

The Benefice of Harton

The Circular



Spring Edition 2019

*News, views and forthcoming events
In our benefice and communities*

February March April

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

Cover sponsored by

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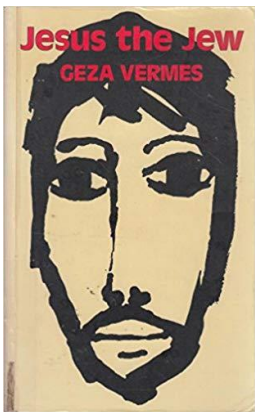
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From the Vicarage

Dear Friends,

“God – please find me a parking place!”

Scanning my bookshelves for my annual Lenten read this year, I wanted a piece of writing that might cut through this political pantomime we’ve been experiencing for so long now – the Brexit carnival. I wanted something that was authentic, without an agenda (political or personal) and had a discernible truth. As it turned out, my book search took me on an enlightening trip down memory lane!



I came across two books by Geza Vermes, an eminent historical theologian. He writes in a way that cuts through the ‘rose coloured spectacles’ of some biased Christian theology, in his search for the ‘truth’ about Jesus. One book- ***Jesus the Jew*** (academic, yet thoroughly stimulating) took me back to my college days at Cuddesdon, but the other - ***The Passion*** – brought back memories of my friendship with Frank Bright – an Auschwitz survivor. And what a remarkable survivor he was – and still is.

Back then, inspired by The Holocaust Memorial day (27th January) we attended each year, I invited some Jewish acquaintances for an evening discussion entitled:

‘Auschwitz – the final solution, or the world’s on-going problem?’

One of the speakers was Frank Bright. He was a somewhat reserved man, whose ability to recall personal horrendous experiences and images, albeit slightly hesitantly, was quite remarkable. If you are able, do Google him or ‘The Family Brichta’ to read his story.

From that emotional, yet incredibly educational evening, he and I (via email) built a ‘friendship’. He had the most wonderful sense of humour and sent me excellent Jewish jokes and stories and I returned the compliment as best I could by sending back their Christian counterparts.

One communiqué from Frank enquired whether I had read a copy of **‘The Passion’** by Geza Vermes, I confessed that I hadn’t read this latest offering and Frank generously gave me his copy.

When I read **‘Jesus the Jew’** all those years ago, it was like a breath of fresh air, seeing the life and times of Jesus as an ordinary Jewish man in the

setting and traditions of 1st century Palestine, and comparing the biblical stories of Jesus to that time and place. It was refreshing as it didn't try to look back at the gospels with Jesus already recognised as the Son of God, but with him being just a Jewish (albeit remarkable) man. It remains for me a wonderful book and has influenced my view of Jesus ever since.

As Christians we tend to forget the cultural, familial and religious roots of Jesus. Fundamentally Jesus was a Jew and historians like Geza see him through that lens, often bringing us a much more realistic, pared back approach to our thinking and understanding of the biblical Jesus as a Jew. It is only then, I feel, can we start to authentically explore Jesus as the Son of God.



As we approach Easter 2019, I do wonder how much contemporary 'authenticity' is in our news and media. How much propaganda ('fake news'?) are we fed that suits a populist individualism rather than an authentic voice that speaks of what's best for humanity in general. How many messages are tinted and tainted, veiling a core of self-interest with a veneer of corporate benefit? Perhaps we need to hear a strong rally call that speaks with the clarity of the message of Jesus the Jew – a message of love, respect, concern and hope for Jew and gentile alike; a message that puts the 'other' first before the 'self'. A message that may not be very popular in today's culture of fear and phobia, but in my opinion one that needs to be heard.

Frank Bright could speak a lot about propaganda, fear and phobia, from many historical aspects – and none of it was pleasant listening – echoes of which persist today.

As I ponder my mini library, I feel I've been called to pluck Frank's gift to me from my bookshelf to read again this Lent. It's only a little thin book and not overly academic, but not too simple either. Yet, I know it will enable me to explore once again the death and resurrection of Jesus with a refreshed sense of clarity: no propaganda, no post-resurrection Christian slant - just a simple, authentic, stripped back story of one of the most important events that led many of us to where we are today.

That is what Lent encourages us to do – to peel back the layers of our lives and attitudes that have become stained and 'unauthentic' with society's

propaganda and to revisit our true selves in the light of the message of Jesus.

It's a challenging task, but it might take you too on an unexpected trip down memory lane.

