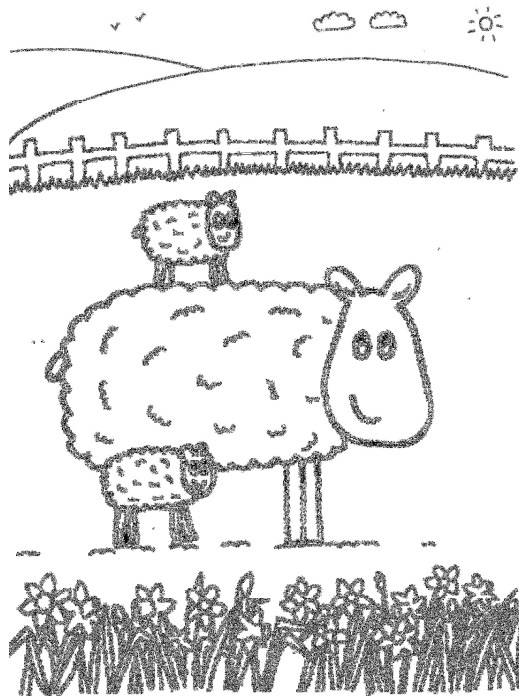


Sand Hutton & Whitwell Group of Parishes

The Circular



Spring edition 2012

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

The Circular

A New Year note from the editor

I have now been editing the Circular for just over a year. It has at times been challenging and maddening, but most importantly great fun. I have learned a great deal about our Benefices and all the people in it who work so hard for their communities and churches. Getting to know familiar faces better and meeting new people has been a lovely and unexpected spin off.

The biggest change over the past twelve months has been the acquisition of the (now infamous!) benefice printer. Like the curate's egg it has been good in parts. The good bit has been that we can now produce the magazine 'in house' saving a great deal of money over the year, and being able to offer a limited printing service to others. The bad bit has been the increasing number of breakdowns. The 'beast' lives in the vestry of St Mary's church, Sand Hutton. We were told that the main cause of our troubles was 'the environment'. After numerous visits from engineers, and having tested the environment for damp, temperature etc. ourselves (with a special gadget!) we are satisfied that it is in a suitable place and should function perfectly well. Let's hope that it has turned over a new leaf in this New Year and that printing becomes a breeze not a nightmare!

Apart from the editing process, the printing of the Circular takes around two and a half days, barring visits from engineers, paper jams etc. This is carried out by our team of four. Rachel Baker keeps us going with tea, coffee and delicious biscuits and the vigil is frequently accompanied by music played on the organ by Peter Stott and Michael Harran. As the folded, stapled copies of the Circular are slowly churned out by the machine; Rachel counts them into piles for distribution and deals with the postal ones.



Part of the process involves flattening them by putting them under a heap of ancient heavy Bibles which live in the church. We have even, on occasion, enlisted Michael to sit on them to ensure that you receive a crisp, perfectly folded copy!

The Circular is essentially your magazine. It can only exist if you contribute to it. Let us have your news, stories and views so that it can truly reflect the readership it serves. All suggestions for changes or improvements are welcome.

Guide to submitting items for inclusion in The Circular

The Circular is printed quarterly and distributed around the area covered by the Benefices of Sand Hutton and Whitwell. This includes 14 villages and about 1000 copies per quarter. It is a stapled A5 booklet of 32 - 40 pages printed in black and white.

The Circular includes a schedule of church services in the Benefices. There is news from the villages and churches in the group and local primary schools. We welcome information about recent and forthcoming events and items of interest from our villages.

Copy for **The Circular** should preferably be submitted to the editor electronically, as a Word or Text document and/or JPEG picture. Hard (printed) copy can also be accepted. All colour photographs will be reproduced in black and white, reduced in size to fit the page format.

The editor may alter layout of your copy so that articles fit the page, but will not be responsible for the accuracy of the content – please check your copy carefully before submission.

Please send copy to the editor as early as possible before the deadline in case it is necessary to contact you to discuss any alterations that might be needed.

Fiona Le Masurier email: churchmouse@yorlocal.com Tel: 01653 619368

Advertisements:

The Circular advertisements can be full, half or quarter page.

Please send your advert in electronic form if possible. Font sizes will be adjusted to suit the layout; if you have designed an advertisement in colour it would be helpful if a black and white version is submitted.

A design service for advertisements is available free of charge upon submission of information for inclusion. The advertiser will be sent a draft copy for comment or alteration.

All advertisers receive a copy of **The Circular**.

Please note that deadlines for all submissions are printed on the back of

The Circular. Where items are submitted after that date (unless by prior arrangement) it may not be possible to include them.

Should you need advice about an item you would like included, including prices, please do not hesitate to contact the editor.

For general printing enquiries you may also contact

Michael Harran	email: mj@mharran.freeserve.co.uk	Tel: 01759 372215
Peter Stott	email: peterstott@yahoo.co.uk	Tel: 01904 468404
Rachel Baker	email: gnrfastline@btinternet.com	Tel: 01904468809

Services for the Sand Hutton and Whitwell Benefices

MONDAYS – there will be a short service of Morning Prayer every Monday at 8.30 a.m. in St Mary Sand Hutton. All are welcome to come along

February 2012

Wed 1st Feb – 10a.m. Holy Communion **Whitwell**

<i>Sunday 5th February</i>	<i>3rd before Lent</i>
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10.30	Benefice Eucharist	Sand Hutton
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Wed 8th Feb – 10a.m. Holy Communion **Upper Helmsley**

