

The Benefice of Harton

The Circular



What on earth is the church for?



Spring Edition 2017
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

This edition's cover has been sponsored by

St Michael's Church, Crambe

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The Benefice of Harton **Lent Course 2017** asks...



What on earth is the church for?

We have 10 beautiful churches in the Benefice of Harton, but why are they here? What was the church put on earth, and in our communities, for? Come and join us as we explore these questions through the New Testament book of Acts - the story of how and why the early church began.

We will be thinking about the future of our churches, and asking for your thoughts and ideas about how we might grow God's Kingdom in and through them. All are welcome. Whether you come to church regularly, occasionally, rarely or not at all, these churches are here for you, and we'd love you to add your voice to the discussion!

There will be **5 sessions**, each with a different theme, all beginning at **7.30pm**:

Wednesday 8th March

St Mary's, Gate Helmsley

Thursday 16th March

St Mary's, Sand Hutton

Tuesday 21st March

St Botolph, Bossall

Wednesday 29th March

St Lawrence, Flaxton

Thursday 6th April

All Saints, Foston

Come along to as many sessions as you like.

We look forward to welcoming you!

From The Rectory

My dear friends,

A Vision for the future!

Firstly, thank you so much for all your continuing help and support since I've arrived - it is greatly appreciated not only on a 'church' level, but for me personally as well.

I know I don't say 'thank you' as often as I should. So thank you once again – I firmly believe that we couldn't do what we do without us all being in it together. We are stronger by joining together, rather than pulling apart.

Secondly, I am as aware as you are that we need to look at our future as individual parishes and churches, as well as being a benefice. Stating the obvious, no one is getting any younger and it's a harsh reality that within five to eight years, some peoples' commitment may not be as vigorous as it is at present. I fear there is a bleak future ahead if we remain as we are.

So what are we to do?

Well, I've got some ideas – but I need yours as well in considering what it means to be 'church' and what we want for our future

On Tuesday 9th May 2017, I've booked Wyedale Hall (near Scarborough) for a planning day for the churchwardens and the ministry Team. I hope that we can share all our fears, hopes, challenges and dreams for the future. Prayerfully and with Godly inspiration, we can design and share a strategy that will give us all hope for a bright, sustainable future.

I need your inspiration and ideas too – so do please let me know your thoughts and wisdom on how we can grow God's Kingdom in our beautiful churches.

With this in mind, and to start us off, our Lent course will be based on the Acts of the Apostles – in other words, the early church – to see what inspiration and guidance we can glean from this amazing book in the New Testament.

We also have a course booked in autumn called Pilgrim, exploring some of the very basic questions of our faith in God through Jesus.

Finally, there is a weekend in late October (again at Wyedale) called Cursillo – which again is a short course on faith and leadership.

In amongst all this are our Pray One For Me events, where we pray for an individual parish or community and of course we will be continuing the very popular Spa Church services.

But there is something very simple that you can do – and I feel that this is probably the most important.

To emphasise the point I made earlier, I strongly believe that we cannot stand alone – we are all in this together.

And so I would encourage each of you to come and worship Sunday by Sunday (even Wednesday by Wednesday) in each other's churches. I know some of you do, but there are also some who don't.

I do realise that this may not be possible every week, but by supporting another church as often as possible, they in turn will support you – and the more we encourage others in our communities to do the same, the stronger we will grow.

Someone said recently that it wasn't 'money' that was needed for their church, it was 'people' – and how true is that.

So as part of your New Year resolution, (if you aren't already) would it be possible for you to be more proactive in coming to other churches, so we can visibly be seen to be a stronger, more committed, church?

Perhaps by so doing, we can encourage more from our communities to do the same.

I do hope so, as that would certainly be a tremendous start to our year of planning our future together.

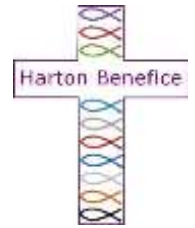
Finally, may I wish you all a very Happy New Year filled with hope and inspiration.