Meanwhile, did you want to read one of Frank's Jewish jokes he sent me.....? Ok, here goes.

Moishe is driving in Jerusalem. He's late for a meeting; he's looking for a parking place and can't find one. In desperation he turns towards heaven and says: "God – find me a parking place! If you do, I promise that I'll eat only kosher, respect the Sabbath and all the holidays.

Miraculously a place opens up just in front of him.

He turns his face up to heaven and says: "Never mind, I just found one!"

Yours in Christ

Revd Chris Wingfield



Services for the Benefice of Harton

February 2019

<i>Sunday February 3rd</i>	<i>Candlemas</i>
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10.00	Benefice Holy Communion	Foston
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Wednesday 6th February

10.00	Holy Communion	Gate Helmsley
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<i>Sunday 10th February</i>	<i>4th before Lent</i>
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9.00	Holy Communion	Flaxton
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10.00	Holy Communion	Upper Helmsley
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Wednesday 13th February

10.00	Holy Communion	Foston
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<i>Sunday 17th February</i>	<i>3rd before Lent</i>
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10.00	Benefice Holy Communion	Whitwell
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Wednesday 20th February

10.00	Holy Communion	Sand Hutton
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<i>Sunday 24th February</i>	<i>2nd before Lent</i>
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10.00	Benefice Holy Communion	Crambe
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Wednesday 27th February

10.00	Holy Communion	St David Gate Helmsley
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March 2019

<i>Sunday 3rd March</i>	<i>Next before Lent</i>
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10.00	Benefice Holy Communion	Sand Hutton
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Wednesday 6th March

7.30	Holy Communion <i>Anointing with ashes</i>	Ash Wednesday Upper Helmsley
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<i>Sunday 10th March</i>	<i>Lent 1</i>
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10.00	Benefice Holy Communion	Howsham
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Wednesday 13th March

10.00 Holy Communion Flaxton

Sunday 17th March**Lent 2**

10.00 Benefice Holy Communion Foston

Tue 19th March 7-8.30pm Lent Course (1) Start ► Sand Hutton Village Hall**Wednesday 20th March**

10.00 Holy Communion Crambe

Sunday 24th March**Lent 3**

10.00 Benefice Holy Communion Gate Helmsley

Tue 26th March 7-8.30pm Lent Course (2) Start ► Sand Hutton Village Hall**Wednesday 27th March**

10.00 Holy Communion Buttercrambe

Sunday 31st March**Mothering Sunday**

10.00 Benefice Holy Communion Bossall

4.00 All Age Worship Flaxton

**Don't forget! British Summer Time begins, clocks go forward one hour.****April 2019****Tue 2nd April 7-8.30pm Lent Course (3) Start ► Sand Hutton Village Hall****Wednesday 3rd April**

10.00 Holy Communion Gate Helmsley

Sunday 7th April**Lent 5**

10.00 Benefice Holy Communion Crambe

Tue 9th April 7-8.30pm Lent Course (4) Start ► Sand Hutton Village Hall**Wednesday 10th April**

10.00 Holy Communion Sand Hutton

Sat 13th April**3-5pm: Messy Easter Gate Helmsley Village Hall**

Sunday 14th April		Palm Sunday
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10.00	Benefice Holy Communion	Upper Helmsley
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Mon 15th March 7-8.30pm Lent Course (5) Start ▶ Sand Hutton Village Hall

Thursday 18th April		Maundy Thursday
7.30	Holy Communion	Gate Helmsley

Friday 19th April		Good Friday
10.00	Before the Cross	Foston
2.00	Devotion	Sand Hutton

Sunday 21st April		Easter Sunday
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10.00	Benefice Holy Communion	Howsham
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Wednesday 24th April		St George
10.00	Holy Communion	Bossall

Sunday 28th April		Easter 2
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10.00	Benefice Holy Communion	Buttercrambe
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May 2019

Wednesday 1st May		
10.00	Holy Communion	Crambe

Sunday 5th May		Easter 3
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9.00	Holy Communion	Flaxton
10.00	Holy Communion	Howsham

Wednesday 8th May		
10.00	Holy Communion	Upper Helmsley

Details of the Lent course and Messy Easter events are a few pages further on . . .