<i>Sunday 12th February</i>	<i>2nd before Lent</i>
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9.00	Holy Communion	Bossall
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10.30	Morning Prayer	Gate Helmsley
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10.30	Holy Communion	Crambe
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10.30	Family Service	Flaxton
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Wed 15th Feb – 10a.m. Holy Communion **Foston**

<i>Sunday 19th February</i>	<i>Sunday before Lent</i>
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10.30	Benefice Eucharist	Howsham
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Ash Wed 22nd Feb – 7.0 p.m. Holy Communion **Crambe**

<i>Sunday 26th February</i>	<i>Lent 1</i>
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9.00	Holy Communion	Whitwell
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9.00	Holy Communion	Upper Helmsley
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10.30	Morning Prayer	Foston
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6.30	Lent Study	Flaxton
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Wed 29th Feb – 10a.m. Holy Communion **Sand Hutton**

March 2012

<i>Sunday 4th March</i>	<i>Lent 2</i>
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10.30	Benefice Eucharist	Buttercrambe
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6.30	Lent Study	Bossall
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Wed 7th March – 10a.m. Holy Communion **Gate Helmsley**

<i>Sunday 11th March</i>		<i>Lent 3</i>
9.00	Holy Communion	Bossall
10.30	Morning Service and Baptism	Crambe
10.30	Holy Communion	Sand Hutton
6.30	Lent Study	Howsham
Wed 14th March – 10a.m. Holy Communion		Buttercrambe

<i>Sunday 18th March</i>		<i>Lent 4/ Mothering Sunday</i>
10.30	Benefice Family Communion	Flaxton
6.30	Lent Study	Gate Helmsley
Wed 21st March – 10a.m. Holy Communion		Howsham

<i>Sunday 25th March</i>		<i>Lent 5</i>	<i>Clocks go Forward</i>
9.00	Holy Communion		Whitwell
9.00	Holy Communion		Upper Helmsley
10.30	Holy Communion		Foston
10.30	Family Communion and Baptism		Gate Helmsley
6.30	Lent Study		Sand Hutton
Wed 28th March – 10a.m. Holy Communion			Sand Hutton

April 2012

<i>Sunday 1st April</i>		<i>Palm Sunday</i>
10.30	Benefice Eucharist with Procession	Upper Helmsley

HOLY WEEK

Mon 2nd April	- 7pm Night Prayer & Meditation	Gate Helmsley
Tue 3rd April	- 7pm Night Prayer & Meditation	Gate Helmsley
Wed 4th April	- 10am Holy Communion	Flaxton
	- 7pm Night Prayer & Meditation	Gate Helmsley
Maundy Thursday 5th April 7pm	– Holy Communion	Howsham
Good Friday 6th April	– 10.30am Children's Workshop	Foston
	- 2.00pm An Hour at the Cross	Sand Hutton

<i>EASTER Sunday 8th April</i>		
10.30	Benefice Confirmation <i>With the Bishop of Selby</i>	Bossall
Wed 11th April – 10a.m. Holy Communion		Upper Helmsley

<i>Sunday 15th April</i>		<i>Easter 2</i>
9.00	Holy Communion	Whitwell
10.30	Family Communion	Flaxton
10.30	Holy Communion	Sand Hutton
Wed 18th April – 10a.m. Holy Communion		Bossall
<i>Sunday 22nd April</i>		<i>Easter 3</i>
9.00	Holy Communion	Buttercrambe
10.30	Holy Communion	Crambe
10.30	Holy Communion	Foston
Wed 25th April – 10a.m. Holy Communion		Whitwell
<i>Sunday 29th April</i>		<i>Easter 4</i>
10.30	Benefice Eucharist	Gate Helmsley
Wed 2nd May – 10a.m. Holy Communion		Foston
<i>Sunday 6th May</i>		<i>Easter 5</i>
10.30	Benefice Eucharist	Whitwell



On Easter Day 8th April 2012

there will be a Benefice Service of
Confirmation and Holy Communion
at St Botolph's Church, Bossall

led by the Bishop of Selby, Rt. Revd. Martin Wallace.

We are delighted to be welcoming our Bishop, Martin Wallace, to our Easter Celebration Service. During the service the Bishop will be taking Baptism and Confirmation as well as bringing alive the Easter message for us!

Confirmation is when someone wants to 'confirm' the promises made on their behalf by godparents at their christening/baptism.

TAPESTRY

The Benefice study group will meet 7.30 p.m. at The Vicarage on:

Tuesday 7th February
Tuesday 6th March
Tuesday 10th April
Tuesday 1st May

You are welcome to come along.

BENEFICE LENT REFLECTION

The format for Sunday evenings will be different this year. The venue will rotate around five of the group churches, and the time together will be of singing, readings, meditations and music. All these things are to help us along the way during our Lenten journey.

Each session will begin at 6.30 p.m.

Children's Workshop

Foston All Saints – Good Friday 10.30 a.m.



This will be different to previous years in that we will be moving around the church building learning about the events of Good Friday 2000 years ago. Interaction will be an important part of the time together. Children are invited to bring a 'cushion' with them which will help with comfort! **This event is of course for adults as well – cushions optional!!**



LENT LUNCHES

Lunches will be held in the following homes
between 12.30 p.m. – 2 p.m.

