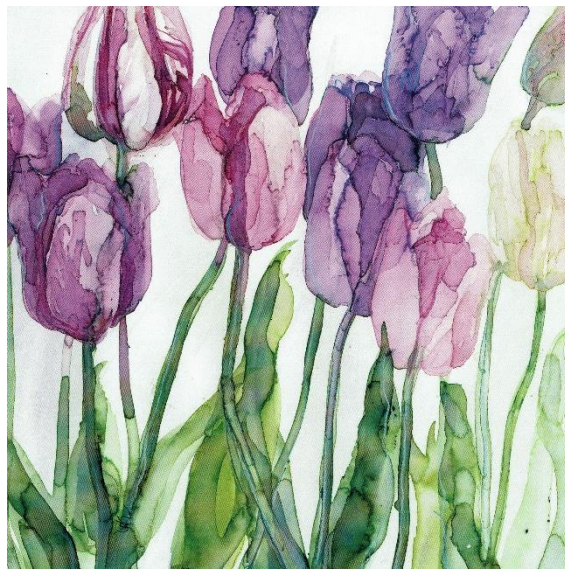


**The Benefice of Harton**

# The Circular



**Spring 2024**

**February March April**

*News and views in our benefice and communities*

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

The colour cover of this edition of The Circular  
is sponsored by Bossall, Buttercrambe and Howsham

The purple tulips watercolour painting on the cover is by Devon artist and designer Jessica Trotman. Her work is inspired by her love of nature and passion for gardens. She has a wide range of beautiful cards for sale on her website [www.jessicatrotman.co.uk](http://www.jessicatrotman.co.uk). Our thanks to Jessica for allowing us to reproduce this lovely image.

## *From Rev Nigel.....*

I can't believe it's ten months since I took up my post in the Harton Benefice. The time has flown by, an indicator that I have been nicely busy and enjoying myself.

Even after less than a year I have some wonderful anecdotes to store up for my memoirs. One I will share is the recent wedding, where I announced the first hymn and then there was silence. The church organ had suddenly stopped working. It turned out to not be all that bad as the wedding party and assembled congregation sang three hymns a capella, and nearly raised the roof. When I spoke to the couple after the service, they said that it was fine because they had a wonderful story to tell.

It is often the case that, when things go wrong, things that are out of our control, it turns out not being as bad as we first thought it could be. The worrying and loss of sleep have been pointless. I must add, the older I get the less I fret about things, probably because I can look back on lots of pointless worrying.

Of course, there will be times in our lives when things do go horribly wrong. It may be health issues, relationship problems, or when finances become difficult. For some people during these difficult periods, they may feel that they have no one to turn to. It is during these dark times that we can turn to Jesus and ask for support.

In Matthew's Gospel at chapter 11, verses 28 to 30 Jesus says:

*"Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."*

Sometimes, when I feel things are all getting a bit too much to bear, when I'm worn down with worry, when I feel I'm not coping well, I imagine that I am carrying a heavy bundle of sticks. The sticks represent all the different things I am having difficulties with. I prayerfully imagine standing in front of Jesus, and I drop the bundle at His feet and say, 'Lord, I can't carry this

anymore, please help me.' Just by doing that I feel that I have shared that burden, and I have a sense of relief.

One of the wonderful things about being a part of our Christian community in the Harton Benefice is that we share wonderful fellowship, and because of that we are all able to share our joys and our sorrows. There is always someone who will lend a good ear when it comes to talking about problems.

I hope that during 2024 you will experience few difficulties. But, if you do, it is worth remembering that there is truth in the old saying, 'A problem shared is a problem halved.' Do talk about your problems, don't suffer in silence and worry unnecessarily. Also, remember Jesus' invitation. He is always there to share your burden, as are we in the ten churches across the benefice.

*God bless you*  
*Rev Nigel*

## Services for the Benefice of Harton

Some services may be subject to change. Please check the website and WhatsApp group or ask a member of the clergy. Contact details are on the back of The Circular

**A Zoom service will be held on the first Sunday of every month at 9.00am. If you would like to join this service, please let Ian Lyall know and he will send you the link. [ian.lyall2@gmail.com](mailto:ian.lyall2@gmail.com)**

