

The Benefice of Harton

The Circular



Summer edition 2014

May June July

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

The colour cover has been sponsored by
Andy and Louise Watkins
In celebration of the first anniversary of
their marriage at
St Mary's Church Sand Hutton in June 2013

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

Services for the Benefice of Harton

May

Sunday 4th May

Easter 3

10.30 Benefice Eucharist & Baptism Gate Helmsley

Wednesday 7th May

10.00 Holy Communion Whitwell

Sunday 11th May

Easter 4

9.00 Holy Communion Sand Hutton

10.30 Family Service Flaxton

Wednesday 14th May

10.00 Holy Communion Upper Helmsley

Sunday 18th May

Easter 5

10.30 Benefice Eucharist Buttercrambe

Wednesday 21st May

10.00 Holy Communion Bossall

Sunday 25th May

Rogation Sunday

9.00 Holy Communion Howsham

10.30 Morning Prayer Foston

Thursday 29th May

Ascension Day

7.00 pm Holy Communion Crambe

June

Sunday 1st June

Easter 7

10.30 Benefice Eucharist Whitwell

Wednesday 4th June

10.00 Holy Communion Buttercrambe

Sunday 8th June***Pentecost***

9.00	Holy Communion	Foston
10.30	Holy Communion with Baptism	Sand Hutton

Wednesday 11th June

10.00	Holy Communion	Flaxton
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Sunday 15th June***Trinity***

10.30	Benefice Eucharist	Upper Helmsley
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Wednesday 18th June

10.00	Holy Communion	Howsham
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Sunday 22nd June***Trinity 1***

9.00	Holy Communion	Bossall
10.30	Morning Prayer	Gate Helmsley

Wednesday 25th June

10.00	Holy Communion	Whitwell
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Sunday 29th June***Peter and Paul***

10.30	Benefice Eucharist	Sand Hutton
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July**Wednesday 2nd July**

10.00	Holy Communion	Buttercrambe
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Sunday 6th July***Trinity 3***

10.30	Benefice Eucharist	Crambe
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Wednesday 9th July

10.00	Holy Communion	Gate Helmsley
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Sunday 13th July***Trinity 4***

9.00	Holy Communion	Upper Helmsley
10.30	Family Service	Flaxton

Wednesday 16th July

10.00

Holy Communion

Foston

Sunday 20th July***Trinity 5***

10.30

Benefice Eucharist

Howsham

Wednesday 23rd July

10.00

Holy Communion

Flaxton

Sunday 27th July***Trinity 6***

9.00

Holy Communion

Bossall

10.30

Morning Prayer

Whitwell

Wednesday 30th July

10.00

Holy Communion

Gate Helmsley

August***Sunday 3rd August******Trinity 7***

10.30

Benefice Eucharist

Foston

Wednesday 6th August

10.00

Holy Communion

Sand Hutton

Sunday 10th August***Trinity 8***

9.00

Holy Communion

Crambe

10.30

Morning Prayer

Buttercrambe

Wednesday 13th August

10.00

Holy Communion

Howsham



Welcome to those newly baptised

23 February

Grace Louise Dziemianko

Gate Helmsley



Congratulations and good wishes to those who were married recently

11th April

Richard Bielby and Fiona Borthwick

Crambe



Our condolences to the families and friends of

3 February aged 87

Joyce Goodwin

Gate Helmsley

4 March

Espie Bleasdale

Barton le Willows

24 April aged 94

Betty Townsend

Gate Helmsley



Sister Margaret Ann's altar training sessions

Thank you to Sister Margaret Ann for the sessions she has already done showing us how to set up the altar for Communion and telling us about various liturgical matters. The evenings were well attended and were found to be extremely interesting and informative. Sister has kindly agreed another two dates for anyone who is interested (not just churchwardens), both lasting about half an hour. The dates and venues are:

Thursday 22nd May at Howsham Church 7.00 p.m.

Thursday 5th June at Flaxton Church 7.00 p.m.

Dear friends

Signs of Spring and Summer!



Well, just to say that Thelma, Alfie and I have been made to feel so welcome here – thank you all so much. Having now been officially Instituted, Inducted and Installed (good old Church of England....) I am here at your service. I do hope to meet as many of you as possible over the coming weeks and months, either at church or at social occasions.

It was lovely to come here in Spring, just before Easter. It is such a season of hope – full of potential and anticipation as to what the summer might bring. After the bleakness of winter, it really is a time for new beginnings. And to arrive and celebrate Palm Sunday through Easter and beyond, biblically echoes those changes of melancholy to joy, darkness to light, death to resurrection.

For me, Jesus was all about demonstrating to everyday folk like you and me what the Kingdom of God was all about: through his teaching, stories, prayer life and miracles. He showed people how the Kingdom can transform lives. And I hope my time here will be spent in sharing with you this Kingdom that he talked about – and perhaps showing how it can transform your life too.

