

The Benefice of Harton

The Circular



Spring Edition 2020

*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

St Mary's Church, Gate Helmsley

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From the Vicarage

Dear Friends,

Easter's coming A time for Peace!

Always the way isn't it... no sooner have we started the New Year, than the Rector starts talking about Lent and Easter!

Well, to be fair, I do it as much for myself as for anyone else. I'm not a great fan of January or February – just a long, dismal time weather wise usually. But by the time we get to March and April – hey presto – things are looking up! So, once Epiphany has passed, Lent and Easter for me are things to look forward to!

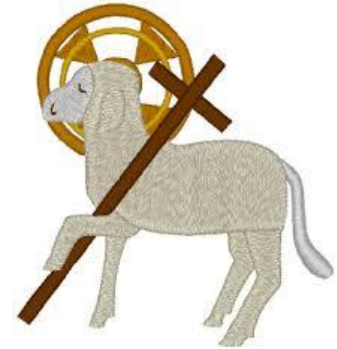
Why? Because it gives us Peace.

Last year I spoke about Geza Vermes and his book – *Jesus the Jew* - that Frank Bright recommended me all those years ago. I read it again as my Lenten Book and am once again turning my thoughts to what the build up to the death and the aftermath of the resurrection of Jesus would have really been like in 1st century Palestine.

Do you ever wonder what it must have been like to have been there and hear the testimonies of those first disciples about Our Lord's death and resurrection? - When they spoke about their experience of the first Easter? I wonder what feelings were stirred up in them? Supposing we had been there – supposing we had been one of those disciples. What would we have been feeling?

If we were one of his disciples, we most probably would be feeling guilty or ashamed for running away when Jesus was arrested. In the garden of Gethsemane, the initial bravado of "*Lord, here are two swords*" quickly evaporated when the temple police arrived. Fear took over: fear of the Jerusalem city authorities, fear of the armed crowd, and fear of the Roman occupation forces. The disciples fled, terrified for their own safety and freedom. They abandoned Jesus to his fate.

Except the women – they didn't flee. They followed Jesus on his painful road to Calvary.



Perhaps then it is no wonder that the women came along early one morning to tell the disciples *"The Lord is risen!"* – but the men didn't believe them. The truth is they probably didn't want to believe. Depressed by their own guilt, and still frightened of the consequences of association, they did not want to be confronted by the friend they had abandoned to a cruel death. They could reproach themselves, but they were not ready for anything like that from Jesus. They were too fragile.



However, when Jesus does appear to his disciples, he doesn't reproach them for running away. He doesn't say *"Where were you when I needed you? It's all your fault!"* Instead he says *"Peace be with you"*. If there is any reproach, it is not for the past but for the present – the fact that they cannot believe what they are seeing, what their

eyes are telling them - that Jesus is alive, risen from the dead and living!

Like the disciples we too can find it difficult to stay with Jesus and have to admit to times when we have abandoned him; faith can be a difficult and challenging thing. And yet Easter is our assurance that the Risen Lord is always with us – whether we recognise Him there or not. And whatever powerful feelings of angst rise up in us when we (yet again) discover He is with us, He just fills us - not with reproach – but with His peace.

See.... that's why I look forward to Lent and Easter. It gives us a time to reflect on the ways in which we abandon Jesus, whilst recognising that when we do encounter Him, he gives us His Peace!

So perhaps as you journey through Lent onto Easter, take time out to re-discover the Risen Lord. It's never too late and believe me, there is no reproach from Him.....only his peace.

Yours in Christ

Revd Chris Wingfield

Services for the Benefice of Harton

February 2020

Sunday 2nd February

Candlemas

10.00 Benefice Holy Communion Foston
with the Benefice Choir

Wednesday 5th February

10.00 Holy Communion Gate Helmsley

Sunday 9th February

Epiphany 5

10.00 Benefice Holy Communion Upper Helmsley

Wednesday 12th February

10.00 Holy Communion Bossall

Sunday 16th February

2nd before Lent

10.00 Benefice Holy Communion Whitwell
with the Benefice Choir

Wednesday 19th February

10.00 Holy Communion Flaxton

Sunday 23rd February

Sunday before Lent

10.00 Benefice Holy Communion Crambe

Wednesday 26th February

Ash Wednesday

7.30 pm Holy Communion Sand Hutton
Imposition of Ashes

March 2020

Sunday 1st March	Lent 1
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10.00	Benefice Holy Communion <i>with the Benefice Choir</i>	Gate Helmsley
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Wednesday 4th March

10.00	Holy Communion	Upper Helmsley
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Sunday 8th March	Lent 2
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10.00	Benefice Holy Communion <i>with the Benefice Choir</i>	Howsham
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Wednesday 11th March

10.00	Holy Communion	Flaxton
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Thursday 12th March 7pm "Oasis" – Spiritual Refreshment Sand Hutton

Sunday 15th March	Lent 3
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10.00	Deanery Holy Communion <i>with Bishop Beverley of Warrington</i>	St Peter's Church, Norton
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Wednesday 18th March

10.00	Holy Communion	Crambe
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Sunday 22nd March		Mothering Sunday
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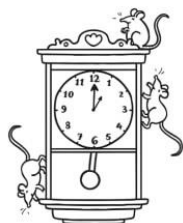
10.00	Benefice Holy Communion <i>with the Benefice Choir</i>	Sand Hutton
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Wednesday 25th March

10.00	Holy Communion	Buttercrambe
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Sunday 29th March	Lent 5
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Don't forget the clocks go forward one hour today!