Revd. Chris Wingfield



*Everyone is warmly
welcomed.
There is always room
for a few more!*

Services for the Benefice of Harton



February 2017

Wednesday 1st February

10.00

Holy Communion

Candlemas

Buttercrambe

Sunday 5th February

4th before Lent

9.00

Holy Communion

Bossall

10.30

Holy Communion

Foston

10.30

Holy Communion

Sand Hutton

Wednesday 8th February

10.00

Holy Communion

Gate Helmsley

Sunday 12th February

3rd before Lent

10.30

Benefice Holy Communion

Upper Helmsley

Wednesday 15th February

10.00

Holy Communion

Howsham

Sunday 19th February

2nd before Lent

9.00

Holy Communion

Gate Helmsley

10.30

Holy Communion
and Baptism

Buttercrambe

Wednesday 22nd February

10.00

Holy Communion

Crambe

Sunday 26th February

Next before Lent

10.30

Benefice Holy Communion

Flaxton

March 2017

Wednesday 1st March

7.30

Holy Communion
and ashes

Ash Wednesday

Gate Helmsley

Sunday 5th March

Lent 1

10.30

Benefice Holy Communion

Crambe

Wednesday 8th March

10.00

Holy Communion

Upper Helmsley

Sunday 12th March

Lent 2

9.00

Holy Communion

Sand Hutton

10.30

Holy Communion

Howsham

10.30

Holy Communion

Foston

Wednesday 15th March

10.00

Holy Communion

Flaxton

Sunday 19th March

Lent 3

10.30

Benefice Holy Communion

Bossall

Wednesday 22nd March

10.00

Holy Communion

Foston

Sunday 26th March

Mothering Sunday



10.30

Mothering Sunday Holy Communion

Gate Helmsley

10.30

Mothering Sunday Family Service

Flaxton

Don't forget the clocks go forward!

Wednesday 29th March

10.00

Holy Communion

Buttercrambe

April 2017

<i>Sunday 2nd April</i>	<i>Lent 5</i>
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9.00	Matins BCP said	Gate Helmsley
10.30	Holy Communion	Sand Hutton
10.30	Holy Communion	Crambe

Wednesday 5th April

10.00	Holy Communion	Howsham
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<i>Sunday 9th April</i>	<i>Palm Sunday</i>
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10.30	Benefice Holy Communion	Upper Helmsley
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Thursday 13th April

7.30	Maundy Holy Communion	Maundy Thursday Gate Helmsley
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Friday 14th April

10.00	A children's half hour at the cross	Good Friday Foston
2.00	An hour before the cross	Sand Hutton

<i>Sunday 16th April</i>	<i>Easter Sunday</i>
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10.30	Benefice Holy Communion	Buttercrambe
<i>All are welcome for refreshments at Aldby Park following the service</i>		

Wednesday 19th April

10.00	Holy Communion	Sand Hutton
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<i>Sunday 23rd April</i>	<i>Easter 2</i>
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10.30	Holy Communion	Flaxton
10.30	Holy Communion	Bossall

Wednesday 26th April

10.00	Holy Communion	Crambe
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<i>Sunday 30th April</i>	<i>Easter 3</i>
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10.30	Benefice Holy Communion	Foston
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May 2017

Wed 3rd May	10.00 Holy Communion	Sand Hutton
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Sunday 7th May	10.30 Benefice Holy Communion	Whitwell
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The recently formed Prayer Team is continuing to pray for our villages and communities and will be visiting another three villages over the next three months.



P14ME cards will be delivered to each house on a Monday, inviting you to write down any special prayer requests you might have, knowing that they will be prayed for in a special service on the Thursday of that week.

You are invited to either bring your cards with you to the service, or place them in the P14ME box located either in your church, or at a central point in your village.

Do look out for posters on the various notice boards which will tell you the location of the P14ME boxes, and make a note of the following dates:

Sand Hutton and Claxton	P14ME cards delivered 6th February P14ME church service 7.00pm Thursday 9th February
Flaxton	P14ME cards delivered 27th March P14ME church service 7.00pm Thursday 30th March
Crambe and Barton Le Willows	P14ME cards delivered 24th April P14ME service 7.00pm Thursday 27th April at Barton le Willows Village Hall

Tired....? Weary....? Need to Pamper yourself....?

Indulge yourself at 'Spa Church'—— a new type of Church!

Following the success of Spa Church in the autumn of 2016, we will be holding further services throughout the Benefice over the coming months.