Thu. March 1 st	Mike & Fiona Le Masurier, Crambe
Wed. March 7 th	William & Rosie Miers, Sand Hutton
Thu. March 15 th	Wendy Holman, Thornton-le-Clay
Thu. March 22 nd	Dick Garnons-Williams, Gate Helmsley
Fri. March 30 th	Graham and Rachel Baker, Claxton

All donations will be sent to The Camphill Village Trust at Botton



BENEFICE HANDBELLS

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

BENEFICE COUNCIL

On Tuesday 31st January 2012 7.30pm at Gate Helmsley Village Hall, there will be an OPEN meeting for all from the Benefices congregations to come and meet the Rural Dean and Deanery Lay Chair.

They are coming along to discuss the future shape of 'the Church' in our group as well as the wider Deanery. The Church faces serious financial issues and a strategy is needed to cope with less money, small congregations, and expensive underused buildings? A discussion paper is available to those who are interested, please ask Ivan for one. 01904 468844

Greetings from the Vicarage

Do you enjoy living in a North Yorkshire Village?

The God given beauty of this area in spring time is really amazing; we are blessed in so many ways like this!

We are all in or part of a small village and it is probably a place of history and tradition. A place that has seen the journey of many residents throughout the years; a place that has depended upon the folk of the village to enable its continued functioning!

Many may well not be aware of the dedicated villagers who give time, money and commitment to their community. Vital functions that folk could be blissfully unaware of! Community facilities such as village halls – with small committees seeking funding for upkeep, development and usage; Parish Councils with legal duties and responsibilities for all things communal including footpaths, signs, lighting. Our schools rely upon local people to support them in their role, helping with children's reading, fundraising for special projects, serving on the governing body! Church folk who look after ancient listed buildings with little resources to do so, giving much of themselves to ensure that the village church remains open and available to those who want and need it! In all the above there will be numerous other things that people do!

What about the numerous groups? WI's, gardening clubs, toddler groups etc. etc. etc.!

These dedicated people 'oil' the cogs of village life, and I thank God for them! Our communities are a wonderful collection of diverse and amazing people and it is right that their important and valuable role is recognised from time to time. We would certainly miss them if they weren't there!!

Thank you one and all for the contribution you give in making life in these communities so wonderful.

Many blessings

Ivan Howitt





Our condolences to the families and friends of

19 th October	Joan Margaret Roberts	aged 86	Leeds/Whitwell
11 th November	Judith Wheway	aged 75	Claxton
12 th December	Michael John Pilgrim	aged 67	Thornton Le Clay
25 th December	Mildred Thompson	aged 93	Crambe

We commend them into God's gracious keeping



Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal 2011

Having just banked the final cheque for the 2011 Poppy Appeal, I can now give you details of the totals raised in this area. Once again the totals raised were amazing, especially so in these times of financial hardship. I guess this reflects everyone's thoughts for those brave men and women who have been injured or died for our country and those still in war zones defending the oppressed.

The collection for the Poppy Appeal at the Remembrance Day Service in November raised £323.00. added to the totals raised in local villages, the final amount is £2669.18.

Many thanks to all who sold and bought poppies.

If anyone is interested in helping with the 2012 collection, please do get in touch with me, Fiona Davies, on (01904) 468001. I'd also love to hear from you if your village doesn't currently have a 'Poppy lady or man' to carry out a door to door collection.

GREEN FINGERS GARDENING CLUB

The Green Finger Tips Gardening club will start their meetings in February with the first one being held

at Sand Hutton village hall, all events start at 7.30pm.

**Thursday February 2nd
"Attract birds to your garden"**

Barry Bishop from the RSPB will encourage a variety of thrushes and finches to join our resident garden birds and also take us through the wild bird calendar.

Make sure you ask all those questions that will bring the birds flocking to your feeders.

**March 1st
"Making the most of perennials"**

Alistair Taylor will guide us with an illustrated talk. Are your plants performing well and giving you a show of flowers to be proud of? Alistair's your man; bring your photos or your questions - or both!

**April 5th
"How to Grow & Show Vegetables"**

Adrian Reed will tell us how it should be done! It is one thing growing that perfect specimen but which bits do you cut off and how do you dress an onion for showing. All will become clear, allowing us to show off our village show entry.

If you want to have a programme of events then please follow the link where you can download and print them out.

<http://photoreflexions.co.uk/green-finger-tips-gardening-club/programme-of-events-2012/>

THE CLAXTON AND SANDHUTTON HERITAGE GROUP

are proud to present another evening of entertainment

**from the Yorkshire Film Archive
Wednesday 14th March 2012
at the Village Hall in Sand Hutton.**

The evening starts promptly at 7.30 with a short interval
when ice cream will be on sale.

Tickets are available from Fiona Davies, (01904) 468001.
Adults £3. Children £1.

**Don't miss this rare opportunity to see footage of fascinating, funny and
poignant short films, some from over 100 years ago.**

Book now - don't be disappointed!

GATE & UPPER HELMSLEY VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

INVITE YOU TO DANCE TO THE MUSIC OF

PURPLE MOODS

Elvis Presley impersonator and a disco

SATURDAY

21 APRIL

7.30 PM – 11.30 PM

TICKETS £10. ADULTS

**INCLUDES TWO COURSE SUPPER
(BRING YOUR OWN DRINKS - GLASSES PROVIDED)**

available from

DEBBIE 01759 372558 and LORRAINE 01759 373052

PARKING IN THE VILLAGE HALL CAR PARK



calling all bookworms!

from

THURSDAY 1st MARCH

at

St Michael's Church, Crambe

there will be a wide selection of books
available for you to borrow

all we ask is that you return the book once read
or if you wish to keep it, donate another book in its place

THIS SERVICE IS OPEN TO EVERYONE!