So, as nature shows us signs of spring and summer, so too I hope to show you signs of ‘God’s Kingdom’ – and how together we can become ‘Kingdom People’.

It will be a pilgrimage that each of us can share if we wish – and having been a traveller for many years, it truly is a joyous (yet sometimes challenging!) journey that can take you into some very unexpected places. But it’s always a journey worthwhile and so, so rewarding.

So, I look forward to meeting you one day soon – I’m always open to an invite for a cup of tea and a chat – and perhaps we can share stories of our own pilgrimages together.

Yours in Christ

Revd Chris Wingfield
Rector of the Harton Benefice

A note from the Joint PCC.....

Over almost exactly two years, in the absence of a vicar in the Benefice of Harton, I have acted as lay chairman of the Joint PCC. Now that Chris Wingfield has joined us as the new rector, I am extremely pleased to be able to hand over the reins to him. **Chris will chair the next meeting of the Joint PCC, which will be held at 7.30 pm on Thursday 15th May at Abbey House, Claxton, the home of Brian Atkinson.**

Ray Barry, who has been the secretary of the Joint PCC since its inception and of the Benefice Council before that, has decided to retire. We thank Ray very much for the many years of hard work he has given in several roles across the parishes. We wish Ray and Jo well for the future. Wendy Holman has kindly agreed – without too much arm twisting – to take over as secretary, and we look forward to working with her. She will be joining the other co-opted member, David Fletcher who is the honorary treasurer.

If you would like any items discussed at any of the Joint PCC meetings, please pass them on to your parish representative. **The parish representatives are:**

Mike Le Masurier	Crambe	Ida Terry	Flaxton
Sylvie Diggle	Foston	Delyth Harran	Gate Helmsley
Brian Atkinson	Sand Hutton	Janie Bell	Whitwell
Jane Herbert	Upper Helmsley		
Gill Littlejohn	Bossall, Buttercrambe and Howsham		

During the interregnum, we have been grateful to all those priests who have helped us out by leading Eucharistic services. We are especially grateful to Revd. Rachel Benson and Revd. Jeremy Valentine, who have borne the brunt of this work and have always been willing to help. Jeremy has been particularly helpful in conducting the majority of the Wednesday morning Holy Communion services. A very big thank you to everyone.

The next Circular will need to include the dates for Harvest Thanksgiving services, so I would be grateful if those of you who are arranging such services could let me have the dates and times as soon as possible so that I can include them in the service rota for August to October.

I end by thanking all those who have been of so much help and support over the last two years. Notably the members of the Ministry Team, members and honorary officers of the Joint PCC, all the churchwardens, the Circular editor and printing team, and those who have been willing to come together to sing and play music on special occasions.

Delyth Harran, Lay Vice Chairman



Institution, Induction and Installation of.....

Reverend Chris Wingfield

We are extremely pleased to welcome the Reverend Chris Wingfield as the new rector of the Benefice of Harton. A splendid service for Chris's institution, induction and installation was held at St Botolph's Bossall on the evening of Wednesday 9th April, led by the Archbishop of York, the Most Reverend Dr John Sentamu. The Archdeacon of York, the Venerable Sarah Bullock, and the Assistant Rural Dean, the Reverend Andy Bowden, also played leading parts in the service.

A great deal of work had gone into preparing for and running of the service. We are very grateful to all those who took part in the service itself, through reading, leading the processions, the presentation of symbolic gifts and greeting the new rector. It was especially pleasing that several young people had been willing to take part.

Thank you to Geoff Walker for playing the organ at the service and to all who came together from across the benefice and beyond to form an impromptu choir for the occasion. There was much praise for the choir's singing of Mozart's Ave Verum Corpus, but the congregation also fully played their part in swelling the singing of the four hymns, each of which had been chosen by Chris for very specific reasons.

Mary Denison and her stalwart team took charge of all the practical arrangements – clergy robing, seating the congregation, the collection and parking, and the provision and serving of tasty morsels for the reception after the service. Very many thanks to you all. We are very grateful to Lady Susan Watson who kindly allowed us to use her home, Bossall Hall, for the refreshments. The relaxing atmosphere at the Hall brought the evening to a very happy close.

We warmly welcome Chris and his wife, Thelma, (not forgetting Alfie the dog) to their new life at Sand Hutton Vicarage. We hope they will be very happy living among us in these communities and we ask for God's blessing on their new ministry

Delyth Harran



St Botolph's Church, Bossall



Clergy procession before the service



A huddle of churchwardens



The Archbishop welcoming Chris as Rector of the Benefice of Harton



Louise presents Chris with a prayer book



Chris receiving the door keys of the all churches in the Benefice from the Archdeacon



Catherine welcoming Chris on behalf of the children and young people of the Benefice



Chris and the Archbishop after the service

To The Editor

May I through the courtesy of your columns express my thanks for the presentation which was so kindly made to me at the conclusion of my 'farewell appearance' at Flaxton church in February.