The first two will be held on:



Thursday 4th May

at All Saints Church Foston

Thursday 8th June

at St John's Church Howsham

Do come along and experience 'Spa Church' - let your spiritual health feel refreshed and replenished

Details of the themes of each service will be in the Summer edition of The Circular



Congratulations to those recently married

29 th October	Luke Smith and Helen Fagan	Flaxton
5 th November	David Lockwood and Bethany Speck	Sand Hutton



Welcome to those newly baptised

6 th Nov 2016	Olivia Grace Pellen	Flaxton
1 st Jan 2017	Jack Anthony Glenville Middleton	Sand Hutton
1 st Jan 2017	Oliver Christopher Tomlinson	Sand Hutton



Our condolences to the families and friends of

4 th Nov 2016	Ann Stacey	Flaxton
10 th Nov 2016	Kath Oldfield	Claxton
18 th Nov 2016	Alan Dudley	Flaxton
30 th Nov 2016	Bob Fawcett	Claxton
16 th Dec 2016	Andrew Scriven	Bossall
27 th Dec 2016	Marion Pollard	Sand Hutton

A poem for Easter

The Donkey's Tale



Precious baby, tucked up tight
Sheltered from the frosty night
Sleeping in the golden hay
The Prince of Peace before us lay.

He feels my breath upon his face
My warmth has filled the coldest space
Upon my back his Mother rode
Now here rests her regal load.

Above the stable stark and lowly
On this scene so calm, so holy
Shines the brightest star of all
Guiding wise men to the stall.

On bended knee they offer gifts
To greet this child at Mary's breast
Can this be the King of Kings?
This babe at rest in simple bliss.

And as I watch the scene impart
A shadow falls across my heart
If all the prophecies come true
My share in this tale is not through.

One day hence, I know not when
The Prince of Peace I'll meet again
He'll ride in glory on my back
Through waving palms the road we'll track.

Then the shadow falls once more
And dark descends on stable floor
This tender scene will end in sorrow
And I will play my part some morrow.

And always to the end of time
My back will show the marks of crime
With cross from neck to tail and shoulders broad
I'll bear the pain of my dear Lord.



Jean Daish



Jean with Colleen in 1979

This was written for Colleen, a little donkey who Jean rescued in York in 1979; she was approximately 20 months old and lived to the age of 28 years.

All donkeys have a cross on their backs head to tail and across the shoulders.

LENT LUNCHESES



12.30 to 2.00 pm

Monday 6th March

with Pam Ashworth
at The Rullies, Foston

Thursday 23rd March

with Sara Winn Darley
at Aldby Park, Buttercrambe

Tuesday 4th April

with Rachel Baker and Delyth Harran
at Orchard House, Gate Helmsley

**Thank you to those who are hosting these events.
Everyone is most welcome.**

Do come along and take advantage of the opportunity to meet people from different parts of the Benefice and to have a chat over a simple lunch of soup and cheese.

Donations will be gratefully received in aid of the local charity:

**York Carers' Centre, Priory Street, York
www.yorkcarerscentre.co.uk**

The centre supports carers of all ages including children and young people who care for older members of their family

Developing Our Deaneries



From Andy Broom, Archdeacon of the East Riding and Chair of the Developing Our Deaneries Working Party

“A local network of churches, inspiring, influencing and leading mission and ministry”. This is the vision of a programme called “Developing our Deaneries” which is changing the ways in which groups of churches work together across our diocese.

It's a well kept secret!

Deaneries play an important part in the life of the local church – and where they don't, they could!! The parish and the benefice are the main focus for the local church, but there are also times when a wider vision, larger resources, broader perspectives and recognised local leadership are needed if we are to engage with the ever changing contexts and challenges around us. Our diocesan vision of ‘Generous Churches: Making and Nurturing Disciples’ can't be fully delivered through the parishes working alone. If the Church is to respond to the challenges and opportunities that surrounds us, and be resourced effectively to do this, then breathing fresh life and purpose into our deaneries is essential.

- Very few parishes have sufficient resources to engage with the larger issues in their area - a deanery is able to provide a more varied range of resources and a sense of a ‘critical mass’ for wider initiatives. It can provide opportunities for parishes to come together and support one another in a more realistic and local way than is possible across the diocese as a whole, lifting the horizon of clergy and lay people beyond the parochial into wider issues and opportunities.
- Deaneries can encourage more effective mission and ministry in parishes by sharing ideas and building supportive relationships. Possible areas of co-operation include working with schools, children and families; delivering more focussed training opportunities; developing local chaplaincies etc. The vision is always one of enabling parishes, not of imposing something from the top down.