Welcome to those newly baptised

4 th November	Charlotte Rose Allen	Howsham
16 th December	Leo William Jack Knock	Flaxton



Congratulations to those recently married

10 th November	Peter Wordsworth and Victoria Godliman	Foston
1 st December	Benjamin Wood and Gemma Carey	Flaxton
21 st December	Aaron Clark and Sarah Estill	Sand Hutton



Our condolences to the families and friends of

15 th October	David Farrow	Gate Helmsley
12 th December	Jane Herbert	Upper Helmsley
16 th December	Barry Malcolm Wainhouse	Gate Helmsley

Jane Augusta Russell Herbert
Upper Helmsley Hall
1928 - 2018



It was with sadness that we received the news of dear Jane's death just nine days after her 90th birthday. She had been unwell for a while, then on hearing the news that her son-in-law had passed away she seemed to give up, bless her. She will be remembered as the lady who ruled her kingdom with a rod of iron, and she didn't suffer fools gladly! She was passionate about the little church of St Peter at Upper Helmsley, a family legacy which she promised to maintain and keep alive come what may!

Jane was churchwarden at St Peter's Church for many years and an unstoppable member of the Deanery Synod, but in the latter years she couldn't keep up with the way in which the Church was moving into the 21st century. She was a traditionalist at heart! A lot of us remember her as a lady with a lively sense of humour with a very quick mind, and who never held a grudge. She was kind and generous where she felt it was appropriate. She was a lady who, for most of her working life, had had to fight for her place in the man's world of the legal profession, and fight she did, until the end.

In old age, sadly, she couldn't come to terms with both how the church and society was changing, and she couldn't bear it. She was a lady of faith, it meant a great deal to her in spite of being so entrenched in the past.

In recent times some of us spent quite a lot of time with Jane, befriending her, and just listening to her, and trying to make sense of her arguments on how she saw the world. We had lunch together regularly which she always looked forward to, and greatly enjoyed, not only for the good food, but for the company too, and there was always a lot of laughter round the table.

She was by then an elderly lady, not in good health and living alone in Upper Helmsley Hall. Yes, she was lonely, and she had never got over the untimely death of her young son many years ago. At the present time our hearts go out to her daughter Mary Ann and all her family, as they cope with not only the loss of Mary Ann's husband, but also her mother in such close succession. We will continue to hold them all in our prayers as they try to come to terms with the future.



In October Messy Harvest was enjoyed by many in Flaxton Village Hall exploring the theme: - Love your world. The children had great fun with various activities....apple bobbing, always a favourite, pinning the robin on the scarecrow's hand and a collage creating a notice board to mention but a few. During the worship and celebration time, our talented young people, were 'news readers', and did a presentation around waste food facts, recycling etc. ending the afternoon with a light meal.

Our recent Messy Church met at Christmas in Sand Hutton Village hall when many children came to learn more about the real meaning of Christmas.



Again activities were enjoyed by alllearning how messy babies can be at nappy changing time!

We decorated angel biscuits and made a collage of the Nativity....activities which reminded us of the coming of the Christ child. The Young people excelled by performing a very modern version of the Christmas Story brilliantly written by one of the team.

Following hot dogs and pizza the children sang 'Away in a manger' whilst holding the Christingles they had made....a reminder to us all that Jesus has come to be the light in what so often is a dark world.

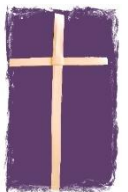
Thank you to all those who help to make Messy Church a fun and meaningful time.



Come along for Messy Church's usual mix of games, crafts, food and lots of fun as we celebrate the Easter story.

Suitable for children aged 4 – 11 and it's FREE

(sorry, no unaccompanied children)



For more information please contact

Rachael Harrison – 07847 3290

rachaelharrison510@btinternet.com

or Rachel Baker – 01904 468809

**Messy Palms -
'The Journey to Jerusalem'**

**Saturday 13th April
3 – 5 pm
Gate Helmsley Village
Hall**



Lent Course

*Got questions
about life and the
Christian faith?*



If you're looking for answers
then maybe it's time to make a

Start ▶

What's life all about and where are we going?

Does God exist and what is He like?

Why is the world in such a mess?

Who was Jesus, and is He relevant?

What does Jesus' death on the cross mean for me today?

How far can I go forward with God in my life?

Start ▶

will help you discover more about

***God, Jesus and the Journey of life
in 5 sessions***

Sessions last about 90 minutes and include video clips, discussion and time for reflection. They are free – no need to book.

Refreshments provided.