It has been a pleasure and a privilege to share in and sometimes lead the worship in the benefice over the past fifteen years of my retirement. I am very fond of all your churches and it has been a joy to get to know you all and the villages around which I used to cycle when, as a boy, I came to spend the summer holidays with my



Paul and Pat Conder

Grandma in Strensall during the war. There have been so many changes in the intervening years, and now it is time for Pat and myself to recross the Pennines and embark on a second retirement, this time in the city of Chester.

There is a certain appropriateness about this, for I was sponsored for ordination by Chester Diocese sixty years ago, and we managed to secure our apartment in a retirement village just five minutes away from the cathedral, and near to one of our daughters, which should suit us very well.

We shall miss you and the beautiful area you inhabit, and think of you often as a new era in the history of the benefice begins under the leadership of Chris Wingfield.

May God bless you richly in all that you undertake for Him, and if by any chance you should organise a Parish outing to Chester, it would be lovely to meet up with you again!

Sincerely yours

Paul Conder.

Old friends reunited.....

Bryan and Dot Mills celebrated their 80th birthdays at the beginning of March, a wonderful event in itself. However they did not keep their celebrations to themselves, and as well as family and friends, the family of the church of which they are such a special part, and to which they have contributed so much over the years, were able to join in.

Bryan met Mike Ely in 1955 whilst doing his National Service in the Royal Engineers at Midhurst in Sussex. Bryan recalls, “Michael had just come out of training and he was very unaware of how the Royal Engineers worked. He knocked on my office door, standing to attention saying ‘can I speak to you, Corporal Mills?’ I told him we’re a working unit, we don’t have time to talk like that we need to get working” and so began a lifelong friendship.



Bryan, Dot and Mike outside St Mary’s Church, Sand Hutton

When Mike left the army he became an ordained Methodist minister spending the rest of his career in the church. Mike had driven up from Truro in Cornwall to share the birthday celebrations and on Sunday March 9th he came to preach at the service of Holy Communion at St Mary’s Church, Sand Hutton. He preached a lively sermon. In addition to regaling us with amusing anecdotes of both his long association with Bryan, and his experiences in the pulpit, he also reminded us that life and religion should be joyous. After the service a presentation was made to Bryan and Dot, and over coffee and cake everyone had the chance to wish them well.

From Bryan and Dot.....



Thank you to everyone for all their good wishes, cards, flowers and various other kind gifts that we received on the occasion of our 80th birthdays. 78 cards adorned our sitting room making a likeness to Christmas mid-season! We enjoyed some great ‘get together’ times with our extended family and friends from far and near, and have lots of happy memories to treasure.

Sand Hutton and Claxton Village Hall

- Friday 23 May Asparagus Supper: next in our series of Seasons' Suppers. Bring an asparagus dish to share.
- Friday 13 June The Thankful Village: new play from Badapple Theatre commemorating the Great War – a story about life in a village whose men went away.
- Friday 27 June Our pop-up pub, "Synolda Arms", opens its doors for the second time; turn up between 7.30 – midnight to meet friends and neighbours in the Beer Garden. Real ales, cider, pork pies.

We are currently looking for people who are willing to take an active role in organizing the village show; please contact Fiona Davies 468001 or Caroline Hall 468376

For further information on events, see the parish website
www.claxton-sandhutton.org.uk

St Mary's Church, Sand Hutton



GIFT DAY

SATURDAY MAY 10th 2014

10.30 a.m. – 2.00 p.m.

**Table top sale including plants
Refreshments**

We are asking everyone if they can help us to preserve this lovely place for all to enjoy: for worship, for special occasions, as a beautiful place to visit, and as a meeting place for the community,. Any help you can give us will be greatly appreciated.

Did you know?

The cost of running the church is approximately £308 per week

If you would like to help by giving, someone will be at church to receive your gift at the above times. Yellow Gift Aid envelopes will be available. If you are a tax payer and are willing to complete the details on the envelope, your gift is enhanced by 25p in the pound (recovered from the Inland Revenue)

If it is more convenient your gift can be posted to, or left at any time with either
Graham Baker, Holderness House, Claxton, York, YO60 7SD
or Ellen Stott, 17 Sand Hutton, York YO41 1LB
For more information Tel: 01904 468809 or 01904 468404

Sunday May 18th

Following the
10.30 a.m. Benefice
Eucharist Service
at Buttercrambe Church



Coffee, scones and cake at Buttercrambe House

There will be a donations box
with all proceeds going to the
church

Sunday June 1st

From 2.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.

