

The Benefice of Harton

The Circular



Spring Edition 2021
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

From the Vicarage

Dear friends

Looking forward to Easter!



"We won't be celebrating Easter this year – we'll have to leave it 'til next time". I remember saying these words during Lent last year as the full impact of the Corona Virus started to bite into our lives. It felt to me like the sombre dramatic tone of Good Friday bled into the longest Holy Saturday many of us had ever known. Patterns of life were literally turned upside down and shaken, with life changing events being reported and felt daily.

No wonder so many of us stayed up on New Year's Eve to make sure we'd seen the back of last year, as well as to welcome in the new. I'm not sure what we or historians will make of 2020 in years to come, but hopefully the most extreme, dramatic effects of the pandemic will be behind us and we can follow a more refreshing pattern of life.

Traditionally this is the time of year when we make resolutions, when we consider life changes, plan for the coming months and how we might make the most of our lives. However, I do wonder how the resolutions we will make will be shaped by 2020 and how it has affected us and those around us? Perhaps being more patient might be one of them.

But one thing we have learned during this 'waiting' is that we cannot take life for granted. Maybe some of the resolutions, hopes and dreams you made last year were effectively wiped out by the pandemic as our lives were put on hold; we have all had to wait – and definitely wait patiently. And during this enforced 'waiting' was the realisation of the important priorities in our lives. Many of the joyous, wonderful freedoms we just took for granted were restricted or stopped. The dark impact of that lack of freedom has had on so many people's lives can never be underestimated both physically and mentally.

But for some, it has also been a time of positive reflection. The discovery (or rediscovery) of how much the natural world can bring us joy. There have been numerous examples and statistics of how much fresher the world around us feels and we have had more time to engage with it, rather than rush through it. Many people now speak of having re-balanced their lives as

we were forced to become less frenetic, focussing on the small and local rather than the grand and distant.

From a faith perspective, I think many of us missed the opportunity to gather in church with others and realised how much we had taken for granted that simple act of freedom. And yet, through the creative use of technology, our gathered acts of worship on a Sunday through Zoom have been for many a real blessing.

The signs of hope are there that this Holy Saturday 'waiting' might finally be drawing to an end. The worst of the Corona Virus storm may be finally blowing itself out. Its wake of damage and destruction, both physically and mentally, can never be underestimated, but hopefully and prayerfully, a refreshed 'new life' - or 'way of life' - will follow.

And that for me is the Easter Sunday I've been waiting for.

I'm sure it is an Easter Sunday that many of us have been waiting for – that the world at large, both natural and physical – has been waiting for!

A refreshed, new way of life – revisiting the joys of the local, not rushing blindly into the future.

And in my ***Looking forward to Easter!*** I believe that is what Jesus invites us to do: To refreshingly look to God in all the joy and mess of our own lives and in creation – and to look to our neighbour, as ourselves, in the local and the small. That is why I'm looking forward to Easter – and I hope and pray that it may be the same for you.

Yours in Christ

Revd Chris Wingfield



Happy Easter

Services for the Benefice of Harton

During these uncertain times there will be no regular services held in our churches. **For the foreseeable future every Sunday morning at 10.00am an act of worship will take place using the Zoom platform.**

You will be able to access up to date information about Zoom services through the benefice website: Every effort will be made to inform those without access to the internet where things have had to be changed.

www.sandhuttongroup.org.uk



Should you have access to the internet and would like to join one of these services please let Chris know via email at: chris.wingfield@btinternet.com
or Tel: 01904 468418

For those new to Zoom you will first have to download the free App from the app store on your iPad, phone or computer.

The App symbol is a white camera on a blue background. Once you have downloaded it, Chris will send you via email an invitation to join the 'meeting', together with a meeting ID and a password.

It is easy to use; just follow the steps as they appear. Chris will guide you through any technical difficulties you may have once you have joined the 'meeting'.

On Wednesday mornings at 10am

you are warmly invited to join us for

'Conversation at 10'

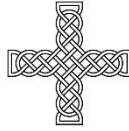
also by Zoom. Relax at home with a cup of tea/coffee and a biscuit as we enjoy discussing a range of topics. As for Sunday morning worship, contact Chris to receive an email invitation.

