

# The Benefice of Harton

# The Circular



**Winter Edition 2017/18**

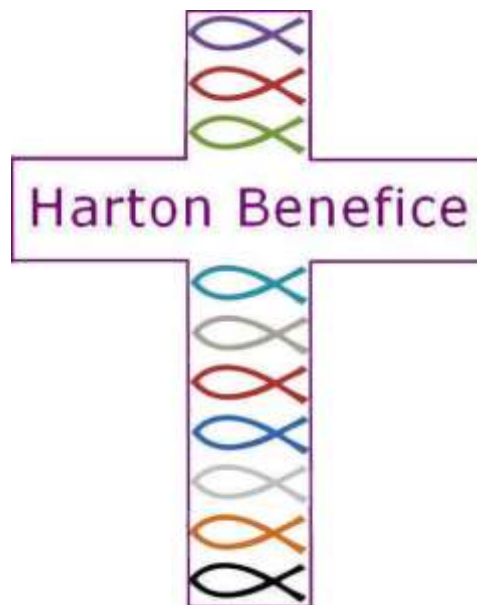
*News, views and forthcoming events  
In our benefice and communities*

**November December January**

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 Lawrence's Church, Flaxton



If anyone is interested in sponsoring a colour page for The Circular to commemorate an event please contact the editor for more information

## ***From The Rectory***

### ***Early Christmas Greetings!***

Laurence Houseman, the 'equally' celebrated brother of A. E. Houseman, wrote the following lines about Christmas.

*Light looked down and beheld Darkness  
    'Thither I will go' said Light  
Peace looked down and beheld War  
    'Thither I will go' said Peace  
Love looked down and beheld Hatred  
    'Thither I will go' said Love  
    So came Light and shone  
    So came Peace and gave rest  
    So came Love and brought life  
And the Word was made flesh and dwelt amongst us.*

For me, these beautiful lines encapsulate the very essence of the 'Word made flesh' and bring the most spiritual of meanings to the truth of Christmas – God is with us.

And that's sometimes very hard for us mere mortals to experience amongst all the seasonal hype and pressure, the 'Magic and Sparkle' (!), the overspending and guilt.

The world distracts us with its lurid, commercial glister and stops us from seeing the Darkness, War and Hatred, that still overshadows God's creation. And there seems to be an abundance of Darkness in our world in recent years.

But Light, Peace and Love did come down that very night – and dwelt among us – and through His Holy Spirit has never left us. But we don't always realise it.

As Christians, by invitation, we are encouraged to become more Christ-like in the ways that we bring God's very own light, peace and love to the world we encounter – but we don't always respond to that invitation as often as we should.

**An old French proverb says**

***'God often visits us, but most of the time we're not home'***

So perhaps this year, we can do something extra, which exemplifies that God is with us, and we are responding to His invitation. Perhaps there is something we can do that will really make a difference in the midst of all this busyness and frenzy.

God has visited us and continues to do so – so let's be home and respond to His invitation by actively sharing His Light, Peace and Love in a way that at least one person's life is enriched as a result. Then people might truly know that God is with us.

I'll leave you some words of Evelyn Underhill

*"I do hope your Christmas has a little touch of Eternity in amongst the rush and pitter-patter and all. It always seems such a mixing of this world and the next –  
but that after all is the idea!"*



***Wishing you all a very happy and holy Christmas***

***Chris, Thelma and 'Alfie'***

## Services for the Benefice of Harton

*All Wednesday Holy Communion services  
will be preceded by Morning Prayer at 9.00*

### November 2017

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> November** **All souls**  
7.00 **Festival of Lilies and Light** Bossall  
*A Benefice service of remembrance*

<b>Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> before Advent</b>
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10.30	Holy Communion	Crambe
10.30	Holy Communion	Flaxton

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November** **Saints and Martyrs of England**  
10.00 Holy Communion Gate Helmsley

<b>Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>Remembrance Sunday</b>
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10.30	<b>Benefice Service of Remembrance</b>	Bossall
12.00	<b>Act of Remembrance</b>	Sand Hutton War Memorial

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November**  
10.00 Holy Communion Howsham

<b>Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> before Advent</b>
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10.30	Holy Communion	Sand Hutton
10.30	Holy Communion	Foston

**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November**  
10.00 Holy Communion Buttercrambe

<b>Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>Christ the King</b>
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10.30	Benefice Holy Communion	Howsham
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**Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November** **St Andrew**  
10.00 Holy Communion Upper Helmsley