**The church is open seven days a week during daylight hours
come and browse and find yourself a good read!**

If you have any spare books of recent publication and in good condition which you would be willing to donate they can be left either in the church or with Fiona at Crambe House,
for more information contact Fiona 01653 619368
or email churchmouse@yorlocal.com

Barton Le Willows Village Hall

Come and join us at the

BOOK SWAP CLUB

MEET YOUR FRIENDS ♦ HAVE A CHAT ♦ SWAP BOOKS AND MAGAZINES



If you have any books or magazines
you would like to swap
please bring them along
Everyone welcome!



**2nd and 4th Friday of each month
from 2.0 p.m. – 3.0 p.m.**

there are also DVDs available to hire at £1 per copy
tea and coffee 50p

**for more information please contact
Espie 01653 619358**

COFFEE MORNING.

Please send any donations for
tombola, raffle or books to :

Appletree House,
Gate Helmsley, YO41 1JT.

Saturday 18th February 2012

Gate Helmsley Village Hall—
parking available.

10am — 1.00pm

(raffle to be drawn at 12.30pm)

2.50 entrance

(which includes a drink and cake)

All proceeds will be divided
between:

York Oncology Unit,

The Cancer Care Centre and

York Against Cancer.

Raffle, bottle tombola,
book stall, delicious
cakes, breads and
savouries available to
buy.



Organised by the Potts
family and a gang of
friends and family!



St Michael's Church

Crambe

EASTER

COFFEE MORNING

Saturday March 3rd

10.30—12 noon

Barton Le Willows village hall

tombola ♦ raffle ♦ cakes

other stalls



For more information contact

Fiona Tel: 01653 619368



St Mary's Church, Gate Helmsley



COFFEE MORNING

WEDNESDAY 7TH MARCH

11.0 a.m. to midday

at

Fox Farm

courtesy of

Anne and Andrew Podmore

Please park in the village hall
car park across the road

Barton Le Willows Village hall

mobility ♦ stretching ♦ relaxation

for all ages and abilities



7.0 p.m. Thursdays

£15 for five sessions

all profits from this class are for
Barton Le Willows village hall

or more information contact
Caroline Sherlock 01653 618310

St Mary's Church

Sand Hutton

WANTED

If there is anyone out there who
would be willing to take up the post of

TREASURER to the PCC

Please contact

Graham Baker

Tel: 01904 468809

All Saints Church, Foston

Coffee mornings

Saturday 11th February 11.0 am—1.0 p.m.

Thornton le Clay village hall

Join us for hot bacon sandwiches, our legendary home-made cakes
and delicious coffee!

Everyone is warmly invited, catch up with friends, try your luck at the raffle!

EASTER COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 7th April 11.0 a.m.—1.0 p.m.



Free entry

St Mary's Church Gate Helmsley

PARISH LUNCH

SUNDAY 22nd APRIL

At 12.30 p.m.

Gate Helmsley village hall

Tickets £15

Available from

Anne Podmore 01759 372320

Delyth Harran 01759 372215

ST BOTOLPHS CHURCH, BOSSAL



Friday 24th February

7.0 p.m. for 7.30 p.m.

at

Sand Hutton village hall

HOG ROAST

AND

AUCTION OF PROMISES

Ticket £15

(to include a glass of wine)

Tickets available from

Mary Denison 01904 468203

Sheila Wicks 01904 468229

Kathy Fawcett 01904 468355



SAND HUTTON AND CLAXTON VILLAGE HALL



"Women in Harmony"

**Our carol-singing round the houses of Sand Hutton
raised £91.97 for Macmillan Cancer Support**

many thanks to all who sang and to all who listened!

We now meet on the second Thursday of each month at 7pm –
new members welcome!

"Eddie and the Gold Tops"
is coming to Sand Hutton on Sunday 20 May!

A brand-new production from the team at Badapple Theatre
Company
who gave us "Land Girls" and "A Yorkshire Christmas Carol"

For details of these, contact Caroline Hall 01904 468376

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

Is your property connected to mains electricity? Does your property have access to safe, mains water? The answer is likely to be “yes” in today’s world in North Yorkshire. We take it for granted; and it is hard to imagine life without it.....but

Does your property have access to high speed, high quality broadband?

Maybe not?

Maybe you would like it and cannot get it?

Maybe you have it and it is too slow?

Many rural communities in North Yorkshire cannot obtain the kind of broadband service which is the norm in urban areas because the major suppliers concentrate on areas of dense population. We have to indulge in some get-up-and-go self-help. The first step is to demonstrate interest.

**Please log on to www.northyorks.gov.uk/broadbandsurvey
and complete the one-page survey.**

There is no cost and you do not enter into a commitment by doing so; but this is a vital first step. If you do not have a computer, consider approaching a friend who has so that you can register your interest. Alternatively you can complete the survey by using the computers at Malton or Norton libraries. (Paper copies are available via Andrew Fawcett - see below.)

**Not interested in broadband? Do not have a computer?
Computers not for me?**



Remember last winter?..... Cut off?

With a good broadband connection you can shop on-line.

Do you have friends and family? With broadband-enabled Skype you have access to cheap or even free telephone and video calls (across the world). Missed your favourite TV programme? Use the BBC's iPlayer and ITV's Player - but you need broadband to do so. Access to high quality broadband is relevant to families with children. Today, children increasingly need to be able to link up with their schools for homework; and maintaining their education in bad weather. If rural communities are to be attractive to young people, broadband is a major factor.