10.00	Benefice Holy Communion	Bossall
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April 2020

Wednesday 1st April

10.00 Holy Communion Gate Helmsley

Saturday 4th April 3-5pm Messy Easter Sand Hutton Village Hall



Sunday 5th April

Palm Sunday

10.00 Benefice Holy Communion Upper Helmsley
with the Benefice Choir

Thursday 9th April

Maundy Thursday

7.30 pm Holy Communion Flaxton

Friday 10th April

Good Friday

10.00 Before the Cross Foston
2.00 Devotion Sand Hutton

Sunday 12th April

Easter Day

10.00 Benefice Holy Communion Gate Helmsley
with the Benefice Choir

Wednesday 15th April

10.00 Holy Communion Howsham

Sunday 19th April

Easter 2

10.00 Benefice Holy Communion Whitwell

Wednesday 22nd April

St George

10.00 Holy Communion Sand Hutton

Sunday 26th April

Easter 3

10.00 Benefice Holy Communion Gate Helmsley

Wednesday 29th April

10.00 Holy Communion Crambe

May 2020

Sunday 3rd May

Easter 4

9.00 Holy Communion Flaxton
10.00 Holy Communion Howsham

Wednesday 6th May

10.00 Holy Communion Upper Helmsley



Welcome to those newly baptised

1st December
29th December
26th January

Oswald Romilly Bell Gerrish
Alfie Ted Taylor
Isla Margaret Hart

Whitwell
Sand Hutton
Sand Hutton



Congratulations to those recently married

5th December

Patrick Morris and Emma Du-Mon

Whitwell



Our condolences to the family and friends of

6th December
2nd January

Nigel (Mick) Archer
Margaret Wilman

Buttercrambe
Gate Helmsley

Messy Christingle and Messy Magi

There was plenty of Messy festive fun to be had over Christmas and the New Year with our two Messy Church events.



Messy Christingle was held at Sand Hutton church on 23rd December and was well supported.

We enjoyed making Christingles from oranges, ribbon, candles and of course lots of sweets! They looked beautiful and quite magical once the candles were lit and the children were singing 'Away in a Manger'.



Chris talked about the message behind the activity and we all shared mulled wine and mince pies.

At Messy Magi, we were all transported to 1st Century Bethlehem, where a street had been lovingly recreated! The children were encouraged to interact with characters from the Nativity story, who were all in costume, and all had a story to tell!



*One of the Magi ?
Oh no! he's the rector!*

Chris stole the show with a very convincing performance as one of the Magi! The scene was complete with sand, spicy aromas a market stall, the Magi's servant, shepherds and authentic music!

The children took part in some messy activities and had an opportunity to dress up before everyone sat down for a picnic.

We finished with a shared worship led by Chris where we talked about things that we would take on our 'journeys' and what our gifts to Jesus would be. The children took home a decorated treasure chest.

Thanks again to the army of people who help to make it all happen.

We couldn't do it without you!

And many thanks to the families of the Benefice who continue to support our Messy sessions.

WHAT'S NEXT at MESSY CHURCH!

You are invited to



'The Last Supper'

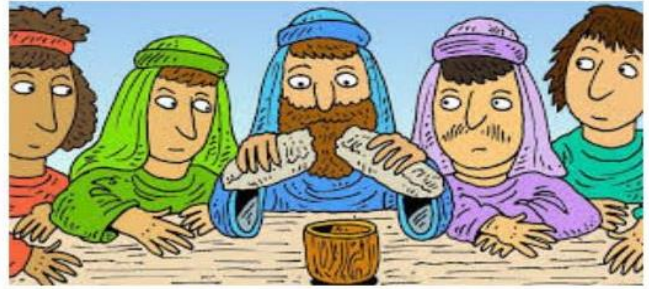
Saturday 4th April

3-5pm at

Sand Hutton Village Hall

For more information contact

Rachael Harrison on 07847 329015
rachaelharrison510@btinternet.com



Come and Join us as we explore Jesus's last meal with his friends, the Apostles, through crafts & games.

For all the family to enjoy together.

We'll end by sharing some refreshments.

It's lots of fun – and it's free!

*Suitable for children aged 4-11.
(Sorry no unaccompanied children)*

.....and 'Play and Pray'

BENEFICE OF HARTON

WELCOMES PRE-SCHOOL AGED CHILDREN
& THEIR FAMILY & CARERS TO A...