Details are in the Calendar section of the Benefice website.

WhatsApp



Chris has also set up a WhatsApp group chat. If you have a smart phone and would like to join this group please contact Chris via his email or phone. You will have to download the WhatsApp app from the App store on your phone if you haven't already got it.



Our condolences to the family and friends of

November 18th 2020
January 9th 2021

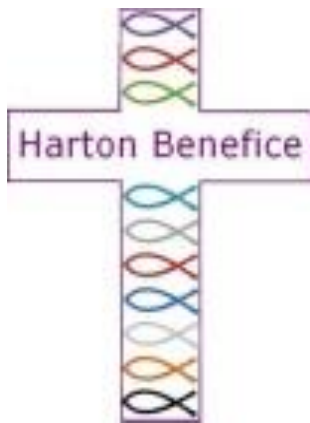
Robert(Robin) Barker
Alwyn Walters age 92

Flaxton
at Prospect House
Gate Helmsley,
formerly of Barton
formerly of Crambe

January 24th

David Cole

Benefice PCC.....



Thanks to the miracle of Zoom, the Benefice PCC held a virtual meeting on 8th December 2020. It was a good opportunity for members to catch up on what was happening in the individual churches within the benefice. We also discussed a provisional pattern of future church services (both actual and virtual) and some financial matters, notably the contribution the benefice should make to the York Diocese in the next financial year.

Delyth Harran Vice-Chairman



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



We continue to have all our families, children, young people, school communities and school staff in our thoughts and prayers as we once again enter another lock down. We are all rising to the challenge of juggling work with childcare and home schooling, and trying to do the best we can for each other. We know what a challenging time this is. Thankfully we are living in a beautiful part of

the country in a supportive community, and although life is hard, we have many blessings.

I continue to keep in touch with families via the monthly newsletter, the Facebook page and with emails and texts.

Messy Autumn was celebrated by us putting together 'Messy Harvest in an envelope' which went out to all families within the Benefice in October. With their usual spirit of generosity, families supported the AMEN shoebox appeal brilliantly and also the toy collection in December, hosted by Flaxton church in aid of the Salvation Army.

Advent and Christmas seemed a busy special time of the year despite the obvious restrictions placed upon us. On the last Sunday in November Chris and I were delighted to be able to hold the first of what is to be monthly All Age Worship Services, welcoming faces old and new to the Sunday Zoom Service. We were also delighted at the Nine Carols and Readings Service to see some of the Messy church families stepping forward to do the readings alongside more established readers.



Beatrice's first Christingle

However the highlight of Advent for me had to be the Messy Christingle in a box event. The marvellous Messy church team pulled out all the stops in putting together 160 boxes filled with festive crafts and everything needed to make a beautiful Christingle. A massive 'Thank you' has to go our loyal band of village volunteers who took the boxes around the families in the Benefice. We then held a really special Zoom Christingle Service on the afternoon of Sunday 13th which was well supported. We have had some really great feedback from families about this Messy event.....

William Gilmore

'At the Christingle service it was lots of fun looking at what was in the box. In the box was an orange, a candle, the ribbon, 4 tooth picks and some sweets to go on the tooth pick to make your Christingle. It also came with a small chocolate bar. In the service it is a chance to be thankful for what you have compared to some other people who have very little.'



Izzy and William

Izzy Gilmore

'We were given a box filled with activities including the parts of the Christingle. We got the orange and tied the red ribbon around it to show that Jesus died.

Next, we put the candle into the orange to show the light of the world.

Third we got the sweets and put them onto the cocktail sticks. We put the cocktail sticks into the orange to complete the Christingle.

During the service we read prayers and listened to stories about Jesus and what happened to lead up to his death. We also sang carols as we would at church.'

Bella

'Thank you for the Messy Christingle in the Box. It was a thoughtful and special gift this Christmas for me.

It was my first time making a Christingle and I found it very interesting to learn of the symbolism.