Sand Hutton Village Hall

7 – 8.30pm



Tuesday 19th March

Tuesday 26th March

Tuesday 2nd April

Tuesday 9th April

Monday 15th April

LENT LUNCHES

Come and join us at one or more of the following simple lunches



Tuesday 12th March

Aldby Park (Buttercrambe)

Wednesday 27th March

Orchard House (Gate Helmsley)

Thursday 11th April

Crambe House (Crambe)

All lunches are held between at 12.30 pm – 2.0 pm

*Donations received at the lunches will go to the
York Down Syndrome Support Group*

Benefice PCC.....

The next meeting of the Benefice PCC will be held at Abbey's House Farm, Claxton on Tuesday 29th January at 7.30 pm.

Because this will be happening as this edition of the Circular goes to press, there is no update to report. A reminder that agenda items for any meeting of the council may be submitted to Wendy Holman, Honorary Secretary (contact details in the list of churchwardens at the back of the Circular).

Delyth Harran, Vice Chairman

FORTHCOMING EVENTS AROUND THE BENEFICE.....

Claxton and Sand Hutton Parish Council



Saturday Socials

Dates for your diary:

11th May, 5th October



In the Village Hall, 10.30 am – 12.30 pm
*A good way to connect with our local community,
so call in and catch up!*

Ideas always welcome for activities to be included

Please contact the organiser: Caroline Hall 468376

Follow us on Facebook: Claxton and Sand Hutton Community Group

CLAXTON & SAND HUTTON HERITAGE GROUP



**We would like to thank everyone that came to the
commemoration of WWI in the village hall following the
services on November 11th.**

It was a fitting tribute to 'our men'

It proved very worthwhile. One of the most significant occurrences was that two great grandnephews of one of the men remembered, met for the first time, having been unaware of each other's existence.

The main event, held in the village hall, was to launch our book about the men listed on our war memorial. We have been researching this project for years and have accumulated a lot of relevant information which makes for very interesting reading. As a group, we feel we have published a historical book full of facts that would otherwise be lost.

**If anyone would like to buy a copy of the book at £4 per copy, please
phone Anne White 01904 468 550**

Ryedale 1-1
Programme

All Saints Church, Foston



Katherine Hannah
Memorial Coffee Morning
Saturday 9th February
Thornton Le Clay Village Hall
11.00 am. to 12.30 pm



Come and enjoy hot bacon sandwiches
Homemade cakes and coffee

All proceeds go to
the local Mind Charity
and
Ryedale 1-1 Programme



At All Saints Church, Foston
On Sunday 17th February

Come and listen to the fabulous

Rock Choir

(as seen on BBC Breakfast)

Singing lively and uplifting songs



and **The Ukelele Ladies**

*A happy group of talented ladies
performing with enthusiasm and skill*

Tickets £5.00 (includes a glass of wine and light nibbles)

From Karen Armitstead 01653 619 964

Linda Fothergill 01904 468 760



Sunday 10th March

Come and join

**The Great Litter Pick!
Around Barton Le Willows**

Suitable for all the family

Meet at Barton Le Willows Village Hall at 10.00 am

Gloves, pickers and bags provided



Free tea and coffee at the village hall afterwards



**Saturday 6th April
SPRING QUIZ**

Barton Le Willows Village Hall at 7.00 pm

Come and have a fun night, bring your friends,
test your knowledge!

Maximum team size 6

Tickets £5.00 pp includes snacks

BYO drinks

For more info contact Jo: 01904 468 305



Sunday 7th April

Come for a woodland walk!

Meet at Willowbridge Farm Bossall YO60 7NR at 2.30 pm

A gentle stroll, children and dogs on a lead welcome
Explore the woodland in company with two experts
to answer your questions about the wood

The walk will be followed by tea at Willowbridge Farm

Donations towards Barton Village Hall will be welcomed



LOOK WHO'S HERE!!.....

We didn't have to wait long after Hannah began her maternity leave for the exciting news that, on December 14th; weighing in at 7lbs 8oz. **Reuben Joel Suekarran** had made his appearance. Just in time for Christmas!

We send Hannah, Rob and all the family many congratulations. We welcome Reuben and wish him a long, happy, healthy and fulfilling life.

Reuben with his proud and happy parents!

Thank you!

My Dear friends,

My thanks go out to you all for so very much. For the privilege of living and working among you for so long, I have loved every minute of it all. For your care of me, and for your generosity in providing me with all that I needed to live in this place that I love.