### February 2024

#### ***Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February***

10.00

Holy Communion

Crambe

#### ***Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February***

10.00

Midweek service

Sand Hutton

***Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February***

***Sunday before Lent***

10.00

Holy Communion

Buttercrambe

***Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February***

***Ash Wednesday***

6.00pm

Holy Communion  
Anointing with Ashes

Flaxton

***Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February***

***Lent 1***

10.00

Holy Communion

Foston

***Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February***

10.00

Midweek Service

Crambe

***Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> February***

***Lent 2***

10.00

Holy Communion

Sand Hutton

***Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February***

10.00

Midweek service

Bossall

## **March 2024**

***Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March***

***Lent 3***

10.00

Holy Communion

Flaxton

***Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March***

10.00

Midweek Service

Howsham

*Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March*

*Mothering Sunday*

10.00

Holy Communion

Sand Hutton

*Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March*

10.00

Midweek Service

Crambe

*Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March*

*Lent 5*

10.00

Holy Communion

Whitwell

*Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March*

10.00

Midweek Service

Bossall

*Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March*

*Palm Sunday*

10.00

Holy Communion

Upper Helmsley

*Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March*

*Maundy Thursday*

6.00

Holy Communion

Crambe

*Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March*

*Good Friday*

10.00

Holy Communion

Sand Hutton

*Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March*

*Easter Day*

10.00

Holy Communion

Gate Helmsley

## April 2024

### ***Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April***

10.00 Midweek Service Flaxton

### ***Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April***

***Easter 2***

10.00 Holy Communion Bossall

### ***Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April***

10.00 Midweek Service Sand Hutton

### ***Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April***

***Easter 3***

10.00 Holy Communion Upper Helmsley

### ***Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April***

10.00 Midweek Service Howsham

### ***Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April***

***Easter 4***

10.00 Holy Communion Crambe

### ***Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April***

10.00 Midweek Service Buttercrambe

### ***Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April***

***Easter 5***

10.00 Holy Communion Howsham

May 2024

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May**

10.00

Midweek Service

Sand Hutton

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May**

**Easter 6**

10.00

Holy Communion

Foston



**REV NIGEL, RACHAEL & THE  
MESSY TEAM INVITE YOU**

**TO COME & JOIN US AS WE EXPLORE  
THE MEANING OF PENTECOST AS THE  
DISCIPLES RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT;  
CRAFTS, GAMES, STORIES, QUIZZES.**

**Saturday 18th May 2.30 –4.30**

**Gate Helmsley Village Hall**

***(Please arrive promptly)***

***We end by sharing  
refreshments.***

***FOR ALL THE FAMILY TO ENJOY TOGETHER!***

***LOTS OF FUN!!!!***

For more information contact Rachael Harrison on 07847 329015

rachaelyouthharton@gmail.com



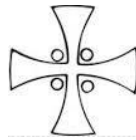


## Welcome to those newly baptised

7<sup>th</sup> January

Alfie Nick Bryant  
Toby William Bryant

Howsham  
Howsham

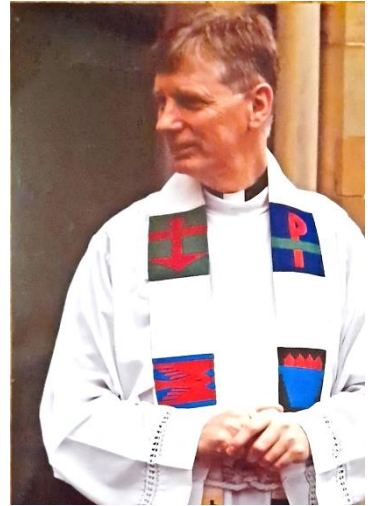


## Our condolences to the family and friends of

3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2023	John Martin Emmerson Beckwith	Whitwell
18 <sup>th</sup> July 2023	Gordon Hayton	Gate Helmsley
17 <sup>th</sup> November 2023	Jean Hayton	Gate Helmsley
<i>(Ashes interment for both the above on 8 Jan 2024)</i>		
14 <sup>th</sup> November 2023	Anne Metcalfe	
13 <sup>th</sup> November 2023	Nicholas (Nick) Magson	Sand Hutton
1 <sup>st</sup> January 2024	Richard (Dick) Leonard	Sand Hutton

## ***Reverend Ivan Howitt***

It is very sad to report the sudden death of Reverend Ivan Howitt at the age of 67. Ivan was our vicar in the Harton Benefice for three years from 2009 until his retirement in 2012. He had only been ill for a couple of months, so news of his untimely death was a great shock.



We send sincere sympathy to his widow, Valerie, and to their children Naomi, Sarah, Simeon and their families in their grief and loss. Ivan was very much a family man who loved spending time with his grandchildren.

Ivan was a very gentle, sensitive and spiritual person, friendly, modest and unassuming. As well as working as a parish priest he had given years of voluntary service to the Mission for Seafarers (as their chaplain in Hull) and several youth organisations, including Sea, Army and Air Cadets, Scouts and Guides.

He was passionate about his hobbies of bellringing and trains. Holidays were often based on these outside interests, and he had recently become enthused by caravanning. He had been planning more caravanning breaks in 2024 to revisit old haunts.