## December 2017

<b>Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December</b>		<b>Advent 1</b>
10.30	Benefice Carol Service <i>With the ' Main Street Sound Ladies Barber Shop Chorus'</i>	Sand Hutton
<b>Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December</b>		
10.00	Holy Communion	Howsham
6.30	Carol Service	Foston
<b>Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December</b>		
12.00 noon	Carols	Gate Helmsley
<b>Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December</b>		<b>Advent 2</b>
10.30	Benefice Holy Communion	Upper Helmsley
<b>Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December</b>		
10.00	Holy Communion	Gate Helmsley
<b>Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December</b>		
6.30	Celebration of Christmas by candlelight	Crambe
<b>Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December</b>		<b>Advent 3</b>
10.30	Holy Communion	Gate Helmsley
10.30	Nativity and Toy Service	Flaxton
6.00	Carol Service	Buttercrambe
<b>Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December</b>		
10.00	Holy Communion	Buttercrambe
<b>Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December</b>		
6.00	Carol Service	Howsham
7.30	Carol Service	Flaxton
<b>Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> December</b>		
<i>2 – 4pm</i>	<i>“Messy Christmas” - in Sand Hutton Village Hall</i>	
<b>Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December</b>		<b>Christmas Eve</b>
4.30	Crib Service	Bossall
4.30	Crib service	Foston
11.30	Midnight Mass	Foston
11.30	Midnight Mass	Bossall

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December****Christmas Day**

9.00	Family Carols	Upper Helmsley
10.30	Christmas Holy Communion	Gate Helmsley
10.30	Christmas Family Communion	Flaxton

**Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> December****St John the Apostle**

10.00	Holy Communion	Sand Hutton
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**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> December****Naming of Jesus**

10.30	Benefice Holy Communion	Foston
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**Please note from January all Sunday services will begin at 10.00 am. NOT at 10.30 am.**

**January 2018****Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January**

10.00	Holy Communion	Foston
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**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January****Epiphany**

10.00	Benefice Holy Communion	Sand Hutton
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**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January**

10.00	Holy Communion	Crambe
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**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> January**

9.00	Said Holy Communion	Foston
10.00	Holy Communion	Bossall

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January**

10.00	Holy Communion	Upper Helmsley
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**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> January**

10.00	Benefice Holy Communion	Flaxton
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**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January**

10.00	Holy Communion	Buttercrambe
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**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> January**

10.00 Holy Communion Gate Helmsley

**Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January**

10.00 Holy Communion Howsham

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**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> Feb. 10.00** Benefice Holy Communion Crambe

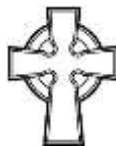
**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> Feb. 10.00** Holy Communion Sand Hutton

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**Congratulations to those recently married**

August 5 <sup>th</sup>	Thomas Slingsby and Natalie Crook	Flaxton
September 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Jonathan McCarthy and Lorna Bowling	Buttercrambe
September 9 <sup>th</sup>	James Taylor and Sarah Finch	Buttercrambe



**Our condolences to the families and friends of**

August 21 <sup>st</sup>	Tim Nicoll	Barton Le Willows
August 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Maurice Cole	Crambe
September 8 <sup>th</sup>	Revd. Hugh Bates	Buttercrambe



## **Remembrance Sunday November 12<sup>th</sup>**

*A Benefice Service of Remembrance will take place at Bossall Church at 10.30 am. This will be followed by an Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial, Sand Hutton at 12.00 noon*



In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie  
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.

*John McCrae May 1915*

### **Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal 2017**

I would love to hear from anyone who would be happy to help out in the 2017 Poppy Appeal, either helping to distribute/collect the poppy boxes or selling poppies where collectors wish to step down.

**Please ring me, Fiona Davies on 01904 468001.**



***Greetings  
from the Churchmouse.....***



**This is the thirtieth edition** that I have presided over, beginning with the Autumn edition of 2010. Where have seven and a half years disappeared to!! It is interesting to look back at all the various editions and see how much (I hope you agree!) that the magazine has improved over time, in content, layout and the addition of the colour cover, thanks to the individual church's contribution.

As most of you know it has not been without its trials and tribulations almost exclusively caused by our first diabolical benefice printer which did all it could to sabotage our efforts to produce decent copy. The new printer, though it's not so new now, is by contrast a dream machine ploughing its way through over 24,200 sides of A4 paper per edition without throwing a hissy fit and reducing the printing team to jabbering wrecks. We do allow it to speak up when it has run out of staples or paper which seems fair!

***This magazine is your magazine!***

**It is only as good as the stuff you send for inclusion in it.** Many of you may have interesting stories to tell that you might like to share with other members of our communities; we would like to hear them. It is always good to be able to print some of your photographs supporting accounts of events held around the benefice. **So keep it all coming!**

The magazine is a useful platform for advertising your all-important fundraising events and for letting you know about the exciting changes in our patterns of worship with something for everyone. It helps to keep us all in touch with one another throughout the benefice. The magazine can also be read on the website where it is almost in full colour. (see back page)

**This is our chance as a printing team to say a huge thank you to all those of you who generously give of your time in all weathers to distribute the results of our labours to everyone in the benefice and beyond.**

**We also extend our grateful thanks to all our commercial advertisers who support our magazine and enable you to read it for free!**

We look forward to producing many more editions, but we are not resting on our laurels. There is always room for improvement. This can only happen if you let us know what you think of the magazine, and of any changes you might like to see, so please get in touch.

