

The Benefice of Harton

The Circular



Winter 2024 / 2025

November December January

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 St John the Evangelist Church, Buttercrambe

The picture on the cover was painted by Ros Walker, a local artist living and working from her studio at Kirkham. It is of the River Derwent at sunrise in winter, viewed from Kirkham Bridge. More of Ros's work can be seen on her website www.roswalker.com

From Rev Nigel.....

I do hope you all managed to have a decent break over the Summer, and that the somewhat disappointing weather didn't spoil plans.



By the time you read this, summer will be something of a distant memory, the Harvest season will be over, and we will, perhaps, be turning our minds towards the Advent and Christmas season.

Although I do enjoy the warmth and longer daylight hours of summer, I find that there is something comfortable about autumn. I like to dress in those warm layers, feeling snug in a hat and coat brought back out of the wardrobe after their summer hibernation. I love the colours of the season too, the golds, reds and browns. For me, autumn is a more interesting season, and I find that I pay more attention to my surroundings when I am out and about. The autumn and winter sunlight are also much better for taking photographs.

I have seen recently on the TV a national campaign regarding the benefits of being out amongst nature. I think it is very important that, provided we dress for the weather, we spend as much time as possible outdoors, even through these colder seasons. It really is good for our mental wellbeing. There are certainly some lovely places to walk in our Benefice area. Going a little further afield, visiting such places as Castle Howard, or having a wander around the old streets of Malton or York can be wonderful, especially in the company of family and/or friends. There's also the prospect of a nice warming drink at the end of the walk too!

The coming colder months of winter can be difficult for more vulnerable people, particularly the elderly, especially those who find it difficult or even impossible to get out. So, I encourage you to keep in contact with your elderly neighbours, checking regularly to see how they are doing. Just a quick chat on the doorstep, or a shared cuppa, is all it takes, and, particularly for those who are coming to terms with only recently having to get used to life on their own, it may well alleviate some loneliness.

Looking after each other and 'being' community is a fundamental element of being a Christian disciple. It is also a wonderful thing on a human level. After all, we Christians do not have a monopoly on kindness. When people live alone, they may worry that they will not have anyone around them to help when things go wrong.

Many Bible verses remind us that a community offers a support system for people to lean on in good and bad times. Here are a couple:

“And above all things have fervent love for one another, for ‘love will cover a multitude of sins.’ Be hospitable to one another without grumbling. As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.”

1 Peter 4:8-10

“Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.”

Galatians 6:2

So, this winter, let’s all look out for one another, and let us also have the confidence to be able to reach out to others when we need help.

There will be a variety of services taking place across the churches in the Harton Benefice over Advent and Christmas. Some will be traditional, and others, such as the Toy Service and Carol services, will be less formal.

A list of services is included in this magazine. Please also take a look at the Harton Benefice website for further details. You will be made most welcome at any of the services, and that is a welcome that extends throughout the year. Church is not just for Christmas!

Finally, on behalf of the whole worshipping community in the Benefice, I would like to express grateful thanks to Rachel Baker, as she retires after many years of dedicated pastoral ministry. I know lots of people have benefitted from her work and home visits.

She also deserves a big thank you for all the work she has done helping wedding couples plan their special day in one of our churches. I am very grateful to Vanessa Fitzpatrick for taking over this important role. Please see the website for contact details.

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 9.00 am. If you would like to join this service, please let Ian Lyall know and he will send you the link: ian.lyall2@gmail.com

November 2024

Sunday November 3rd

All Saints

9.00	Zoom Service	
10.00	Holy Communion	Upper Helmseley
	<i>Blessing of the shoebox gifts for Romania</i>	

Wednesday November 6th

10.00	Holy Communion	Gate Helmsley
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Sunday November 10th



Remembrance Sunday

10.30	Service of Remembrance and Holy Communion	Sand Hutton
	<i>This will be followed by an Act of Remembrance at the war memorial at Sand Hutton at 12.00 noon</i>	

Wednesday November 13th

10.00	Holy Communion	Flaxton
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Sunday November 17th

2nd before Advent

10.00	Holy Communion	Crambe
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Wednesday November 20th

10.00	Holy Communion	Howsham
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Sunday November 24th



Christ the King

10.00

St Lucia Messy Family Service
Gate Helmsley Village Hall

Wednesday November 27th

10.00

Holy Communion

Sand Hutton

December 2024

Sunday December 1st

Advent 1

9.00

Zoom Service

10.00

Advent Carols

Sand Hutton

Wednesday December 4th

10.00

Holy Communion

Crambe

Sunday December 8th

Advent 2

10.00

Toy Service

Flaxton

Wednesday December 11th

10.00

Holy Communion

Sand Hutton

Sunday December 15th

Advent 3

10.00

Holy Communion

Gate Helmsley

Wednesday December 18th

10.00

Holy Communion

Crambe

Friday December 20th

7.30	Carols with The Flaxton Singers	Flaxton
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Saturday December 21st

6.00	Celebration of Christmas in carols Poetry and prose by candlelight with the 200 Singers	Crambe
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Sunday December 22nd***Advent 4***