Ivan was born in Dorset and grew up in Hampshire, Nottinghamshire, Cardiff and Dover, where he met his future wife, Valerie. He studied Theology at Kent University.

The decade of the 1980s was an exciting and busy time for Valerie and Ivan, bringing many life changes. They were married in 1979 and their three children came along in 1982, 1984 and 1986. In the meantime, Ivan attended Theological College in Salisbury from 1983 to 1985.

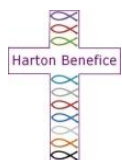
Ivan served curacies in Kent, before becoming Parish Priest and Rural Dean in Lincolnshire. There then followed a move as Vicar to Hedon in 2002, and a final move to the Harton Benefice and life in the Vicarage at Sand Hutton in 2009, until retirement in 2012. This was a crucial time for the Benefice, and Ivan led us successfully in the final stages of establishing Harton as a Joint Benefice.

On retirement, Ivan and Valerie settled in Barton-upon Humber. Ivan remained active with the Mission for Seafarers as Honorary Chaplain, was Pastor with the Army Cadets, and provided support within the local parish.

Ivan was admitted to hospital on 28<sup>th</sup> December and sadly died on 3<sup>rd</sup> January. He will be greatly missed. May he rest in peace.

There will be a family funeral for Ivan at the end of January.

**A memorial service, open to all, will be held at St Mary's Church Barton-on-Humber on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> February at 2.00 pm.**



## **Benefice PCC.....**

The Benefice PCC last met on 21<sup>st</sup> November.

The main discussion (some held in a closed part of the meeting) was the recruitment of a new incumbent. The PCC endorsed the document "Benefice Profile" which had already been approved by the York Diocese.

This document, produced within the PCC, will play a crucial part in attracting possible candidates for the post.

The PCC agreed the names of representatives (and reserves) for each of the 8 parishes. They would form part of the interview panel, with interviews set as a 2-day process on 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> February.

Another important discussion was on Safeguarding. Members of all PCCs have to meet new DBS requirements to have their status checked every 3 years (previously every 5 years). The Benefice is currently undertaking this review process. This is partly to be done online, followed by a check of identifying documents (passport, utility bills, etc) by the Benefice Lead for Safeguarding, Emma Goss.

The Benefice Lead for Children and Families, Rachael Harrison, reported on recent and forthcoming activities. The youth group, Aubergine Operations, marked the onset of autumn with apple picking and pressing. There were Messy Church sessions for Harvest and the Nativity. A Santa Lucia Service of Light was planned as a part of All Age Worship (AAW), and there would be a discussion about increasing the number of AAW services. A Christingle service was to be held in Foston church on Christmas Eve.

The BPC met on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2024. This meeting was followed by a short-listing meeting attended by the parish representatives. Let us hope and pray that there will be some suitable candidates to interview. The next meeting will be on 9<sup>th</sup> April. As usual, any agenda items for this meeting should be sent to the PCC Honorary Secretary, Ellen Stott.

***Delyth Harran***

***Lay Chairman***



***From Rachael Harrison  
Benefice Children and Youth Worker  
Children and Families update***

As I write this article we are in the very depths of winter and the temperature outside is well below freezing; but signs of spring aren't too far away. However, the days are definitely drawing out, and I was delighted to see that the daffodil bulbs that the Aubergines planted back in Autumn are now shooting through and, as always, the snowdrops aren't far behind.

It won't be long before the allotment at Upper Helmsley is back in business again and plans are underway for the coming growing season. In the meantime, however, the Aubergines keep themselves busy through the winter months with a variety of church-based activities.



In October after gathering the village's spare apples to be made into juice, they had a great session doing pumpkin carving. To commemorate the November armistice they decorated jars with war silhouettes which were really effective.

Then as we approached the Christmas season, we had fun making Christmas crafts.

Their homemade Advent calendars went down really well!

The group started again after a Christmas break on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> January with a very exciting Magic-Magi escape room in church!



***We are always pleased to welcome new members aged 11 upwards.***

In December we were delighted to be hosted by Charlotte and Jon Rooke at White Sykes Farm, Sand Hutton for our Messy Nativity event. This felt like a really special celebration and was well supported.

***As always, a massive 'Thank you' to the Messy team and 'on the day helpers' without whose help we couldn't run the event.***

Equally special and very well supported was the Christingle Service held on Christmas Eve at Foston church. How beautiful and festive it felt to be in the wonderful All Saints Church, with lots of families, grandparents and children, joining together with the local congregation. Well done to all involved at Foston!!!