- Of course the extent to which this might happen in practice depends very much on local circumstances; there are exciting opportunities to build on what is already working well and to enhance mutual support and engagement in God's mission.

So how will it work?

Deaneries with this renewed awareness will be characterised by three overlapping and complementary purposes:

Enabling Mission – Supporting Relationships – Resourcing Ministry

A **Leadership Team** in every deanery will take over the formal responsibilities of the Deanery Standing Committee but will also be looking to develop local opportunities and networks. By joining up people, ideas and resources more can be attempted and achieved than when we work in isolation. The **members of the Deanery Synod** will have a significant role, both within and also between meetings, in shaping and communicating the **Deanery Plan**. This will put some flesh on the bare bones of the challenges which the diocese has set before all of us for the next five years, the three goals of:

- Reaching the people we currently don't
- Moving to growth
- Establishing sustainable finance

From *Transforming our Diocese 2016*:

<http://dioceseofyork.org.uk/uploads/attachment/2933/diocese-transforming.pdf>

We all have different abilities, gifts and experiences to contribute to the life of the whole Church. The Deanery will work at its best and encourage everyone's participation if these are shared.

**Deanery Synods are elected every three years
2017 is one of those years!**

If you want to share in this process of transformation then make sure that your name goes forward at your Annual Church Meeting (APCM) this Spring!

Sand Hutton and Claxton Village Hall

Up-coming Events

Friday 17th March

7.00pm – 11pm

“Green Guinness” at our pop-up pub,
“Synolda Arms”, marking St Patrick’s Day

Friday 28th April

7.30pm

Film Night, showing Bridget Jones’ Baby

Saturday 29th April

10.30am – 12.30pm

Spring Saturday Social: welcome Spring by meeting new friends, catching up with local activities - and have excellent FREE refreshments

And a date for your diary:

Sunday 11th June

Sand Hutton and Claxton Plant Fair: selling an exciting range of plants for your garden, with activities for all (art, craft, music, horticulture). Home-made refreshments available all day

For further information on events, see the parish website

www.claxton-sandhutton.org.uk

**? ? ? ? ?
? QUIZ ?
? ? ? ? ?**

All Saints Foston

***GOOD NEWS FOR KEEN
QUIZZERS!***

? Brush up your knowledge
Impress your friends
on

Friday 3rd March at 8.00 pm.

? In
Thornton Le Clay village hall
Our famous Quizmaster Peter Mills

will be hosting a Quiz and hot supper

Tickets £5.00 pp. includes supper

contact

Karen Armitstead 01653 619964 and Linda Fothergill 01904 468760

St Mary's Church, Sand Hutton

SNACK

and

CHAT



2.00 pm

to

3.00pm

**You are very welcome to pop into the church
for a time of quiet/peace/chat/cuppa
whatever you choose!**

The Church will be open for all of the above on
March 13th April 10th May 8th

Everyone including babies and toddlers welcomed
Look forward to seeing you!

St Michael's Church, Crambe

SPRING COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 8th April

at Barton Le Willows Village Hall
10.30 a.m.—12.00 noon

Bring your friends!

Cake * Raffle * Tombola

Entrance £3.00 children free
Includes light refreshments

Gifts of cakes, bottles, and raffle prizes are most welcome, they can be brought on the day or given to any member of PCC. Contact Dorothy Tel: 01653 619133

Pipe Up!

St Mary's Church Gate Helmsley
Centenary Organ Restoration Fund

**Saturday 8th April
at 7.00 pm**



INAUGURAL ORGAN RECITAL

given by Geoffrey Coffin

To celebrate the restoration of the organ

Followed by a finger buffet and a glass of wine

Admission is free

but by ticket only

from Michael Harran

Tel: 01759 372215

Email: mj@mharran.freeserve.co.uk

PLEASE USE THE CAR PARK OPPOSITE THE VILLAGE HALL

MORE EVENT ADVERTISEMENTS AT THE END OF THIS SECTION!

Around the Parishes.....

News, views and information from:

BARTON LE WILLOWS

Numerous events were held in the Village Hall in the run up to Christmas including a Thai night hosted by Nat and Lon from Little Somboon Kitchen whose food was delicious and freshly cooked to order.

The Winter Market which had a variety of stalls, refreshments and festive fun organised by Jo Danischewsky and the Dynamic Duo (aka Clare Taylor and Clea Warner), who also hosted their successful annual Christmas Quiz in the village hall where the special December £50 100 Club draw was held.