Babies & Toddler 'Play & Pray'

Forthnightly: 9.00 – 10.30

3rd+17th February.
6th, 20th April

2nd, 16th, 30th March
4th, 25th May



ST MARY'S CHURCH SAND HUTTON

For more info contact

Rachael Harrison Tel: 07847 329015
Email: rachaelharrison510@btinternet.com

PRAY14Me

We pray for each of our villages regularly but also focus particularly on one village at a time in more depth.

Our next focused Pray14Me time will be for Foston and Thornton Le Clay



www.sandhuttongroup.org

On February 25th we will distribute prayer request cards to each household and business culminating on Tuesday 17th March with a short service in Foston All Saints Church at 7.00 p.m.

The service will last for approximately 40 minutes and include offering each of the prayers requested on the cards.

Prayer cards can be written out for whatever is in people's hearts such as:

- Bringing to God areas where help is needed,
- Personal concerns such as health issues,
- The wider community,
- Prayers of thankfulness to God.
- and more.....

We will make every effort to call back between the above dates to collect completed prayer cards. The main call back day is planned for Friday 13th March from 2.00 pm - part of our "Come and See" Event taking place that weekend. There will also be a box in the Church itself where cards can be dropped back.

Then, for our following Pray14Me, the village focus will be Buttercrambe. Prayer request prayer cards will be distributed on 20th April before being collected and included in a short service in Buttercrambe St John's Church at 7.00pm on Tuesday 12th May .

**Please do come along to the service
and join in praying for God's blessings for Buttercrambe**

**If you would like our Rector, Revd. Chris Wingfield
or one of our Prayer Team to visit you then please let Chris know.
Contact details are on the back of this Circular**

CHILDREN AND YOUTH WORKER ROLE IN THE BENEFICE OF HARTON



*My name is Rachael Harrison.
I am the Children and Youth
Worker for The Benefice of*

Harton. As some of you will be aware, I have been in post as a Children and Youth worker for the Benefice since June 2019. I can't believe how quickly the time has flown. I have been kept busy developing Messy church along with the extremely enthusiastic and hardworking Messy church team and on the day, helpers!

With a lot of assistance from a dedicated team of volunteers we have also set up a pre-school 'Play and Pray' group at St Mary's Church Sand Hutton. I have recently set up a Benefice Families and carers Facebook page, again with some technical help! (Thanks Ruth!) This is also going well.

If you are a family within the Benefice, have carer responsibilities for children and live within the Benefice (e.g. Grandparents, Guardians /close relatives) or have children at Sand Hutton or Foston schools and would like to join the Facebook page the link is....

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/HartonBenefice>

I am keen to network with as many people as possible who have key roles within the Benefice to find out more about their villages in terms of numbers of children, age groups etc. so I can target publicity for events and make sure all children and families are included, and that we are catering for everyone. Although I have already made contact with the schools based within the Benefice and some of the Churchwardens, I am aware I still need to meet more people and collect ideas. **Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any ideas you would like to contribute!**

We are also hoping to start a youth group in the late Spring which will be aimed at secondary school aged children, hopefully with some older children (e.g. 16 to 18 year olds) acting as supporters/volunteers.

I am very enthusiastic about this but am aware I will again need to rely upon an army of volunteers!

If you have a few hours to spare and are interested in volunteering for any of the activities we are running please get in touch with me. You will find it a very rewarding experience and you will be well supported. We will provide DBS checks where appropriate.

I have really enjoyed taking on this role and developing what we can provide for our young people within the Benefice. I would like to extend a huge 'Thank you' to all the volunteers and supporters who have helped me get established. Everyone has been so positive about developing activities for Children and Young people.

Benefice PCC.....

We look forward to 'Come and See', 12-15 March, with the visit of Bishop Bev Mason of Warrington and her team to our Deanery. A list of events will be posted on the website in due course.

The next meeting of the Benefice PCC will be on 13th May at 7.30 pm at Wood House, Thornton-le-Clay

Delyth Harran

FORTHCOMING EVENTS AROUND THE BENEFICE.....



CAR BOOT AND TABLE TOP SALE SAND HUTTON SCHOOL PLAYGROUND

***SUNDAY 8TH MARCH 2020
2.00 –4.00 PM (SET UP FROM 1.00 PM)***

pitches £10

**Please contact Becky on 07725 192 403
or email pta@sandhutton.n-yorks.sch.uk to book a pitch
(please specify table top or car)**

Proceeds from pitch sales and refreshments will support school projects

Bringing school and the community together





A place of Rest Refreshment and Nourishment

Is your life 'stuffed'

Do you want a life less cluttered with 'stuff'
simpler, richer and more nourished?

then come and join us at

Oasis

7.00 pm Thursday 12th March, Sand Hutton Church.

where you will feel calmer, cleansed, replenished, revitalised, reenergised

A simple 'Five Step Programme'

to help you unclutter your life and make you feel
spiritually healthier, more refreshed, more invigorated – more alive!
Bubbly Prosecco, Belgian chocolates, calming atmosphere, soothing music,
inspirational stories.....too good to be true?

come and indulge yourself in an evening of 'letting go' and 'finding you'



YOUR VILLAGE NEEDS YOU !!

