly followed by a Church Schools Inspection which was equally successful.

Over the summer holidays Foston has undergone a makeover and we now have a brand new work area for small groups and the office has been relocated and better security features added. The school has also been completely redecorated and carpeted. We are really pleased with our new look.

This term our EYFS KS1 children are learning about People Who Help Us. If you work in public services and would like to come and talk to the children about your profession please let us know. The KS2 children are researching the topic of Rainforests and are visiting tropical world and watching a live performance of The Jungle Book at The Grand Opera House.

In order to learn about differing localities our junior children, alongside Terrington, have begun a four year link with Gillshill Primary School in Hull. The children have so far enjoyed a fun day at each other's schools getting to know each other. The project has been funded by Howardian Hills Group and will provide invaluable experiences for our children.

Our Christingle will take place at 1.30pm on Tuesday, 20th December

Our Christmas Performance will take place in the village hall at 2.00pm and 6.00pm on Wednesday, 14th December.

This year our Christmas Fair will take place on Saturday, 3rd December in the afternoon. We would love to see as many as possible at these events.

Please get in touch if you have a child due to start school in the next few years in order for us to start those early links that are so important in a child's run up to schooling. Our teachers regularly visit local nurseries and playgroups in order to be familiar with children who are starting school with us. Please call on 01653 618265 to arrange a visit.



Claxton and Sand Hutton Parish Council—Winter Meeting Dates

Monday 14th November 2011

Tuesday 3rd January 2012

SATURDAY SOCIAL—10TH December 2011

10 a.m.—12 noon

Councillors for Sand Hutton: Caroline Hall, Peter Stott, and 1 vacancy

Councillors for Claxton: Angela Steele, Susie Field & Jenny Whiteley

The Parish Council meetings will be held in the Village hall, Sand Hutton and usually start at 7.30 p.m. All are welcome and at the start of the meeting, there is a Public Forum section where members of the public can ask questions or raise issues about Parish matters.

The first Saturday Social will be on 10th December from 10 a.m. til 12 noon—come along for an informal chat and a coffee with your neighbours and Parish Councillors and share some ideas!

Please explore the new Parish website at <http://www.claxton-sandhutton.org.uk/> and look under the Parish Council heading for previous minutes or on the notice boards in the villages.

If you have any queries about the meetings or the council, please contact the Clerk
Laura Edwards at laura.edwards@claxtonandsandhuttonparishcouncil.org.uk

Gate and Upper Helmsley Parish Council

Chairman Mr C Richardson

Councillor Mrs J Benton

Chairman Mr M Harrison

Councillor Mr C Dodds

Treasurer Mr P Thirsk

Parish Clerk and Councillor Mrs M Parker.

All Parish Council meetings are held in the Village Hall Gate Helmsley and usually start at 7.30 pm in the winter months and 8pm summer.

The Minutes of previous meetings are obtainable from the Parish Clerk should any one wish to view them and any questions or comments to be raised can be forwarded to the Parish Clerk for discussion at the next parish council meeting which will be on Monday 28th November 2011.

The Agenda for the next meeting will be posted on the notice boards around the villages a week before the meeting take place.

Any queries please contact the Parish Clerk on 01759371318.

Whinfield, The Lane Gate, Helmsley. Or contact your local Councillor

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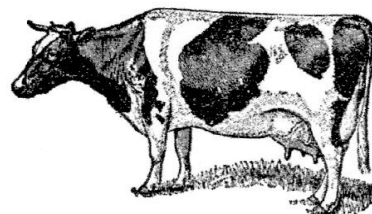
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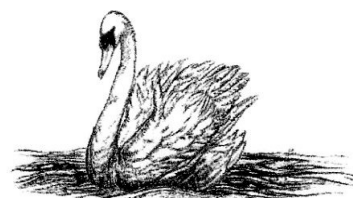
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Woodland Friends

Mrs Dormouse of Crambe had called a meeting of the Woodland Friends, this was one of the many rights she assumed. Mr French Partridge of Sand Hutton along with Mr Squirrel of Howsham simply acquiesced when she took her self-appointed role as convenor. "Women" shrugged Mr French Partridge with a rapid ripple of his beautiful striped wing feathers. "Always got to be in charge" added Mr Squirrel, as he shook out his splendidly erect fluffy tail. "What's it about this time?" was the question that scarcely needed to be asked. "It's this Bossall, Buttercrambe and Howsham issue" Mrs Dormouse patiently explained, as if addressing a couple of acorns, I've heard they're going to become one". "Which are they going to close? I seem to think I've heard this before" yawned Mr Squirrel. "I hope they're going to leave my Howsham alone, I've just nicely got the drey back together after that wind at the end of September". Mr French Partridge, in his familiar sibilant tones that combined a whistle with a squeak, said that he was