In garden of
Dick Garnons-Williams home
The Manor House
Gate Helmsley

**TEA ♣ CAKES
AND
♣ OTHER GOODIES! ♣**

*Look out for further details on
posters and flyers*

Bring your friends
for a fun and lively evening
of taxing and not so taxing
questions!

Prizes to be won!

Friday June 20th at 7pm
at Barton Le Willows Village Hall

Entry £5 per person includes a delicious pie and peas supper
BYO booze and glasses

For more information please contact

Mike and Jo Viner Tel: 01653 619282 Email: mijovin963@btinternet.com

Fiona Le Masurier Tel: 01653 619368 Email: churchmouse@yorloCal.com

This evening's Quiz is a tribute to Espie Bleasdale who died in March 2014 whose great contribution to village life is much missed. Proceeds will be divided between Barton le Willows Village Hall and St Michael's Church, Crambe

quiz night!

CHRISTINE'S FUNWALK

Join us for a charity walk in memory of Christine Potts on

Sunday June 22nd 2014
at 12 noon



Starting at the Duke of York in Gate Helmsley,
going through
Scoreby Kexby Low Catton Stamford Bridge
and back to the Duke of York

where there will be some Pork rolls available,
bar meals will be available if required.

For further information please contact Keith Potts Tel: 07708 980 558

£10.00 per walker and wear pink where possible

All proceeds will be divided between;
York Against Cancer and Breast Cancer Campaign York

WELCOME TO **'STRAWBERRY TEAS'**



SATURDAY JUNE 28th

2pm-4 30pm

at

Holderness House, Claxton

OO and G scale railways operating.
visiting analogue engines welcome!

STALLS ❖ PLANTS ❖ RAFFLE



*All donations received will go to
St. Mary's Church Tower Fund*



St Michael's Church, Crambe The Way Ahead Project

**A public meeting
will be held in the church
on Tuesday July 1st at 7.30 pm.**

There is a proposal to build an extension to St Michael's Church to house a kitchen, toilets and store room the purpose of the meeting is to present that proposal to all interested parties for discussion

Speakers will include.

The Rector of Harton, The Church Architect,
The Diocesan Buildings Advisor, The Archdeacon of York

All who are interested are invited to attend

The meeting will be in two parts.

Part one:

Presentations from the speakers.

Part two:

An informal session during which wine and light refreshments will be served during which people can discuss any issues and concerns about the project with the speakers, examine the displays including plans, a concept drawing of the proposal, together with other relevant information.

Following the meeting a questionnaire will be circulated so that all interested parties can express their views. This will be assessed by an independent assessor. The Committee will only receive the results, not individual responses, thereby ensuring complete confidentiality for the voter.



St. Mary's Church Sand Hutton

**Tuesday July 1st at 2.0 p.m.
in the churchyard**

A CELEBRATION of HERITAGE

to mark the completion of the
restoration work on the 12th century
ruins of St. Leonards Church
(located within the grounds of
St Marys church)

**The Venerable Richard Seed, former Archdeacon of York
will conduct the ceremony supported by the local school children.**

Medieval Music by Tim Bayley ♦ Organised visits to the Crypt
Refreshments

ALL ARE WELCOME

St Mary's Church Gate Helmsley

**STRAWBERRY
LUNCH**



**SUNDAY
July 6th
at 12.30 p.m.**

In
Gate Helmsley Village Hall

Tickets £10 each

Soft drinks provided—bring your own wine

Tickets available from
The Harrans 01759 372215
or The Podmores 01759 372320

Friday
July 11th
7.30 p.m.



Sand Hutton
Village Hall

PRESENTATION of LIFE IN ZAMBIA

including personal stories and experiences.

by Rachel Baker

Light refreshments provided

Free Admission

Saturday
19 July
10.30a.m.
until 2p.m.

St Peter's Church Upper Helmsley



Home Farm,
UPPER
HELMSLEY.

Fundraising Garden Party

TEA, COFFEE AND CAKE.

Admission is £2.00 and includes tea or coffee and a cake.

Tombola ♦ Cakes ♦ Plants ♦ Clothes ♦ Bric a Brac ♦ Raffle.

We ask that local villagers donate items from their attics, cupboards and garages for sale all in aid of St Peter's Church.

Please contact Pauline Harrison on 01795 371240 to arrange delivery of any items that you may have for sale. Thank you.

St Michaels Church, Crambe

in concert

The Ad Hoc Ensemble

with Phillip Mindenhall solo violinist

Saturday July 12th



at 7.30 p.m.

‘This Green and Pleasant Land’

A programme of music recalling our beautiful countryside

Includes works by Elgar, Arne, Purcell, Novello, Quilter
and Warlock as well as folk songs from the length and breadth
of the British Isles, from the Tyne to Berkley Square

Something for everyone!