***A very happy and peaceful Christmas from all the printing team***



As part of the Archbishop's mission to our Deanery at the end of July, we ran a Messy Church in Sand Hutton Village Hall, and we enjoyed it so much, that we're running two more!



Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> October  
4-6pm  
Sand Hutton Village Hall



Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> December  
2-4pm  
Sand Hutton Village Hall



Messy Church is a way of being church for families. It involves lots of **games, craft, stories, songs and fun**, and ends with a **simple meal together**. It is suitable for children **age 4-11** (sorry, no unaccompanied children), but other ages are very welcome too.

**Why not come along and try it? We would love to see you there!**



**PLUS...Thornton le Clay Methodist Chapel also run Messy Church, so you might like to join in the fun there too!**



Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November  
4-6pm  
Thornton-le-Clay Village Hall

For more information contact Rev Hannah Suekarran  
(07538 813079 / [hannah.suekarran@gmail.com](mailto:hannah.suekarran@gmail.com))



## Festival of Lilies and Light

Wednesday November 1st  
at 7.00 pm  
at St Botolph's Church  
Bossall



A special  
Benefice Service  
of Remembrance  
with  
The Benefice choir

This service is an opportunity to celebrate the memory of those we have loved and lost.

The church will be decorated with arrangements of lilies.

If you would like to make a small donation towards the lilies in memory of a loved one it would be much appreciated.

During the service you will be invited to light candles in memory of loved ones.

A roll of those to be remembered will be read out. If you would like a name or names to be read out please contact

Fiona Le Masurier, Crambe House, Crambe, York, YO60 7JR  
or email the list of names to: [churchmouse@crambe.net](mailto:churchmouse@crambe.net) or Tel: 01653 619 368

Should you wish to complete an In Memoriam card as well, it will be displayed on a board in the church at the service and during the following week. Cards can be found in the flyers which are in the back of the churches throughout the Benefice, or by contacting Fiona as above.

**Memoriam cards and names for the roll should reach Fiona by Monday October 30th**

## The Benefice of Harton

invites you to

**REFLECT**  
this Advent

**Come away and rest a while. Drop the busy and just be.**

Four reflective services in which words, music and lots of space and quiet will help shift our focus away from this season's endless to do lists, and towards its everlasting reason.

**5th December** - St Lawrence's, Flaxton

**12th December** - St John's, Howsham

**19th December** - St Mary's, Gate Helmsley

**All services start at 7pm. All welcome.**

Wondering what to  
do on a Tuesday  
Night over the  
winter months?



Sand Hutton  
Village Hall  
7.30 pm  
Tuesday nights

## ***Sand Hutton and District Bowling Club***

For two hours join in the fun  
No experience necessary, first night free.

We do short mat indoor bowling

**we are not part of a league so never feel you aren't good enough.**

***Come along and give us a try, you might surprise yourself!***

For more information contact Linda Spaven Email: [k.spaven246@btinternet.com](mailto:k.spaven246@btinternet.com)



# **GIFTS FOR CHRISTMAS**



**Saturday 4th November 2017**

Sand Hutton Village Hall 10am to 3 pm entry £1

## **CAROLINE'S KITCHEN**

**For tea, coffee, cakes and light lunches**

**Selling Bullivant's porkpies and sausage rolls**

**Quality stalls at affordable prices**

**for all your Christmas giving**

**Stalls include**

**Handmade soaps, jewellery, toys, books, baby gifts  
ceramics Christmas cards and papers....etc.**

**For more information on stalls contact  
[giftsforchristmas@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:giftsforchristmas@hotmail.co.uk)**

All proceeds to St Marys Church Sand Hutton Tower fund







# Winter Market 2017

FRIDAY 17TH NOVEMBER FROM 4-7:30PM

AT BARTON-LE-WILLOWS VILLAGE HALL

A CHANCE TO BUY HANDMADE LOCAL GOODS IN A CONVIVIAL ATMOSPHERE!

**T**errington  
**H**all School

**The Christmas Fair**  
Wednesday November 22<sup>nd</sup>  
12 noon—5.0 p.m.



**Everyone welcome!**

Adults £2.50/Children under 16 FREE  
**Free light lunch between 12 noon and 2pm**

Browse a range of stalls for luxury items,  
imaginative gifts and stocking fillers

Add a personal touch to Christmas with wreath making,  
pottery painting and gingerbread house decorating

Enjoy festive food and live music

**Join original Calendar Girl Tricia Stewart for a talk and book signing event at 11.00a.m.**

Tickets £5 each which includes a light lunch and entrance to The Christmas fair

To book seats email: [christmasfair@terringtonhall.com](mailto:christmasfair@terringtonhall.com)



Terrington Hall School, Terrington, York YO60 6PR Tel: 01653 648227 [www.terringtonhall.com](http://www.terringtonhall.com)