indifferent to whatever resulted, so far as he and his covey were concerned, they would continue to over-night in Sand Hutton's churchyard. After an anxious period, he was now satisfied the forthcoming works on the ruins of the church of St Leonard would leave the surrounding grass covering unaffected. He had heard that there would be a substantial increase in visitors but as that would be purely daytime, his routine would remain untouched. "And the money they got, from all over the place", he mused, "Heaven knows how it was managed but some people knew exactly which strings needed to be pulled." "In any case" he continued, so far as I know those three have always been considered to be one so far as administration goes". "That's right" confirmed Mrs Dormouse, "but they say it's going to be made much simpler". "What do you mean" asked Mr Squirrel, "Just one Church Warden, one Secretary and one Treasurer for all of them" "Of course not" replied Mrs Dormouse in the exasperated tone she reserved for when conversing with the lower orders, "simply a slightly different way of presenting their affairs in a unified manner". "What does 'unified' mean?" Mrs Dormouse affected not to hear this taunt which was clearly aimed at throwing her off her stride. "Well, all the things that have to be reported on are going to be combined slightly differently but they'll still add up to the same thing". "So, this meeting you've called could be said to be a waste of our feeding time?" was the question from the floor. "Of course it is, if you wish to regard it so, but at least you are being kept informed about the efforts and care being put in so that B B & H toe the line, so to speak . But then that is what church meetings are usually all about. It's taken a long time for you to put that together. AOB?" enquired the de facto chairman. Mr Squirrel said he'd heard about a fantastic Harvest Supper being held at Sand Hutton following the service at Upper Helmsley. And led by that lovely Mr Old Vic who was presumably helping out Mr New Vic. "Not that he's really old" he added, hastily. He went on by wondering what support might be forthcoming for a Friends "Harvest Supper, to be held in the afternoon, of course, for security. Agreed nem con this idea needed to be worked up into a practicality, but only announced generally when the Harvest had actually been gathered in. Ticket price agreed as 2 conkers or 3 hazel nuts or 4 acorns. Mrs Dormouse agreed and minuted the decision - meaning that it had already passed into Woodland Law, on which she was the sole arbiter.



Anon

*With Christmas rapidly approaching, a time to reflect on the world
beyond the cosy confines of our Benefice.....*

The Spirit of Christmas Present

From mid November 'Jingle Bells'
In supermarkets wails
To get us in the festive mood
And boost their Christmas sales.
And now the day is drawing near
Heaped high upon the trolley
Are cans of beer and cakes and crisps
And imitation holly.

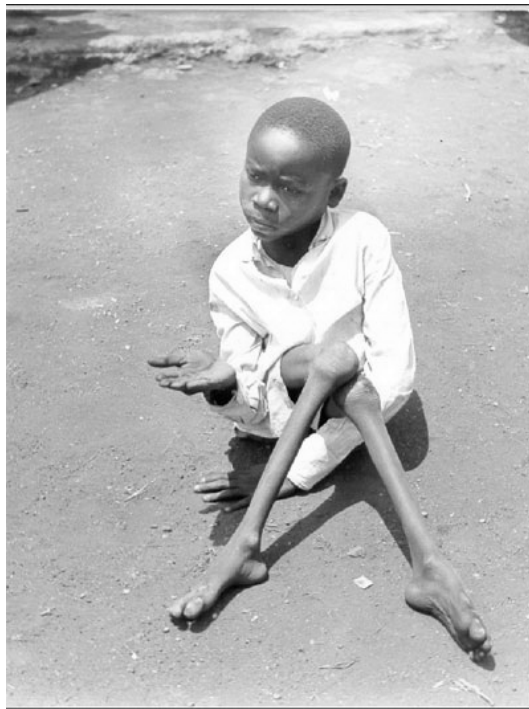
Within this blur of rush and din
A face I seem to see
A little starving desert boy
Who's looking straight at me.
Bewilderment upon his face,
And both his parents dead,
He sits forlornly in the sand
As flies crawl on his head.

Emaciated, bag of bones,
With sunken hollow cheek;
Though nothing's said we know that he'll
Be dead within the week.
He touched our conscience for a while
But news moves quickly on,
And though the starving boy remains
The TV crews have gone.

Unendingly and mounted high
The bulging trolleys come;
A pop star churns out 'Silent Night',
The tills at check-outs hum.
Then homeward with a loaded car
To gorge the hours away
In front of mindless TV shows
Through all of Christmas Day.

The vacant eyes look on at me,
So much they seem to say;
They hold me there, though hard I try
To turn my head away.
And as they look they seem to ask
"Could it be really so,
It was for this that Christ was born
In stable long ago?"

© *John Nursey*



Items for ‘The Circular’

Copy deadline for the next edition January 15th

**This will cover February March April 2012
Unfortunately it may not be possible to
anything received after the deadline.**

ALL CHANGE!

After some discussion it was felt there was a need to simplify the route by which items are submitted to the Circular.

In future everyone should send items, preferably as word documents for text, jpgs for photographs, directly via email to the editor, **NOT** via the old system of ‘Circular’ Parish co-ordinators:
this includes enquiries about, and submission of advertisements

It is appreciated that not everyone has home access to a computer;
this is the time to ‘phone a friend’ who has
and ask them to send your item for you!

PLEASE NOTE EDITOR’S NEW EMAIL ADDRESS

churchmouse@yorlocal.com

Contact numbers for Sand Hutton and Whitwell Group of Parishes

Parish Priest: Rev Ivan Howitt	01904 468844
Parish Sister: Sister Margaret Ann CSPH	01904 468253
Reader: Mr Tony Hewitt	01904 632684
Lay Pastor: Mrs Rachel Baker	01904 468809

Editor

Fiona Le Masurier

Crambe House, Crambe, York YO60 7JR

Tel: 01653 619368 email: churchmouse@yorlocal.com