10.00	Holy Communion	Sand Hutton
6.00	Carol Service	Howsham

Tuesday December 24th***Christmas Eve***

4.00	Christingle	Foston
11.00	Midnight Mass	Gate Helmsley

Wednesday December 25th***Christmas Day***

10.00	Holy Communion	Upper Helmsley
10.00	Family Service	Flaxton

Sunday December 29th***Christmas 1***

10.00	Holy Communion	Howsham
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January 2025

Sunday January 5th

Christmas 2

9.00

Zoom Service

10.00

Holy Communion

Crambe

Wednesday January 8th

10.00

Holy Communion

Sand Hutton

Sunday January 12th

Epiphany

10.00



Messy Magi

Sand Hutton

Wednesday January 15th

10.00

Holy Communion

Flaxton

Sunday January 19th

10.00

Holy Communion

Whitwell

Wednesday January 22nd

10.00

Holy Communion

Crambe

Sunday January 26th

10.00

Holy Communion

Buttercrambe

Wednesday January 29th

10.00

Holy Communion

Howsham



ADVENT CAROL SERVICE

at

ST MARY'S CHURCH, SAND HUTTON

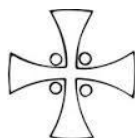
on

SUNDAY 1st DECEMBER at 10.00a.m.

Readings, congregational carols and choir pieces
to mark the beginning of Advent.

Seasonal Refreshments to follow service.

PLEASE DO COME ALONG



Our condolences to the family and friends of

6 th July	Kathleen Francis	Sand Hutton
16 th July	John Jones	Sand Hutton
15 th August	Ella Chamberlain	Gate Helmsley
21 st July	Wendy Fawcett	Sand Hutton
27 th August	Joan Shipley	Foston
9 th October	Florence Verity	Crambe
16 th October	Mike Le Masurier	Crambe

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



So here we are galloping through the Autumn term! Being a parent of two busy girls I know first hand what a lot of juggling goes into managing family life; and I am constantly in awe of how families manage to pull everything in. Hopefully as half term approaches everyone will get a well-earned break from after school duties and enjoy some leisure time and those all important lie-ins!

I was delighted at the beginning of September to accompany three of our Aubergines to go into the Benefice schools to talk to the children about the Aubergines. They put together a presentation that was so mature and professional, and were fantastic ambassadors for our group. I am very proud of them! Thank you to Becky, Annie and Nina for your time and enthusiasm!



Later on in the month we held the potato harvest-athon at the allotment. This is the second year that we have held this fun event and it was very well supported by the families. Thank you all for joining in and coming along to the weigh-in! The worthy winners were Dan and Claire Sykes from Gate Helmsley.

At the end of September we held Messy Harvest in Sand Hutton Village Hall, where we thanked God for all his wonderful gifts to us. The children loved joining in with the games and activities and our foods of the world themed shared meal went down very well!

We are currently in the midst of our annual shoebox campaign for Romania, which promises to be as well supported as ever. There are leaflets available in the churches, or you can contact me if you would like one. They need to be completed for the end of October as we have our Shoebox Service to bless them as they go on their way, on Sunday 3rd November at 10.00 am at Upper Helmsley church. Please do come along to that and bring your shoebox! Looking ahead, we will be doing Christingles at Foston's crib service on Christmas Eve which is always a really lovely service, and we are holding 'Messy Magi' on January 12th at 10.00 am at Sand Hutton church.

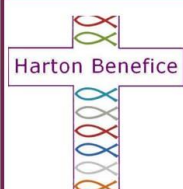
I have put together a list of all the 'family' orientated services that are happening across the benefice from advent onwards. Please feel free to put it somewhere central at home to remind you what is happening over the festive season. Looking forward to seeing some of you at events and activities soon.

Please contact me for more information about any of these events.

Mob: 07847 329015 Email: rachaelyoutharton@gmail.com

join our Harton Benefice Family & carers Facebook page

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



The Harton Benefice warmly
invites you to join us for

'Messy Magi'

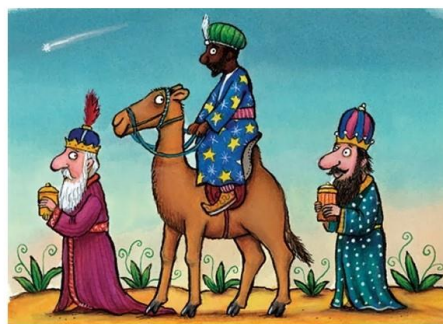
St Mary's church Sand Hutton

SUNDAY 12TH JANUARY 2025 10.00AM



**ALL AGES
WELCOME TO
COME ALONG!**

We will be exploring the meaning and significance of Epiphany, the visitation of the 3 wise men to the new born baby Jesus, through stories, crafts games & songs.