Barton Le Willows,
Harton and Barton Hill

Litter Pick

Everyone welcome – all necessary protective
and picking equipment provided.

10.00 am – 12 noon

SUNDAY MARCH 15th 2020

Meeting place and briefing ; Village Hall, Barton Le Willows
(Thank you tea's, coffee and cake at Red House, Barton Le Willows afterwards)



Gate Helmsley Spring Dance

Saturday 21st March 2020

STEVE CASSIDY BAND

Tickets £12 pp
2 course meal included
Bring own drinks, glasses provided
Raffle

Doors open at 7pm, band to play at 8pm

Contact Mandy at mandydodds@hotmail.co.uk



Quiz night



Saturday 28th March


7.30 pm

Thornton Le Clay Village Hall

Curry supper provided
Bring your own booze!

Tickets £6.0 per person, pay on the night
(Includes supper)

Contact Linda Fothergill for more details
Tel: 01904 468 760





Thornton Le Clay Village Hall

Saturday 25th April

at 7.30 pm

An evening of live music from a fun lovin' rock party band.

'THE HOT DOGGERS'

playing music from the 70s to present day.

Tickets £8 to include quality hot dog and nibbles.

Vegetarian option. 🎵 Bring your own bottle. 🎵 Raffle in aid of village hall.

For tickets Tel: Su 07889 524526 or Helen 07900 935247.

Tickets also available from our Monday Community Cafe.

see www.facebook.com/TLCVillageHall/
for further details of our events.



Play and stay

Barton Le Willows Village Hall

sessions run between

9.30 am -11.00 am on Fridays in term time.

All are welcome for fun and playing with a friendly group of people.

£2 per session

For more information please contact

Vanessa Fox 07854 532 111

Thank Goodness
for



Coffee Mornings

PROSPECT HOUSE

CARE HOME

GATE HELMSLEY

Ahhhhh...



The first Wednesday of every month

10.00 am to 11.30 am

ALL ARE WELCOME

£1.50 for coffee/tea/soft drink

And a cake

(Gluten free available)

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!



North Yorkshire Music Therapy Centre

A local charity of 30 years standing now has a new centre!
located in Wath Court, Hovingham.

Includes fully accessible office space and therapy room

**NYMTC is expanding its activities to include group sessions
and other therapy activities,**

We are seeking volunteers to support its work.

We need people for such tasks as duty and reception volunteers, fundraising
and other support to spread the word about the charity's work.

**If you are interested and can spare a few hours to help,
either on a regular or occasional basis,**

please email us at enquiries@music-therapy.org.uk
or call Laura on 01653 628725

THANK YOU!.....

Amen Trust Christmas Shoebox Appeal 2019

The response to the shoe box appeal 2019 was amazing.
181 boxes were collected, 65 of them from our local primary schools.

Thank you so much

The shoeboxes were blessed at Upper Helmsley St Peter's church on Sunday 27 October. The distribution of the shoeboxes in Romania went well. It was carried out by Amen volunteers together with local Romanian churches that partner with Amen. The gifts they contained were much appreciated by the families.



Some of the families who received the much appreciated gifts



Carol Singing in Claxton

16th December 2019

A big **Thank You** to the residents
of Claxton who so generously donated a

total of £231.25

for

Macmillan Cancer Support

Thanks also to the enthusiastic Carol Singers!

Anne Atkinson

and from Adrian Watson.....

I work as a health care assistant at Ampleforth Abbey Monastery Infirmary caring for the fathers/monks at the abbey, and my partner, Jezz Kipling works as facilities manager overseeing catering, porters and domestics at Malton Hospital.

We live in Malton and both have been attending St Michael's Church in Malton for many years but have dipped in and out of St Mary's at Sand Hutton for a few years. We have now decided to make a permanent switch from Malton to the Benefice of Harton.

We have known Rachel and Graham Baker for many years - they are good friends of ours along with Sister Margaret and Dot Mills. I got to know them all when I worked in the area for Social Services as a home carer.

Jezz and I would like to thank everyone for showing us such a warm and kind welcome to the Benefice, from carol singing in Claxton, to the services we have attended of late.

Jezz works at the weekends more often than I do so he will be along as and when he can. We are very willing to help in any way we can. Jezz enjoys catering and baking. I enjoy social occasions, chatting, visiting and generally doing anything to help.

Church life is very important to us both, and we look forward to continuing to get to know you all better over the coming months.

Adrian and Jezz

and Angela Steele.....



Rick Steele - Claxton

May I thank everyone who sent cards and who visited me on the sad passing of my husband Rick in November. I have been truly overwhelmed by the many expressions of sympathy received, and feel blessed to live in such a wonderful community.