I think a lot about all the people in our wonderful world. I pray for peace and health for all.

May the light of Christ bring hope and peace to our community and to those around the world during this difficult time. With love and peace.'

Mya

'I really enjoyed the Christingle Service, especially learning to sign the words to Little Donkey and making the Christingle.'

Finally, at the end of 2020, we held our second All Age Worship which served to collect everyone together and focus us towards the New Year.

Many thanks to everyone who has contributed to these Services and events, especially the children who did readings and made up prayers.

Please do contact me if you do not receive a Children and Families newsletter and would like to via: rachaelyouthharton@gmail.com
(please note January's copy will be electronically sent)

We'd love you to join our Facebook page, the Facebook link is

www.facebook.com/groups/HartonBenefice

www.sandhuttongroup.org.uk



Moving forward....The next Messy project is a big one! We are very excited to announce that we are hoping to start a Messy Allotment! We are aiming to have this up and running for the spring and if the restrictions ease sufficiently, we will be able to hold Messy sessions outside, in a socially distanced venue, with small numbers of children and families taking part.



Please see our 'Donations' page about how you can help to support this project!

Pray one for Me.....

Weary, Lonely, Anxious ... words we have all heard so much over recent months. 2020 has not been the year any of us were expecting and the Coronavirus has made life so much harder for many of us in many different ways. But we believe there is still hope and we'd like to support and encourage you in the best way we know how, through prayer.



As a faith community, we are very aware that 2020 has been a difficult year in so many ways and the changes we have all had to go through show no signs of ending. The communities within our parishes have pulled together remarkably; individuals have offered help and support to those in our villages, ensuring that no-one is left alone or without and businesses have changed their way of operating to support residents. However, the mental and emotional impacts of this year could be persistent and far-reaching and we are aware that we will see the effects of this year for some time to come.

An article in the Guardian in May suggested that 1 in 4 adults have watched or listened to a church service during lockdown (20% of whom have never been to church before) and 1 in 20 adults have started praying.

The Benefice of Harton Church community, would therefore like to offer our support to the businesses, families and individuals within the boundaries of:

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

through the initiative called Pray One for Me. Simply let us know what you would like us to pray for – however great or small the request, whether for you or for friends or family, whether you have a faith or not, whether it's a one-off issue or an ongoing situation – and we will include you in our prayers.

How to let us know what you would like a prayer for:

e-mail us: davidfletcher165@hotmail.com

Should you choose to email us, please include the following information: What would you like us to pray for (only give as much information as you feel comfortable doing – and if your request is on behalf of someone else you may wish to ask their permission first).

Please tell us if you would like us to include this prayer within the regular Zoom service or whether you only want it shared with the team behind “Pray One for Me”

Please tell us if you would like us to keep in touch by email, so that you can update us on the request.

We are also considering how we may be able to support those who do not have access to technology and in due course will be placing request boxes within the local community. Please watch this page for more information.

Who will be praying?

There is a small group of people from across The Benefice of Harton praying for these requests. If you are happy for us to do so, your prayer will also be included in the prayers during our regular services.

The Important Bit:

Your request will be treated confidentially, and we will only contact you should you wish us to do so.

The request will be held for three weeks and then destroyed unless you tell us otherwise.

Please let us have your contact details if:

You wish us to keep in touch with you so you can update us on your prayer request or to ask us to keep on praying for the situation.

You wish to have more information about praying so you can pray too.

You wish to be included in the mailing list for **The Circular** magazine for the Benefice of Harton which covers all the above named villages.

This article includes wording from a similar initiative started by the neighbouring Streets Parishes and we continue to work together with them in developing Pray14Me.

Thank you.....

Carol Singing on the Green, Claxton.....

The fantastic sum of

£434

was raised for Macmillan Cancer Support

on the Friday before Christmas. We could not carry out our usual walk around the village, singing and knocking on doors so six singers with accompaniment (all socially distanced!) set up by Claxton Green.

Thank you so much to the brave 40 or so people who turned out on a wet and windy evening to listen to the carols and gave so generously to the charity.

Adrian and Jezz.....

