

The Benefice of Harton

The Circular



*Cover sponsored by Sister Margaret Ann CSPH
To celebrate 50 years of religious life*

Spring Edition 2018

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

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

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

Dear Friends

"Peace, perfect Peace"

After a reasonably turbulent 2017, a rather 'peaceful' 2018 would not come amiss! And as we begin our season of Lent, reflecting on what gives peace (perfect peace) is certainly uppermost in my mind.

Some years ago, my diocese sponsored me to go on a sabbatical for three months, to *'rest and refresh'*. Knowing that in order to achieve this I needed to get right away, I spent some time with the Benedictines in Worth Abbey and Douai Abbey. They were the perfect places to 'rest', where I could rescind my parochial duties and also the perfect setting for some 'refreshment' allowing me to embark on a *'spiritual journey'*.

But what is a *'spiritual journey'*? Well I suppose it means different things to different people. Quite often though it refers to that soul searching to try and understand the mystery of our existence. Not necessarily our physical presence (where we come from and why, although that does play a great part), but also that mysterious inner tension we have between our image (what people see) and our ego (what we truly are). This inner tension certainly doesn't bring 'peace', but two books by Abbot Christopher Jamison (Worth Abbey) "Finding Sanctuary" and "Finding Happiness" certainly helped me with my spiritual journey at the time and helped me explore what "Peace, perfect Peace" could look like.

Perhaps you too are seeking some personal Peace in your life?

We know that some are blessed with a real sense of personal peace in their lives – they exude a calm, gentle confidence that seems to act like a balm which rebuffs, or perhaps absorbs, the angst that life bombards us with.

Yet others (us mere mortals), manufacture artificial, but necessary, boundaries to contain a fragile existence of peace in their lives and relationships.

Perhaps as we take our own journey this Lent, leading to Easter, it might good to reflect on what gives us peace in our lives. Perhaps we could even more actively engage in that peace giving activity – a walk, finding space, prayer, music, being still, maybe even reading Abbot Christopher's books – whatever floats your boat as they say. To make that conscious effort could

be most rewarding. Perhaps we could even supplement this by 'giving up' something that makes us tense or anxious. How wonderful that could be! It's all so very personal – all I can wish you is that you find something that enables you feel that peace more profoundly this year. But enough of my ramblings.

I'll leave you with this extraordinary poem by a personal hero of mine George Herbert. For me this encapsulates where I can find 'peace' and is central to my '*spiritual journey*'. I think you'll understand. And I hope it may be where you can find personal peace too.

Yours in Christ

Revd Chris Wingfield

PEACE

SWEET PEACE, where dost thou dwell? I humbly crave,
Let me once know.

I sought thee in a secret cave,
And ask'd, if Peace were there.

A hollow wind did seem to answer, No:
Go seek elsewhere.

I did; and going did a rainbow note:
Surely, thought I,

This is the lace of Peace's coat:

I will search out the matter.

But while I lookt, the clouds immediately
Did break and scatter.

Then went I to a garden, and did spy
A gallant flower,

The crown Imperiall: Sure, said I,
Peace at the root must dwell.

But when I digg'd, I saw a worm devoure
What show'd so well.

At length I met a rev'rend good old man:
Whom when of Peace
I did demand, he thus began;
There was a Prince of old
At Salem dwelt, who liv'd with good increase
Of flock and fold.

He sweetly liv'd; yet sweetness did not save
His life from foes.
But after death out of his grave
There sprang twelve stalks of wheat:
Which many wondring at, got some of those
To plant and set.

It prosper'd strangely, and did soon disperse
Through all the earth:
For they that taste it do rehearse,
That vertue lies therein;
A secret vertue bringing peace and mirth
By flight of sinne.

Take of this grain, which in my garden grows,
And grows for you;
Make bread of it: and that repose
And peace, which ev'ry where
With so much earnestnesse you do pursue
Is onely there.

George Herbert



Services for the Benefice of Harton

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

**PLEASE NOTE ALL SUNDAY SERVICE TIMES HAVE BEEN CHANGED
FROM 10.30 a.m. TO 10.0 a.m.**

February 2018

| | | |
|--|--|-------------------------|
| <i>Sunday 4th February</i> | | <i>Candlemas</i> |
| 10.00 | Benefice Holy Communion | Crambe |
| Wednesday 7 th February | | |
| 10.00 | Holy Communion | Sand Hutton |
| <i>Sunday 11th February</i> | | <i>Next before Lent</i> |
| 9.00 | Said Holy Communion BCP | Bossall |
| 10.00 | Holy Communion | Foston |
| Wednesday 14 th February | | Ash Wednesday |
| 7.30pm | Holy Communion and anointing with ashes | Upper Helmsley |
| <i>Sunday 18th February</i> | | <i>Lent 1</i> |
| 10.00 | Benefice Holy Communion | Gate Helmsley |
| Wednesday 21 st February | | |
| 10.00 | Holy Communion | Buttercrambe |
| <i>Sunday 25th February</i> | | <i>Lent 2</i> |
| 10.00 | Benefice Holy Communion | Howsham |
| Wednesday 28 th February | | |
| 10.00 | Holy Communion | Flaxton |