Revd. Rachel Benson
High Steward of Selby Abbey

A delightful evening of Choral Evensong was held at Selby Abbey, on Sunday 19th January, as the Revd. Canon John Weetman led the Dedication of the stained glass panel of Revd. Rachel Benson as High Steward.

With Bishop Glyn Webster leading the prayers and Bishop James Jones preaching, it was a fitting occasion for Rachel. Bishop James paid tribute to the amount of work she does, both seen and unseen, not just for the church, but for the wider communities as well. We are very fortunate to have Rachel in our midst and give grateful thanks for all her continued support and pastoral care.

This is the Prayer of Dedication that was said:

'We thank thee especially for those who have served as High Stewards of the Abbey and as members of the Abbey Trust, in helping us to preserve and pass on to future generations the glorious heritage of this house of prayer. We give thanks especially today for the endeavours of Rachel Benson on behalf of the Abbey, as we now dedicate this stained glass panel in her honour. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.'
Amen.

News, views and information from around the parishes.....

BOSSALL

It has been another busy few months at St Botolph's. Particular highlights include the well-attended and beautifully orchestrated Remembrance Day service on Sunday 10th November. We were fortunate to be accompanied by five past and current serving members of the armed forces together with a bugler from the Yorkshire Regiment.



It was a fitting, but poignant reminder of the debt we owe to those who have lost their lives in armed conflict over the years, and for many a very important time in the church calendar to mark our respects.

From the left: Ian Lyall, John Daish, David Colthup, Mike Le Masurier, Jean Alexander, Chris Cadman.

St Botolph's also hosted a busy Christmas period as always with the crib service at 5.00 pm, followed by Midnight Mass at 11.00 pm. I am not sure what the record is, but we must have been close, with over 60 attending the Crib Service and some 120 attending the Midnight Mass.

Those who have visited the church over the last few weeks will have seen that all the paths have been re-laid with new gravel and look extremely smart! Likewise we have just completed a total overhaul of the five large lime trees which line the churchyard. All dead or overhanging branches have been removed, cut back and made safe, in line with our annual review. They too look smart and tidy, and hopefully will see us through for the next few years. The work was completed by David Bayes at Bayes Tree Services. He comes highly recommended.

CRAMBE

Autumn turned out to be mild, dark and very wet, but the equinox is past and already the days are getting longer and brighter.

There have been three services in St Michael's Church in the last quarter. Principally the Celebration of Christmas by Candlelight on December 21st. The church was a mass of candlelight both outside and in. The church was packed to the doors with over 110 people attending. The congregation was supported by 'The 200 Singers', a superb small choir from York University who also sang some beautiful choral pieces for us. A particular high spot during the service was Sam Cook's rendition of the poem 'The Unnoticed Guest' The opening line beginning with 'A *plague on thy Christmas!*' was delivered with great gusto and theatre by Sam which took everyone by surprise - anyone who might have dozed off would have awakened with a start! Following the service everyone repaired to Bobby Cook's home for

mulled wine and mince pies. A great start to Christmas. Thanks to the generosity of the congregation we were able to send £175 to World Vision in support of Dienabou Boiro and her family in Senegal.

The start of 2020 brings great challenges to St Michael's Church. Dorothy Martin who has been churchwarden for a number of years has had to retire as a result of her knee injury. Heather Dale who has been a member of the PCC for more years than anyone can remember has also retired, as has Liz Kershaw. St Michael's is grateful to them all for their years of service and care of the church. This has now left St Michael's without a PCC.

As we go into the New Year it is time for the people of Crambe and those who love and use this church, to have a long hard think about its future, if indeed it has a future as a church alone. It would be a tragedy if after so many years St Michael's future is simply one of decline with the ultimate end being closure. There is no need for that to happen if the will to support it, work out its relevance in our lives, and its role in the benefice, and to actively adapt is there.

It is hoped that a new PCC can be convened and officers appointed at the APCM to be held on Thursday 30th April at 7.00 pm at a venue to be decided. All are welcome to attend this open meeting.

FLAXTON

On Wednesday 11th December Little Green Rascals Nursery held their Christmas Services. It was a pleasure to host them once again. In the morning parents, carers and friends were entertained to songs and carols by the younger children. After lunch the preschool children acted and sang the Christmas story. It was good to have the church full for both services.



'I'll just put the baby to bed'

Though the nativity and toy service this year was not well attended we had a lovely service. Thank you to Ellie, Eva and Lucas for stepping in at the last minute and to their mums. Thank you to everyone who generously provided gifts for the Salvation Army Christmas appeal. A letter of thanks and appreciation has been received and is on the lych gate notice board.

There were over a 100 in the congregation for our service of Nine Lessons and Carols. Thank you to all the readers, Flaxton Singers and to Dick

Blackford and Helen Gillie for organising the music. Thanks also to the organist who was kept fit walking up and down the aisle to play the keyboard and the organ! After the service mulled wine, mince pies and fellowship was enjoyed by all.