**Please consider taking action now. It will be an investment
you won't regret. For additional background, visit:**

<http://www.claxtonsandhutton.org.uk/broadband/>

(Sponsored by: **The South-West Ryedale High Speed Broadband Steering Group**. For more information contact: Andrew Fawcett, Chair, on (01904) 468020 andrewf@wcett.co.uk (Claxton), Angela Steele (Claxton), Jan Devos (Scrayingham), Sara Esler & Colin Garner (Sand Hutton), Simon Littlejohn & James Stephenson (Howsham), George Winn-Darley (Aldby Park Estate). The communities involved at this stage are: Barton-Le-Willows, Bossall, Buttercrambe, Claxton, Crambe, Howsham, Gate Helmsley, Harton, Sand Hutton, Scrayingham, Upper Helmsley, and Warthill.

Around the Parishes.....

News views and information from:

BOSSALL

We hope people will have noted the work/replacements that have been completed, some of which we have mentioned in earlier notes:

Renovation work on the doorways has been completed and although some of it looks new it will weather and protect the Church for many years to come.

The new boiler has been installed but- to date - the weather has been kind so it has not been fully tested but one cannot stop hot air from rising - away from the pews!!

The cutting of the churchyard has been finalised and paid for. Basic Plus do a very good job on far from ideal surfaces and we are grateful for the assistance given by the District Council in supporting the work in this area of Special Wildlife Interest.

It has been so sad to lose the support and interest of a very special lady when Judith Wheway died following a very brave fight against her ailments and we were pleased to be able to host - with Sand Hutton - her Memorial Service of just short of 300 people.

Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve was celebrated by some 110 people which may be a slightly lesser number than previously but was well received. We were able to send from the collection £150.00 to each of a Home and Overseas Charity. This time to the Camphill Village Trust and again to Shelter Box and in the next Circular we will give a more detailed note as to the work of each charity.

Aside from the financial accounting at the year end it is also the time to record the visitors to the Church and in 2011 180 persons signed the Visitors Book and if you add those who don't it is a significant number.

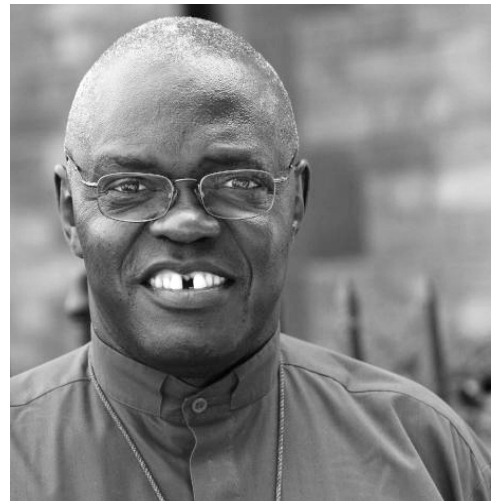
CRAMBE

From a balmy autumn we have progressed to the dark days of midwinter, though after the last two years this one is adjudged 'mild'! Even so, blustery winds and short days have meant that not even David Cole has ventured out in shorts!

'A Night at the Races' a fund raising event held jointly with Barton Le Willows village Hall in November was a great success, much fun was had and a total of £720 was raised, split equally between Barton village hall and St Michael's Church.

This was shortly followed by the 'Christmas Coffee Morning' held at Crambe House which raised a record breaking £787 for the church. A big thank you to Lynda Teale and Fiona for their hard work and a heartfelt thank you to all who supported the two events.

The highlight of the year came on December 9th when we welcomed Archbishop and Mrs Sentamu to Crambe for a rededication service to celebrate the completion of the building programme and five years of concerted fundraising.



On a crisp, clear evening the Archbishop and accompanying clergy robed and toasted the ecclesiastical toes by a roaring fire in the dining room of Crambe House (no vestry!) then set off across the road up a candlelit path at a fast clip led by Lance Thompson bearing the cross. I have been able to confirm that there is no substance in the rumour that Lance was practising for torch bearer at the 2012 Olympics, though his speed was commendable!



The church looked stunning decorated as it was with great imagination by Jane Stott who had painstakingly painted twigs and branches in white, and collected beautiful seed heads and greenery, which hung in profusion from window sills and walls, and among the many candles which lit the church. The Archbishop preached to

the appreciative congregation that packed the church. Rebecca Widdicombe, once again, greatly enhanced the worship with a solo rendition of Mendelssohn's 'I will sing of thy great mercies' accompanied by Peter Stott on the organ who provided all the beautiful music throughout the service.

Following the service everyone descended on the Cook family at Kyreham House for wine and nibbles. Many people managed to chat with the Archbishop (and discover his great sense of humour), and Mrs Sentamu. It was a truly wonderful celebration of all the hard work done by many people who helped us to raise the necessary funds in a myriad of ways ensuring that the gem that is St Michael's will stand for many years to come, serving the community just as it always has in the past. To all those who are named here must go a very special thank you, but also to all those too numerous to mention without whom none of this would have been possible.

With the service of rededication being so close to Christmas there was no time to squeeze in our annual carol concert, but St Michael's hosted a service of Midnight Holy Communion on Christmas Eve. The Church once again looked stunning; red had been added to the decorations along with extra candles to create a truly festive scene. The service was conducted by Rachel Benson and included extra carols and readings. It was a wonderful way for the large congregation to welcome in Christmas Day.

We are now in a New Year, and further fundraising events are planned (see separate advertisements).

Sadly we have to announce the death of Lance's mum Mildred Thompson. Mrs Thompson was a church warden at St Michael's for many years and a staunch supporter of the church. She died in the early hours of Christmas morning at the age of 93, in Scotland having spent several years living with her daughter Dorothy, in Northumberland. Her funeral took place at Crambe on January 9th. We offer our sincere sympathy to Lance, his brother sisters, family and friends.