St Mary's Church, Gate Helmsley

## *Christmas Fayre*

*Saturday 2nd December*

*2.00 p.m.—4.00 p.m.*

*Orchard House Gate Helmsley*

*Tombola \* Raffle \* Gifts \* Cakes \* Produce*

*Adults £3 \* Children 50p*

*Includes tea/coffee & mince pie*

*(or Admission by Donation)*



St Mary's Church, Gate Helmsley



Saturday December 9<sup>th</sup>



Our annual village carol singing  
will be held at 12 noon

In St Mary's Church,  
Gate Helmsley



Followed by a  
celebratory gathering  
in the village hall



St Michael's Church, Crambe  
come and join us on

**Saturday December 16th at 6.30 p.m.**  
for a candlelit celebration  
of Christmas

In prose, poetry and carols  
with  
**The York Super Singers**

and afterwards for mince pies and mulled wine



## **CAROL SINGING**



Monday 18th December 2017



(Meet at Anne White's house - Middle Cottage at 6.15pm)

All singers are invited  
to Vicarage Farm  
for refreshments  
before setting off



Come and join us if  
you would like to  
sing some carols  
around Claxton and  
raise money for:



**Macmillan Cancer Support**



If you are able to come along please let Anne Atkinson know (01904 468226)  
so that we have an idea of numbers for refreshments before and after the singing.  
Thank you!



## ***An Angel in Disguise***

In the run up to Christmas, a time of joy and plenty for most of us, the plight of the homeless should be remembered. Below is an account of my encounter with homelessness.

I have used pseudonyms for all three friends in this account to protect their identities. They are taken from a book by David Almond called

'Skellig - The story of an Angel in disguise'

Whitbread Children's Book of the Year. Now a film featuring Tim Roth.



### ***This is a quote taken from the book:***

*'He was lying there in the darkness behind the tea chests, in the dust and dirt. It was if he had been there for ever. He was filthy and pale and dried out, and I thought he was dead. I couldn't be more wrong. I'd soon begin to see the truth about him. That there'd never been another creature like him in the world.'*

### ***Bella, Skellig and Rose***

Eighty years ago, the Revd. Don Robbins introduced one of the Christian communities' first soup kitchens. The Crypt of St George's, Leeds bulged daily with the city's homeless and the Revd. Don became a legend in his own lifetime. One of his famous quotes was:- 'I wonder how many angels we have entertained in our crypt today?'

I had a friend called Skellig who had a dog named Bella and both were homeless. We had been friends for some years, sharing a hot chocolate (Skellig preferred cinnamon on his whilst I enjoyed chocolate) and lots of chat. I never, well almost never, gave Skellig money in case I should be feeding a habit. A recovered heroin addict, he assured me that he had been clean for years. Somehow, I believed him. However, just in case, he got sandwiches, cake and hot chocolate, and Bella her biscuits.

Skellig fascinated me. I'm sure he told enormous fibs; like when he was at boarding school. Surely, he meant remand home! And, he had had three wives - I can't see that. And all this with a twinkle in his very pale grey eyes.

We had serious chats, however. Skellig went through a period one winter when, despite the lovely, faithful Bella, he confessed to being lonely. I told him to pray for someone to come along. (Skellig was very proud of the fact that he went to St Mary's, Aylesbury, once a year. Actually, so did all the other homeless in the area – for a slap-up Christmas lunch!). Anyway, he promised that he would ask Jesus. (Skellig never referred to God. God was far too important – almost as important as the local magistrate!).

During one summer, I sought Skellig and Bella out and was graciously introduced to Rose. I could not believe the change in my friend. He looked years younger. Gone was the ghastly woollen hat, the mountains of hair and I swear I smelt toothpaste on his breath as we embraced. Most satisfying was his whispered comment - 'Well it worked Jean, my prayer worked'.

Skellig, Rose and Bella were very special. The only reason Skellig slept rough was because he would not part with his dog. However, I suspect that all three now spend some time at Rose's house. I do hope so. Skellig has great dignity and, if the truth be known, was happy with his lot most of the time.

In March 2004, I was at the receiving end of a punch from a youth robbing the antiques shop in which I had worked for thirteen years. I subsequently retired. On telling Skellig, he rose to his full, six feet something, as he always did to greet me, clasped me to his skinny bosom and I thought I would be smothered to death. With Bella jumping up and licking me at the same time, I was overwhelmed. Having finally been released, I was moved to see tears in Skellig's eyes. 'I've done some bad things, Jesus knows, but I can't stand violence, especially to a lady'. *What a Gentleman.*

Skellig, Rose and Bella moved from their old plot. The police asked them to move somewhere else. I know that Sainsbury's car park was Skellig's bedroom for some years but I hope now that he is spending some time at Rose's house. I haven't seen any of them since Christmas Eve 2005 but my messenger (one of *The Big Issue* salesmen) sent my love and everything was, apparently, OK.

Skellig would be hugely amused at my suggestion that he might be an angel in disguise. But then one never knows whom one is entertaining or sharing a hot chocolate with.

**Please pray for the homeless and support *The Big Issue*.**

***Jean Daish***

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

The last meeting of the Benefice PCC was held on 8<sup>th</sup> August. The following subjects were discussed:

Finances, which remain healthy.