On Shrove Tuesday 25th February we will be holding a pancake party in Flaxton Village Hall 6.30 pm. - 9.00 pm. A warm invitation is extended to everyone.

Please come and join in the fun – see if you can beat your 2019 pancake flip record! To help cover costs there will be an admission charge £1.50 for adults, 50p for children over 5 years old. This includes first glass of wine/soft drink and first pancake. There will be a raffle and donation of prizes would be gratefully received.

The PCC Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 1st April at 2.30pm in the church. This is an open meeting and all are welcome to attend.

FOSTON

Happy New Year to all from All Saints Foston.

We all enjoyed a wonderful Baptism service for Rory Gillam, one sunny morning in October. The church was packed with family and friends all there to be part of his special day. Chris delivered a very happy service, and Rory thoroughly enjoyed all the attention!

Moving on to Christmas, we were very happy to have Rachel Benson to take our Carol service. Well done to all who took part, and everyone definitely earned the mince pies and mulled wine on offer at the end of the service.

Our annual Christmas Eve Crib service was very well attended. Chris took his merry bunch of little ones around the church as the wonderful nativity story unfolded. This included hunting for knitted nativity characters hidden around the church for them to find. It was a great pleasure to see how much everyone enjoyed it.

As always with a New Year, it brings new challenges for us all to keep our little church involved within our community and benefice.

We are holding another Quiz night In Thornton le Clay village Hall. Our very entertaining and wise Quiz Master Peter Mills will once again be in charge of the evening. ***See events section for details.***



GATE HELMSLEY

A Happy New Year to everyone!

We have had a busy time in the village over recent weeks.

Our church Christmas Fayre this year raised just short of £1,000, an unprecedented total which will go towards the day to day running costs of the church. Thank you to all who supported this event.

Sunday 8th December saw a new event for the Harton Benefice, a Festival of Light, held in Gate Helmsley Village Hall, an appropriate venue with its decorative fairy lights. The families of those baptised in the benefice over recent years were invited to share in this service of family worship. The celebration was led by the Rector, Chris, with lovely music by Sand Hutton School Steel Band (thank you). The congregation made crowns of light and enacted the story of Santa Lucia, or St Lucy. It was an enjoyable morning and well received. A similar service is planned for early December this year.

Village celebrations continued on Saturday 14th December. We gathered in the church at noon for carol singing. Thank you to Sister Margaret Ann who led the children in the Christmas story while they set up the Christmas crib. Thank you to the children for their lovely singing of "Away in a Manger".

A retiring collection of £80 was donated to the 'Island', a local charity that supports young people. Afterwards we moved to the village hall for a Christmas party. It was a joy to see the children playing simple games like musical chairs. Our thanks go to everyone who played a part in making the day such a success.

For our Christmas morning service of Holy Communion, we welcomed a visiting priest, Reverend Carolyn Henson who led the service. It was pleasing to have a full church, including some children and young people.

The Christmas season closed at Epiphany with Gate Helmsley Village Hall hosting Messy Church in the form of Messy Magi on 4th January. This was an excellent session, with the hall set up as first century Bethlehem, complete with authentic music and very realistic smells! All the helpers were in costume and in character throughout and enjoyed themselves as much as the children. Fifteen children and their families attended. Many thanks are due to the benefice youth worker, Rachael Harrison, and her team for all the hard work involved in setting up this event.

We are saddened by the death of Margaret Wilman, recently living at Prospect House Care Home. Margaret was originally from West Yorkshire; she and her late husband, David moved to Gate Helmsley several years ago

and cultivated a beautiful garden here. Margaret was a very talented flower arranger and member of Viking Flower Club Stamford Bridge. Her skills have been missed during her protracted illness. We extend our deepest sympathy to Margaret's family.

Planning continues in preparation for repairing the church tower roof. Please watch this space as proposals emerge.

HOWSHAM

We had an excellent carol service conducted by Rachel Benson, with an enormous Christmas tree, lots of decorations and 70 people in the congregation. There were musical contributions from village residents and children and some excellent readings. Mince pies and mulled wine were enjoyed afterwards at the Great Barn.

The stained glass repairs undertaken by Barley Studios are well underway.

We have one Wedding booked in for next September so far.

A date for your diary, due to the alteration of the Spring bank Holiday to May 8th, we will be holding our annual Cake Stall on Howsham Bridge on Sunday 17th May.

SAND HUTTON and CLAXTON

Hopefully many of us will be enjoying a little more peace and quiet following a busy but happy time over the Christmas season.

Although waking up often to beautiful sunrises we soon return to the winter cold and rain but we see the aconites and bulbs pushing their way through the ground reminding us of new life and Spring around the corner.

Looking back at the events over the past few months we express our thanks again to the wonderful team who work tirelessly through the year to ensure successful Gifts for Christmas. This year £2,300 was raised for the church funds - thankyou to all who contributed to making it such a good sociable and successful event.

Sadly, a short while before Christmas, Rick Steele, husband to Angela, passed away following a long illness. Rick and Angela have lived in Claxton for many years and our thoughts and prayers are with Angela and the family as they mourn their loss.