March 2018

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|------------------------------------|---------------|
| <i>Sunday 4th March</i> | <i>Lent 3</i> |
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|-------|-------------------------|--------|
| 10.00 | Benefice Holy Communion | Foston |
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Wednesday 7th March

| | | |
|-------|----------------|--------|
| 10.00 | Holy Communion | Crambe |
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|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <i>Sunday 11th March</i> | <i>Mothering Sunday</i> |
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|-------|----------------|--------------|
| 10.00 | Holy Communion | Buttercrambe |
|-------|----------------|--------------|

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|-------|----------------|---------|
| 10.00 | Family Service | Flaxton |
|-------|----------------|---------|

Wednesday 14th March

| | | |
|-------|----------------|---------------|
| 10.00 | Holy Communion | Gate Helmsley |
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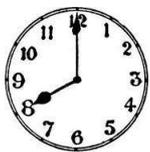
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| <i>Sunday 18th March</i> | <i>Lent 5</i> |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|

| | | |
|-------|-------------------------|----------|
| 10.00 | Benefice Holy Communion | Whitwell |
|-------|-------------------------|----------|

Wednesday 21st March

| | | |
|-------|----------------|-------------------------|
| 10.00 | Holy Communion | Annunciation Bossall |
|-------|----------------|-------------------------|

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| <i>Sunday 25th March</i> | <i>Palm Sunday</i> |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|



REMEMBER CLOCKS GO FORWARD ONE HOUR TODAY!!

| | | |
|-------|-------------------------|----------------|
| 10.00 | Benefice Holy Communion | Upper Helmsley |
|-------|-------------------------|----------------|

Thursday 29th March

| | | |
|--------|----------------|----------------------------|
| 7.30pm | Holy Communion | Maundy Thursday Howsham |
|--------|----------------|----------------------------|

Friday 30th March

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|-------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 10.00 | Good Friday Service | Good Friday Foston |
|-------|---------------------|-----------------------|

| | | |
|--------|-------------------|-------------|
| 2.00pm | Good Friday Vigil | Sand Hutton |
|--------|-------------------|-------------|

April 2018

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|--|-------------------------|----------------------|
| <i>Sunday 1st April</i> | | <i>Easter Sunday</i> |
| 10.00 | Benefice Holy Communion | Bossall |
| Wednesday 4 th April | | |
| 10.00 | Holy Communion | Howsham |
| <i>Sunday 8th April</i> | | <i>Easter 2</i> |
| 9.00 | Said Holy Communion | Upper Helmsley |
| 10.00 | Holy Communion | Crambe |
| Wednesday 11 th April | | |
| 10.00 | Holy Communion | Foston |
| <i>Sunday 15th April</i> | | <i>Easter 3</i> |
| 10.00 | Benefice Holy Communion | Sand Hutton |
| <i>A Service of Re-dedication following completion of major repair and re-ordering of the church</i> | | |
| Wednesday 18 th April | | |
| 10.00 | Holy Communion | Crambe |
| <i>Sunday 22nd April</i> | | <i>Easter 4</i> |
| 9.00 | Said Holy Communion | Howsham |
| 10.00 | BCP Matins | Gate Helmsley |
| Wednesday 25 th April | | |
| 10.00 | Holy Communion | Buttercrambe |
| <i>Sunday 29th April</i> | | <i>Easter 5</i> |
| 10.00 | Benefice Holy Communion | Flaxton |

Wednesday 2nd May
10.00 Holy Communion Sand Hutton

Sunday 6th May
10.00 Benefice Holy Communion Crambe



Welcome to those newly baptised

| | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|----------|
| 12 th November | Poppy Delilah Roberts Cook | Bossall |
| 26 th November | Dexter Bell John Gerrish | Whitwell |
| 31 st December | Mia Sophie Brown | Foston |



Our condolences to the families and friends of

| | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------|----------|
| 24 th November | Peter Locker | Bossall |
| 29 th November | Edwin Carr | Whitwell |
| 7 th December | Margaret Grant Hall | Crambe |
| 1 st January | Sheila Oakes | Crambe |



Messy Church is a fun way of being church for families, and we had such a good time running one with the team from Norton during the Archbishop's Mission Weekend in July 2017, that we decided to carry it on!

We started in October with Messy Harvest,



Sharing a meal together

our theme was 'sharing the good things God gives us with others'. Each Messy Church gathering begins with 50 minutes of pick and mix activities all related to the theme; there are usually about six to choose from, and you can do however many you like, in

whatever order you like! At Messy Harvest we decorated biscuits, built tractors and farm animals out of junk, and even played strange games like vegetable bowling! We then have a Celebration time, in which we think a bit more about the things we've explored through the activities. At Messy Harvest we told the story of the man who built bigger barns to store all of his excess harvest, and thought about the ways in which he could have shared it with others instead. We end our time together by sharing some food, and on this occasion we tucked into jacket potatoes with a whole host of toppings.