A Festival of Light – All Age Worship
at
Gate Helmsley Village Hall



Sunday 24th November at 10.00 am

CELEBRATING THE FESTIVAL OF SANTA LUCIA

Celebrating the meaning of Baptism

Activities : Refreshments

*"You have received the light of Christ;
walk in that light all the days of your life"*



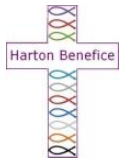
Dates for your diary over the Festive period

1 st December	Sand Hutton Advent Carols	Sand Hutton	10.00 am
8 th December	Toy Service (Family Service)	Flaxton	10.00 am
20 th December	Flaxton Singers, Carol service & lessons	Flaxton	7.30 pm
21 st December	Crambe Carols with the 200 choir	Crambe	6.00 pm
22 nd December	Howsham Carols	Howsham	6.00 pm
24 th December	Foston Crib service & Christingle	Foston	4.00 pm
24 th December	Midnight Mass	Gate Helmsley	11.00 pm
25 th December	Christmas morning Holy Communion	Upper Helmsley	10.00 am
25 th December	Family Carols	Flaxton	10.00 am
12 th January	'Messy Magi' All Age Family Service	Sand Hutton	10.00 am



ALL SERVICES ARE IN CHURCH UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED





Benefice PCC.....

The Benefice PCC last met on 10th October

The main discussion points were:

Rachel Baker has stepped down from her role as Pastoral Assistant, a role which she has undertaken for a large number of years. The PCC gave Rachel a parting gift to express their thanks for her invaluable contribution to the benefice and the dedicated pastoral care she had given to so many over the years. Rachel had sent a written note of thanks, which was read out at the meeting.

Vanessa Fitzpatrick has agreed to deal with wedding requests across the benefice, a role which was previously part of Rachel Baker's remit. Thank you, Vanessa.

Reverend Nigel Benson was presented with a home communion set for his use during his ministry to the benefice

A rota team has been set up to plan the schedule of services for the year. Churchwardens are asked to let Ellen Stott know their requirements for services in their parishes for 2025

Children and Young People's Service: Rachael Harrison reported successes with Messy Church sessions and services of All Age Worship (AAW), but a continuing need for more parish volunteers and more children to be part of the various sessions, especially for the Aubergines group. On 24th November there will be a Family Service of Light at Gate Helmsley Village Hall to celebrate the feast of Santa Lucia. There will be Messy Christingle at Foston church on Christmas Eve and Messy Magi at Sand Hutton church on 12th January.

Safeguarding: Emma Allen-Goss has resigned as the Benefice Lead for Safeguarding. The PCC wishes to recruit a volunteer to replace Emma and to update the screening of all PCC members

The Benefice PCC will next meet on Thursday 16th January at 10.00 am at Crambe House. Please send items for the agenda to the Honorary Secretary, Ellen Stott.

Delyth Harran

Lay Chairman

FORTHCOMING EVENTS AROUND THE BENEFICE.....



The Free Cinema at Barton Le Willows Village Hall

Now showing regular films on our 150 inch cinema screen in HD or UHD

No tickets to buy, any donations to improve the cinema and village hall are gratefully received.

Bring your own drinks, snacks and soft drinks available at much less than regular cinema prices!

Visit our website by searching for Barton Le Willows Village Hall or scan the barcode

Or contact Graham Tel: 07812 151 234
to get on the email mailing list for up to date listings



GIFTS for CHRISTMAS

Quality Gifts
at affordable
prices
for all your
Christmas giving

SATURDAY
2nd NOVEMBER 2024

Sand Hutton Village Hall
YO41 1LL
10am to 3pm (entry£1)

CAROLINE'S
KITCHEN

for coffee, tea,
cakes and light
lunches

STALLHOLDERS

Include Pretty Things, Igneous, YAC, Cottage Crafts,
Sarah Stoker Ceramics
and of course Sand Hutton Gifts!!

All proceeds to St. Mary's Church Sand Hutton

Further information from giftsforchristmas@hotmail.co.uk

Flaxton Village Hall
Saturday 9th November
Table Top Sale

From 11.00 am to 2.00 pm



Please come along and support the various organisations. All 11 tables have been taken with a variety of goods on sale so there will be plenty of bargains.

Stall holders:

Church Flaxton and District Friends York Against Cancer,
Brownies and Guides private vendors.