Easter is just around the corner, with pancake day approaching fast, and the good news is that there will be Easter egg hunts in the churches so please do keep an eye on local notice boards, village WhatsApp groups, Facebook, the Benefice website and the spring newsletter for more information.

Look out for Messy Pentecost coming in May, where we are going to explore the message and meanings behind the Pentecost events.

Keep an eye on your local notice boards, village Facebook pages/WhatsApp groups, the newsletter and the Benefice website for more up to date information. If you haven't already joined the Harton Children & Families Facebook page, please do!



**UBERGINE OPERATIONS**

Are you aged between 11-16 and have an interest in the environment and making friends?  
Why don't you come along to our fortnightly sessions at Upper Helmsley allotment/church and see what we do?

- Support of the allotment at Upper Helmsley Church
- Greening activities e.g. recycling, environmental issues
- Running charity and fundraising events e.g. pop-up cafes, sales
- Meeting friends
- .....and you even get a free sweatshirt!!

Contact Rachael Harrison (07847 329015) or Katie Hopkins (07951 726412) for more information

The flyer includes a logo with a green mask and orange carrot, a list of activities, contact details, and several small photographs showing people at various events. A 'Harton Benefice' logo is also present in the top right corner.

[www.facebook.com/groups/hartonbenefice](http://www.facebook.com/groups/hartonbenefice)  
[rachaelyoutharton@gmail.com](mailto:rachaelyoutharton@gmail.com)



*from Sister Margaret Ann CSPH  
To my dear friends in the Benefice of Harton,  
New Year Greetings!*

*“For all that has been in 2023 THANKS and for all that will be in 2024 YES”*

How good it is to catch up with people over Christmas and the New Year. Out of the blue in the middle of last week, I heard from someone who I was at university with many years ago. What a lovely surprise that was, and to hear all her news both good and not so good. It brought memories flooding back! At the end of the letter, she gave me a verse which I have read and re-read several times, and it has helped me a lot during these past dark and extremely cold and dreary days. I would now like to share it with you all in the hopes that you too will be able to take comfort from it.

1Chronicles Ch 16 v 8

‘LOOK TO THE LORD AND HIS STRENGTH, SEEK HIS FACE ALWAYS’

‘There is a power beyond our power  
A hand that clasps our hand  
There is a strength beyond our strength  
And a heart that understands.  
There is a smile that warms our souls  
A calm assuring peace  
And of a mercy sent of God there is a  
Grace that cannot cease  
So in these weary trying days  
May it comfort you to know  
The Father guards our life with love  
And never lets us go’

It came on a beautiful card of early snowdrops, bringing us all the hope of new life in Him the incarnate God

*With my continual love and prayers for you all,*

*Margaret Ann  
+ CSPH*



## FORTHCOMING EVENTS AROUND THE BENEFICE.....

### Lent Lunches



We are pleased that three soup and cheese lunches have been organised for Lent. All your donations for the meal will be passed on to a local good cause. Thank you in advance to the hosts. Please do your best to support them; there's nothing worse than providing too much soup for too few diners!

#### Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February

at the Stepsons, The Pavilion, Howsham, YO60 7PH

#### Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March

at the Harrans, Orchard House, The Lane, Gate Helmsley, YO41 1JT

#### Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March

at the Bakers, Holderness House, Claxton. YO60 7SD

**All the lunches will be from 12.30 pm to 2.00 pm.**

## What's on at Howsham Hall



More info & to book: [www.dine.co.uk/venues/public-events/](http://www.dine.co.uk/venues/public-events/)

[www.dine.co.uk](http://www.dine.co.uk) | 0345 450 4545

Part of the Dine Group  
making every event special since 1998



## ***The Lunch Club.....***

Next lunch date at the new Derwent is **Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March** 12.00 for 12.30  
Please let Adrian know if you would like to attend.

**Tel: 07870 591142**

***Adrian and Jezz***

## ***Sheriff Hutton Monthly Market***

With over 50 stalls, the monthly market boasts an array of artisan stalls including fruit, veg, fish, bread, bakeries, cheese, charcuterie, ice cream, sweets and chocolate, plants, haberdashery, interiors, pet food and treats, gifts, art, laundry/other refillables, and so much more. The fantastic cafe is hosted by a different village group each month and provides an outdoor dog friendly zone.

So, why not support a local, thriving market that only welcomes small, independent and local businesses to trade? Meet your friends at the cafe and relax over coffee and cake. Dogs are welcome outside.