Come and join us for some superb music on a summer evening

Tickets £12 includes wine and canapés in the interval

advance booking advised as space is limited

Please contact Fiona Le Masurier Tel: 01653 619368

Email: churchmouse@yorlocal.com

GATE HELMSLEY VILLAGE HALL

BARBECUE

SUNDAY 20th JULY

12.30 PM – 4.00 PM

WHINFIELD THE LANE

GATE HELMSLEY

PARKING IN THE VILLAGE HALL CAR PARK

BRIC A BRAC : BOOKS : RAFFLE

TOMBOLA

PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN DRINKS

GLASSES WILL BE PROVIDED

TICKETS £10. ADULTS

£5 CHILDREN 5 – 12 (INCLUSIVE)

available from

DEBBIE 01759 372558

MANDY 01759 371148

LORRAINE 01759 373052

Charity No. 523351

Looking ahead....date for your diary



Cycle ride in aid of St Mary's Sand Hutton

Dot and Bryan Mills are hoping to arrange another

SPONSORED CYCLE RIDE

On Saturday August 16th

The distance will be approximately 10 miles

More details in the next Circular

In the meantime anyone interested in joining

please contact Dot and Bryan 01759 372601

Let's hope it doesn't rain like it did last year!!

Around the Parishes.....

News views and information from:

BOSSALL

Since the last report activity has been quiet until the induction of Chris as our new -and first- RECTOR !

Before that we were pleased to welcome the Yorvik Group who were doing a series of visits to churches of interest. Some 25 were in the party and were addressed about the history of the Church and expressed their admiration for the building and its peaceful site.

People may well have noticed that the stone wall between the 2 gates has been exposed as a result of the pollarding and work on the old boundary trees. The work has really opened out that side of the building and when the wall work has been completed and new gravel put down the improvement will be considerable. However it does entail a faculty and that takes its time! The PCC has decided that the cost of the new wall will be met or helped by the legacy from Margaret Leaves and a plaque recording that will be part of the work.

The induction of our new rector will be recorded in detail elsewhere but one does have to say how pleased that Bossall was able to host the occasion and a very real tribute must be paid to the MANY helpers who prepared the

church in so many ways that it all seemed to work without too many problems. Thanks are due to Lady Susan for hosting the reception afterwards and for the helpers before, during and after for the work -seen and unseen. Whether the photographs taken at the Old Vicarage of the Archbishop and party will surface remains to be seen!

However a great occasion to be remembered - not only for its significance but for the way it brought together all our supporters and well wishers and augers well for the ongoing health of our Benefice, which we trust will be enjoyed by Chris and all his family.

BUTTERCRAMBE

Concert at Aldby Park



In support of Buttercrambe church, another concert was held at Aldby Park on March 23rd by kind permission of George Winn-Darley, who would appear to have had little option since his wife Sara took a supporting role in the singing, and played the major part in providing the supper which followed the

sell-out event. Not to mention the disturbance of her normal Sunday evening watching television instead of watching 60 people exploring her home.

The usual suspects took part, bullied into both tune and submission by Carolyne Storey; again, as usual. The repertoire ranged from 'West Side Story' through to 'Carmen', interspersed with readings from the resident team. The whole evening was most enjoyable and raised an a sum of in excess of £400 for the church. The precise figure is yet to be announced due to the Barrys and Winn-Darleys both taking off for holidays immediately after the concert. Independent Assessor's report on 2014 finances will confirm that these two events were unrelated'.

**By the way, villagers,
two of you are needed to fill the roles of
Secretary and Treasurer to the PCC. Pronto!**

The high intellectual bar for these offices is considered to have been reached, (breached if you like) if you can tie your own shoe laces and fasten the top button of your blouse or shirt.

Without officers, there is a sure-fire Church of England default procedure that heads straight for closure.

Your erstwhile Secretary & Treasurer still has your interests at heart and is progressing the 2013 Gift Aid reclamation of a few hundred pounds on your behalf - but then, **that's it.**

It's *your* church in *your* village; it's up to *you*.

Ray Barry

CRAMBE

Sadly we must report the untimely death on March 4th after a short illness of Espie Bleasdale of Barton le Willows. Espie was friend to many, and a great stalwart of Barton Village Hall. Her drive, commitment, enthusiasm, and sense of humour will be greatly missed. We offer our condolences to her family and friends.

After a mild but wet winter- although mercifully spared the excesses of the south of England, spring is starting to show through as we approach Easter. Blossom is everywhere and the trees are greening up. In Crambe the traditional signs are evident, Ron and Florence Verity's Jacobs sheep have produced a fine crop of lambs who have already started to eat their way through the churchyard grass. A sleek black Dexter calf appeared in Sam Cook's field a few days ago, and Mick and Liz Jay's bearded collies once again took Crufts by storm with 'Leroy' shown by Laura Jay, taking best in breed.