Archbishop Sentamu's weekend visit to the Southern Ryedale Deanery at the end of July. The visit was a great success and included Messy Church in Sand Hutton (which will happen again at the end of October and just before Christmas; see details elsewhere in the Circular), a Men's Breakfast, and a stroll through Malton Market with the Archbishop.

The Cursillo course which will take place at the Wyedale Centre from 26<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> October.

Plans for the schedule of church services for 2018. Various changes will be made such as having more benefice services and changing the time of Sunday morning services from 10.30 to 10.00 am

The Pray14Me initiative will be reviewed.

**As usual, you are invited to send agenda items for the Benefice PCC's next meeting, which will be held on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30 pm.** Please send these to the Honorary Secretary, Wendy Holman, whose contact details are on the inside of the back cover of the Circular.

***Delyth Harran, Vice Chairman***

## ***Around the Parishes.....***

***News, views and information from:***

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

Thanks to everyone who has used the village hall uncomplainingly this summer! Croft Construction have done a brilliant job extending the kitchen and swept up on a very regular basis but inevitably there has been some disruption and dust....

As well as fundraising by the community, improvements to the kitchen were supported by:

Sir George Martin Trust

Strickland Estate

Ryedale District Council  
Garfield Weston Foundation  
Bossall Parochial Church Council

Howdens Joinery  
Big Lottery Fund Awards for All

We now want to tidy up by the back door, improve storage and buy some new tables and chairs.

There are many ways in which you can help the village hall continue to thrive. Check out the noticeboard or ask to be put on the group email to hear about events, join the 100 club, hire it for your own events or let anyone on the committee know if you would like to get more involved or help on an occasional basis.

**Autumn Quiz night:** This was a well-attended and lively evening which challenged everyone! The pie and pea supper prepared in the new oven was excellent.

**On 7th October the Village Party was held.** The main event in the afternoon was crushing apples to extract the juice of which there were gallons. Alongside there were activities for the children. Tea and cakes drifted on into the early evening and was followed by a most delicious supper of a hearty stew and baked potatoes.

For more information about **the Winter Market on November 17<sup>th</sup>**, and the **Christmas Quiz in December** see the events adverts section

**We hope to see lots of you at both events!!**

## ***BUTTERCRAMBE***

September has been a busy month for St John's with two weddings on consecutive weekends which Hannah kindly took. Both receptions were held at Aldby Park.

The Church looked lovely for the Benefice Harvest Festival on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October and £250 was donated from the harvest lunch held afterwards at Aldby Park. This will go towards a church notice board to be positioned at the entrance to the path leading down to the Church. Thank you to everyone who attended and to Peter and Ellen who provided some wonderful singing from the Benefice Choir.

Our next Sunday service will be the Carol Service on Sun 17<sup>th</sup> December at 6.00 pm with refreshments in the Church afterwards.

## **CRAMBE**

Summer was quiet church wise and wet weather wise.

On September 9<sup>th</sup> The Rev. Ben Gunter, who is the new curate at Norton, with his wife Jacqui, gave a lovely party for the village at St. Michael's House. Prosecco flowed and strawberries and scones were consumed in abundance. Thank you so much from us all.

The Harvest Festival was held on the 24<sup>th</sup> September, and was taken by Sister Margaret Ann CSPH. The produce was taken to Spring Cottage as normal, where it is much appreciated.

Stanley Hall is recovering from hip surgery following a fall. We wish him well.

Maurice Cole from Crambe and Tim Nicoll from Barton le Willows both passed away unexpectedly in August. They will be much missed. Our sincere condolences go to Linda and Jane.

At last, Beck Farm is being restored, and Millie McNicholl, (who is an artist), after dropping her child at Welburn school each weekday is working on the site in a Portakabin.

During the Quinquennial inspection of Crambe church, the architect Jon Steel discovered that the pinnacles on the tower were unstable. This was confirmed by the steeple jack and repair work will be carried out in the coming month.

## **GATE HELMSLEY**

Early August saw the departure of Captain Dick Garnons-Williams of the Manor House after 36 years living in Gate Helmsley. Dick has moved to live with his daughter just outside Bristol and we wish him well in his new surroundings. He will be greatly missed here after all he has done for the village and especially for St Mary's Church over the years. We all enjoyed Dick's farewell party at the Village Hall. It was pleasing to see so many friends, neighbours and family gathered together to give him a worthy send-off. We welcome Jessica and Craig who have moved into the Manor House, as well as any other newcomers to the village.

Thanks are due to our rector Reverend Chris Wingfield and curate Reverend Hannah Suekarran for two special services held recently at St Mary's. On 7<sup>th</sup> September we enjoyed the peace and calm of a spa church service with its

theme of classical music. Chris led our harvest festival service on 3<sup>rd</sup> October. The church was beautifully decorated with flowers and fruit, and the service was followed by a very enjoyable harvest supper in the village hall. Thank you to all those who worked so hard to prepare the floral decorations, food, and raffle. Particular thanks to Sister Margaret Ann who valiantly agreed to call out the winning raffle numbers.