**In 2023 we raised over £10,000 for the local community and hope to replicate this in 2024.**

**Our dates for 2024 are Sunday's 10.30am - 1.30pm:**

17 Mar, 21 Apr, 19 May, 23 Jun, 21 Jul, 11 Aug, 15 Sep, 20 Oct, 17 Nov, 15 Dec.

**Meanwhile, do follow us on Facebook or via our website [www.shvm.co.uk](http://www.shvm.co.uk) for regular updates**



*New Year : new challenge?*

*For the attention of pianists, keyboard players etc....*

*Have you ever considered finding out more  
about playing a pipe organ?*



*then come along and give it a try.  
this invitation is open to anyone of any age.*

If you have existing keyboard skills (Grade 4 and above would be ideal, but not essential) and would like to find out what it's like to play "The king of instruments" and fill a large building with sound...or you may have wondered what all those "stops" are for.....or find out if you can play music with your feet(!) .....

If you need a little inspiration, try typing: Anna Lapwood organist, BBC Breakfast 29923 into your browser.

**Please get in touch and find out more. Contact : Peter Stott  
Email : [petermstott@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:petermstott@yahoo.co.uk) Tel : 01904 468404**

## ***Happy New Year from the AMEN team.***

In December we were so pleased to be able to send out 2956 shoeboxes to our Romanian partners along with four pallets of other items such as blankets and baby equipment. A team of seven volunteers (including Amen Trustees Chris, Sharon and Simon) spent nine days in Romania helping to distribute the boxes and minister alongside the partners.

Thank you for all your hard work collecting boxes, donating funds and praying for their transportation and delivery. You can find pictures and more about the Trust on their website:

<https://www.amentrust.co.uk/relieving-poverty/romanian-shoebox-appeal/>

**Best Wishes for 2024**

**Janet**

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

### ***BARTON LE WILLOWS***



The Village Hall Committee held a successful Pop-up Pub on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December. It was attended by people from as far away as Malton, (so news had got out!). The Pub is run completely voluntarily and all profits raised go towards the maintenance and improvements to the hall. A popular raffle raised nearly £100 from donations made by so many, so thank you very much to all who contributed.

We also tried a few 'new' drinks with shots of both gin and whisky added to the list of beers, lagers, ciders, Prosecco and red and white wines as well as soft drinks. The hall had been decorated with a Christmas theme, with lights, candles, greenery and a Christmas tree, and looked very inviting.

Everyone had a great time and we are hoping to run another one in March with a St. Patrick's Day theme, so look out for the announcements!

The hall is a great facility and can be hired for private functions as well as public ones. It is one of only a few village halls with a gated garden too. Please contact Anne at [paulrandannel@btinternet.com](mailto:paulrandannel@btinternet.com) or on the Village Hall website if you would be interested in hiring it.

## BOSSALL

November and December are traditionally fairly busy months for St Botolph's, where we host two important services on Remembrance Sunday and Christmas Eve, as well as the first Sunday in Advent. It is always rewarding to see such a full church on these key occasions in our calendar, bringing together some who may not otherwise attend regular worship events.

The Remembrance service is particularly poignant, and much effort was taken this year to dress St Botolph's appropriately, including the installation of the wonderful display of knitted poppies adorning the altar and in the beautiful display of fresh flowers, including an abundance of poppies. Our sincere thanks to Rachel Baker for her help and enthusiasm with the former. The choir also performed two stunning pieces of music, and we had the customary roll of honour for those from the Harton Benefice who lost their lives in war. This long list of names, many from the same family, never ceases to move me and, I know, many who attend.



The Midnight Mass service also saw another excellent turn out, despite the late hour on a rather cold and dank sort of evening. We enjoyed the service by candlelight, for most of the time, and with Christmas tree, crib and all the candles, it made for a stunning and atmospheric spiritual gathering to celebrate the birth of our Christ Child, particularly as on this occasion we were all still in attendance when the church clock struck midnight.

In other news, we continue to grapple with how the repair works to the fabric of the church will be funded, having recently been back out to a tendering process and identified a cost liability of some £150,000 to manage the obligations set out within the quinquennial. Thanks go to Ellen Stott for her continued efforts in assisting us with preparation of grant applications etc.

Smaller repairs and maintenance issues we require assistance with, if anyone is willing to volunteer, include mole catching and churchyard grass and vegetation clearance. On the former, we seem to have a recent influx of moles in the graveyard, so if there is anyone in the Benefice who has a knack

and ability to deal with these little fellas, it would be great to hear from you and we would appreciate some assistance. On the latter, we usually have the churchyard grass cut back in late summer, as it is deliberately left to harbour wildlife as part of the churchyard rewilding scheme. It is quite a significant job, taking several folk a couple of day's work. For many years we have been very fortunate to have the services of Peter Scott and his team of volunteers from Moorswork. Sadly last year (Summer 2022) Peter ended up doing much of this himself as the youth volunteers are no longer available and/or able to assist, but understandably given his age (80 plus) he has advised us that he is unable to continue. Hence the work was not carried out in late 2023. We will need to rectify this in early spring, so we can tidy the graveyard up ahead of new growth coming through. It is envisaged we will need to put in place a working party for a day, with strimmers, rakes and hedge cutters. So if anyone wishes to put themselves forward for a decent day's labouring, we would be delighted to hear from you. Please contact: Christopher Fordy 07809 202300 or christopherfordy@fordymarshall.com