We just wanted to say how the Benefice what's app group has helped us both in this strange year. Thank goodness for the group sharing not just religious items and prayers but fun thoughts, photos etc. Let's keep it going and bring us all closer in the strange times. Roll on the days we can meet properly for coffee and cake safely!

2020 Amen Shoebox Appeal.....

A very special thank you for maintaining support for the 2020 Amen Shoebox Appeal for Romanian Families despite all the Covid-19 difficulties. In fact these difficulties seemed to motivate us to persevere all the more for those in greater need than most of ourselves.

A magnificent 175 delightfully wrapped boxes were collected, given by families and schools groups from across the Benefice of Harton.

Our thanks to our Zoom services, and word of mouth from further afield this year for spreading the word.

Our dedication service was held on Zoom with a video of our vicar Chris Wingfield blessing the boxes at Upper Helmsley Church prior to their journey to Romania, where the Amen Charity have church partners to distribute the gifts to families and orphanages .

A moving video of the 2020 Appeal can be seen on

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A59s7DU2eFI&feature=youtu.be>

We are delighted to say the Shoeboxes reached Romania in time for Christmas Day 25th December (as opposed to the Eastern Orthodox Church date of January 7th) after a topsy-turvy journey due to Covid 19, traffic delays, and lockdowns, which is a matter of great rejoicing....the prayer of blessing was particularly needed together with our own prayers.

Thank you all very much !

David Fletcher Benefice of Harton Shoebox Appeal Co-ordinator



Loaded and ready to go!



Romanian children with their gifts





coming soon!

we are starting a

Messy Allotment

We are appealing for help to get the project going!

3 ways in which you can help!

By looking in your sheds for items that you no longer need or use.

e.g. Spades (small), rakes, hoes, hand trowels, hand forks,
seed trays, wooden seed labels, watering cans, wheel barrows.

spare packets of seeds.

pledging any spare tomato, marrow,
courgette, potato plants, or onion sets.
or any other surplus veg plants you might propagate



By donation



£3 will buy a pair of secateurs.
£4 will buy a wood handled trowel or fork.
£5 will buy a 1.7L metal watering can.
£6 is enough for 2 x pairs of gardening gloves
£7 will buy a steel digging spade
£7.50 will buy 3 x flexi plastic trugs
£10 will buy 10 seed trays or 8 packets
of lettuce seeds.

(prices courtesy of Wilco, Jan 2021)



Volunteering.

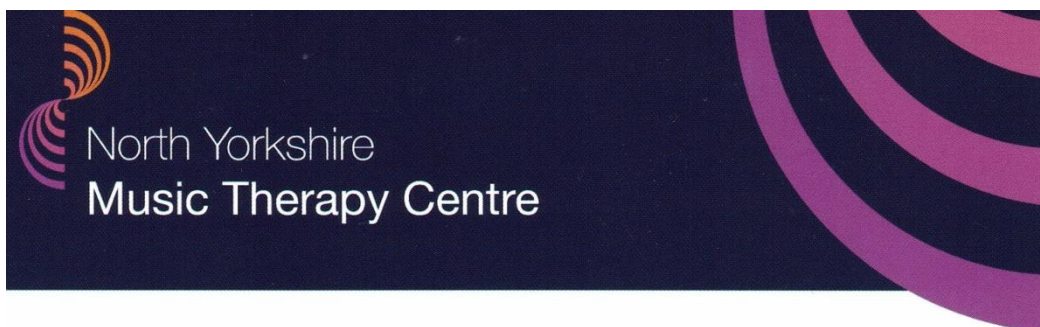
We would particularly welcome people who have gardening skills, but look forward to including anyone with spare time and enthusiasm!

For more information contact Rachael Harrison at:

Email: rachael.youthharton@gmail.com Tel: 07847 329 015

To donate online go to:

<https://www.give.net/HARTONMESSYALLOTMENT1/fundraising>
or directly to Rachael



Plants for Donations, help our charity to grow....