In December came Messy Christmas,

so our activities helped us to explore the nativity story. From a race to see who could dress up as a King and escape on a camel the quickest, to creating a huge collage of shepherds and angels, and making tree decorations, we did all sorts of fun things, and then came



Painting the Nativity

together in our celebration time, to tell the story of the nativity and think about why Jesus was born, before sharing lots of Christmassy refreshments.

Our next Messy Church is on Sunday 25th March, 4-6pm in Flaxton Village Hall, and we'll be thinking about the journey Jesus made from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday. We would love to see you there!

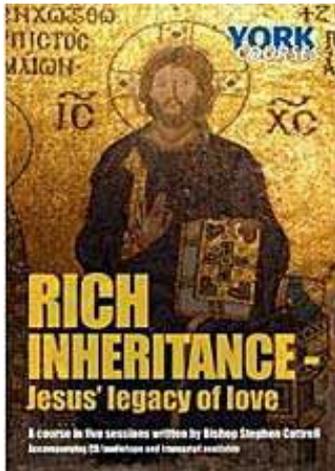
The Messy Church Team

LENT COURSE

'RICH INHERITANCE' – Jesus' legacy of love

a 5-week course will be held at Sand Hutton church
7 – 8pm

20th February, 27th February,
6th March, 13th March, 20th March



"Rich Inheritance" is a five-week course exploring the legacy of Jesus - what he bequeathed to the Church and the World in order that the good news he came to bring might be heard and experienced by all.

"An Empty Tomb – A Group of People – A Story – A Power – A Meal"

In each session we will be exploring and sharing our own thoughts about each topic with the help of some eminent modern theologians and Christian thinkers. Written by Bishop Steven Cottrell from the Chelmsford Diocese, these sessions are here to inspire and to challenge us in the way we see and interpret the legacy of Jesus.

So do come and explore with us the "Rich Inheritance" this Lent.

You are invited to



Come and join us on Palm Sunday as we look at the journey Jesus made from his entry into Jerusalem, to the events of Good Friday and Easter Sunday. There will be crafts, stories, food and lots of fun - and it's free!

Suitable for children aged 4-11 (Sorry, no unaccompanied children)

'The Journey'

Sunday 25th March

4-6 pm

Flaxton Village Hall *



***PLEASE NOTE THE
DIFFERENT VENUE!**

For more information contact:
Rev Hannah Suekarran
07538 813079 / hannah.suekarran@gmail.com

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

Gate Helmsley Village Hall

Saturday Library

Second Saturday every month
10.00 am to 12.00 midday
at the Village Hall

**Come along for a cup of coffee, a good chat and a browse through a
large selection of varied books which are
available for you to borrow**

All are very welcome

Next dates are 10 Feb, 10 March and 14 April
£1.00 donation for refreshments



WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN US?

We are a small but thriving WI who are always looking to welcome new members from Claxton, Sand Hutton and surrounding villages. We have a varied age group of members and work hard to find interesting guest speakers to engage and inform us throughout the year. This year's talks include Rowntrees in WW1, 75 years of the Poppleton Railway Nursery and Unknown York.

WI Membership also provides opportunities to learn new skills, visit interesting places, attend a wide variety of events around the region and yes, improve your cookery skills if required! Since its centenary in 2015, the WI has seen a marked increase in membership numbers and currently has almost 220,000 members in approximately 6,300 WIs across the Country.

If you would like to meet new friends or catch up with existing ones, then come along to our monthly meetings. We generally meet on the 3rd Thursday of each month in the village hall at Sand Hutton from 7.30pm and would love to offer you a warm welcome.

For further details about joining the WI or attending as a visitor, please contact Angela (01904 468396) or email a.steele1918@gmail.com

All Saints Church, Foston



Saturday 10th February.

11.30 - 1.30.

in the village hall Thornton le Clay.

Valentine's theme coffee morning

Treat the one you love to coffee and cakes!

All proceeds will be donated to
The Special Care Baby Unit
at York Hospital.



SAND HUTTON AND CLAXTON VILLAGE HALL
Forthcoming events

- 2nd March** Synolda Arms Pop up Pub Quiz Night and Games Night .
7.30-11pm
- 14th July** Synolda Arms Pop up Pub French themed night 7.30-11pm
Food and Music.
- 8th September** Annual Village Produce Show
- 5th October** Harvest Supper
- 16th November** Synolda Arms Pop up Pub with Fish & Chips.