A big thank you to all those who supported and help organised these events

BOSSALL

At last the church scaffolding is down and the work required by the quinquennial inspection is complete, but in the inspection process it was discovered that the weather vane was in a precarious state and needed restoration work. A unanimous decision decided that that the work should be undertaken and the wyvern is now back in place newly gilded, and in working order. We feel that the restoration has been like 'the icing on the cake' and all worthwhile.

A wyvern is a legendary creature with a dragon's head and wings, a reptilian body, two legs, and a tail.



A wyvern in a medieval manuscript



*Bossall's wyvern weather vane
(Courtesy of Bill Heath)*

It is often (but not always) associated with cold weather and ice, and it will sometimes possess a venomous bite but rarely does it have the ability to breathe fire. The wyvern in its various forms is important to heraldry.

There are but a few in the country's churches, and individual history is not easily found but it is likely to have been the work of a local blacksmith but with input from the then church authority.

The church looked lovely at Christmas time and we were fortunate to have a crib service on Christmas Eve followed by Midnight Mass with the collection of some £300 going to the recent refugees in the Middlesborough area which are quite numerous.

On a more local front Bossall has lost the occupants of three farm houses, but we are pleased to welcome newcomers to two of the cottages in the village.

We feel it right to record how sorry we are to have to say goodbye to the Fawcetts. Many of us have seen the family grow up here, and they were always very helpful, and of course Kathy was an excellent PCC Secretary and Church Warden and we shall really miss her.

CRAMBE

The autumn weather has been quite kind, allowing the farmers to get all the winter corn sown. We certainly haven't had as much rain as last year, long may it continue.

The Remembrance Sunday service was well attended, the superb bugler played the Last Post and Reveille. It was followed by a wreath laying ceremony at Sand Hutton Memorial.

The highlight of the Christmas period was the candlelit carols and readings in the beautifully decorated church. The music was provided by the York Railway Institute Brass Band conducted by David Lancaster, who are always appreciated, and carols sung by Women in Harmony under the direction of Caroline Hall.

The service was followed by mulled wine and canapés at Kyreham House, many thanks to Bobby Cook and her family for again hosting this.

The village was really made festive with well-lit houses. Everyone seemed to have made such an effort.

The new owners of Beck Farm, George and Millie McCallum have been busy planting trees which will undoubtedly enhance the village in the future.

Pipe Up ! St Mary's Church Gate Helmsley Centenary Organ Restoration Fund

Five years of fundraising came to fruition recently with the return of the pipe organ to St Mary's Gate Helmsley. After 6 months in the York workshop of Principal Pipe Organs (PPO) the re-installation began in November and was completed just before our village carols on 10 December – a close shave.



The organ was first installed in November 1913 and cost £225. As the vestry had to be enlarged to accommodate the organ, the final bill was £350! An electric blower was added in 1946, but otherwise no alterations were made.



Approaching its centenary it was clear that the organ needed major restoration if it was to remain in use. Critical parts were worn; pipes either didn't work, or worse, sounded when they weren't supposed to because air was leaking between the proper wind channels; everything was covered in 100 years of dust.

The Diocesan Organ Advisor and three firms of organ builders all considered that the instrument was worthy of restoration and in 2011 a Fundraising Group was set up within the PCC – Dick Garnons-Williams, Andrew Podmore, Keith Potts, and Michael Harran.

The target of £44,000 seemed formidable and at times we wondered if it was achievable. The PCC "loaned" £7,000 to cover VAT, which we will recover from HMRC and repay. We wrote grant applications (several of which were successful), arranged fundraising events and invited people to "Sponsor a Pipe". The response, from far and wide, was uplifting. Many of you reading this will have enjoyed one or more of our events – and contributed most generously. Our costs were small because so many people gave their services free of charge or with minimal expenses. The red line on "thermometer" in the churchyard crept steadily upwards until it reached the top.



So, what of the restored organ?



These pictures give an indication of the improvement of the pipework, the organ console and the case. We were unable to preserve the original pneumatic action but conversion to electric action allowed for some useful extra flexibility and you may judge the improved sound for yourself.



The organ was re-dedicated by our Rector, Revd. Chris Wingfield during the Benefice service on Sunday 15 January, with the Benefice choir and Peter Stott at the organ.