Spring is coming, and whatever lockdown we're in, you might need some new plants to play with in the garden. Our project Growing the Charity grows lovely plants in return for a donation to the charity that supports therapeutic use of music, another crucial aid to our well-being at this time. Look at our website and enjoy what we currently have to offer:

www.music-therapy.com.uk

Musical Appointments

Finding community through music

Join us in ZOOM group music therapy sessions.

Weekly sessions will provide the opportunity to express and explore feelings and emotions through playing and listening to music with others to support our mental health in this difficult time.

No musical skills are needed.

RESONANCE PROJECT For adults - Mondays 7.00pm

**MUSICAL MEETINGS For elderly - Tuesdays 11.00am
(Dementia Friendly)**

HOW TO BOOK

Visit www.music-therapy.org.uk for dates and times,
email us at

enquiries@music-therapy.org.uk for the zoom link

BARTON LE WILLOWS

Village Hall Update:

As we said goodbye to 2020 the Barton Le Willows village hall committee also expressed thanks to Fred Strickland-Constable for his years of service as chairperson, though we are grateful that he continues to keep our pennies in check as incoming treasurer. Louise Daly is our new chairperson, Mark Mirfin is secretary, Jonathan Burton is website lead, Anne Roebuck organises events enquiries and bookings, Paul Roebuck is health and safety officer, Jo Danischewsky is safeguarding lead and Laura Todd our new communications lead.

We are also grateful to Rachel Carne and to Chrissie Keller and Fiona Le Masurier who represent Harton and Crambe respectively. If anyone would be interested in becoming involved in supporting the village hall or in one of our vacant roles (vice-chair and fundraising lead), please find our contact details on the village hall website.

Maintaining our village hall in this beautiful village requires funds and Covid 19 has impacted on our abilities to bring the community together and fundraise. We have therefore decided to launch our new '100 Club' and with a draw every three months we will see half of the funds support the village hall the other half shared between the 1st, 2nd and 3rd balls drawn, winning 25%, 15% and 10% of the funds respectively. We would love to have as many as possible take part, so please do contact Mark Mirfin by phone or text on 07833 667058 to find out more.

Although during the Covid 19 pandemic the village hall is restricted in its use, if you are interested in finding out more about the village hall you can access our new website at www.bartonlewillowsvillagehall.weebly.com or follow us on Facebook by searching 'Barton Le Willows Village Hall'.

Barton Le Willows Village Update:

Though 2020 has impacted on our abilities to socialise, the importance of community support has been evermore at the fore and we are grateful to Karen Wilson for starting our Barton Le Willows community village Whatsapp group. This is a fantastic way of keeping in touch and if anyone would like to join, please contact one of the trustees via the village hall website and we will put you in touch with Karen.

We are also grateful to Laura Todd who is volunteering as a
Covid 19 Community Responder,
a role which supports anyone in the village
and surrounding areas who needs help.
If you need support please go on line and search
www.nhsvolunteerresponder.org.uk/services.

We also hope that this year we will complete the refurbishment of the telephone box which will house our new defibrillator. This is a valuable project for the village and surrounding areas and if anyone would like to donate time or money to support this cause, we would be most grateful; please contact Stuart Simpson on 07730 177110.

BOSSALL



We were kindly given a beautiful tree by Trish Russell for the church Christmas service but sadly we were unable to use it in the church. Instead, despite the challenges, we decided to put the tree up outside the church which when lit, looked very festive and a reminder of the Christmas message.

BUTTERCRAMBE

The cancellation of our popular Carol Service was very much missed but we did manage to get the village together in October when George and Sara held a Bonfire and Firework party at Aldby Park. It was mainly for the children in the village and their family and neighbours. About 80 people attended, keeping within their family bubbles and enjoyed hog dogs and soup.



£160 was generously given in donations and was split between St John's Church and Ryedale Food Bank.

With this slower pace of life and more people working from home, Buttercrambe, and I suspect it is the same in other villages, has become very sociable during the day. People have got time to stop and chat and are more aware now of how important it is. Even on Christmas Day residents were wandering up and down the street chatting and a mince pie and a glass of something warming was shared outside while socially distancing.

