

The Benefice of Harton

The Circular



Winter edition 2014

November December January 2015

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 Mary's Church Sand Hutton

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to commemorate an event please contact the editor for more information

Services for the Benefice of Harton

November

<i>Sunday 2nd November</i>		
10.30	Benefice Eucharist	Howsham

All Saints

Wednesday 5th November

10.00

Holy Communion

Whitwell

<i>Sunday 9th November</i>		
10.30	Remembrance Service	Crambe
Noon	<i>Act of Remembrance at Sand Hutton Memorial</i>	

Remembrance Sunday

Wednesday 12th November

10.00

Holy Communion

Flaxton

<i>Sunday 16th November</i>		
10.30	Benefice Eucharist	Buttercrambe

2 Before Advent

Wednesday 19th November

10.00

Holy Communion

Foston

<i>Sunday 23rd November</i>		
9.00	Holy Communion	Bossall
10.30	Morning Prayer	Upper Helmsley

Christ the King

Wednesday 26th November

10.00

Holy Communion

Flaxton

<i>Sunday 30th November</i>		
10.30	Benefice Eucharist	Gate Helmsley

Advent 1

December

Wednesday 3rd December

10.00	Holy Communion	Buttercrambe
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<i>Sunday 7th December</i>	<i>Advent 2</i>
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9.00	Holy Communion	Foston
10.30	<i>Benefice Carols with the Amici Singers</i>	Sand Hutton

Wednesday 10th December

10.00	Holy Communion	Bossall
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<i>Sunday 14th December</i>	<i>Advent 3</i>
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9.00	Holy Communion	Upper Helmsley
10.30	Toy/Nativity Service	Flaxton
6.30 pm	Carol Service	Buttercrambe

Wednesday 17th December

10.00	Holy Communion	Whitwell
7.00 pm	Nine Lessons & Carols	Foston

Friday 19th December

7.00 pm	Carol Service	Flaxton
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Saturday 20th December

6.30 pm	Carols by candlelight <i>with The Stamford Bridge Singers</i>	Crambe
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<i>Sunday 21st December</i>	<i>Advent 4</i>
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10.30	Holy Communion	Gate Helmsley
6.30 pm	Carol Service	Howsham

<i>Wednesday 24th December</i>	<i>Christmas Eve</i>
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4.30 pm	Crib Service	Bossall
4.30 pm	Crib Service	Foston
4.30 pm	Crib/Christingle	Sand Hutton
11.30 pm	Midnight Mass	Whitwell
11.30 pm	Midnight Mass	Bossall

Thursday 25th December**Christmas Day**

9.00	Morning Prayer	Upper Helmsley
10.30	Family Communion	Flaxton
10.30	Family Communion	Gate Helmsley

Sunday 28th December**Holy Innocents**

10.30	Holy Communion	Howsham
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January**Sunday 4th January****Christmas 2**

10.30	Benefice Eucharist	Foston
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Wednesday 7th January**Epiphany**

10.00	Holy Communion	Sand Hutton
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Sunday 11th January**Baptism of Christ**

9.00	Holy Communion	Gate Helmsley
10.30	Family Service	Flaxton
10.30	Holy Communion	Bossall

Wednesday 14th January

10.00	Holy Communion	Sand Hutton
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Sunday 18th January**Epiphany 2**

9.00	Mattins	Foston
10.30	Holy Communion	Howsham
10.30	Holy Communion	Sand Hutton

Wednesday 21st January

10.00	Holy Communion	Sand Hutton
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Sunday 25th January**Conversion of Paul**

9.00	Holy Communion	Flaxton
10.30	Family Communion	Gate Helmsley
10.30	Holy Communion	Crambe

Wednesday 29th January

10.00	Holy Communion	Sand Hutton
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February

<i>Sunday 1st February</i>	<i>Epiphany 4</i>
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9.00	Holy Communion	Sand Hutton
10.30	Holy Communion	Buttercrambe
10.30	Holy Communion	Foston
4.00 pm	Evensong	Howsham