Refreshments will be available,
sausage/bacon rolls, cake, tea, coffee, soft drinks.

There is no admission charge.

St Mary's Church Gate Helmsley

Christmas Fayre

Saturday 30th November 2-4 pm
Orchard House

Tombola : Raffle : Mulled Wine
Cakes : Gifts : Garlands : Table decorations

Adults £3 / Children 50p: Includes tea/coffee and mince pie
Items also available online – contact Delyth on
01759 372215 / dandmharran@gmail.com for an order form



CHRISTMAS QUIZ 2024

Saturday 14th December 7.00 pm

Barton Le Willows Village Hall

Celebrating everything Christmas
TV film music games history food

Maybe win an early Christmas present!

Quiz entry is £2 per person (maximum 6 per team)

Bring your own alcoholic drinks and snacks for free, but
donations to support the village hall gratefully received

St Michael's Church Crambe



Come and join us on

Saturday December 21st at 6.00 p.m.

‘CHRISTMAS AT CRAMBE’

A Celebration of Christmas

by candlelight in carols, prose and poetry
with

THE ‘200 SINGERS’

And afterwards for mulled wine and refreshments
at Crambe House All are very welcome

from Sister Margaret Ann CSPH



My Dear Friends,

We are very fortunate in the Benefice of Harton. We have ten beautiful churches, all very different with their own contribution to make to the worshipping family in this area. We give thanks to all those who lovingly care for these buildings. It doesn't just happen; we have Churchwardens and PCC's and they do the unseen jobs, cleaning, unlocking and locking of the buildings, flower arranging. They work hard at the necessary ongoing fundraising in order to keep our churches and churchyards in good repair, and oh so much more.

Our buildings are important but we must remember that the people of God are the living stones of God's church and each person is as important as the next and has their own part to play.

A job given to each of us by God that no one else can do – think about it.

Alongside our churches we have village halls in a number of communities across the Benefice and what an asset they are too, providing a space for people to come together socially, to enjoy fun and laughter amidst a number of different activities. Remember, if we don't use them, we will lose them!

Over the years I have enjoyed so many gatherings, Harvest suppers, Strawberry lunches, Coffee mornings, Celebratory parties, Christmas Panto's, Rummage sales and Gifts for Christmas, Messy Church and public meetings, Race Nights, Libraries, Nurseries, Pilates, Art exhibitions and so much more.

I have recently been going to the Barton le Willows Cinema Club once a fortnight on a Saturday where we have seen some great films, and enjoyed each other's company - you even get ice cream thrown in during the interval! It is a great afternoon for all the family with even 3D films or an evening of entertainment. You should try it, it's much better than the telly!!

There are great quizzes too, carefully prepared and presented, not forgetting Pop -up pubs sometimes with live music. So, don't dismiss what all our villages have to offer. Join in, spread the word and make all these events known. Be a part of community life in the place you have chosen to live, venture across village boundaries and visit each other's churches and village halls. Keep your eyes on the Circular advertisements, so that you don't miss out, and enjoy the range of events on offer.

With my thoughts and continual prayers for you all.

*Margaret Ann
+ CSPH*

Community Lunch Club.....A poem from Dot Mills

Ten years have passed since we first came,
the welcome sight remains the same.
Our places set with napkins bright,
and little candles all alight.

We sit amongst a friendly bunch
to eat a splendid monthly lunch.
If someone's birthday comes around,
you know a present will be found!

Each month we share a different dish,
sometimes it's meat, sometimes it's fish.
Lasagne's welcome for a few.....
but some would rather have a stew!

Our cooks bring plenty on the day,
so 'seconds' always come our way!
The puddings have a magic taste,
no portions ever go to waste.

A cup of tea or coffee ends
a lovely meal we've had with friends.
Thanks to our willing volunteers,
for all their kindness, give three cheers!

"THE END OF AN ERA!"

After 25 years of serving a monthly lunch to folks in the community, the team have decided that now is the right time to hang up their 'pinnies'! Through the years the event has met the needs of a variety of people from the local area. Initially we met in the Claxton Methodist Chapel (now closed) and latterly in Claxton & Sand Hutton Village Hall, where good food, fun and friends always created a happy atmosphere.

Thank you to all those who have contributed in any capacity during these many years. The above poem was written by our local poet Dot Mill's on our 10th Anniversary; the sentiment continued to the present day.

Message from Adrian and Jezz.....

The Lunch Club:



Don't forget the next Sunday lunch is at
the Wentworth Arms,
Old Malton
on Sunday 17th November 12.30

BARTON LE WILLOWS

It's enshrined in the Constitution of the Charity that the Village Hall at Barton le Willows is intended for use of the whole population of the area.