A book illustrating the history of the organ and the steps along the road to its restoration is on display in the church.

The inaugural recital will be given by Mr Geoffrey Coffin of PPO on Saturday 8 April at 7pm – contact Michael Harran (01759 372215) for details.

Finally, a huge THANK YOU to all those who supported and encouraged Pipe Up! in so many ways. Because of you this pipe organ will continue to inspire and uplift singing and worship in the church for another century.



GATE HELMSLEY



As I write this, we have just had a very uplifting Benefice service at St Mary's church during which the newly restored pipe organ was rededicated by the Revd. Chris Wingfield. It is wonderful to have the organ back and to find that it sounds so much better, justifying all the hard work and expense and the kind support of so many people.

Keith Potts, Dick Garnons-Williams, Michael Harran, Andrew Podmore and Chris Wingfield raise a glass of bubbly to the newly dedicated and restored organ.

Thank you to everyone who supported and helped with the Christmas Fayre at Orchard House on 3rd December. Through everyone's generous donations a record sum was raised for church funds.

On 10th December the church was full for the annual village carol singing. Everyone was in good voice. Sister Margaret Ann and Revd. Hannah Suekarran, helped the children to set up the crib and retold the Christmas story. There was an excellent buffet lunch afterwards in the village hall. Thanks go to all those who helped in any way to make the afternoon such a success – those who set up the hall and church and prepared the food, to Michael Harran at the organ, to Sister and Hannah and especially to the village Jubilee Committee who provided the funds for the lunch. Carollers kindly left £150 in the church plate. This collection was donated to the charity **Shelter** for their Christmas appeal for homeless children. The church was again full for our regular Christmas morning service of Holy Communion. Thank you to Chris who conducted the service.

To finish, a perennial reminder: If at all possible, please park cars in the village hall car park when attending services at St Mary's church. We fully understand that people with mobility problems need to park as close as possible to the church, but cars parked on the verges may cause an obstruction to other traffic and may damage emerging daffodil bulbs. Please have a word with one of the churchwardens for further advice.

FOSTON

Our Christmas celebrations started well with a lovely Carol service, which was enjoyed by all those who attended.

Our Church Christmas coffee morning held on the 10th of December was enhanced with hot turkey sandwiches which proved to be a very popular early festive treat. We raised a grand total of £130. This was donated to the local charity L.I.A.M, which has been set up by a family from Terrington in remembrance of their son who passed away in very traumatic circumstances. They were very appreciative of the money and said a big thank you.

The Crib service held on Christmas Eve was a big success with over forty children and adults in the congregation.

This was followed by the Midnight Mass service led by the Archdeacon of York, The Venerable Sarah Bullock, and our lovely curate Hannah Suekarran. Everyone enjoyed the service and it was so lovely to see our little church full. A big thank you to all who helped to decorate the Church, and provided refreshments at all the service.

HOWSHAM

In October we had our quinquennial inspection and we are still awaiting the report with bated breath.

On December 13th one of the four candlelit Advent Reflections services took place, led by Hannah. It was a most interesting and rewarding evening, enhanced by the wonderful acoustics of Howsham Church. The Christmas raffle and cake stall, which was held at the York Auction Centre Fatstock Show on December 5th, was very successful. We achieved our best ever result. On top of this, we received a very generous donation, for which we are enormously grateful. Our thanks go to all who contributed.

The Carol Service on December 23rd was led by Sister and was very well attended by approximately 80 people, despite the stormy weather. It was good to see so many young children, whose participation made for a lively event. Afterwards, mince pies and mulled wine were enjoyed at The Great Barn. We welcome recent newcomers to the village and hope that they will be happy here.

**Looking ahead,
we will be holding our annual cake stall by Howsham Bridge
on Bank Holiday Monday, May 1st**

FLAXTON

The sun shone on the 29th October for the wedding of Helen Fagan and Luke Smith. Helen is very involved in Girl Guiding in Flaxton and the Brownies formed a guard of honour for the couple as they left the church. We wish you both lots of happiness in the future.

On Friday 4th November the church was full to say farewell to Margaret Stacey who sadly passed away on 15th October. Margaret and her husband Glyn were keen gardeners and were members of Flaxton Gardening Club. They lived in Flaxton for a number of years before moving to live near their daughter. Our thoughts continue to be with Glyn and his family.