## **BUTTERCRAMBE**

It was lovely to see St John's Church full for the Harvest Festival service at the end of October and thank you to Rachel Benson and Ian Lyall for taking the service. We had 58 in the church and most of them came back to Aldby Park for lunch afterwards. It was a wonderful occasion where everyone enjoyed a very good lunch, and those that lingered at the end enjoyed a tasting from the Ellers Farm Distillery liqueur range!

Very generous donations of £500 were split equally between Next Steps, a mental health charity in Ryedale and the church.

## **CRAMBE**

Crambe has had quite a busy time over the last three months, we have hosted five services of which two have been celebration services.

On **November 2<sup>nd</sup> it was The Festival of Lilies and Light**, at which we remembered those who we have loved and lost. With over sixty lilies of remembrance arranged around the church along with many candles it was a wonderful atmosphere. Our thanks to The Benefice Choir and Peter and

Ellen Stott who supported the congregational singing and sang a beautiful and moving anthem.

**On December 18<sup>th</sup> we held our Celebration of Christmas by Candlelight.** Once again, the church was packed with over 110 people both from within and without the benefice. It was good to see a large number of young people attending.

The church as ever looked stunning in the candlelight. Many thanks to all those who helped to decorate the church, and to Fred Strickland for his generous gift of the Christmas Tree.

The service was taken by Rachel Benson. We were delighted to welcome back the 200 Singers from York who sang some lovely less-heard Christmas anthems. A big thank you to Peter Stott who once again played the organ for us, and to Rachel, and the 200 Singers. Sam Cook stole the show with his rendition of 'The Mouse Carol' - an excerpt from Wind in the Willows. His characterisation of Ratty, Mole and the mouse carol singers brought the house down!

On a more mundane front, we have now been granted the Faculty to put in a French drain on the North and South elevations of the nave. This essential work needs doing before we can set about improving the access for wheelchairs. A huge thank you to Ellen Stott for steering us through the minefield that is a Faculty application; without her help it wouldn't be happening!!

Despite the cold snap we are currently experiencing we are now looking forward to seeing the result of the great endeavour in the Autumn, of Team Crambe, led by Paula, when they planted over 900 spring bulbs. It should be stunning!

## **FLAXTON**

*Wishing everyone a Happy and Healthy 2024.*

**Fund Raiser:** Our joint fundraising event on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November at the Sheriff Hutton Sunday Market was very successful. Our grateful thanks to those who kindly donated cakes and came along in support. Each church,

Flaxton, Sheriff Hutton and Marton received just over £250 for funds. We have been invited to share in this venture again in December.



**Salvation Army Appeal and Service:** A huge thank you to everyone who gave so generously again to the Salvation Army Christmas Appeal. As ever the Salvation Army were delighted to receive the goods. A letter of thanks is displayed on the church notice boards, inside and outside, church. Bit late in taking the photo. The area in front

of the altar was very full.

Thanks also go to the children who helped during the service to set the Holy Family, the Shepherds and Kings on their journey to Bethlehem.

**Nine Lessons and Carols:** There were over seventy in attendance at the service. Thank you to all the readers, and to Juliet and the Flaxton Singers for their support and leadership with the music, and for providing the mulled wine and refreshments following the service.

**Decoration of the church:** Thank you to those who kindly gave their time to clean and decorate the church for the festive period. Much appreciated at a busy time.

**Going forward in 2024.** The Parochial Church Council (PCC) are in need of more help to organise fundraising events, maintenance work etc. If you can help, even if it's for a one-off occasion, please share your ideas with a member of the PCC. Thank you in anticipation.

## **FOSTON**

Well, for a small church and even smaller PCC, we've been keeping very busy!

Our Quiz and Curry night in early December was a great success. Well attended, and as always very entertaining. A big thanks to Peter and Sally Mills for making the event possible, and a special thank you to Sally for stepping up as Quiz master at the last minute.

On Christmas Eve our church hosted a Christingle/crib service. It was wonderful and very well attended by lots of very excited children. It was a very special occasion.