*If you would like further details of any of these events
or would like to volunteer to help
please contact Fiona on 01904 468001.*

**Gate and Upper Helmsley Village Hall Committee
invite you to a**



Spring Dance

in
Gate Helmsley Village Hall

Saturday 3rd March 7.30pm

EVERYONE WELCOME

£12 to include supper, bring your own drinks

**Dancing
to Northern Rock**



Tickets from Mandy (01759 371148) or Chris (01759 371687)



All Saints Church, Foston

Saturday 21st of April
At 7.30 p.m.

we are very excited to announce a musical evening
with the **Weighton Waytes Choir**

With over 50 members they will perform a wide range of music
to suit all tastes.

Tickets £7.00 which includes a glass of wine and tasty nibbles.

Do try to join us, it promises to be a lovely evening.

Tickets available from our Churchwardens

Karen Armitstead 01653 619964 Email: karen_armitstead@hotmail.com

Pam Ashworth: 01653 618141

Benefice PCC.....

The last meeting of the Benefice PCC was held on 14th November 2017.
These are some of the topics discussed:

- In the early New Year, the initiative Pray 14 Me will be taken to the remaining parishes in the benefice
- The Pilgrim Course had been successful and was likely to be repeated in the form of house groups
- Three Advent Meditations were proposed for December, and there will be Lent Meditations in the spring, based on the Deanery and Diocesan priorities of church growth and making disciples
- Chris and Hannah will be attending the LYCIG (Leading Your Church Into Growth) course in February. The principles from this will subsequently be disseminated across the benefice
- Messy Church has been a great success. There will be more sessions before Christmas and around Easter
- The Christmas shoebox appeal for Romania was very well supported. As a result, 100 boxes were sent from this benefice

- The PCC agreed to make an additional contribution to supplement the parish good-will offerings to the Diocese, which provides the funds for such things as employing clergy. The Diocese is currently running a deficit budget, so it is essential for parishes to increase their offering year on year if possible

The PCC will next meet at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 13th February. Any agenda items should be sent to the honorary secretary, Wendy Holman

Delyth Harran, Vice Chairman

Sister Margaret Anne CSPH – Reflections on 50 years of religious life



*'Take my life, and let it be
Consecrated, Lord to thee
Take my moments and my days
Let them flow in ceaseless praise'*

As the Benefice Choir accompanied by Peter Stott our organist and choirmaster started to sing this wonderful hymn by Frances R Havergal, on Epiphany Sunday at St Mary's Church, Sand Hutton, my thoughts went back fifty years to that beautiful chapel of the Holy Cross at Horbury, the home of the Community of St Peter. It was March 25th 1968, Lady Day, the Feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary. At a High Mass. I, Novice Margaret Ann stood before God, the Superior and Sisters, my family and friends, and gave my life to God.

My journey of faith started many years before when, as a seven year old I felt called by God to work for Him. I didn't know what that meant or where that call would lead me. I only knew that if I was as faithful to Him as I could be he would lead the way and show me what he wanted me to do.

Like so many of us, I guess, my life took many twists and turns but I tried to remain faithful to the one who had called me. As I look back and reflect on the years that have passed I can see the hand of God in it all and know that true to his word, he finally led me to that convent in West Yorkshire where I would spend the next twenty six years of my life, growing in faith and trust in Him, my Lord and my God, my best friend. I have never doubted that and if I had my time all over again, I wouldn't change a thing.

That day in March I made promises, the vows of Obedience, Poverty and Chastity. I promised to do as I was told, give all that I possessed to God through the Community to His praise and glory and that I would try to lead a clean, pure life.

In February 1991, for all sorts of reasons, I found myself here in what is now The Benefice of Harton, among all you wonderful people. I have tried over the years to be faithful to those vows that I made that day. I still try to serve my God by serving you all and consider it an absolute privilege to be part of the family here in this Benefice. Daily I thank my God for your care of me and for the love and friendship you have given to me over the last twenty seven years, I thank you all. May this be my prayer and yours as we journey on together.

*Take my will, and make it thine:
It shall be no longer mine;
Take my heart: it is thine own;
It shall be thy royal throne.*

*Take my love; my Lord, I pour
At thy feet its treasure store;
Take myself, and I will be
Ever, only, all for thee.*

Frances R Havergal

*Margaret Ann
+ CSP4*





Cursillo is 'a movement of the Church providing a method by which Christians are empowered to grow through prayer, study and action and enabled to share God's love with everyone.'

Reflections on attending a York Cursillo course by David Fletcher

Prior to coming on the course I felt rather nervous. However, I need not have been, the welcome was warm and loving and this was the precursor of an amazing weekend with an overwhelming and remarkable sense of love in bucket loads. The teaching was very relevant - especially on blind Bartimaeus being brought to Jesus by his friends, out of his normal setting and receiving healing in stages, also the Prodigal Son.

This led me to meet with Jonathan Couper, one of the spiritual directors on the course, for a time of him listening and prayer during the Friday afternoon when we had free time.