Finally we would like to thank all who have supported us over the year; to Ivan, Rachel Benson, Sister Margaret Ann, Rachel Baker and Tony, and especially Ivy Freer who has stood down from the PCC after more years than anyone can accurately remember whose wise input and singular knowledge will be greatly missed.

FLAXTON

Flaxton had the pleasure of welcoming Bishop Martin Wallace to our Nativity and Toy Service the Sunday before Christmas. The children and Ida presented the nativity story as if through the modern media. Bishop Martin played a shepherd, with his own crook and genuine Middle Eastern headgear, and Ivan played a king; sister was to have played the angel but unfortunately was unable to attend. Everyone enjoyed the retelling of the story, including the children's singing of carols and a performance on the hand-bells.

The busy Christmas week continued with our carol service on the Tuesday, at which the Flaxton choir sang a number of pieces including a new carol by our choir leader, Dick Blackford, titled "When Christ was born". The church was beautifully decorated, including a splendid Christmas tree, provided, erected and decorated each year by the Jacksons.

While Hazel (who wrote the above) and the people of Flaxton celebrated Christmas in traditional style with three lovely services in church, I was far away in South Africa. For more than two weeks there were blue skies and sunshine and the atmosphere for Christmas was quite different. With long hours of daylight, there were no extra fairy lights or decorations in the streets and shops around where we stayed by the sea. I missed all the usual preparations of cooking, carol singing, hanging up cards and a wreath etc., but we did buy a lovely pine tree that my grandsons decorated with playdough shapes, paper snowflakes and shells. Before Christmas we walked along to the Anglican church for a carol service; it proved not for the faint-hearted at almost two hours long! The priest and most of the packed to the rafters church were black, full of enthusiasm and many dressed up as angels, kings and so on; but the carols and readings were not so different from Flaxton. A nice touch was the appearance of Santa, who came not to give out presents, but to receive them to distribute to poor children in the nearby township.

We spent Christmas Day at Cape Point where a family member has a house. We all contributed items for the table and two turkeys were barbecued outside. Some of us had a brisk late afternoon walk and paddle along the glorious beach there, spotting a young seal. It was still light as the children were tucked up and five year old Jacob reminded us that the best thing was that Jesus was born. He'd paid attention in that two hour service!

Wendy Holman

FOSTON

Happy New Year to everyone from All Saints, Foston.

We all enjoyed a lovely Carol Service before Christmas, it was well attended and everyone enjoyed hot mulled wine and mince pies afterwards.

On Christmas Eve, Sister Margaret Ann led a very enjoyable Crib Service. The attending children were all invited to join in, adding nativity characters as the story was told. Sister Margaret Ann even managed to include a large, soft toy rabbit that had been left in Church from a previous service (not an easy task!!)

GATE HELMSLEY

Christmas Fayre

We are grateful to all those who contributed in many different ways to the success **of our Christmas Fayre on 3rd December.** The start of the Christmas season was marked by a very happy and very busy afternoon at Orchard House, which **enabled us to raise an unprecedented £830 for church funds.** Very well done everyone!

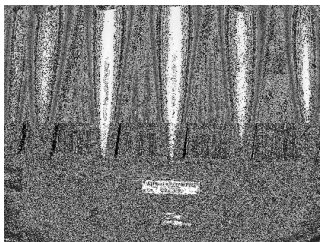
Advance notice

Our summer Strawberry Lunch will be held at Gate Helmsley Village Hall at 12.30 pm, on Sunday 24th June. Proceeds again for the church. ***More details in the next edition of the Circular.***

Gate Helmsley Village Hall

Thank you to everyone who supported our fundraising Halloween Dance. We had a great evening. Northern Rock entertained us royally and the dance floor only emptied when supper was served.

The excellent sum of £540 was raised



Pipe Up !

St Mary's Gate Helmsley Centenary Organ Restoration Appeal

The Centenary Organ Restoration appeal is going well. Several people have already sponsored organ pipes and we invite you to consider making a dedication to someone special. Sponsorship forms are available in the church or from Michael Harran (01759 372215). All donations are welcome. Please send to St Mary's Gate Helmsley PCC, Apple Tree House, Gate Helmsley, York YO41 1JT.

We have a copy of the tender by the Leeds organ builders Abbott & Smith for the original installation in 1913. I will not say what the cost was in 1913 as this may figure in some future competition! Interestingly the cost did not include "carting the work from Holtby Station to the church"! (Holtby station was actually midway between Gate and Upper Helmsley). Nor was there any VAT to pay – O happy days! We need about £7000 just to meet the VAT on the restoration cost.

The designation as an "Historic Organ" imposes restrictions on the scope of the restoration – we must faithfully retain the original specification – but will allow us access to more grants than would otherwise be available.

We are holding an ArtFest in the church over the weekend of 25 – 27 May, with a preview evening on the Friday. Sister Margaret Ann is donating some of her superb paintings and will be giving a talk about her work. There will be other artwork for sale, a photography display and a variety of activities and competitions for all ages. Mark the dates in your diary and look out for more details in the next circular.

There will be a black tie dinner in Gate Helmsley Village Hall on Saturday 1st September. Catering by Keith and Christine Potts – so this will be popular. another date to keep free!

We have a number of other events "in the pipeline".

Thanks to all those who have already supported "Pipe Up !"