We welcome Jack Bradley and Lily Hartley to the village who have moved into 1 Church Walk. Martin and Julie Bellwood have moved from No 1 to No 4 next to the Church.

CRAMBE

We are already well in to 2021 and back in another lockdown but the good news has been the roll out of the Covid 19 vaccines. It is good to be able to say that all those so far eligible to have the vaccine in this village have now had it which whilst not materially altering the way we live does give much greater reassurance against succumbing to the disease.

We had one service in the church on November 29th clearly the last for a long time to come. For those with access to the internet Zoom remains the only option.

In a mad moment Fiona decided to make some of her boozy mince pies for anyone who would like them in return perhaps for a small donation to the church. Well over 300 mince pies later, the church was rewarded with the wonderful sum of £320. A massive thank you to all those who contributed to this superb total. And in case you are wondering, it was a fun thing to do!!

The absence of our annual carol service was the subject of disappointment but instead of having the Christmas tree in the church we erected it outside where it could be enjoyed by the whole village and others. The villagers decorated the tree with baubles and ribbons as a reminder of family and friends who they would not be able to be with over the Christmas period. It looks like becoming the basis of a new tradition here in Crambe!

The snow made a welcome albeit short lived change from the endless rain and the children were quick to take the opportunity to build some lovely snowmen around the village which raised a smile, especially as when they started to melt they reformed themselves into weird and wonderful shapes!

FLAXTON

Remembrance Sunday:

In keeping with social distancing three adults and one child held two minutes silence in remembrance of those who lost their lives in war conflicts, and those who are still making every effort to maintain peace throughout the world.



Remembering

On December 13th we held our first service since lockdown. Normally this would have been our nativity service during which we would receive gifts for the Salvation Army Christmas appeal. Sadly we were unable to hold the nativity play due to Covid 19. The Salvation Army Appeal was very much in our minds and so a mid-week collection was made and the response was overwhelming.

To maintain social distancing gifts were received at the lychgate and later put into church where they were blessed at the service.

Thank you to everyone who spread the word for the appeal and to those of you who gave so generously.

Major Dunkinson from the Salvation Army sent the following message of thanks:

"May I take this opportunity to thank you for your kind and generous donation to The Salvation Army in York of gifts and a total of £120 in cash from the congregation of St Lawrence Church in Flaxton and Harton Benefice.

Despite the Covid restrictions and lockdowns, we have provided the referred 741 children with Christmas presents and 240 families with additional help



Gifts at the lychgate

with food. The number of children referred to us was over 24% higher than the previous year. This is evidence that your help was needed, in this unprecedented year, more than ever.

We hope you all have a healthy New Year and our thanks again for your thoughtfulness and generosity."

Church Services: Regrettably, for the time being, there will be no services in church due to the latest reports on Covid19. If you are not on the mailing system for the Zoom services, and would like to be, please let me know. I have only recently been able to join in these services and I find them most enjoyable. Ida 01347 878432

GATE HELMSLEY

Unfortunately, Covid-19 remains one of the central planks in our lives even in this new year of 2021. The difference is that much progress and much hope are being offered through the development of several vaccines and their rapid distribution to those at the greatest risk. Such a silver lining to this pervasive black cloud.

What has not changed is our good fortune in living where we do, in such a beautiful area and within a village with such a strong community spirit. On Remembrance Sunday many came to stand at their gates to observe two minutes' silence – the beginning and end marked by the ringing of the church bells.

**St Mary's church remains open twice a week for private prayer
Monday morning 9.00am to 1.00pm
and Thursday afternoon 2.00pm to 6.00pm**

There will be no congregational services in any churches in the benefice during January and February. This will be reviewed in time for March and Holy Week. Reopening for services then will remain dependent on the prevailing circumstances.

Sunday morning Zoom services: In the meantime, these regular services are very well attended (67 screens this morning) and much appreciated by everyone. We are grateful to Chris and Ian who organise the services, to all those who are willing to take part and especially to Ruth for running the technological side of things. Where would we be without Zoom, something we had hardly heard of a year ago?