We were allocated to small groups during the weekend and our group was led by Pat who had been on a previous course. She was from Brotton just south of Redcar. Her life experience story was amazing. Over the weekend there were a number of short talks and I was particularly helped by the Ideals talk, and it's helping me in prayers for my family and others. To know we were being soaked in prayer from many people around the world who had been on Cursillo courses was so evident in the atmosphere of the weekend and since too. Many of these people had very kindly written each of us new to the course cards of encouragement.

The Service of Light on Saturday was another remarkable feature, with a great sense of God's love amongst us, with an opportunity for prayer and anointing with oil. Sunday morning's early morning praise was another great blessing, and the final service with a gallery of fellow Cursillistas opposite beaming at us was marvellous. Wydale was a great venue with excellent food.

The next Cursillo residential weekend is 31 May - 3 June 2018
at Wydale, Brompton by Sawdon.

More information on Cursillo including quiet days and taster days can be found on their website www.yorkcursillo.org

CHRISTMAS 2017 AMEN SHOEBOX APPEAL

We had a great response from the villages in our area and over 80 Christmas shoeboxes were received and we are very grateful for your generosity. Thank you so much they will have brought great joy to the families who received them in Romania !



This picture taken at the church service at Upper Helmsley shows some of the shoeboxes and Sandra Lemming one of the Trustees of the Amen (Charity number 1057626)

If you would like to borrow a DVD about those receiving the shoeboxes please contact David Fletcher on 07900998378 or email him on davidfletcher165@hotmail.com Thank you again.

LENT LUNCHES 2018

A simple lunch will be held between 12.30 and 2.0 pm at each of the following venues

Friday 23rd February
Thursday 8th March
Tuesday 20th March

Aldby Park (Buttercrambe)
Holderness House (Claxton)
The Rullies (Foston)

Donations received will be given to a local charity

Around the Parishes.....

News, views and information from:

BOSSALL

We are all very sad in Bossall at the death of Peter Locker. There was a memorial service at Bossall Church with cremation at Octon. Peter was an absolute stalwart of the Church and will be very much missed by us all. He kept the churchyard in good order and dealt with the moles outside and the mice inside, and was ready to help with anything that needed doing, ably supported by his wife Ann. We look forward to her continuing support of the church.



The Festival of Lilies and Light was held on November 1st. This service, which was well attended, was an opportunity for people to remember those they have loved and lost. The church looked lovely, decorated with many lilies and largely lit by candles. It created a perfect setting for reflection and remembrance. The music played by Peter Stott and the singing by the Benefice Choir added greatly to the contemplative atmosphere.

The Remembrance Day Service -as always- was well attended. Following the service a further Act of Remembrance was held at the War Memorial between Claxton and Sand Hutton. Once again Gage Andrews played the Last Post and Reveille on the trumpet which was much appreciated



The Christmas festivities started with the Crib Service and Chris had the children marching round the Church - all well under control and appearing to enjoy it!

Midnight by Candlelight was a very uplifting service again accompanied by the Benefice Choir which all seemed to enjoy - as I did.

On Christmas Day morning, Family Communion at Flaxton was an excellent start to the day - the children really 'turned up trumps'

SO -what is 2018 going to bring ?

Thus far a cycle race is being organised in June round the Ryedale Churches (84 of them!) in aid of Ryedale Special Families but more of that next time.

CRAMBE

Our annual celebration of Christmas by Candlelight was held in the church on December 16th. The church was lit entirely by over two hundred candles creating a stunning atmosphere. It was a service of carols and readings in poetry and prose, both biblical and secular. The very aptly named 'York Super Singers Choir' accompanied the congregation and also sang a variety of unusual carols. Of the readings, Pete Andrews' rendition of '*The Messiah, an account of a visit to hear the great oratorio by a St Swithun's parishioner*', delivered in a broad West Yorkshire accent, raised a general chuckle, and the odd baffled look too!

It was wonderful to see such a large congregation. Following the service we all warmed up at Kyreham House with mulled wine thanks to the Cook family and indulged in mince pies and sausage rolls kindly provided by the ladies of the village.

After a period of mild winters the icy weather has affected us all including the local mouse population, and a recent spate of non-starting cars has been diagnosed as 'rodent damage' another expression for 'the little blighters have chewed the wiring'! Clearly they have been trying to keep warm by sheltering under the car bonnet. The village cats are doing their best to subdue and exterminate the pesky critters but when challenged about their effectiveness declined to comment.

Liz Kershaw has moved away from the village, and we wish her every happiness in her new home at Bulmer. The Kingsley family have taken up residence in Liz' former home and we welcome Steve, Clare, Charlie and Jennifer to the village. Our other new resident is Handel, Dorothy Martin's

Weimeraner puppy. We look forward to seeing him out and about with Dorothy in due course.

On a sad note, we have had two recent deaths in the village. Margaret Hall passed away before Christmas and her funeral was held on January 4th in St Michael's Church. We offer our sincere condolences to Stanley and Graham on their loss.