Michael Harran

HARTON

CHRISSIE'S YORKSHIRE QUIZ

Back in August we had a Yorkshire Day picnic in Harton, much enjoyed by the villagers. Along with this I compiled 'Chrissies Yorkshire Quiz' and sold quiz sheets for £1

I am pleased to report the sale of the quiz sheets raised in excess of £65 for St Botolph's church at Bossall.

The winners Christine & Mike of Harton kindly donated their £20 prize back to St Botolph's.

So a very big thank you to all who took part, helped to sell the quiz sheets and those who returned them completed

I must say everyone did very well, but no one got it completely correct

Well done everyone and thanks again!

HOWSHAM

We had an excellent Cake Stall and Raffle at York Auction Centre Xmas Fatstock Show, raising over £500 for Church Funds, which included a very generous donation.

The Church was beautifully decorated for Christmas by a willing few, followed by a delightful Carol Service with refreshments at the Great Barn. The Church is much warmer with the new heating, well done everyone.

We finally received the architect's Quinquennial inspection with luckily only a few minor matters to attend to. The architect congratulated the PCC for our "magnificent efforts to keep this jewel shining". Following this the Archdeacon has written to say "This is one of the most amazing & outstanding Q1 reports he has received in 12 years of office"!!

CLAXTON AND SAND HUTTON

Once again we had the privilege to begin the Christmas season with the "Amici Singers" joining us for the Benefice carol service. We extend our thanks to them and Geoffrey Coffin, the organist, and look forward to their next visit in ten months' time!

The "Remember a Loved One" baubles
hung on the tree in St. Mary's church
raised £198.00 for church funds.
Many thanks to all those who contributed.

Many enjoyed a very happy Crib and Christingle service on Christmas Eve. The children and parents entered into the events of the service, making it a memorable time. Many thanks to the children who helped to make the Christingles, and to all who contributed to the Children's Society. £143 was raised.

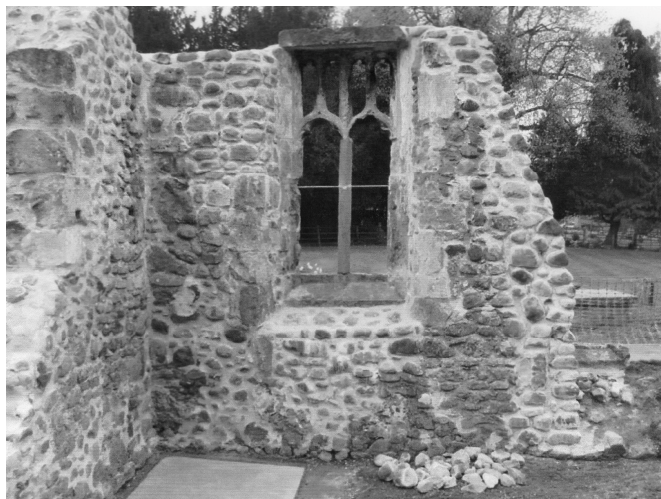
HELP !

Five more volunteers are needed to complete the twelve month rota for keeping St. Mary's church clean. This involves approximately 2 -3 hours in any chosen month plus those who are available to help with the annual spring clean.
For more information contact Rachel Tel: 01904 468809 Thank you.

St. Leonard's 12th Century Ruin update .

The crypt railings have been installed and paint applied. The Commemorative stone design has been finalised and faculty petition applied for we hope to see completion this Summer!

Our condolences go to Richard Wheway and the family of Judith Wheway who died on the 11th of November 2011. Her funeral was conducted at St Mary's Church, Sand Hutton followed by a Memorial service at Bossall.



**The ruins of
St Leonard's
Church
Sand Hutton**



News from our schools.....

SAND HUTTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Often things that are worth having are those which involve hard work and patience, this was certainly the case concerning our outside classroom at Sand Hutton. Now we are delighted to say that the classroom is well and truly ready and fit for purpose after our grand opening in November. Families and friends joined us to celebrate at the party at the centre of which was our beautiful 'Wishes for Wildlife Tree' where adults and children alike placed their wishes. Here are but a few:-

"I wish all the children enjoy their outside classroom and its wonderful surroundings"

"I wish more people were helpful with wild animals"

"I wish for more harmony"

"I wish for lots of wildlife to visit Sand Hutton School for the children to enjoy"

"I wish for more flowers for the bees"

"I wish for all hedgehogs to stay safe and live happily"

"I wish there were more habitats for red squirrels"

"We wish many happy days of nature in the new garden"

We are looking forward to planting our wildflower meadow, watching birds which we can identify from our identification boards and hoping crested newts will take up residence in the bog garden. Overall we are encouraging a love and delight in the natural world which we hope will stay with the children for a life time. We are very fortunate to have such beautiful grounds so are determined to enjoy them to the full. Maybe as the spring comes nearer many of our wishes will come true, the signs are already appearing!

A Happy New Year from everyone at Sand Hutton CE Primary School

FOSTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

I hope everyone had a lovely Christmas and are enjoying the New Year. Thank you to everyone who provided such a wonderful audience at our Christmas Pantomime and to those who supported the Christmas Fair and the Christingle. It is this community support that makes Foston Primary School such a special place to attend.

The children at Foston are in full swing with new topics this term. The junior children are learning about the Saxons and will be visiting a variety of historic sites with Chris Cade our historical interpreter in February with our partner school, Terrington. The infants are learning about our local area in a topic called 'Out and About'. They will also be contrasting Foston with Terrington and taking part in investigative trips in both villages to the church and Methodist chapel.