For sharing with me my 50th 'Golden Year in Profession'. It has been a long journey, not always easy, but I don't regret it for a moment and would do it all again if I had to.

Then, for the wonderful send off you gave me on Advent Sunday as I went into retirement. For all the support, cards, and gifts I received over the summer, and then for the very generous cheque that I received from you all as well. Thank you, thank you to you all.

With my continual love and prayers for you all in the Benefice of Harton



*Margaret Ann
+ CSPG*



2018 Christmas Shoe box Appeal

Once again the Harton Benefice rose to the occasion and this year collected a wonderful 121 shoeboxes for Romania. A huge thankyou to everyone who took part in this appeal, which will have enhanced the lives of many families who otherwise may have had a very bleak time of it over the Christmas period.

Below are a few photos of your boxes as they started on their long journey and a word of thanks from Wayne and Sarah who coordinated it all.



*Sandra the Local appeal organiser,
and Daniel from Upper Helmsley.*



*Will they won't they drop the boxes!!
Graham Baker and Ian Lyall stagger
down the church drive to load up the
cars.*

Dear friends,

The truck was safely packed on a Saturday morning in atrocious weather conditions and left for Romania. We just wanted to say a big thank you to everyone who has been involved again this year; you've done a great job! This year we amassed 2649 shoeboxes which is on par with last year and this takes into account the extra personalised boxes we've done for Tibi's project and the Laslea hospital so it's a fantastic effort. In addition we sent out over 50 boxes of other aid.

God bless.

Wayne and Sarah

Amen Christmas Shoebox Appeal

Carol singers from Claxton, Sand Hutton and Harton

raised the impressive sum of £207.09
for Macmillan Cancer Support (York Branch).

Thanks to Jen, Viv and Ken at Vicarage Farm for the refreshments before setting off, and thanks to the generous people of Claxton for giving such a worthy amount to the charity.



GIFTS FOR CHRISTMAS

held on the 3rd November at Sand Hutton
raised the magnificent sum of:

£3179.92

for St. Mary's Church.

A big thank you for everyone's continued support,
and if you haven't been yet please do come....

This year it will be held on

SATURDAY 2nd NOVEMBER....

Hope to see you there!

More information will be available later in the year.

News, views and information from:

BOSSALL



Hannah's last service before commencing her maternity leave was held at Bossall. It was very well attended and it was great that Hannah's family were able to be with us especially her husband Rob. The service was followed by refreshments and plenty of chatter. Hannah has been a great asset to the Benefice and I am sure we have all much enjoyed her curacy with us.

The Benefice Midnight Mass was also held at Bossall, and as ever, very well attended. It was a wonderfully atmospheric candlelit service, and the church looked lovely dressed overall for Christmas. A big thank you to all those who helped with the decoration.

BUTTERCRAMBE

Thank you to all those who so generously donated towards the memorial bench for Anne Archer. This is now in place on the grass verge near the church of which she was churchwarden for so many years.



CRAMBE

The most exciting news this quarter, of course, has been the birth of Reuben Joel Suekarran and all at Crambe join in congratulating Rob and Hannah and wishing Rueben a long and happy life.

To more mundane matters: there have been four services in St Michael's including our Carol Service, held on 15th December. We had been expecting the Main Street Sound Ladies Barber Shop Chorus to join us but sadly a biting wind, icy rain, and predicted black ice by the Met Office, caused them to cancel at the last minute. However the rather depleted congregation sang their way lustily through a selection of carols accompanied by Peter Stott on the organ, which was interspersed with various readings by members of the village. The church had been beautifully decorated for the occasion and many thanks go to everyone who helped with this.



The repairs to the chancel roof are now complete and we must thank the Church Commissioners for footing the bill and thus keeping the church water tight!

FLAXTON



'We will remember them'

At very much at the last minute an exhibition was organised in church to mark Remembrance weekend. Church was open Saturday and Sunday and was well attended. Thank you to those who decorated the church and to those who kindly shared their family memorabilia.

A huge amount of research of those named on the Lychgate Roll of Honour and the one war grave in the churchyard, was done by Elizabeth Kirkpatrick (nee Cartmell). Elizabeth has put this into a book and has given a copy to the church which is on display for all to share. If you would like to know more about this, please ask a member of the PCC.

On a very wet and windy **Saturday, 1st December**, the wedding took place between Ben and Gemma from Lancashire. We wish you continued happiness and good health. Speaking to them at their rehearsal they were so pleased to be able to hold the ceremony in a church



and thanked everyone in the Benefice for the support they had been given during the months of preparation for their big day.