Gate Helmsley village hall at last has a beautiful new kitchen. Thanks to all those who have worked so hard to raise the funds to make this possible. It is such a huge improvement. A very successful Race Night was held in the hall on 16<sup>th</sup> September. The next fundraiser will be a dance on 11<sup>th</sup> November (details elsewhere in the Circular).

Our annual village carol singing will be held at St Mary's Church at 12.00 noon on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December. This will be followed by a celebratory gathering in the village hall.

Funds for St Mary's Church will be raised at two forthcoming events:

- **Christmas Fayre at Orchard House Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2.00 to 4.00 pm**
- **Parish Lunch at Orchard House on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> January 12.30 for 1.00 pm, *pre-booking essential*, tickets £15 from the Harrans (01759 372215)**

## **FOSTON**

As summer gently turns to autumn we found ourselves getting into the Christmas spirit spending an evening packing shoe boxes with lovely gifts and treats for the Amen appeal. We were able to pack a total of sixteen boxes thanks to the generosity of friends and family. We feel sure once the boxes reach their Romanian families they will be very much appreciated.

We can now offer a whole new experience in comfort here at All Saints. Make sure you get to church early and bag yourself one of our new cushion covered pews! They look very smart and a definite improvement. So far we have managed to refurbish ten pews. We hope to get more cushions in the future. Thank you to Karen Armitstead for making it happen.



The children from Foston School enjoyed a Harvest Festival in Church. They bought gifts of tinned foods etc. which were donated to the Thornton le Clay Methodist church appeal collecting gifts for local food banks.

We look forward to seeing you in church especially as the services for Christmas approach us. And hopefully we can enjoy the fellowship we all love.

## **FLAXTON**

On two days each year, funds for our village church are raised at St. Crux. Lots of Flaxton people give generously of their time helping to serve refreshments and sell bric-a-brac and books. We are very grateful to those who bake lovely cakes to serve and those who transport goods into York and back. It is very much a way for church to be hospitable to a wider number of people.

In early October we had our Harvest Festival Holy Communion Service followed by a "bring and share" lunch in the village hall. The church looked spectacular with an array of autumnal colours. Each year we ask for gifts of food, e.g. pasta, tins and fresh produce which are donated to the Salvation Army. Thank you to everyone who gave for this appeal. Major Dunkinson from the Salvation Army came to collect it the day after and left with a very loaded car.

**On Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 10.30am please come and join us for our Nativity and Toy Service.** We would welcome new or unused unwanted gifts of toys, toiletries for an age range of 0-18 for the Salvation Army Christmas Appeal. They would also welcome such items as tinned veg, cereals etc. Willing to collect (please contact any member of the PCC) or bring to the service on the day.

**Our Carol Service is on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December at 7.30pm.** Dick, Helen and the Flaxton Singers are already rehearsing. At the end of the service there is a welcome drink and mince pies. If you have not been before it is well worth the journey.

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

The holiday's now over and we are well settled back into our 'normal' routines after perhaps a busy, but hopefully happy time with children, family and friends.

**Welcome to Bev Pawson, the new head teacher at Sand Hutton school,** and Lucy Heffernan teaching Year 3, Simon Barritt also Year 3 as Teaching Assistant, Sue Scott teaching Reception and of course the new pupils.

Sadly, we say goodbye to Denise Edmonson, the school secretary .... Thank you for your cheery face, willingness to help, your amazing organisational skills, etc. etc.!! We wish you a very happy retirement!

We also send our good wishes to Martin and Jo Weldon and family as they settle into their new home nearer York, you will be missed!



On Monday Oct 16<sup>th</sup>, all the children from Warthill and Sand Hutton School, together with teachers, governors and some visitors, came together at St. Mary's Church to welcome Mrs Beverly Pawson as head of both schools. This was a short commissioning service conducted by Revd Nick Bird and Revd Chris who presented her with a Bible, with promises to encourage and support her in her new role as Head Teacher. A set of school keys were given to her by Rachael Harrison who represented the schools by saying "Receive these keys as a symbol of our trust in you" We trust

Mrs Pawson will settle quickly and enjoy working within our communities.

Here, in the church in Sand Hutton we have shared some different types of 'church' with the other nine churches in the Benefice, which some of you may be interested to explore. A big thank you to the Revds. Chris and Hannah for their hard work and encouragement whilst introducing Spa Church, which, as it suggests, refreshes and reinvigorates us for our life's journey. Also the Pilgrim Course where we benefited through discussing some important and challenging life issues. Messy Church for the children



was a really happy time and is to be held again on October 29<sup>th</sup> and December 23<sup>rd</sup> (more information in the events section of this magazine).

We still have our Advent and Lent Courses to look forward to so be on the lookout for more varied 'church' events either in this edition, on notice boards and especially on the web site. You are all most welcome to share in our church life.

Our Harvest Thanksgiving was enjoyed by many. Thank you to those who decorated the church and gave donations which will go to Arc Light along with the gifts given by the school children during their Harvest service.