So far this year we have had three services. Mothering Sunday was celebrated at St Michael's and to mark the occasion everyone was presented with a small posy of flowers.

April 11th was a very special occasion for St Michael's with the marriage of Fiona Borthwick, daughter of Ian and Dawn Borthwick of Beck Farm here in the village, to Richard Bielby. The sun shone and it was a glorious day, the bride looked radiant as she arrived in a pale blue and white camper van.



She was preceded by the groom who arrived less spectacularly in an ancient Series One Landrover hiccupping noisily up the village on two (or less) cylinders! The groom and his supporters immediately dived under the bonnet of the limping vehicle and managed to rectify the problem before the service began. The beautifully decorated church was filled with family and friends. Jeremy Valentine conducted the service (his Labrador jokes are a winner every time!). The village turned out to wish Fiona and Richard well as they started a new phase of their lives together.

As ever fundraising is vital to our survival, the year got off to a good start with the coffee morning at Barton le Willows village Hall raising a grand £480. Many thanks to everyone who helped.

In June we have a Quiz night at Barton Le Willows village Hall, and In July there is a concert by the Ad Hoc Ensemble with the theme of 'This Green and Pleasant Land' and (see boxed adverts for more details of both events)

The big news of course is the arrival of The Revd. Chris Wingfield as our new Rector. Welcome Chris and Thelma and of course Alfie too, we are delighted to have you with us.

Our thanks go to Delyth Harran, Lay chairman of the Joint PCC for all the hard work she and the ministry team have put in during the difficult period of the interregnum. We also thank all our visiting retired clergy who have officiated at our services. Our best wishes go to Paul and Pat Conder who are retiring (for the second time!) and moving across the Pennines to Chester.

FLAXTON

On 2nd April the PCC Annual General meeting was held and Wendy Holman and Ida Terry were elected Churchwardens.

Our traditional Pancake Party held on the 4th March was very well attended and much fun was had competing for top marks in the pancake flip competition.



In March, Paul (Conder) took the Benefice Eucharist Service and announced that it would be his last service before moving away to live closer to family. Paul was thanked by Sister Margaret Ann on behalf of everyone in the Benefice for his work over the years and particularly during the interregnum.

Sister Margaret and Paul Conder with the simnel cake

During the service for Mothering Sunday the children handed out posies of daffodils. Posies were also delivered to people in the village who were unable to come to the service. Afterwards Sister Margaret Ann cut the Simnel cake which we all enjoyed with a cup of tea.

Fund raising events held in March and April were very successful. Thank you to everyone who donated goods for the Jumble Sale and St. Crux. We have a large collection of videos left. Does anyone know of a charity who would welcome these or of any other outlet – it seems a waste to throw them away. They will be kept until 31st May. Any ideas, please give me a ring on 01347 878 432.

Our next event is the Church Fete on Saturday 21st June which will be held in the Village Hall for the first time for a number of years as we don't have access to a garden this year – any offers gratefully received.

And finally, does anyone know the family of Mary Hardy who is buried in the churchyard? I believe she has two sons. I would be grateful for any information. Please call 01347 878 432.

FOSTON and THORNTON LE CLAY

On March 26th, The Sydney Smith Association presented an entertainment which we called:

MR. SMITH GOES TO FOSTON

or, in Sydney Smith's words:

A LONG AND IRKSOME BANISHMENT

It was a play to mark the bicentenary of the Revd. Sydney Smith's move from Heslington, to his very newly built rectory at Foston in late March 1814, based on his writings, and the memories of his daughter Saba. Devised by Sam Taylor and performed by the Revd. Timmy Forbes Adam, Nigel Forbes Adam and Cal Stockbridge. The evening included two musical interludes by "A Garland of Flutes."

Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Forbes Adams kindly gave a wonderful reception at Skipwith Hall and the performance was at their own theatre. The evening was much enjoyed by friends of the Sydney Smith Association - 75 people attended and raised £580 for All Saint's Foston.

Thank you to all who attended our February Coffee Morning. Although not as busy as usual, we enjoyed seeing friends and catching up with village news. Thanks also to Nigel Tulley who has worked his magic with the gutters and hopefully rectified a persistent damp problem!

We were delighted that Foston School held their Easter Service in Church before the holidays and hope all the staff and children have enjoyed the break after a busy half term.

Three of us accompanied our Churchwardens to the Institution of our new Rector, Chris Wingfield at St Botolph's last week. It was lovely to meet Chris and his family and we look forward to moving forward together at the start of a new era for our churches.

GATE HELMSLEY

It is sad to report the recent deaths of two of our older residents. Joyce Goodwin died in late January aged 87 at Prospect House, where she had recently moved from her long standing home, Long Acre, because of worsening health. Joyce, a quiet, unassuming lady always with a ready smile, was a stalwart member of St Mary's PCC. We extend sympathy to her daughter, Sue, son-in-law Barry and all the family.