Thanks to the Treasurer, who secured a grant application this summer which, along with past fundraising, enabled installation of solar panels, improvement to the heating system and reduction of costs.

It has been really good this year to see more people from Crambe, Harton, Bossall, Howsham, Barton Hill and other places at activities and events as, apart from anything else, regular use ensures the future of the hall as a venue for community use .

Please talk to someone on the committee if you'd like to run an activity or event of your own and we will try to support it. Or contact Anne on 01653 618683 to hire the hall for a private party or event and full details of hire.

Currently running at the Hall -

Yoga on Monday evenings, all levels (beginners also welcome) 7.00 pm - 8.00 pm. Contact Maria on 07545 574955 for full information.

Parent and Toddler Group on Friday mornings from 9.30 to 11.30, all weekly.

Cinema bi-weekly on a Saturday afternoon and evening, showing three different films.

The Crafters' Group meets weekly on Thursdays at the Village Hall in Barton le Willows, alternately at 10 am and 7 pm. Coffee and biscuits/cake are provided. (We do ask for a small voluntary donation to cover costs)

Practise your selected craft (knitting, crochet, embroidery, quilting, sewing etc.) or have a go at a new one, help is at hand! For information: Celia, 07905 628063

There have been two openings of “The Barton Boozer” pop up pub, a very enjoyable quiz night and a sticky afternoon pressing apples for juice...

Next events

**The Annual General Meeting
will be on Thursday 14th November,**
with refreshments for those who brave the winters night.
It's your hall! Hope that you can make it.

Christmas Quiz - on Saturday 14th December

BOSSALL

A lot has happened since the last circular. As you are probably aware St Botolph's church needed some major repair work doing which was reported in the last Quinquennial Inspection. The drains are not working properly around the perimeter of the church so need replacing with a French drain. It was also suggested we reinstall guttering and downpipes to help with the flow of rainwater and to help stop the water dripping onto the stonework. We have had a lot of damp in the church. Other work includes masonry, joinery and roof repairs.

It was a vast amount of money for the repairs which we simply didn't have. Ellen Stott very kindly offered her help in trying to get a National Lottery Heritage Grant to help cover some of the costs of repairs.

She has worked tirelessly over several months completing all the paperwork that goes with applying for this funding, certainly not an easy job. It is with great delight that we can report that she has managed to achieve the full amount applied for which is £165,477, so we are absolutely thrilled.

All credit goes to Ellen for making this happen.



Using money raised by National Lottery players, the Heritage Fund supports projects that connect people and communities with the UK's heritage. The “Saving St Botolph's Church” project is made possible with support from the Heritage Fund.

We have a tight timeframe to get the work done before next June. The scaffolding goes up at the end of October so it's all systems go.

You may have noticed the grass around the graves has been cut. This has been orchestrated by Jackie Chainey as well as help from PCC members.

Bossall's churchyard usually has a profusion of wild flowers and plants, especially beautiful in the spring, which is dependent on an annual cut in the late summer/early autumn. Due to unavoidable circumstances, last year's cut did not take place. However, this year's cut has very recently been undertaken and the PCC were most fortunate to have the services of the Community Payback team who have done sterling work. Visiting from York, two teams of six worked on four occasions and we were blessed with good weather each time! Members of the PCC assisted with raking, clearing and the provision of tasty refreshments which featured a delicious apple cake amongst other goodies. It is hoped we may be able to tempt them back as we would like to be able to use their services again in future.



The workforce



Unfortunately we must close the church from the end of October until March 2025 due to the scaffolding and commencement of works. Sadly this means we will not be able to host Midnight Mass this year. It will be held at St Mary's Church, Gate Helmsley instead.

BUTTERCRAMBE

The sun shone for the wedding of Rebecca Robinson and Thomas Boatman on Saturday 27th July. We managed to squeeze eighty people into the church and St John's looked beautiful with clever flower arrangements all in brown glass bottles which looked very effective. The afternoon reception was held in a marquee at Aldby Park.

We were fortunate that we had a Holy Communion service the following day so it was lovely to enjoy the beautifully decorated church. We had a lovely service in St Johns Church on Sunday 22nd Sept. There were well over thirty

people in church and we enjoyed refreshments and a chance to chat afterwards. The next service at Buttercrambe is our Harvest Festival on 27th October followed by lunch at Aldby Park.

CRAMBE

Our Churchyard project continues with an ever growing diversity of plants and insects as a result of careful management. Paula has a fine range of wildflower plants which she has grown in a greenhouse ready for planting out next Spring. Sam has kept the 'smart' areas of the churchyard beautifully mown and has put up a fine fence ready for a handful of sheep to work their magic for a few months, helping clear up some of the grass and fertilising the ground. We are very grateful to our friendly farmer Graham who supplies the sheep and his trailer. Thanks also go to the volunteers from Natural England and Lower Derwent Valley Conservation Group along with members of the village who cut and raked the grass.