As we head into a new year we are looking for new members to join our PCC. There are many different ways in which people could help and support our church. Churchwardens, Secretary, Treasurer are some of the voluntary roles available. If our community would like to maintain the presence of the church within the villages, all support and help would be very much appreciated. We currently have a small PCC and would love to welcome new ideas and members.

If you are interested, and would like to find out more please contact:  
Karen Armitstead on 01653 619964 or Linda Fothergill on 01904 468760  
We look forward to hearing from you.

Wishing everyone our best wishes,  
*All Saints, Foston*

## **GATE HELMSLEY**

A Happy New Year to everyone. We've had a busy and successful Christmas season in Gate Helmsley.

We held three significant events in November, starting on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> when the church hosted a service to bless the – more than 150 - Christmas shoe boxes before their journey to Romania.



At the annual Santa Lucia Service of Light in the village hall on 19<sup>th</sup> November, children and families made beautiful lighthouses to symbolise the Light of Christ. Thank you to Nigel Benson and Rachael Harrison who planned and led this service.

The third event was held in the village hall on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November, organised by Anna Sawkins. Chris Cade gave a wonderful performance as “Olaf the Skald”. As well as being very entertaining, it was educational in terms of local Viking history, and sometimes gory and rather scary. Afterwards we enjoyed a tasty pie and pea supper, donated by Anna, washed down with drinks from the pop-up bar. Thanks to Anna and to Dan and Claire Sykes for their generosity.

Into December the Christmas Fayre on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> was extended online again this year and raised a considerable sum for the church. Thank you for your support and generosity to everyone who donated to this fundraiser. Special thanks go to those who helped with the baking. People have told us how much they enjoyed the cakes.

We had the annual village carols in church on 9<sup>th</sup> December. Despite the foul weather there was a very good attendance, with everyone in fine voice. The children enjoyed helping Sister Margaret Ann set up the Christmas crib in the chancel. Donations were given to a local charity which provides assistance dogs for people with hearing difficulties. The singers' hard work was rewarded with light refreshments afterwards. Thank you, Sister, for being part of this event once again.

We are grateful to Reverend Rachel Benson who joined us at St Mary's on Christmas morning and led a service of Holy Communion in what was again a full church. Mince pies and mulled wine were enjoyed after the service.

The church was full for the benefice service on 28<sup>th</sup> January and the choir, ever growing in numbers, led the congregational singing. During communion they sang a lovely hymn, written by Dot Mills and set to music by Peter Stott. St Mary's will host the Easter Day benefice service on 31<sup>st</sup> March. One wedding and one baptism are also planned.

On a sad note, a service was held in St Mary's churchyard on 8<sup>th</sup> January to inter the ashes of both Jean and Gordon Hayton, who had lived and farmed in Gate Helmsley for many years. Jean's death was in 2019, Gordon's only last year. We send deepest sympathy to Jane, Sarah and all the family in their loss.

As a benefice, we are in the middle of the recruitment process for a new vicar. Interviews are set for 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> February, so, as they say, watch this space.

## **HOWSHAM**

The Christmas cake stall at York Auction Centre was a great success – thanks to all who helped.

We had a well-attended carol service led by Sister Margaret Ann with lovely singing by the soloists and a good group of children. About forty people came down to the Great Barn for mulled wine and mince pies afterwards.



Reverend Rachel baptised Alfie and Toby Bryant on January 7<sup>th</sup>.

The Coronation Oak tree is back in place at the bottom of the village.

We have had the electricity checked in church and installed new fire extinguishers but we still have the tree work and boundary walls to repair.

**Our next fundraising event will be the Bank Holiday cake stall on the bridge on Monday May 6<sup>th</sup> – do join us.**

## ***SAND HUTTON and CLAXTON***

Where did those last 3 months go? We trust that you had joyous and peaceful Christmas and New Year celebrations, catching up with family and friends.

A huge thank you to Rosy Miers and the 'Gifts for Christmas' team for their preparation and hard work throughout the year, culminating in the annual event in November which, this year, raised an amazing £2,715 for church funds. We also wish to thank those who gave their time and helped on the day. A fantastic fundraiser and a lovely social occasion.

Thanks must also go to Ellen and Peter Stott who, with the Benefice choir, set the scene for the Advent season with an excellent carol service.

Sand Hutton school used St Mary's for two excellent nativity performances, both of which were very well supported by families and friends.

We work hard to maintain our beautiful church and churchyard. Towards the end of 2023 a small team spent several hours clearing the driveway of a mountain of leaves, conkers etc – rather backbreaking but satisfying. General cleaning, tidying and mowing go on throughout the year. We really do appreciate those who undertake these jobs for the benefit of all. If you feel you have skills to share, we would be very happy to welcome you.