On New Year's Day Sheila Oakes died after a long illness. Her funeral was held on January 17th also at St Michael's Church. Our deepest sympathy goes to Derrick and the family at this sad time.

In such a small place as Crambe both Margaret and Sheila will be much missed.

FLAXTON

On the 1st December 2017 it was a real joy to have the children and staff from Flaxton Little Green Rascals Nursery to come into church to perform their Nativity services. The day started with the younger children, who with the help of parents raised the roof singing Christmas songs. In the afternoon the older children gave a brilliant performance relaying the story of the nativity. Two members of staff built fantastic scenery using trees, lights and a manger. This was a first time event and we hope to hold more in the future.

Later in December the children from the Sunday School took part in the Nativity and Toy Service. We were struggling with numbers but parents and children rallied round friends and we ended up with 12 children taking part which was brilliant. The gifts for the Salvation Army Christmas Present Appeal were received and blessed by our curate Hannah. With our donations, and those of other organisations, the Salvation Army were able to provide 285 local families with much needed food and over 730 children with Christmas Day gifts. Major Dunkinson from the Salvation Army has written a letter of thanks for the support and generosity and it is on display on the Lych Gate notice board and inside the church.

There were over 120 in the congregation for the service of Nine Lessons and Carols and presentation of the Crib strongly supported by the Flaxton Singers. Thank you to Dick (Blackford), organist Les (Bresnen) and the Singers for all your hard work and support. Thank you to all the readers and to the children who presented the figures to the crib. Following the service we enjoyed mulled wine and mince pies.

On Shrove Tuesday 13th February we are holding our annual Pancake Party from 6.30pm until 9.00pm in Flaxton Village Hall. To help cover costs there will be an entrance fee of £1.50 adults, children 10-16 years £1, under 10 years free. This covers first drink and pancake. There will be the usual pancake tossing competition and a raffle. Do please come and join us for a fun and social evening.

FOSTON

A Happy New year to you all!

Our Christmas celebrations began on the 3rd December with a very enjoyable Carol Service lead by Hannah. We all enjoyed the readings and a rousing selection of Christmas carols. Afterwards we all tucked into mulled wine and tasty treats. Thank you to everyone who took part and provided refreshments.

Christmas Eve saw our little church host two services. Firstly a Crib Service was held for the younger members of the community, where the Christmas story was brought to life. It was thoroughly enjoyed by us all.

Later on in the evening a Midnight Mass took place to welcome in Christmas day.

We have a number of fund raising events coming up full details of which are in separate adverts but the dates to remember are:

Saturday 10th of February a Valentine themed coffee morning.

Saturday 21st of April we are very excited to announce the Weighton Waytes will be performing at All Saints Foston.

A future date for your diary. Sunday 3rd of June 2018. We welcome back Clive and Kath Richardson. You may recall they last entertained us with the story "The woman who didn't exist". Well they will next be sharing the sequel to this story "The Fate of the Eight"; it promises to be just as exciting.

GATE HELMSLEY

We have had some happy events at St Mary's church over recent weeks. On 9th December villagers were in fine voice for the annual carol singing, during which £130 was collected for the York charity for young people, SASH, safe and secure homes. This charity supports young people in emergency

situations such as becoming homeless. Afterwards we gathered at the Village Hall for a bit of a party, with the children having such a good time playing games. Thanks to the Jubilee committee and all who contributed to the success of this event.

The calmness of the service of Advent Meditation on 19th December was followed by a well-attended service of Holy Communion on Christmas morning. Thank you to the Rector, Reverend Chris Wingfield, for leading this service and to Chris, Hannah and all the Ministry Team for the part they play in our services throughout the year, and for the way they support us as parishioners.

The annual Christmas Fayre was held at Orchard House on 2nd December. There was a very good gathering with everyone enjoying mulled wine and mince pies and helping to raise a total of more than £850 for church funds. A big "thank you" to everyone who supported this event in so many different ways.

The next fund-raising event will be the parish lunch at Orchard House on Sunday 21st January. Our Annual Parochial Church Meeting, which is open to all parishioners, will be held at 11.00 am on Tuesday 24th April at Fox Farm, the home of Anne and Andrew Podmore.

On a more negative note, the church had its five-yearly or quinquennial inspection in late autumn. Not only did this show up some major and costly refurbishment which would be needed in the tower and the roof, but also revealed the theft of lead from the roof over the south aisle, a spot which is not visible from the ground. This theft was particularly cowardly: although only a relatively small amount of lead was taken, it caused a considerable amount of structural damage. The church will have to pay considerably more for the repairs than the thieves would have earned from selling the lead!

Gate and Upper Helmsley Village Hall Committee arranged a very successful dance in the hall on 11th November. Thanks to David and Barbara Chappell and all who contributed to this evening. The AGM was held on 5th December. The next dance will be on Saturday 3rd March at 7.30pm, with the well-known band, Northern Rock (see separate notice). The annual BBQ, will be held on Sunday 15th July; details will be in the next Circular.