In August we held our annual cake stall in John and Lynda Teale's lovely garden down by the river in Kirkham. We had a fine day and a continuous stream of visitors throughout the day, resulting in the wonderful sum of £748 being raised for the church. A huge thankyou to John and Lynda for hosting this event.

Our little community here at Crambe has been hit hard by the loss of two of our residents in just over a week. Florence Verity died on October 9th and Mike le Masurier on October 16th.

Florence and Ron have lived in Crambe almost all their married life and raised their family here. Florence was a very community minded person and did much for the church and the village. She was on the PCC for many years and always a central part of the Christmas Carol Celebrations. She was a great walker and belonged to a walking group.

Florence's great passion was her garden. It has to be one of the finest gardens in the area and everyone loved having an opportunity to visit it. Along with Ron, they grew a large range of vegetables, winning many prizes at the Welburn show over the years. Her warmth, humour, vitality and forthright manner will be much missed by us all, and we send Ron and the family our warmest condolences.

Mike and Fiona came to live in Crambe twenty four years ago, and were quickly absorbed into village life. After a very short time they were invited to

join the PCC, Mike becoming one of the Churchwardens, a post he held until earlier this year. This was a role that he fulfilled diligently until the onset of illness made it difficult to carry on. Following an accident last year, and the progressive nature of his illness Mike was to spend the last year of his life at Lister House, a Royal British Legion care home for the military. Having an army background, Mike was a very active man and loved nothing better than to get out on the hills with the dogs. Army life gave him itchy feet and he loved to travel the world. When he wasn't adventuring, he involved himself in local charity work with SSAFA, and later as a Police Custody Visitor. He too will be much missed by all who knew him.

FLAXTON

Harvest Service. The church was beautifully decorated for the service. Thank you to everyone for your time and donation of flowers. Hetty and Hector made a fantastic conker wreath and left it on the church door for all to see. Well done and thank you to you both. Everyone loved it. The service was well attended as was the "Bring and Share" lunch that followed. Thank you to all who donated non-perishable foods. The gifts were delivered to the Salvation Army and they pass on their sincere thanks to you all.

The Community. On **Saturday 9th November** there will be a fundraising Table Top Sale in Flaxton Village Hall from 11.00 am - 2.00 pm. Please come along and support the various organisations. All 11 tables have been taken with a variety of goods on sale so there will be plenty of bargains. Stall holders are Church, Flaxton and District Friends, York Against Cancer, Brownies and Guides and private vendors. Refreshments will be available, sausage/bacon rolls, cake, tea, coffee, soft drinks. There is no admission charge.

Toy Service. Sunday 8th December at 10.00 am. As in previous years we are collecting for the Salvation Army Christmas Appeal. The Salvation Army ask the general public, churches and businesses to provide new unwrapped toys, games, books, soaps, aftershave, socks, gloves etc. The gifts are for male and female age 0 - 18 years. Monetary gifts are also gratefully received. If you are unable to make the service but would like to donate gifts please leave them in church during the week. The church is open each day 9.30 am - 4.00 pm. With grateful thanks in anticipation for your support from the PCC, Salvation Army and Social Services.

Carol Service Friday 20th December at 7.30 pm. We look forward to welcoming you to our ever popular service of Nine Lessons and Carols,

supported by Flaxton Singers. Refreshments will be served following the service, giving you the opportunity to catch up with friends and neighbours.

Christmas Day. Service at Flaxton to be confirmed. Please check services in The Circular or on the Benefice website.

Church: A huge thank you from the PCC to the following groups for all their hard work during 2024 keeping the churchyard tidy, grass cutting in front of the church, putting out the waste bins, the church opening team, church cleaning team. Special thanks to Tony Sawyer for doing the jobs he sees need attention. These roles are much appreciated by all who visit the church from near and far.

FOSTON

In summer, we held one of our fun and challenging quiz and curry nights. The quiz was hosted by our amazing quiz master Peter Mills and was well supported as usual.

In September, we were saddened by the death of Joan Shipley. Joan had served on the PCC for many years and had supported the church and local community in many ways. Joan had been a member of the village hall committee and had worked in the office at Foston School. She was well known for her popular “scones on the lawn” event which raised funds for charity over many years. We will miss her.

The Northern Lights looked particularly spectacular against the outline of the church. What an amazing thing to see.

We are looking for volunteers who would like to support our lovely historic church in any way. Please speak to any member of the PCC if you are interested or message the secretary on 07783 031815.

Foston and Thornton Le Clay Village Hall

We would like to remind you of our upcoming events. Everyone is very welcome and you can generally pay on the door.

Prize bingo - Saturday 9th November at 7.30pm. £5 to include entry and a book of tickets.