Wednesday 4th February	<i>Candlemas</i>	
10.00	Holy Communion	Gate Helmsley

<i>Sunday 8th February</i>	<i>2 Before Lent</i>
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10.30	Benefice Eucharist	Bossall
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Wednesday 11th February		
10.00	Holy Communion	Gate Helmsley

<i>Sunday 15th February</i>	<i>Next before Lent</i>
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9.00	Mattins	Foston
10.30	Holy Communion	Sand Hutton
10.30	Holy Communion	Whitwell

Wednesday 18th February	<i>Ash Wednesday</i>	
7.00 pm	Holy Communion	Gate Helmsley

<i>Sunday 22nd February</i>	<i>Lent 1</i>
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9.00	Holy Communion	Flaxton
10.30	Family Holy Communion	Gate Helmsley
10.30	Holy Communion	Crambe

Wednesday 25th February	<i>St Matthias</i>	
10.00	Holy Communion	Gate Helmsley

PLEASE NOTE:

- There is no midweek 10.00 am Holy Communion service on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve, 24th and 31st December
- There is a completely new pattern of church services from 1st January 2015
- During 2015, the Wednesday 10.00 am services of Holy Communion will be arranged on a monthly rota. For the first three months of 2015 the pattern will be:

January	Sand Hutton
February	Gate Helmsley
March	Bossall

Remembrance Sunday

Sunday 9th November

The Soldier's Last Farewell

Alone we stood by the cottage door,
In the glow from the kitchen light,
My father and I, on the winter's night
When he went away to the war.

I knew that this was his last farewell
Before sailing to foreign shores;
And though it was all in a noble cause
I'd a sadness I could not quell.

Though only seven I knew the score,
And what dangers lay waiting ahead
From shellfire and bombs; and to what it led
When you fought in a bloody war.

‘Look after your mother, my boy,’ he said,
Though at seven I scarcely guessed
How apt were his words as my hand he pressed,
And some tears I began to shed.

He held me close in the pallid light,
Then turned, and I followed the sound
Of the tread of his boots on the frosty ground
As they faded into the night.

How clear they echo across the years,
For three months hence would grimly bring
The telegram boy, the doorbell ring,
The fateful news, and the anguished tears.

John Nursey



A Service of Remembrance will be held at St Michael's Church, Crambe at 10.30 a.m. This will be followed by a short Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial between Claxton and Sand Hutton at 12 noon.



Poppy collectors for Sand Hutton, Bulmer and Whitwell

needed for this year's Poppy Appeal
from October 25th to November 8th

Please could you spare a little time between these dates
to collect for the Poppy Appeal, no counting required!



Welcome to those newly baptised

August 24th
August 31st
August 31st

Jemima Clara Fox
Emily Jane Walker
Evelyn Precious

Sand Hutton
Bossall
Bossall



Congratulations and good wishes to those who were married recently

October 4th James Edward Knock and Lucy Mary Terry Flaxton

In affectionate memory: *Espie Bleasdale September 1947 - March 2014*

On Saturday October 18th a group of friends gathered at the village hall in Barton Le Willows to raise a glass of gin and tonic (Espie's favourite tippie!!) to plant a tree in her memory. Espie died quite suddenly earlier this year. Fred Strickland Constable spoke warmly of Espie's great sense of humour, dynamic support for the village hall and indefatigable fund raising work. Leo, Espie's sister wielded the spade and planted a lilac by the name of 'Wine Red' (another favourite tippie!!). Espie will live long in the memory; she was a larger than life character, always cheerful, always kind and a good friend to all that knew her. She was one of life's 'enhancers' and will be much missed in the village and by family and friends.



Mike Vyner, and Fred SC with gin and tonic!



Leo planting the lilac, 'Wine Red'

From the Vicarage

My dear friends

A new way of being...!