We were very pleased to welcome the granddaughter of Margaret and Geoff Sykes, Olivia Grace Pellen and her family and friends to the Benefice service on 6th November. During the service Olivia was baptised and welcomed into the family of the church. We wish her good health and happiness in her life.

Nativity and Toy Service: Once again the children gave an excellent performance of the birth of Jesus by reading, acting, singing and recorder playing. Following the service the children each received a Sunday School prize of a book in recognition of their enthusiasm and attendance over the year. Well done to you all.

A letter of thanks and appreciation has been received from Major Andrew Dunkinson at the Salvation Army for the gifts donated to them for the Christmas Toy Appeal. Sadly, overall the number of referrals increased significantly in 2016 with 685 children being referred (up from 557) to 318 families requiring food parcels (up from 220). Andrew's closing sentence in his letter says "With your help and kindness we have ensured no child has gone without a gift and no family without food this Christmas".

Also, during the year we had a number of Family Services at which the children and their parents took part. Thank you to you all for your help and support.

Our service of Nine Lessons and Carols with the support of the Flaxton singers was once again well attended. Thank you to Sister Margaret Ann for her support, to Dick (Blackford) and the Flaxton Singers and to John (Ainsty) for playing the organ. A special thank you to all the readers, and to the children who presented the crib during the service.

On Shrove Tuesday 28th February we will be holding our annual Pancake Party from 6.30pm in Flaxton Village Hall. A warm invitation is extended to everyone. Please come and join in the fun – bring your friends and family. To help cover costs there will be an admission charge of £1 50p to include a glass of wine/soft drink and first pancake.

The 4th April sees our first fund raising event of 2017 at St Crux in York.
If you have any good quality bric-a-brac, jewellery or produce,
e.g. jams/chutney, we would be very pleased to take it off your hands.

The AGM of the Parochial Church Council is on Tuesday 4th April at 7.30pm in church. This is an open meeting and an opportunity to find out what is happening in the life of Flaxton church. All are welcome.

SAND HUTTON and CLAXTON

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL!

At the beginning of 2017 we say a big THANK YOU to those who contribute to the smooth running of both St. Mary's Church, the village hall, and for caring in practical ways to look after our two villages. There are many who work behind the scenes willingly, giving their time, expertise and energy, for which we are grateful.

GIFTS FOR CHRISTMAS was again a successful event when folks were able to venture into the Christmas spirit and besides purchasing gifts, enjoyed the scrumptious temptations from Caroline's Kitchen menu. Thank you to Rosy and her team of ladies who will even now be preparing for this year's repeat event.

**Thank you to all those who supported this occasion
at which £2280-56p was raised**

Later on in November we had another successful **QUIZ NIGHT** which was enjoyed by all who attended. A choice of three delicious soups were served (with second helpings!) followed by a selection of several desserts during the interval, when the raffle was drawn.

Many thanks to all who gave food, prizes and donations which helped to raise **£431 for the tower fund.**

A huge thankyou to Dot & Bryan Mills for organising this event which they hope to repeat in October of this year
See you all again then!!



On Christmas Eve many came to a joyful Crib and Christingle Service. Thank you to curate Hannah, who besides taking the service so well, showed her 'Blue Peter' skills in making a brilliant huge Christingle!

And thank you too to the children that helped to make the Christingles. **The Church of England Children's society received £147.17**

Ellie Harrison with the Christingle she made at the service.

St. Mary's Church charitable giving for 2016 has forwarded £500+ to York Blind and Partially Sighted Society Services and the same to the Refugee camp on the border of Jordan and Syria, the donation being given directly to Geeta Narayan UNICEF advisor for programmes and planning within the camp.

**Our 2017 chosen charities are
North Yorkshire Music Therapy Centre**

a Malton based charity that helps children and adults with a wide range of disorders, injuries and disabilities by improving confidence and communication skills, leading to happier, healthier lives.

and Revive International

a charity which works with young girls in the North East of Brazil who have been forced into prostitution, sexual abuse or exploitation.

More information on these 2 charities can be found on the Charity table in the church. Further donations would be welcomed.

SNACK and CHAT: You are very welcome to pop into the church for a time of quiet/peace/chat/cuppa whatever you choose! (See boxed advertisement)

You are invited to the Annual General Meeting of the Parochial Church Council on Wednesday April 5th at 7.30 pm at Abbey's House Farm, Claxton.