HOWSHAM

Around 60 people enjoyed our carol service before Christmas. There were excellent contributions from youngsters and villagers, the church was beautifully decorated, and almost everyone came down to the Great Barn for mulled wine and mince pies after the service. A most enjoyable village event and thank you to Chris for leading the service and to all who helped clean and decorate the Church.

We have so far received one quotation from York Glaziers for repairs to our fine stained glass; at present we cannot contemplate raising such a massive sum. Barley Hall Studios are preparing another quote.

The village were delighted to welcome the arrival of Molly Rose Stephenson, sister to Ruby. Congratulations to Tom and Vanessa.

SAND HUTTON and CLAXTON

Firstly we would like to thank you for bearing with us over the past months whilst the tower and internal work at St Mary's Church has been taking place. Thank you to the contractors who have been considerate and patient during the services that have taken place as well as being professional and hard working. I think we are going to miss them!! As you will see in the Tower report, there will be a service in April to extend our thanks to all who have been involved in the work, when there will be the opportunity for you to see the changes in your church.

Gifts for Christmas held on November 4th was again a huge success and thanks to all those involved in making it a sociable and happy occasion. The ladies will already be planning and making for 2018 event!

Charitable Giving 2017

We have given £527.59 to North Yorkshire Music Therapy Centre and £527.18 to Revive International, Brazil. Thank you.

Charitable Giving 2018

The overseas charity "Saved on the Street" works in Uganda caring for street children. Diana who supports Darius, who many of you know, is taking children's clothes/shoes/small toys/pencils/feeding bottles etc. if you can help with any of these items please place them in St. Mary's Church by the end of February. Thank you

The local charity is based in Hull working in schools over a wide area: - "Love in Action" brings Religious Education to life through working with the charity "Just as I am" whose aims are to see beyond a disability



'The love in Action Team' from left to right: Kabelo, Emily, Darren Diana, and Darius

Now that the work in the church is complete we have set up a quiet place for the Prayer station. You are very welcome to use this space for meditating, thinking of loved ones, lighting candles, reading, praying, writing prayer requests and using available contact numbers if support or help is needed.

Various Bibles & Service/Prayer books have been 'unearthed' which are no longer in use. Some have names of recipients way back in the past and may be known to you! If you recognise and are interested in taking any of these books you are very welcome to do so. Please contact Ian or Graham, the church wardens, to arrange a time to meet at the church. These are:

Large Church Bible presented by Middlesborough Police force for Isaac Watson Esq. Nov 26th 1875 given by grand-daughter 1931

Large Church Bible.... Anne Lazenby 1866

Small Bible... Alice Batty Easter 1902

Altar Services... Tom Gelder died Nov 10th 1962 given by widow & family

Prayer Book... W.Ronald George Nov 1948

Pilgrim's Progress/ Prayer books/ Common Prayer books also available

BIG CLEAN!

Following all the tower work & interior work at the church we are meeting on March 15th from 9-30am for a Spring clean and of course plenty of chatting & coffee!! You are very welcome to join us as there will be lots to do.

May we take this opportunity to wish you all a Peaceful and Healthy 2018!

ST MARY'S CHURCH, SAND HUTTON TOWER AND SPIRE RESTORATION PROJECT



We are now edging nearer to the completion of our project. The date of Sunday 15th April has been set for a re-dedication service at St Mary's at 10.00am. You will all be most welcome.

The re-gilded cockerel has been re-instated on the top of the wrought iron cross at the top of the spire. The spire has had all its sarking boards and shingles replaced and the head of the spire has a new leaded button capping.

Work on the stones (quoins, jambs, voussoirs) for the Tower continues: the stones for the East and North elevations have been worked and fitting has commenced, with the West elevation to follow shortly. Lower wall work will be undertaken following completion of the upper stonework. The crosses on the West and East Gable will both be renewed.

Our new kitchen and heritage area units have been built and are in situ at the west end of the church – these have been designed to complement the aesthetics of the church. The old vestry has been divided into two distinct areas: a toilet and store. Work on these will be completed in the near future. A new drainage system has been installed and plumbing and second fix electrics are well underway.

The majority of the glazing work has been undertaken; the remainder plus replacement of rainwater goods will commence once the scaffolding has been removed.

We would like to express our thanks to our contractor and his team and 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 Bill Heath (photography) and to the following organisations for the grants they have awarded: Heritage Lottery Fund, York Diocese, Allchurches Trust, Yorkshire Historic Churches Trust and National Churches Trust.



NEWS FROM OUR SCHOOLS.....



SAND HUTTON C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

Happy New Year!