The Advent carol service was well attended and our thanks go to the Benefice Choir whose selected Christmas carols and the leading of the congregational singing was greatly appreciated by all. Special thanks to Peter and Ellen who give of their time throughout the year to prepare the choir to support the Sunday worship throughout the Benefice. There is always room for more! Contact Peter on 468404 for more information if you are interested in joining the choir.

The school Christmas services were well attended and as usual the children excelled themselves. Well done children, teachers and parents!

We are so fortunate to have Rachael Harrison working in the community as our Youth and Children's coordinator. Besides working alongside the schools, she has brought a freshness and energy into welcoming the younger generation into church life. The children, parents, grandparents and visitors enjoyed Messy Christingle held in St Mary's church just a few days before Christmas and Messy Magi at Epiphany which was an amazing event!

Play and Pray toddler group continues to meet in the church to which all are invited. ***See events section for details.***

Church and Community charities for 2019: 'Wetwheels' and 'Mary's Meals' both received in excess of £500.

For 2020 the chosen home charity is 'Children's Air Ambulance'. A charity that transfers critically ill children from local hospitals to specialist paediatric centres throughout UK. It also moves specialist teams and equipment to local hospitals when a child is too sick to travel.

The overseas charity is 'Chance for Nepal'. A charity which works closely with established trusted organisations, schools and hospitals in Nepal, mainly focusing on health, education, street children and training opportunities.

If you would like to contribute, the charity display board and gift box is in the church entrance porch or give your donation to Peter and Ellen in Sand Hutton or Graham and Rachel in Claxton.

Again we want to express our thanks to all who help to keep the villages and church in 'working order'. We do have some spaces on the church flower rota ... maybe you would like to celebrate or remember an anniversary by sharing in this way. We also would welcome extra support in the cleaning and upkeep of the church and churchyard. Please contact a

churchwarden if you have time to spare and would like to help to maintain St Mary's church.

Please note the next litter pick will be on March 21st 10.30 a.m. Meet at the village hall to collect equipment and return afterwards for refreshments!!

May we take this opportunity to wish you the very best for 2020 and to remind you that your church is here for you and you will always find a welcome.

UPPER HELMSLEY



On the 27th of October we had a nearly full church for our annual harvest and shoe box appeal service. We got shoe boxes from far and wide totalling 181 boxes being sent to less fortunate families in Romania so they have something to celebrate Christmas with. That includes 65 made by our two local schools.

We were glad to have Sandra Lemming there to explain more about how much difference the shoe boxes make to families in Romania at Christmas. It made us all think about how different our Christmases are to those in poorer countries.

The Sunday before Christmas was full of festivity as many members of our small village community decorated our church for our annual Christmas Day service. We put a sparkly Christmas tree up and lots of lovely greenery. We thank all our helpers.

Our Christmas Day Service was 'home-made' as always but celebrated the true meaning of Christmas - being with one's family. Our service had everything, hot chocolate, carols, ringing bells, the crib and most importantly the Upper Helmsley traffic report courtesy of Mari's new speaker!

NEWS FROM OUR SCHOOLS.....

SAND HUTTON C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL



A slightly belated Happy New Year from us at Sand Hutton Primary School!

We must tell you that although winter still seems to have us in its grip, our daffodils have already starting peeping through!

The new term brought many exciting experiences in our lessons and the chance to join new after school clubs and learn new skills. We have been trying our hand at Judo and the KS2 children are experiencing rugby with York City Knights. Aren't we lucky?!

We have welcomed a new member of staff to the team and we know that Mrs Darling will settle in very quickly.

As is often the case in schools, no sooner is one event out of the way than we are already planning the next. March looks crammed with events, including a Faith Week and a Science Week. Both these will mean the welcoming of many visitors. Our children always make these feel so very welcome. We look forward to being able to share some photos with you another time.

We ask that you look out for events at school to which the wider community is invited such as.....

the Car Boot and Table Top sale on March 8th. Do come and support us!!

See Events section for more details



FOSTON C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

As usual we have a fun packed half term!



The KS2 children are looking forward to a topic entitled “From York to New York”. This will focus on locational aspects and diversity in cultures and lifestyle. KS1 will be learning about influential historical characters. They will be learning about Florence Nightingale and in design and technology taking inspiration from Brunel, whilst designing bridges. In science KS2 will be learning about space and KS1 looking at light.

We welcome Evie Jenkinson, our specialist dance teacher, who will be working with all children across the federation and running an after school club starting at Terrington. Kristian Bell will continue to coach PE in both schools alongside our daily PE sessions.

The children will also have opportunities to experience skateboarding and scooter workshops, a visit from an Olympian athlete and a visit from author, Stuart Reid to name a few. The children will also have opportunity to take part in a range of after school competitive sports opportunities.

We were proud last term to raise funds and Christmas boxes for Hoping Street Kitchen in York that provides meals and support to the homeless. We will continue to support this amazing charity as our chosen federation charity this year.