On Friday 14th December we were very pleased to once again welcome the children and staff from the Little Green Rascals Nursery in Flaxton. This was a very joyful occasion with the children entertaining their friends and family with Christmas songs and relaying the nativity story. Well done to John and his colleagues from the nursery who set the scene with lights in trees and a stable.

FOSTON

Happy New year to all from everyone at Foston Church.

Christmas came early to Foston Church as a few of us gathered at Karen and Richard Armitstead's house to fill and wrap shoe boxes with lovely things to be taken to Romania for families who needed a Christmas treat. We managed to fill over 25 boxes.

On the 2nd of November we held a very successful Quiz and Race Night in the village hall. Peter Mills our legendary quiz master was as always very entertaining and made the night a complete success. We raised over £200 for our lovely church. A big thank you to Peter from all of us.

Our Christmas coffee morning held on the 8th of December was very well attended, mainly due to the promise of Hot Turkey and stuffing sandwiches, and delicious homemade cakes! We raised over £210 for the local mental health charity Next Steps who were very appreciative of the money which goes towards supporting local people.

The crib service held on Christmas Eve was a wonderful event. Chris lead the service, though on reflection we think the little ones attending totally stole the attention! They all had great fun following Chris, going from North to South, East to West in the church, whilst the nativity storytelling took place.

Some dates for your Diary.

Saturday 9th February: Katherine Hannah memorial coffee morning.

Sunday 17th February: 2.00pm onwards. All Saint's Foston, 'The Rock Choir'.
Full details of both events can be found in the Forthcoming Events section of this Circular.

GATE HELMSLEY

We have had a busy time in Gate Helmsley over the Christmas period. The church Christmas Fayre was held at Orchard House on 2nd December. As well as being a very enjoyable social afternoon, the event raised a goodly sum for church funds. Thank you to everyone who gave their support in many different ways.

Villagers gathered together again on 9th December, first at the church for community carol singing, and then at the Village Hall to enjoy a welcome lunch, with games and Christmas fun for the children. There was a special "thank you" to Sister Margaret Ann and the children, who worked together in the church to present the Christmas story and to set up the crib. We particularly enjoyed listening to some of the children singing a Christmas song they had learned at school.

Thank you to the Jubilee Committee for organising this event and to all who gave their support. The church collection of £86 was given to SASH, a York charity which works to prevent homelessness among young people. Together with gift aid, this donation amounted to over £107 and was gratefully received by the charity.

We would like to thank the Rector, Chris Wingfield, for leading our Family Holy Communion service on Christmas morning. It was lovely to have a full church and to welcome so many friends, old and new, including several young people.

On a sadder note, two Gate Helmsley residents, David Farrow and Barry Wainhouse died recently. Barry had lived in the village for several decades, while David was a relative newcomer. We send our condolences to their widows, children and wider families as they mourn their loss.

Several events are planned in the village as we move into the New Year. We have already enjoyed the annual parish lunch held at Orchard House on 20th January, a very social event which raised over £600 for church funds.

St Mary's PCC (Parochial Church Council) will next meet on 29th January to agree the budget for the coming year. The PCC is in the process of bringing together estimates for the essential repair work to the church tower, for which a considerable fund-raising effort will be needed. As well as our regular annual events (such as the Strawberry Lunch which will be held in the summer), we will be arranging some special events, so please watch this space.

If you personally value the continued existence of the beautiful church building at St Mary's, you may feel able to make a direct contribution to the fund-raising effort. Please contact the Honorary Treasurer, David Fletcher, on 01759 371513 for details. The church desperately needs your help – thank you.

Another task for the PCC is to establish a new Electoral Roll. This is a list of parishioners who are affiliated to the church. We will be bringing relevant papers to your home during the spring.

The Village Hall Committee has arranged another dance for 30th March, with the group '5 Divide'.

There will also be an autumn dance on 5th October.

Details from Mandy Dodds or Christine Bickerdike.

We take this opportunity to wish everyone a happy and peaceful new year

HOWSHAM

Our annual cake stall at the York Auction Centre Christmas Show was very well supported by the village and farmers alike.

Our Carol Service, led by Rachel Benson was attended by seventy five people, with contributions of readings, song and instrumental music. The Church was beautifully decorated (with an enormous tree) – thanks to all. We were delighted to have the heating mended at last! Most of the congregation gathered afterwards at The Great Barn for mulled wine, mince pies and "John Colledge" pheasant paté! Rachel again took our United Benefice Service on the Sunday before Christmas.