Soup and pud lunch – Wednesday 27th November at 12pm (new time).
Cost £5

Community Christmas lunch – Wednesday 11th December at 12pm. Please contact Ness for more details or to book a place 07968 390509

Weekly coffee morning – Mondays 9am to 11am. Drop in for a chat, coffee and cake!

Christmas Crafting Evening in aid of Foston C of E Primary School

A relaxed and social evening, with the opportunity to create at least 3 Christmas items, under the guidance of enthusiastic amateurs.

Friday 29th November at Foston and Thornton le Clay Village Hall

£15 per person includes cheese and biscuits. Cash Bar and Raffle available. Please contact Ness on 07968 390509 for further details or to purchase a ticket.

GATE HELMSLEY

The village was stunned in August by the sudden and unexpected death of Ella Chamberlain at the young age of 29. Ella had lived all her life in Gate Helmsley, was a hard worker and a very personable young woman. She had a great love for all animals, especially dogs and was daily seen walking dogs along the Back Lane. There was a full church for a special service of comfort, led by Revd Nigel Benson, in memory of Ella, which was held at St Mary's Church on 13th September. We extend our deepest sympathy to Ella's partner, parents and sisters, and all the family in their tragic loss. Thank you to everyone in the village for coming together to support the family and for providing the funeral tea. We are grateful to Ella's family for the bench placed in the churchyard in her memory.

One week later, we gathered again to commemorate and celebrate the life of Captain Dick Garnons-Williams formerly of the Manor House, who died in April, two months short of his 99th birthday. Again, villagers were generous in their contributions to the funeral tea; thank you all. A memorial service was held in the church and conducted by Revd Rachel Benson. After the service, Captain Dick's ashes were interred in the churchyard, next to his beloved wife, Anne. Dick's family – Elizabeth, Antonia and William – have sent their grateful thanks for all that was done to make this celebration so memorable.

Thanks are due to Revd Rachel Benson for leading the Harvest Service which was held at St Mary's on 26th September. The service was followed by a very happy and sociable supper in the village hall. Thank you to all who helped in any way to make this event such a success, both in terms of fellowship and in raising some much-needed funds for the church.

On Saturday 26th October over 80 people gathered in the village hall to dance to the Steve Cassidy Band. We had a thoroughly enjoyable evening with a sumptuous supper and huge raffle. Thank you to Mandy Dodds who organised the event and to the many people who prepared the hall and contributed food and raffle prizes – and not forgetting the washers-up! The event raised £1200 for St Mary's church funds.

Over recent weeks there has been a major clearance in the churchyard. On behalf of St Mary's PCC, thank you so much to all the good people who have worked so hard – and are still working – on this; you know who you are. The churchyard looks so much tidier. The tidiness won't go too far, though, as the churchyard will continue to be managed with the environment in mind. Thanks to the Ford family and others who helped dispose of the plant rubbish.

We open the Christmas season with the annual **Christmas Fayre at Orchard House, 2.00 to 4.00 pm on Saturday 30th November**. Sales will also be online. (See separate notice).

The annual Village Carols will be held at St Mary's on Saturday 7th December at 12.00 noon. Do come and join for a good sing. Refreshments afterwards in the church.

St Mary's will host Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve this year while Bossall church undergoes building work. The 10.00 am service on Christmas morning will be moved from Gate Helmsley to Upper Helmsley church.

Please don't forget the very good cause of Christmas shoe boxes for the needy in Romania. The boxes will be dedicated at Upper Helmsley church on Sunday 3rd November. This year, David Fletcher, the local organiser of this appeal, is to be part of the delivery team travelling to Romania. Leaflets for the Amen boxes can be obtained from David or at the back of the church.

HOWSHAM

Our Bank Holiday clean-up was an amazing success. Large numbers of energetic gardeners and cleaners ensured that the church and churchyard looked immaculate. Nearly forty people enjoyed a barbecue in the evening in very clement weather. Thanks to all who helped and contributed food.

We have at last received our Tree Preservation Order and hope to start the much needed tree work.

The Harvest Festival, led by Revd Nigel, was well attended. We all enjoyed the delicious supper and wine. James Stephenson auctioned the produce and

we raised an amazing £680 for the York and Scarborough Hospices. Thank you to all who helped, brought food and decorated the church so beautifully. **The Carol Service will be at 6pm on Sunday 22nd December with mulled wine and mince pies afterwards.**

SAND HUTTON and CLAXTON

Autumn has arrived with its rich hues of colours: warm greens, yellows, orangey reds and every shade of golden-brown tones. Conkers are falling in abundance, their prickly outer cases bursting open to revealing the shiny, brown seeds inside. Autumn is such a season of change – the leaves falling, birds migrating, hedgehogs, bats and perhaps even some humans starting to prepare for hibernation, and the farmers harvesting their crops.