Dot and Bryan's Quiz night was well attended; there were some teasing questions. Who knows the names of all seven dwarves in Snow white! As ever the soup and puddings supper was delicious, hardly a scrap left!

As we approach the end of 2017 we thank those who, behind the scenes, work tirelessly to keep our villages and church in good order.

We at St Mary's look forward to welcoming the 'Main Street Sound Ladies Barber Shop Chorus' to share in our Carol Service on Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> .10-30am. Would be great to see you there as we begin the Christmas Season!

### **ST MARY'S CHURCH, SAND HUTTON TOWER and SPIRE RESTORATION PROJECT**



We are pleased to report that work is progressing well on the Tower and Spire Restoration Project.

All of the ashlar stones along with the voussoirs and jamb stones to the small windows have been worked and fixed to all elevations of the Tower. Eroded stonework has been replaced down to sill level on the East and West elevations. All ashlar replacements have been completed to the Nave West Gable, Vestry and Chancel.

The spire spars have had repairs carried out to the hip areas and to the finial. 100% of the sarking boards have been replaced and the majority of the re-shingling of the spire is complete.

Due to water ingress and damage to the sarking boards on the Vestry North roof, a new lead vent has been inserted and the whole roof has been re-slatted. The ferrementa bars on the windows have either been replaced or repaired.

We are fortunate to have the original cockerel weather vane – this will be re-gilded to return it to its 1885 specification and it will then be reinstated on the top of the wrought iron cross at the top of the spire.

Work will continue through the autumn to include rainwater goods replacement, glazing repairs, provision of new toilet, kitchen and heritage display area. St Mary's Church remains open and we thank all those who visit for their patience.

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to all who are supporting this project through fundraising, individual donations, time and effort – we fully appreciate your hard work and generosity. Thanks also go to the following for the grants they have awarded: Heritage Lottery Fund, York Diocese, Allchurches Trust, Yorkshire Historic Churches Trust and National Churches Trust.



## **UPPER HELMSLEY**

As a child I was told that one would never understand the Holy Land until one had visited it. The visit we made from parishes in this Benefice in 1995, led by the Revd. Clifford Barker (former Bishop of Whitby and Selby) was proof that the advice I received as a child was correct. In particular the drive up a steep hill with a formidable sheer drop with no safety barrier, to a monastery at the top, gave me a special understanding of the Ascension of Our Lord. Our Ascension Day service on 25<sup>th</sup> May was very special because

bell ringers led by Kevin Atkinson (Churchwarden at St Lawrence Church in York) came to ring our peal of bells.

Since then, there have been two families researching their ancestors, believed to be buried in Sand Hutton or Upper Helmsley churchyards. The first request was from a family who thought their ancestor in 1835, had been a gardener at Sand Hutton but research revealed that it was not the right Sand Hutton, but Sandhutton near Northallerton.

The two year old brother of the other family member, Mrs Fletcher, had been buried at Upper Helmsley in an unmarked grave. His grandfather Mr Bradley had lived at Grange Farmhouse as where he was farm manager. His daughter had married into the Fletcher family.

Such requests for information or help are frequently made. I try to help as much as I can. From time to time we get visits from people who are involved with Upper Helmsley Church and village. With the arrival of tractors on farms the farm workforce was drastically reduced but their offspring like to research their roots.

The venue for the first harvest festival service this year was Upper Helmsley. The church looked lovelier than ever before. The team of flower arrangers, who have now reached professional standards, did us proud. Pam Wray (nee Hayton), who was born, raised, and married in Upper Helmsley was a member of the team. Unfortunately her sister Anne (now Gardiner) has recently suffered a broken hip from a fall and was unable to join us. We wish her a speedy recovery. We had generous donations of flowers, fruit and vegetables for which we are most grateful.

At 8.0 p.m. the evening before the service on Sunday morning September 10<sup>th</sup>, I telephoned our usual organist Anne Archer to ask what hymns we were having and I was told that she was unwell. No other organists were available. We did not want to be singing harvest hymns without an organist. After contacting Michael Harran, he gallantly arrived at 9.0p.m. to familiarise himself with our organ ready to play the next morning. We are most grateful to Michael for saving the day. We send Anne our good wishes.

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

### **SAND HUTTON C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL**



It hardly seems possible that Christmas is looming and with it the end of my first term at Sand Hutton. Everybody has been so welcoming and I already feel at home, so thank you.

The children have had a very busy term. It seems to have been nonstop. They have welcomed new staff; other than me. Exciting school trips to Top Hill Low Nature Reserve and The National Railway Museum have seen children buzzing with tales of what they have seen, heard and experienced.

Year 5 and 6 pupils had their residential visit, the first time away from home for some. Departing saw a few tears, and not just from the children, but the return saw confident and proud children, eager to tell everyone about the challenges they had faced and the new skills they had acquired.

At Harvest a collection was made for Arc Light, we also collected items to make up boxes to send to Romania as in previous years. Our families have been incredibly generous and thoughtful.