‘Conversation at 10’ on each Wednesday at 10.00am, also held on Zoom, is an opportunity for a lively discussion over a cup of coffee. Do contact the rector if you would like to be part of this. We would recommend it as a good way to spend an hour among friends.

Thank you to the rector, Chris, for leading an actual service of Holy Communion at St Mary’s on Christmas morning, for which there was a congregation of 13. This was not quite the same as our regular Christmas day services when we are able to share so much fellowship, but under the shadow of the pandemic it inspired an atmosphere of peace and hope – and the church bells rang out after the service.

Many things have been impossible to arrange this year – village carol singing and the Christmas party for the youngsters, sessions in the village hall library and an actual Christmas Fayre in early December. However the virtual Christmas Fayre went off with a really big bang, enabling us to raise a much needed £950 for church funds. Thank you to Dorothy, Sue and Jane who helped with the baking, and huge thanks to everyone who supported this event. The social side was even more important than raising funds, and we were pleased to have been able to make contact with so many villagers. Thank you to Graham and Jill Freer for enabling us to publicise church events through the village Facebook page.

Alwyn Walters: We are sad to report Alwyn’s recent death. Latterly he was a resident of Prospect House Care Home, previously living in Barton-le-Willows. Alwyn was a really lovely gentleman, remembered fondly by many of us as our genial milkman in years gone by. We offer sincere sympathy to Ian, Sheila and all the family in their grief.

We send particular greetings to the residents and staff of Prospect House, thanking them for their hard work and care and for keeping everyone safe. Several village properties have changed hands over recent months. We take this opportunity to offer all newcomers a very warm welcome to our community, hoping that you will settle happily here.

The continuing pandemic prevents the printing of the Circular. We are aware that not everyone is able to access a copy on-line, so please let us have the contact details of anyone you know who would like to receive a hard copy. We are able to print a limited number for them. Please contact Michael and Delyth Harran (01759 372215).

We wish everyone a peaceful and hopeful 2021.

HOWSHAM

In the absence of our annual Carol Service, an invitation went out to Howsham village for an informal, suitably distanced carol singing evening starting at the top of the street and ending down in the courtyard of Derwent Court. Despite low expectations, the response was tremendous with 36 choristers aged from 3 years to over 80!

We sang at all the houses where people were in residence and collected £180 donation for the Salvation Army. It was thoroughly enjoyed by all as were the mulled wine and mince pies afterwards.



Ruby and Molly Stephenson went into Malton to hand over the cheque to the lovely Salvation Army lady who stands outside the Post Office.

SAND HUTTON and CLAXTON

As everyone else will say 'Well here we are again, when will it all end?' But we know it will end and we can look forward to better days to come with the vaccine....eventually!!

Many have been enjoying the walks around here and the often lovely weather even though it has been cold. It's always good to have socially distanced chats with others we pass on the lanes.

Thanks to Brian Atkinson and his daughter Jane for organising the carols on Claxton Village Green. Strict Covid restrictions were observed by the many folks that turned out on that rather damp evening.

Christmas hampers: As we had not hosted our monthly Community Lunches since last February, we decided to prepare Christmas hampers for regulars and visitors. It was great fun putting them together with the helpers contributing various food items.

Rachel Tennant writes...

"My grateful thanks and appreciation to all who contributed to the surprise Christmas Hamper which made me feel loved especially during these long long restrictions. The hamper contained 15 treats! All so welcome especially as they never go on my weekly shopping list!

In addition the CD made by the school children sent with their lovely Christmas card made it extra special. Thank you!

I wore the decoration from on top of the hamper, on Christmas day. The Hyacinth plant gives me pleasure each day. I will plant the bulb in my garden as a constant reminder of your very thoughtful and generous gift."

The memory/prayer tree at St. Mary's church has been used by many so we continue to invite you to add ribbons to remember any one you wish to. Ribbons are available in the church porch on Wednesdays and Sundays whilst the church is open for Private Prayer.

Charities:

The chosen charities for 2020

Children's Air Ambulance and Chance for Nepal,
each received £535.

The chosen Charities for 2021 are.....