Over the Autumn term the children raised funds for Thomas Arnett, a young boy from Strensall, whose family and friends are collecting money to fund an operation that will enable him to walk. Across the two schools we are proud to announce that we raised £546. Thank you to everyone who sponsored children or bought raffle tickets.

Huge congratulations to Rebecca Kirkland our Early Years / KS1 teacher who has been recognised as excellent in her practice and taken on as a lead teacher by the local authority to advise and support in other schools in the county. She will, fortunately, still remain full time at Foston, but will have a small number of days allocated for this role.

Congratulations to Giselle Micklewright in Year 5 whose design for a mosaic will be recreated in the Foston telephone box. **The runners up** in this competition were **Libby Bailey and Aurelia Kay Young**.

A few dates for your diary

Friday, 3rd February 6-8pm – Bingo and Beetle Drive

Saturday, 17th March – Jumble Sale

Saturday, 14th April - Easter Fair

Friday, 11th May – Pampered Chef Party – Mexican Theme – 7.30 onwards

Saturday, 16th June – Scarecrow Trail

Saturday, 17th November – Christmas Fair

Saturday, 8th December 4-6pm Christmas Disco

If you have a child nearing school age and would like to have a look round our newly refurbished school please contact us on 01653 618265 and pop down for a coffee and a chat.

Parish council news.....

Claxton and Sand Hutton Parish Council

Date of next meetings: Monday 13 February; Monday 26 March
Meetings are held in the village hall, Sand Hutton, at 7.30pm.

All welcome; there is a Public Forum at the start of every meeting at which members of the public can ask questions or raise issues about Parish concerns.

The first of our new “Saturday Socials” - informal chat with coffee and cake and a chance to learn what’s going on in the villages – went well, and we plan to hold another in April. Please let us know if you would like to take part in the event.

The Parish website <http://www.claxton-sandhutton.org.uk/> will have information about this and about our Parish Council meetings with the minutes available for you to read.

Chairman: Caroline Hall Tel: 01904 468376 Parish Clerk: vacancy

GATE & UPPER HELMSLEY PARISH COUNCIL

The meeting held in the village hall in December 2011 was well attended and the Chairman welcomed County Councillor Clare Wood and leader of Ryedale District Council, and District Councillor Mr K Knaggs. Minutes of this meeting can be obtained from the Parish Clerk.

Next Parish Council Meeting: 27th February in the village hall at 7.30 p.m.

The position of Parish Clerk will become vacant in the next few months.

Anyone interested in this position please contact the Parish Clerk

Mrs M Parker : Whinfield, The Lane, Gate Helmsley, York. YO41 1JT
or the Parish Council Chairman Mr C Richardson: Brook Villa, Main Road,
Gate Helmsley, York. Tel: 01759 371344.

Parish Clerk: Maureen Parker

THORNTON LE CLAY METHODIST CHURCH

Services

Sunday February 5th Holy Communion 9.00 a.m. Rev. G. Peaden.
Sunday February 12th Morning Service 10.30.a.m. Mr E. Cooke.
Sunday February 19th Morning Service 9.00 a.m. Rev. D. Godfrey.
Sunday February 26th Morning Service 10.30 a.m. Mr Brian Taylor.
Sunday March 4th Holy Communion 9.00 a.m. Rev. G. Peaden.
Sunday March 11th Morning Service 10.30 a.m. Mr William Swires.
Sunday March 18th Mothering Sunday 10.30 a.m. Mrs S. Bunting.
Sunday March 25th Morning Service 10.30 a.m. Ms Joan Oliver.

MOTHERING SUNDAY

Sunday March 18th

**All age Worship Service at 10.30am. Families very welcome,
when the preacher will be Mrs Sylvia Bunting.**

Services are usually at 9.00 a.m. on the first and third Sunday,
and at 10.30 a.m. on the second and fourth Sunday in the month.

Bible study / fellowship meetings

are held fortnightly at Wold Cottage, Thornton-Le-Clay at 8.00 p.m.
an informal time looking at bible passages, discussion and prayer.

Followed by light refreshments ending at approximately 9.30 p.m.

All welcome ring 01904 794626 or 01653 618452

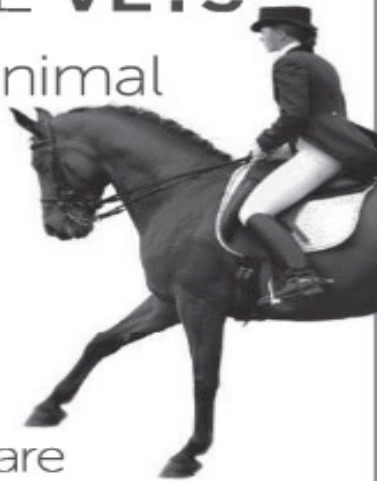
for dates and more details.

**Minister Rev. Graham J Peaden BSc. 28 Balfour Way, Strensall,
York. YO32 5AH. Tel: 01904 491950.**



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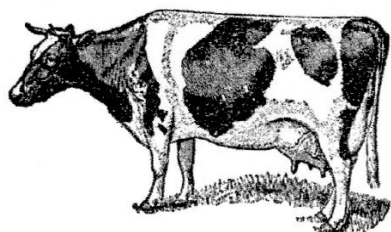
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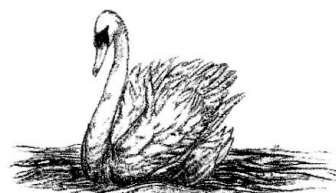
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Items for 'The Circular'

Copy deadline for the next edition April 16th

this will cover May June July 2012

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

Contact numbers for Sand Hutton and Whitwell Group of Parishes

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

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