Betty Townsend had spent most of her long life in Gate Helmsley. She died suddenly on 14th April at her home in Risewood at the age of 94. We

remember Betty for the years she spent managing delivery of the York Evening Press as it used to be known. Her late husband, Ron, was a great help at St Mary's, maintaining the churchyard in an immaculate state. Condolences are extended to Betty's daughters and to her son, Malcolm.

After living here for 36 years, Keith Potts has moved out of the village. Fortunately Keith will be living just down the road in Stamford Bridge, so hopefully he will still keep contact with all his friends in Gate Helmsley. Thanks are due to Keith for the years he spent as honorary treasurer of St Mary's PCC, and, of course, for the wonderful food he and his late wife, Christine, prepared for many church and village events. We wish Keith the best of everything in this new phase of his life.

On a cheerful note, we were pleased to welcome Grace Louise Dziemianko into the church through baptism. A very happy christening service was held at St Mary's on Sunday 23rd February, conducted by Reverend Jeremy Valentine.

Two fund-raising events have been held since Christmas. The parish lunch held at Orchard House on 19th January raised £600 for church funds, Thank you to all those who helped in any way to make this event a success.

Our thanks to Anne and Andrew Podmore for hosting a coffee morning at their home, Fox Farm, on 26th March and to all the many people who gave a helping hand at this event. Another £400 was raised for the Church.

The running of St Mary's church is as dependent on the money raised at such events, as it is on the contributions you make as parishioners. This is how the PCC pays the annual utility bills and covers maintenance and insurance costs for the church building, so please continue to support these efforts in whatever way you can. We are very grateful.

Apart from forthcoming events in aid of Pipe Up (for the restoration of the church organ), which are reported separately, our annual Strawberry Lunch will be held at Gate Helmsley Village Hall on Sunday 6th July at 12.30 pm. We look forward to seeing you there, so please book your place through the churchwardens (01759 372215 or 372320).

“Pipe Up!”

St Mary's, Gate Helmsley Centenary Organ Restoration Fund

The Diocesan Advisory Committee considered our Faculty application at their meeting on 10th April and we hope that by the time you read this we

will have our Faculty! We also await the outcome of one of our grant applications – also expected by early May. Further applications will be sent to various possible sources of grants as their meeting timetables dictate over the next few months.

The organ indicates with increasing frequency that it is badly in need of restoration! Frustratingly it tends to complain just before or during a service, with sometimes rather unpleasant noises – or a complete lack of sound from one or other register on a couple of occasions. This requires some rapid re-thinking on the part of the organist – who, by the way, could also do with some rejuvenation!

The fund has now passed £16000, helped by some recent generous donations for which we are most grateful. Naturally we welcome all further contributions – great or small. Remember our pipe sponsorship scheme with the option to make a dedication and to record this for posterity in our sponsors' book.

You may recall the excellent afternoon spent last summer in the lovely garden of the Manor House - the home of Dick Garnons Williams. Dick has kindly agreed to open his garden again on the afternoon of **Sunday 1 June from 2.30 – 5.30pm**, with teas, cakes and other “goodies”. There will be stalls too. The event is earlier in the summer this time so the garden should be at its best. Look out for posters and fliers and contact Michael Harran for further information. There is ample parking opposite the Village Hall.

On **Saturday 27 September at 7pm the Stamford Bridge Singers** will entertain in the Village Hall Gate Helmsley. There will be a “pie and peas” supper. Final details will be in the next Circular, but mark the date because SBS events are always popular and ticket numbers will be limited!

The “Race Night” will now take place early next year.

For more information about the history of the organ, the restoration plans or to make a donation, contact Michael Harran – 01759 372215 or mj@mharran.freeserve.co.uk

This, and previous articles, together with a piece about the organ written for “Pipe Line” (the newsletter of the York and District Organists Association) can also be found in the St Mary’s Gate Helmsley section of the Benefice website (www.sandhuttongroup.org.uk).

Dick Garnons Williams, Michael Harran, Andrew Podmore

HOWSHAM

Firstly a very warm welcome to Chris, Thelma (and Alfie). We look forward to working together.

The Gun Dog Scurry went well with over £100 raised from the raffle for Church Funds



Junior prize winners with James & Judy Stephenson

Our annual Bank Holiday Cake, Plant & Preserve Stall
will be held on Howsham Bridge
from 10.30am on Monday 5th May.

We are delighted to have arranged an evening event
on Friday 11th July from 6.30pm
at Charles & Gilda Brader's beautiful garden in Thixendale.
If you haven't been before it is stunning.
Stalls, raffle, wine & canapés –
Tickets £10 (to include wine & canapés) from Judy (618673)
or Gill (618846).