Although 2024 started with flooding in so many places, we have enjoyed some lovely sunshine over recent days, albeit with arctic temperatures!

We were very sad to hear of the passing of two of our neighbours in Claxton. We extend our deepest sympathy to the families of Nick Magson and Dick Leonard as they grieve the loss of their loved ones.

Rachel Tennant decided recently to move into residential living. It was sad to see her leave the village after 38 years but we wish her every happiness in

her new surroundings. No doubt we will still see her around. She said she was looking forward to not cooking any more meals!

## **UPPER HELMSLEY**

We are looking forward to the new seasonal activities at the allotment. St Peter's is welcoming quite a few visitors and they are enjoying the comfy seating area while they have a cup of tea. We will plan a village day when we hope to get a group together to clean up the churchyard. Phil has made a notice board and this is now in place. See you all soon.

## **WHITWELL**

There was a wonderful memorial service on 14<sup>th</sup> November for Dermot Gray with over sixty people in the church. It was lovely to see a full church, with robust singing to celebrate the life of a much loved and respected man. Once again, our thanks to Rachel Benson for taking the service and to Peter Stott for the music.

Our handrails are now installed. Joe Cook from Crambe has done a great job, both with design, and installation.



The carol singing in December was really fun! We started at the bungalows and moved up the village street, gaining confidence with each carol and gathering some children along the way. It was a lovely way to get into the spirit of Christmas. Luckily the rain held off for once and we ended up in the church for refreshments afterwards. We will definitely be singing again next year and hopefully will recruit a few more followers.

We are buying a picnic table for the churchyard for everyone to enjoy, particularly all the walkers we get through the village who always stop for refreshments and gather near the church. This will be bought in memory of Wendy Holman who always read so beautifully in church and whose estate so kindly donated money to Whitwell.

We wish you all a happy and prosperous 2024 from Whitwell on the Hill.

## **NEWS FROM OUR SCHOOLS.....**



### ***Sand Hutton C of E Primary School***

Happy New Year from all of us at Sand Hutton C of E Primary School!

We are delighted to have returned after a restful Christmas break. We have so many plans for this term and we are looking forward to sharing some of these with you.

We are really excited to have re-introduced Talking Tuesdays to our timetable and this means welcoming parents and younger siblings at lunchtime on Tuesdays to chat over their meal. We are also excited to be able to share the fact that we will be offering a small number of nursery places to our setting after Easter. This is something new we can offer our community.

As is always the case in schools, we are looking ahead to the next thing and we already have Easter in our minds. To prepare for our Easter Service, we will be supported by YoYo.

The children enjoy these sessions and we are able to use some of the drama they will be delivering to enhance our worship. Our Easter Service will take place on March 21<sup>st</sup> and although there isn't a time yet, I am sure that you will be welcome to attend and so please look out for notice of the service in other communications. Please remember we do have a Twitter or an X page and you are welcome to follow us and share our adventures.

As I have mentioned before, there is a clothing bin for recycling clothes and other household items such as shoes and bags, in our school car park. If you are planning a Spring Clean, please consider us as a charity of choice to take unwanted items. The bin generates funds and these enrich the experiences for our children in school. We are very grateful for this and pleased that our PTA supplements these funds with money generated by their continued efforts to support our school. The highlight of this is the Christmas Fair.

This year we enjoyed another fabulous evening and Father Christmas was to be found in his grotto at the end of a long, twinkly lit and candy cane laden trail through the woodland. Completely magical!

Wishing you Happy New Year from us all again!

Beverley Pawson

Headteacher

Sand Hutton and Warthill Federated School



## *Foston C of E Primary School*

We would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year from all the staff and pupils at Foston Primary School.

Christmas is a very busy time of year in school and in December we enjoyed delivering our Nativity and Carol Service to the parents and community members. We loved singing at the Community Christmas Lunch at Thorton-Le-Clay Village Hall. The children also went to the Railway Museum, attended a Dodgeball Tournament and planted some bulbs in the village to commemorate King Charles' Coronation.

We have been exploring the use of QR codes and would like to share with you a detailed diary from the perspective of the Golden Fish written by one of our Year 3 pupils. Hope you enjoy!



January is not a quiet month for us as the children will be debating on our new school charity. Please let us know if there are any charities which are close to the hearts of our community members that the children could explore further.



We are now settled into our new classroom for the youngest members of our school. We can't believe what a busy and vibrant place Foston School has become and now have sixty-five children on roll, and

nearing maximum capacity. We look forward to showing potential parents around our school and nursery. Please ring to book a visit. Keep your eyes peeled for the launch of our new school website which we are very excited about!

Miss Katie Stringer Head of Foston CE and Stillington Primary Schools



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