Local Charity: The Island - A York based charity for vulnerable children and young people providing mentoring services for those experiencing mental, emotional and social difficulties.

Overseas Charity: Water Aid - Teams working to transform millions of lives every year throughout 28 countries, improving access to clean water, toilets and hygiene.

If you wish to donate through the year please contact Rachel and Graham
01904 468809

Malton Food Bank: Thank you to all those who so generously donated to the Malton Food Bank. The goods were taken just before Christmas and were gratefully received. We are continuing to collect non-perishable food/baby foods, also including toiletries for children/men/women. The collection point is in Main Street, Claxton for those who wish to donate.

Mr John Alwyn Walters died on January 2nd just shy of his 93rd birthday. He will be remembered as a friendly, sociable, family man and very much part of the community he loved.

He lived in Barton for 50 years married to Kathleen with son Ian and daughter Sheila. He initially worked in York on a milk round but being a country man took the opportunity to transfer to the Stamford Bridge round. Later he joined his son's milk delivery business.

During the present pandemic, as at all times, we their customers, really appreciate their loyal service delivering milk, papers and other groceries.

Thank-you to Guy and Luke, the next generation now serving us all!
Our condolences are with the whole family.

NEWS FROM OUR SCHOOLS.....



SAND HUTTON C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

Editor: As is happening nationwide many, if not all schools are closed, except to the children of keyworkers or children who are considered vulnerable.

Thus our children have had a very disrupted time over the last year, a situation which is ongoing.

In the light of that Mrs Pawson invited the children, if they wished, to write something about school life and the effect Covid has had on how things are done. And here are their offerings:

Our Christmas event wasn't like usual because usually we have a Christmas fair that lasts from 6 PM to 8 PM, this is organised by the PTA (parents and teachers association). Even though this event wouldn't be able to happen this year - due to Covid 19 - they still tried to think of ideas that would entertain us children and get us (children and adults) to feel the Christmas spirit.

They thought of an idea that was brilliant and magical. We walked through our school woods lead by one of Santa's special helpers to see Father Christmas, stopping on the way to do a mini quiz sort of thing.

Last term, our school also introduced birthday parties as we are not allowed to have them out of school. We have only had one so far but it was really fun and there was lots of things we did, including: eating cake; playing games; dancing to party music and watching the birthday girls and boys open a present from school.

During the first couple of weeks in school we wrote letters to the local care home and some of the elderly people living nearby, we wrote them with care, illustrated them and sent them off. Some of us even received replies! Also, for advent, to cheer people up, we made a virtual advent calendar, putting songs, jokes, poems and even some nativity readings in it.

Class 1 also made a wonderful nativity with class 2 and 3 singing in the background. It was lovely to watch them as we haven't seen some of the new receptions (except through the window while eating lunch).

It was great to be back and see all our friends, classmates, teaching assistants, cooks and teachers!

Nina Hopkins

A lovely colourful piece by Beau Clarke

School Before Covid By Beau Clarke

School before covid was diggerent indeed,
School before covid had no serious disease,
Classes of children played together in peace,
Before, red and white tape marked the
boundaries,

They had lots of gun with basket balls
and hoops,

Before Corona came and split them
into groups,

At lunchtime all classes would eat
together on shared tables,

But now, stories like that are
nothing but fables!



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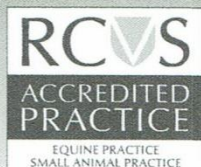
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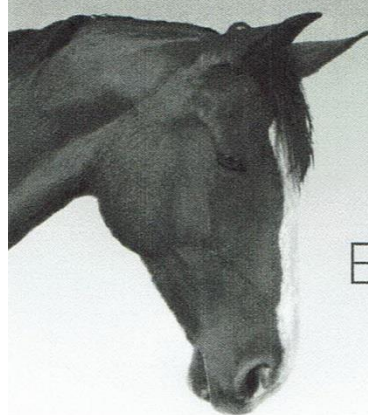
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The Circular

Copy deadline for the next edition April 18th 2021

This will cover: May June July 2021

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

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