SAND HUTTON

We welcome Chris and Thelma Wingfield and of course Alfie (the lovely dog) to our Community. For those who have as yet not met them wandering the streets, you have a treat in store! Chris is now the Rector of the Benefice of Harton and so we wish him and Thelma much happiness as they live and work amongst us.

Thank you Dot and Bryan for sharing your 160years birthday celebrations - we certainly had a great service at St. Marys church- so we leave you to tell us about your day-may you have many happy returns !

The following is an extract from a letter Dot and Bryan received from Revd. Pastor Mike Ely, who preached at the service:

“It was a wonderful three days and will be long remembered. I am telling my friends that I was treated like king, and I was!....I shall long remember your church at Sand Hutton, and how the members of the church hold you both in such love and high esteem. Wonderful, and a great joy for me to witness. Please, please pass on my grateful thanks to ALL and give them ALL, my love and blessings”

FABRIC MAINTENANCE

The theme of much of our recent fund raising events has been for our church tower, in anticipation of the need for future attention to both stonework and spire. Recently our church architect undertook a high level survey to assess in detail what remedial works might be needed. We learnt that significant attention is required to areas of weathered stone together with complete renewal of the spires felt tiles. This work will have substantial financial implications for our PCC and application for external funding may well be necessary. We are therefore to launch our 'Tower Repair Project'. to progress these remedial works to ensure our lovely church building remains in good condition for many years to come. Future editions of 'The Circular' will report progress with the project and our fund raising events will continue to emphasis this need.

FUTURE EVENTS

*GIFT DAY Saturday May 10th to be held at the church 10 30am-2pm

*STRAWBERRY TEAS Saturday June 28th at Rachel & Graham Baker's home Claxton 2- 4 30pm.

*ST. LEONARD'S CHURCH RUIN RESTORATION.

This project has been completed, the standing remains stabilised and safe access has been restored to nave and crypt.. A Celebration of Heritage will mark this event on Tuesday July 1st at 2pm in the churchyard when all are welcome to attend.

*TRIP TO ZAMBIA CONTINUED.

Please note change of date to Friday July 11th, 7.30pm at Sand Hutton and Claxton Village Hall.

A Power Point presentation of life in Zambia will be given including personal stories.

Thank you to those who have and are continuing to contribute to help finance Shika to train as a dentist.

***Further details of the above events can be found in the boxed notices within 'The Circular'.**

Michael Salisbury has retired as treasurer. The PCC thanks Michael for his contribution. We welcome Helen West as our new treasurer and wish her well in this important church office.'

UPPER HELMSLEY

Palm Sunday



To mark Chris' first service, here is a picture of him leading "Mr Micky" in our procession to church for the Palm Sunday service in St Peter's Church, Upper Helmsley



WHITWELL

Events over the last six months have included Charles Dickens's 'A Christmas carol' performed by Chris Cade, and a light-hearted talk in April on 'How to survive increasing Maturity' by 'Lady Hermione Trembling'

A big thank you to everyone who has helped at these events, and especially to David Brotherton who once again provided our Christmas tree. £50 from the Carol service was donated to Malton Food Bank

The members of the PCC would like to thank Margaret Bradshaw for all her dedicated years to St John's and especially for looking after the brasses ensuring that they are clean throughout the year.

LENT LUNCHESES

Very many thanks to those who held the Lent Lunches and to those who attended them **Donations received totalled £445.60** This has been given to SASH who provide emergency accommodation for the young people of York, North Yorkshire and East Riding as well as supporting young people towards gaining the skills and confidence for independent living and employment.

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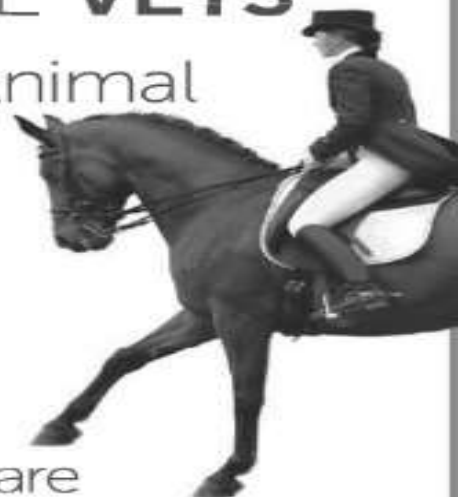
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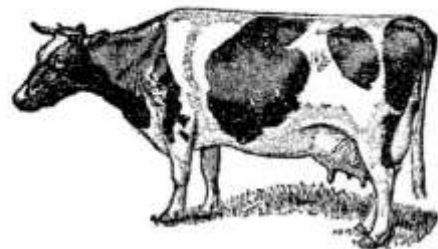
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Items for 'The Circular'

Copy deadline for the next edition July 18th 2014

This will cover August, September and October

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

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