What a wonderful first term I had at Sand Hutton and Warthill Federated Schools. The term was very long and all the children were shattered before we broke up but they loved every minute of their parties and Nativities. The church was packed to the rafters for our two performances and I was so proud to share the talents of the children with their parents. The singing was amazing and we had some Oscar-winning performances in the acting.



The all star cast of the Christmas Nativity play performed at St Mary's Church, Sand Hutton

As we head into the Spring Term, we have a range of fabulous experiences planned for our pupils, starting with a games day for Reception and Year 1. Since September a number of our pupils have worked extremely hard to learn songs so that they could take part in an event at Sheffield Arena, called Young Voices. They will sing with children from other schools and it is something which we will share with you all in the next newsletter; needless to say, we are beyond excited about it.

In February we have an ICT week planned and we will be reinforcing the messages about the safe use of the internet. Further to this, we have a 'waste week' planned in March, followed by a Science event. Look out for news about our Recycled Fashion Show.

The term will end with an Easter Service on 27th March, another opportunity to have the warmth of the community around us.

Volunteers needed! Can you help?



Churches Together in Southern Ryedale in conjunction with The Refugee Council is looking for local volunteers to lend support to refugee families who fled the Syrian and Iraqi conflicts, and have, following spells in refugee camps in Lebanon and Jordan been resettled in our community in Malton as part of a nationwide Government programme. There are four couples in Malton with children of varying ages, a total of twenty one people. They are delightful friendly people and most grateful for the help they receive.

Would you be willing to volunteer some of your time to enable these families to adapt and integrate into our community?

There are many ways in which you can help:

Befriending individuals with regular home visits.

Helping at the Drop-In sessions where families come to meet their project workers for help with translating official letters, arranging appointments etc.

Accompanying individuals to medical appointments.

Meeting people informally to help them practise their English Language skills.

Involving the families in local social events.

Helping teachers at English classes for adult refugees.

Donating items to meet the needs of the families.

There are many more ways in which you could help and you may have some ideas of your own to put forward that would help them.

Sue Westmacott is acting as a coordinator for Churches Together in Southern Ryedale and would be pleased to hear from anyone with an interest in volunteering. She may be contacted via Email at: susanwestmacott@gmail.com or Tel: 01653 628035

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer through The Refugee Council, contact Sarah Banfield a member of the Leeds based team who will be happy to talk their work through with you : Tel: 0113 386 2215 or 07507 877907 or via Email:sarah.banfield@refugeecouncil.org.uk



Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal 2017

On behalf of the Poppy Appeal organisers I'd like to thank everyone in this district who either collected or gave to the appeal.

The total raised for the district was £2420.47

If anyone is interested in helping with the 2018 Poppy Appeal please get in touch with:
Fiona Davies, 01904 468001

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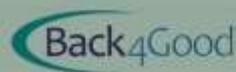
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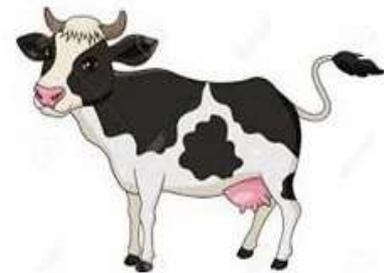


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Churchwarden: Mary Denison Email: marybossall@gmail.com
Tel: 01904 468203

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
Tel: 01347 878432
Wendy Holman Email: wendy_e_holman@hotmail.com
Tel: 01653 618886

Foston, All Saints

Churchwardens: Karen Armitstead Email: karen_armitstead@hotmail.com
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
Tel: 01759 372320

Howsham, St John

Churchwardens: Gill Littlejohn Email: simoncklittlejohn@msn.com
Tel: 01653 618846
Judy Stephenson Email: jfs@great-barn.co.uk
Tel: 01653 618673

Sand Hutton, St Mary

Churchwardens: Graham Baker Email: gnrfastline@btinternet.com
Tel: 01904 468809
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 April 18th 2018

This will cover: May June July 2018

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

Rector of the Benefice of Harton

Revd. Chris Wingfield 01904 468418

Email: chris.wingfield@btinternet.com

Curate: Revd. Hannah Suekarran 07538 813 079

Email: hannahsuekarran@gmail.com

Members of the Ministry Team

| | | |
|----------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| Parish Sister: | Sister Margaret Ann CSPH | 01904 468253 |
| Lay Pastor: | Rachel Baker | 01904 468809 |

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

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| Funerals | Sister Margaret Ann CSPH | 01904 468253 |
| Marriages | Rachel Baker | 01904 468809 |
| Baptisms | Delyth Harran | 01759 372215 |

Lay Vice Chairman of the Joint PCC

Delyth Harran 01759 372215

Editor

Fiona Le Masurier

Crambe House, Crambe, York YO60 7JR Tel: 01653 619368

Email: churchmouse@crambe.net

Circular Printing Group members

Rachel Baker 01904 468809

Michael Harran 01759 372215

Peter Stott 01904 468404

Fiona Le Masurier 01653 619368

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