We have now received the tree survey which gave a satisfactory assessment of the condition of the Churchyard trees.

The first stage of our Faculty Application for repairs to the stained glass has been passed so we now await permission from higher authority!

We are looking forward to several weddings in Church in 2019. We will make sure everything looks spick and span for them and hope to buy some folding chairs.

A very happy New Year to all.

SAND HUTTON and CLAXTON

How quickly the last three months have gone by with the business of preparing for Christmas celebrations, visiting and hosting family and friends.

As mentioned in the last 'Circular', our curate Hannah began her maternity leave in November. Reuben Joel was born on December 14th. Congratulations to Rob and Hannah and welcome to baby Suekarran!!



On 11th November, the Remembrance Service was held in St. Mary's Church, a truly memorable and moving service. Thank you to all those who contributed in any way, especially those who spent time knitting/crocheting the 'fall' of hundreds of poppies displayed in the church and again at the war memorial. Hopefully more poppies will be made throughout the year to be added for this year's Remembrance Service. If you would like to help with this please contact Anne White - 01904 468550.

A special thank you to Linda Spaven who did a window sill display in the church of purple poppies and animals, and not forgetting the amazing stole given to Revd. Chris to wear, that contrasted the severity of WW1 in the trenches and the hope we have in our faith in the Risen Christ today.

The Remembrance stole



The waterfall of knitted and crocheted poppies on the screen at St Mary's Church

The Advent season started with a well-attended Benefice Carol Service. Thank you to the Benefice Choir who led the congregational singing and inspirational 'not so well known carols'. Thank you to Peter Stott for your hard work (mostly behind the scenes) for the high standard of the choir and for your musical expertise!

Congratulations to Aaron and Sarah who celebrated their Christmas wedding on 21st December! Aaron and Sarah are very much part of our church family here in the Benefice of Harton and together we wish them God's Blessing and every happiness as they journey through life together.

Charity Giving at St Mary's Church.

2018 overseas Ugandan charity 'Saved on the Street' and the local charity 'Label of love' both received £540, all given directly to the organisers.

2019 charities:-

The local charity... Wetwheels, Yorkshire is based in the historic port of Whitby and operates all year, weather permitting. It provides inspirational experiences on boats and on the water for many young people with complex disabilities (and their wheelchairs!)

The overseas charity...Mary's meals, an international charity based in Scotland, aims to set up school feeding programmes in communities where poverty and hunger prevent children from gaining education. The charity's vision is 'that every child should receive one daily meal in their place of education'. Further information available in the church.

UPPER HELMSLEY

St Peter's held our family service on Christmas morning and it was very well attended. All eleven children participated in populating the crib with the lovely knitted figures. We sang carols and the children read prayers and readings. Ellie Harrison sang a solo of Away in a Manger and Catherine Harrison 'signed' the words.

As we have now passed the shortest day, we look forward to the arrival of spring. The snowdrops are out already. From February, St Peters will be open every day during day light hours.

Jane Herbert: On a cool January 21st the little church of St Peter's was packed to the doors for the funeral of Jane Herbert who died at the age of 90 on December 12th. Family and friends from near and far had gathered to share in a moving service of tribute to a remarkable lady. The sheer number of those who attended was a testament to the esteem in which Jane was held.



Jane's daughter Mary Ann gave a wonderful tribute to her mother in which she outlined the trials, joys and many achievements of her mother's long life. It was peppered with amusing anecdotes which raised laughter among the congregation, reflecting as it did the personality of the Jane that we all knew.

Her grandchildren, Charlie and Anastasia read poems, and Katerina sang a most moving solo of Panis Angelicus.

As Jane was laid to rest in the family tomb by the church porch surrounded by snowdrops, and with a watery sun filtering through the trees, one could not help thinking that though she has gone, echoes of her vibrant personality will reverberate through the Benefice of Harton for many years to come. Gone, but not forgotten.



WHITWELL



The bells of St John's Church at Whitwell were rung on Armistice Day in the morning and the evening. Candles were lit in the church in memory of loved ones. Thank you to David Brotherton for giving the PCC members a bell-ringing lesson.