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For more information contact
Catherine: catbell80@googlemail.com



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News from our schools.....



SAND HUTTON C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

***HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM EVERYONE
AT SAND HUTTON CE PRIMARY SCHOOL***

As we look forward to 2017 we also have opportunity to reflect upon significant successes and special times at Sand Hutton in 2016.

The P.T.A. makes a huge contribution both to the social lives of children and parents through the events they held but also by the funds they raised. Last term was very successful indeed. The Christmas Fair raised a fantastic £1400. A big thank you to everyone who came along, donated prizes helped out on the night and bought raffle tickets. This was on top of £300 raised during the term at a Bingo Night, Cinema Night and Bags 2 Schools. These funds make a difference to every child in the school.

It has also been important that we have been able to be involved in events which assist the wider community and look beyond the walls of our small school. Two singing opportunities came along that allowed us to do this. Firstly, along with Warthill CE School, we were invited to sing in the Minster as part of the service held to celebrate the 60th birthday of the York MS Society. We were made to feel very welcome on this very special occasion and the children had an experience that they will remember for a long time.



Sand Hutton and Warthill CE Primary Schools singing in the Minster to help celebrate 60 Years of the York and District MS Society.

Secondly, we were invited to sing at the RABI Carol Concert held in the Livestock Centre in Murton. RABI is an organisation that assists people in need in farming, rural communities. A very different place to sing but it was a lovely way to start our Christmas Festivities.

FOSTON AND TERRINGTON C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

I hope everyone has had a lovely Christmas and New Year.

The autumn term culminated as usual with many celebrations including our Christmas Party, Christingle Service and a fantastic performance from all the children in both our nativity plays.



The stars of the Nativity play

After consultation with the community and all stakeholders, Foston and Terrington will form a formal federation. The confederation has allowed for larger peer groups for children throughout their primary years through regular shared days, shared planning and expertise of teaching and support staff and also distributed leadership across both schools. This has had a massive impact on our two schools which has been recognised by Ofsted and the Diocese. We look forward to further developing our links in a more formal arrangement with a shared governing body in February and beyond.



Come and join us!

Our nursery which is based at Foston is going from strength to strength.

We now have 8 children on roll. Our provision remains a strength of the schools led by our EYFS KS1 teacher who is a lead teacher for the local authority.

Places are already filling up for 3 year olds starting next year. The nursery is available for any child whether they will go on to attend Foston or Terrington Primary or not, so if you would like to look around and book, please contact us to ensure your child secures a place.

For your child's 15 hours funding they receive up to full time school hours at no additional cost and it provides a great transition into full time schooling. We also provide 3 free hours for any child who will be attending Foston or Terrington in reception in order to make their start as successful as possible.

After much research into alternative timetabling, Foston and Terrington Primary Schools embarked on Fantastic Fridays in September 2016. Each Friday we leave the formal curriculum behind and explore creative Maths and English opportunities during the morning. In the afternoon the children are given a choice of workshops compiled from their suggestions and take part in them for the half term. Opportunities that have been available are jumba, learning through Lego, cooking, arts and craft, singing, guitar, programming, CSI investigations, touch typing and recorders. The outcome and feedback from these has been amazing and we plan to continue throughout this year and beyond.

As small schools, with only 30 children at Foston and 42 at Terrington, our progress and achievement data is not published locally or nationally to ensure anonymity of small groups. In some respects this is a great shame for us as our children all make good, and many, outstanding progress from their starting points. This was reflected for Foston in their recent outstanding church schools inspection.

**If you would like to look around
Foston Primary School
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and for Terrington 01653 648340.**

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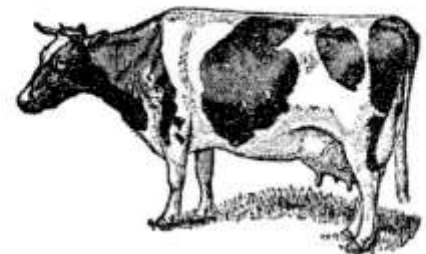
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Tel: 01904 468203

Buttercrambe, St John the Evangelist

Churchwarden: Anne Archer Email: None
Tel: 01759 371058

Crambe, St Michael

Churchwarden: Dorothy Martin Email: None
Tel: 01653 619133

Flaxton, St Lawrence

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Items for 'The Circular'
Copy deadline for the next edition April 15th 2017

This will cover: May June July 2017

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

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