Speaking of harvest, Sand Hutton School held their Harvest Festival in St Mary's on 16th October – the children were dressed as scarecrows or representing every type of fruit or vegetable. They were excellent, with lovely singing and celebrating various aspects of harvest time, whilst also thoughtfully remembering those in need and less fortunate than ourselves.

We would like to offer our sincere thanks to all those who volunteered their time to help with the Autumn churchyard and drive tidy on 12th October.

A lot of hard work from everyone and we made excellent progress.

Tasks undertaken included sweeping up conkers and debris, trimming of bushes, pruning of trees, gutter cleaning, strimming in the churchyard, weeding graves etc. We really do value and appreciate this support. If any parishioners would like to assist in the ongoing maintenance of the churchyard or join the cleaning team, please do not hesitate to contact us.

On a sadder note, there have been two funerals and an interment of ashes over recent months. The funeral and burial of Kathleen Francis took place on 7th August. Kathleen and Colin had lived in Sand Hutton for a long time before moving to the Durham area in later life. It was a touching service, attended by family and friends.

On 19th August the funeral of John Jones took place in St Mary's. John and Diane have been resident in Sand Hutton for many, many years. The church was full as family, friends and colleagues came to celebrate John's life, mourn his loss and share their memories.

On 17th September, the ashes of Wendy Fawcett were interred in the churchyard during an intimate family gathering. Wendy was well known in the local community having lived in the area for many years.

We offer our condolences to the families of Kathleen, John and Wendy as they grieve the loss of their loved ones.

Fundraising and Dates for your diaries

We are pleased to report that Jez and Adrian's Afternoon Tea fundraiser in September raised £305. It was a lovely, sociable event with a great atmosphere. Our thanks go to them both plus all who helped in any way.

Our next major fundraiser is **"Gifts for Christmas"** on **Saturday 2nd November** at **Claxton and Sand Hutton Village Hall** from **10 a.m. – 3 p.m.** It really is an amazing event so please do come along to purchase quality Christmas gifts at affordable prices, relish the delicious soups, sandwiches and cakes from Caroline's kitchen, chat with friends, all with the added bonus of helping our beautiful local church.

Please also make a note of the date **Sunday 1st December** when there will be the **Advent Carol Service at 10 a.m. at St Mary's, Sand Hutton.**

UPPER HELMSLEY

This Brand New Day

This brand new day I go in faith,
But I know not what lies in wait,
So dear God, this morning I pray,
Take control and lead the way.

I do not see with these two eyes,
I cannot tell where danger lies.
Please, dear Lord, be my guide.
Let me not stray from Your side.

Show me today the journeys to make.
Steer me on the right paths to take.
Grant me grace to discern your will,
For when to strive and when to be still.

Help me to love and trust You more
And radiate Your love to my neighbour.
Then bring me back safe and sound,
And let my praise for You abound.

Amen.

WHITWELL

We are having a Carols- round-the-village evening on Monday 16th December followed by mince pies and mulled wine in the church.

We will set off from the post box at 6.30 pm and would love a boost to our singing! We did this last year and it was a huge success; it is something different and a great start to the Christmas week. We will put reminders up nearer the time!

Everyone welcome to join us! If the weather is too awful, we will let you know.

NEWS FROM OUR SCHOOLS.....

Sand Hutton C of E Primary School



Hello everyone from Sand Hutton.

We have had a very busy half term at school.

It began with welcoming our new Reception children into our school community as well as new nursery children. They have quickly found their feet and are enjoying everything that school has to offer. They shone in our Harvest Service and we are looking forward to our Nativity already!

We were most fortunate to have another Big Help Out! This was on a day which threatened torrential rain and resulted in only a two hour window of dry at exactly the time we had booked! As a result, we got many of those little jobs done that are so easily overlooked and picked many potatoes that we had forgotten planting!

As the half term was long, we planned in a well-being week. As part of this, we filled our Christmas gift boxes. This is a treat for us all. Across the federation, we created over 45 boxes which will be blessed and sent on their way in early in November.

We finished for the holidays with a 'break the rules' fundraising day organised by the PTA. Children came to school looking all sorts of weird and wonderful! It was great fun!

We will soon be looking forward to Christmas. Please make sure that you check out our Monster Christmas Tree. It will be on display in York Minster from the beginning of December...on a woodland theme.

Wishing you all the best from the staff and children at Sand Hutton C of E Primary School

Kind regards,

Beverley Pawson

Headteacher, Sand Hutton and Warthill Federation

headteacher@warthill.n-yorks.sch.uk



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St John's Church, Howsham

The Circular

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Happy Christmas to all our readers!