Christmas is always a busy time for schools. Nativities are being planned and we are looking to share our joy at these with as many people as possible. While we prepare our voices for these, we are also preparing for an amazing opportunity to sing with other children at Sheffield Arena in an event called Young Voices. It will be a late night for everyone but an experience beyond measure.

We are so blessed that we have such opportunities and we can experience new things, safe in the knowledge that we are being looked after. We can't wait to tell you all about our next adventures.

### **FOSTON C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL**

We have had a lovely first half term back at Foston CE VC Primary School. The EYFS KS1 class have got off to a flying start with a topic on pirates and explorers. The juniors are currently learning about the history and making of chocolate. **Our wrap around care is available from 8am until 5.00 or 5.30 each day depending on parental need.** Our excellent nursery provision is flourishing and Foston now has 30 children on the school role. We have

limited availability left for nursery places for 3 and 4 year olds so please get in touch as soon as possible if you would like to book your child in. Don't forget we offer up to full time school hours in our nursery in exchange for 15 hours funding.

**Our annual harvest festival was enjoyed by all.** Our early years KS1 rendition of The Dingly Dangly Scarecrow was most definitely a show stopper. A huge thank you must go to our wonderful parents for donations of food for Ryedale Food Bank.

**If you have a child due to start school soon we are holding an open afternoon / evening on Tuesday, 28th November from 1.30 - 6.30.** We would love to show you what our outstanding church school has to offer. Please contact school if you would like more information or would like to arrange an alternative date to visit on 01653 618265 or [admin@foston.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:admin@foston.n-yorks.sch.uk).

## Christmas Word Search



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G	G	E	Q	J	M	D	J	A	B	V	L	O	Y	B
S	A	A	C	K	L	P	B	Q	Y	K	T	N	V	T
F	D	A	S	H	E	R	X	L	B	X	I	W	I	M
Q	R	M	A	M	C	N	E	X	I	V	R	X	L	G
M	F	R	M	O	A	T	N	A	S	T	F	R	K	G
K	F	L	T	C	B	U	Z	A	Z	J	Z	E	M	C
C	S	E	S	Q	H	P	L	O	D	U	R	E	R	C
G	D	X	I	J	U	Q	C	Y	H	C	E	D	N	Z
Y	O	K	R	O	M	H	H	U	B	G	E	N	W	X
C	N	C	H	X	U	W	H	K	P	G	I	I	L	X
O	N	B	C	A	O	D	G	C	E	I	S	E	X	P
M	E	W	N	R	E	D	N	O	S	E	D	R	L	W
E	R	Z	H	W	A	L	R	L	M	U	O	S	V	S
T	F	X	P	R	A	N	C	E	R	N	F	G	L	Y



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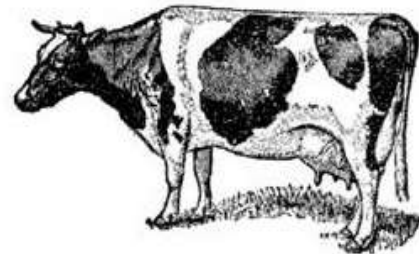
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## Contact details for the churches in the Harton Benefice

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Churchwarden: Mary Denison Email: marybossall@gmail.com  
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**

Churchwardens: Ida Terry Email: idmt@hotmail.co.uk  
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Wendy Holman Email: wendy\_e\_holman@hotmail.com  
Tel: 01653 618886

### **Foston, All Saints**

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Tel: 01653 619964  
Pam Ashworth Email: none  
Tel: 01653 618141

### **Gate Helmsley, St Mary**

Churchwardens Delyth Harran Email: dandmharran@gmail.com  
Tel: 01759 372215  
Anne Podmore Email: None  
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### **Howsham, St John**

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Judy Stephenson Email: jfs@great-barn.co.uk  
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### **Sand Hutton, St Mary**

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Ian Lyall Email: ian.lyall2@gmail.com  
Tel: 01904 468209  
Deputy Warden: Ellen Stott Email: ellenstott@yahoo.co.uk  
Tel: 01904 468404

### **Upper Helmsley, St Peter**

Churchwardens: Jane Herbert Email: none  
Tel: 01759 371310  
Pauline Harrison Email: paulineharrison@outlook.com  
Tel: 01759 371240

### **Whitwell on the Hill, St John the Evangelist**

Churchwarden: Janie Bell Email: janie.bell@me.com  
Tel: 01653 618270



**Items for 'The Circular'**  
**Copy deadline for the next edition January 18th 2018**

This will cover: February, March, April

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

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Email: [hannahsuekarran@gmail.com](mailto:hannahsuekarran@gmail.com)

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Lay Pastor:	Rachel Baker	01904 468809

**For specific issues to do with occasional offices contact should be made as follows:**

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Marriages	Rachel Baker	01904 468809
Baptisms	Delyth Harran	01759 372215

**Lay Vice Chairman of the Joint PCC**  
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