After the absence of a few years, a Carol service was held at St John's and was very well attended. Thanks to all the readers and to Revd. Benson for taking the service. A special thank you to Andrew Monk who played the organ, and to the quartet of saxophonists and soloist from the music band 'Generation Groove'. The church looked fabulous with all the Christmas decorations;

thank you to everyone who helped decorate it. After the service refreshments were served and the hot sausages in a roll proved a great success. Whitwell will hold its Carol Service this year on Thursday 12th December.

A donation of £150 has been sent to Ryedale Special Families with monies from the Carol Service and a donation from the PCC.

Thank you to James Calvert of Calverts Carpets, who kindly donated some carpet for St Johns.

If anyone would like to join Whitwell PCC please contact Revd. Chris whose phone number can be found at the back of The Circular

The APCM will be held at The Manor House on 21st March at 7.00pm.

NEWS FROM OUR SCHOOLS.....



SAND HUTTON C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

Happy New Year to you all!

It is wonderful to be back and looking forward to all the fun planned for the Spring Term. After the Christmas rush we are already back into the full swing.

We have said a sad farewell to Mrs Wilson and we wish her well as she moves on to other things and enjoys some time with her family. We welcome a new member of staff to Sand Hutton, but he has only made the short journey from Warthill. He has left the junior class at Warthill and while the children are sad to see him go, they know that they will be able to say 'hello' every Monday afternoon. We are pleased to welcome Miss Blanks to replace him and we know she will be a very valuable member of staff for the federation.

On Friday, we had our second visit to Sheffield Arena to perform with hundreds of other children in Young Voices. What an experience that is. We were all so proud of our children and we know that this is something they will remember for years to come. We will be taking part again.

For the second time this academic year we have welcomed the Outdoor Ted team. The children take advantage of our wonderful outside environment and take part in team building and problem solving activities in the elements, whatever the weather! We have a visit left and we are looking forward to it already. What is even nicer to report is how much the Outdoor Ted team say they enjoy working with our pupils.

Rugby training sessions have come to Sand Hutton. This is something new for us and we are very pleased to welcome York City Knights to our school.

We are also pleased to announce that after launching our before and after school club in September, it continues to go from strength to strength. The children have a range of activities on offer as well as a hearty breakfast or snack before tea and we know that this service also supports our families.

This is something requested by parents and we were delighted to be able to facilitate it.

We look forward to keeping you up to date with events later in the year and wish you Happy New Year Again!



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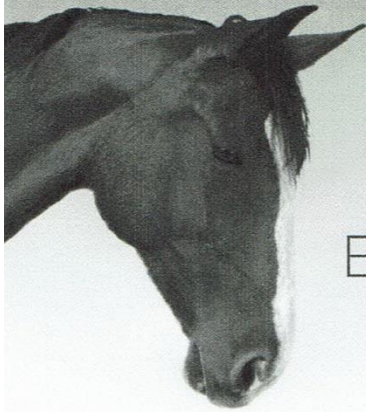
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Children Are Quick!

Teacher: Jonathan why are you late?

Jonathon: You had started before I got here.

Teacher: John, why are you doing your maths multiplication on the floor?

John: You told me to do it without using tables.

Teacher: Alan, how do you spell 'crocodile?' *Alan: K-R-O-K-O-D-I-A-L'*

Teacher: No, that's wrong

Alan: Maybe it is wrong, but you asked me how I spell it.

Teacher: Donald, what is the chemical formula for water?

Donald: H I J K L M N O.

Teacher: What are you talking about?

Donald: Yesterday you said it's H to O.

Teacher: Wendy, name one important thing we have today that we didn't have ten years ago.

Wendy: Me!

Teacher: Archie, why do you always get so dirty?

Archie: Well, I'm a lot closer to the ground than you are.

Teacher: Millie, give me a sentence starting with ' I. '

Millie: I is.

Teacher: No, Millie..... Always say, 'I am.'

Millie: All right... 'I am the ninth letter of the alphabet.'

Teacher: George Washington not only chopped down his father's cherry tree, but also admitted it. Now, Peter, do you know why his father didn't punish him?

Peter: Because George still had the axe in his hand.....

Teacher: Now, Simon, tell me frankly, do you say prayers before eating?

Simon: No, I don't have to, my Mum is a good cook.

Teacher: Tom, your composition on 'My Dog' is exactly the same as your brother's. Did you copy his?

Tom: No, it's the same dog.

Teacher: Harry, what do you call a person who keeps on talking when people are no longer interested?

Harry: A teacher.

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