Don't forget!

we have before and after school club for our working parents from 8.00 am until 5.00 pm Monday, Wednesday and Friday and 5.30 on a Tuesday and a Thursday.

If you have a child due to turn 3 or needing a school place from September 2021

please do not hesitate to phone 01653 618265 or email admin@foston.n-yorks.sch.uk to arrange a visit.

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Fiona Le Masurier email: churchmouse@crambehouse.co.uk Tel: 01653 619368

Michael Harran email: dandmharran@gmail.com Tel: 01759 372215

Peter Stott email: petermstott@yahoo.co.uk Tel: 01904 468404

Rachel Baker email: gnrfastline@btinternet.com Tel: 01904 468809



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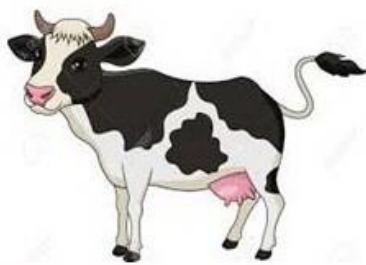


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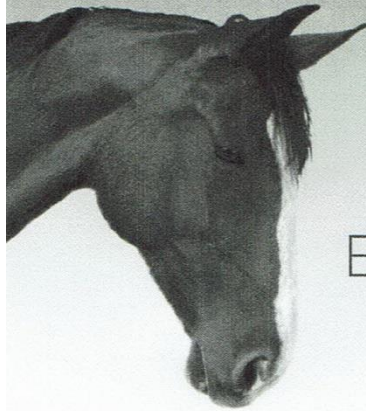
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Contact details for the churches in the Harton Benefice

Bossall, St Botolph

Churchwardens: Christopher and
Belinda Fordy

YO60 7NT

Email: christopherfordy@fordymarshall.com
Tel: 01904 468682

Buttercrambe, St John the Evangelist

Acting Churchwarden: Sara Winn Darley

YO41 1AT

Email: sara@winndarley.net
Tel: 01759 371398

Crambe, St Michael

Churchwarden: Vacancy

YO60 7JR

Enquiries: Contact the Rector
Tel:

Flaxton, St Lawrence

Churchwardens: Ida Terry

YO60 7NT

Email: idmt@hotmail.co.uk

Tel: 01347 878432

Wendy Holman

Email: wendy_e_holman@hotmail.com

Tel: 01653 618886

Foston, All Saints

Churchwardens: Karen Armitstead

YO60 7QG

Email: karen_armitstead@hotmail.com

Tel: 01653 619964

Linda Fothergill

Email: lindafothergill1963@hotmail.com

Tel: 01904 468760

Gate Helmsley, St Mary

Churchwardens: Delyth Harran

YO41 1NE

Email: dandmharran@gmail.com

Tel: 01759 372215

Sue Hanson

Email: sjhanson50@gmail.com

Tel: 01759 372663

Howsham, St John

Churchwardens: Gill Littlejohn

YO60 7PH

Email: simoncklittlejohn@msn.com

Tel: 01653 618846

Judy Stephenson

Email: jfs@great-barn.co.uk

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Sand Hutton, St Mary

Churchwardens: Graham Baker

YO41 1LB

Email: gnrfastline@btinternet.com

Tel: 01904 468809

Ian Lyall

Email: ian.lyall2@gmail.com

Tel: 01904 468209

Deputy Warden: Ellen Stott

Email: ellenstott@yahoo.co.uk

Tel: 01904 468404

Upper Helmsley, St Peter

Churchwarden: Mari Richards

YO41 1JY

Email: mjb.richards1000@gmail.com

Tel: 01759 372757

Whitwell on the Hill, St John the Evangelist YO60 7JJ

Churchwarden: Janie Bell

Email: janie.bell@me.com

Tel: 01653 618270

Items for 'The Circular'

Copy deadline for the next edition April 18th 2020

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Unfortunately it may not be possible to include anything received after the deadline.

Rector of the Benefice of Harton

Revd. Chris Wingfield 01904 468418

Email: chris.wingfield@btinternet.com

Members of the Ministry Team

Lay Pastor	Rachel Baker	01904 468809
Reader in training	Ian Lyall	01904 468209
P14Me Coordinator	David Fletcher	07900 998378
Youth and Children's Coordinator	Rachael Harrison	07847 329015

For occasional offices please contact:

Funerals	Revd. Chris Wingfield	01904 468418
Marriages	Rachel Baker	01904 468809
Baptisms	Delyth Harran	01759 372215

Lay Vice Chairman of the Joint PCC

Delyth Harran 01759 372215

Editor

Fiona Le Masurier

Crambe House, Crambe, York YO60 7JR Tel: 01653 619368

Email: churchmouse@crambehouse.co.uk

Circular Printing Group members

Rachel Baker 01904 468809

Michael Harran 01759 372215

Peter Stott 01904 468404

Fiona Le Masurier 01653 619368



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