It's hard to believe Thelma, Alfie and I have been here nine months already – it's flown by – but we've made so many new discoveries and friends on the way. It has been really good for me to just spend some days in your villages, sharing company, talking to people, walking Alfie, and really just learning some of the history of church and community – and listening to hopes and fears for the future. It's also been extremely helpful just to follow the existing pattern of 'church life' to look for points of excellence and seek out areas of need for growth. So, with all this in mind and an approaching new year – I thought it time to explore a new way of being.....

Firstly, through our church life on a Sunday. This is a key area of worship and fellowship and in consultation with our Ministry Team (and it's good to welcome back Revd. Rachel Benson and Revd. Jeremy Valentine who are both willing to share in this role) we have devised a new pattern of worship.

This will mean that your local church will now hold regular Sunday services – i.e. they will be held on the same Sunday/s each month. I have found that if you know there is a Sunday service, for example, at 10.30am EVERY 3rd Sunday, it is much easier to remember than the system we have had to continue with so far.

Some churches have expressed a wish for two services a month, some for only one and others for less. Some have asked for some evening services and for not all services to be Holy Communion. So putting all that in the melting pot, I do hope the new plan goes some way to pleasing as many people as possible with the resources we have available.

So a new way of being Sunday Church!

Secondly, through our midweek services. Once again we've tried to make this easier to organise and remember and have allotted all midweek services during one month to one church. So for example, you will see that in January, all the Wednesday Holy Communions will be at Sand Hutton, February will be at Gate Helmsley etc.

I'm rather hoping that we've chosen the warmest churches during winter... but at least we know the fellowship we share and the refreshments after will always be warm and welcoming!

So a new way of being Midweek Church!

Thirdly, through our Prayer Life. In that respect, I'd like to offer each of you a gift – the gift of Prayer. Each month we as a church will pray for one of our parishes – most likely to coincide with the church that's holding the midweek services that month. We will ask you if you would like us to pray for you, or your family, or work, or health, or relationships etc. You will hopefully find a card dropped through your door saying 'Pray One For me' or something similar. There will be plenty of room on the back for you to fill in your Prayer Request and we will make sure those intentions are prayed for that month.

So a new way of being Prayerful Church!

There are many more ideas in the pipe-line – so do watch this space!

As Christians, it is by following the guidelines, teachings and pathway of Jesus that we are drawn into a new way of being. It's a way that allows us to still remain part of this world, yet not always get sucked into its expectations and demands. It's a way of life that allows us to share in the world's excitement and richness, but reminds us that we are all equal in the sight of God, and that the meek, mild, poor, outcast, ostracised, and marginalised are to be respected and treated with respect, fairness and with generosity of heart and giving. It's a way that by being Church on Sunday, Midweek and Prayer that we are reminded of what it means to live and share in a new way of being!

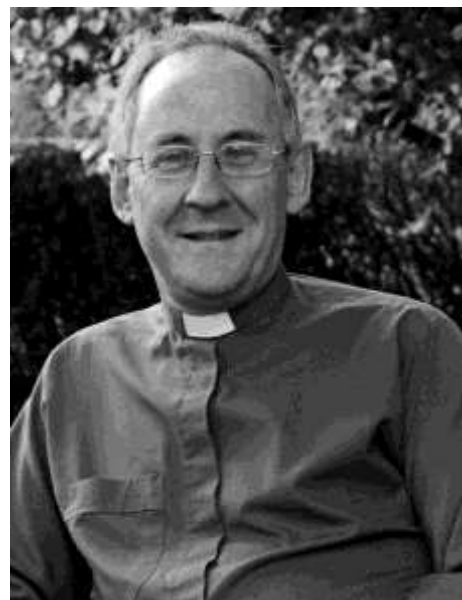
And it's a way that we're all invited to share!

So, I hope that you too might want to share in this new way – the door is always open!

Yours in Christ

Chris

Revd Chris Wingfield
Rector



IT'S SILVER!!

Gifts for Christmas

Has been running for 25 years

*25th
Anniversary*

Saturday 1st November

Sand Hutton Village Hall

10 am to 3 pm

Quality stalls for all your Christmas giving

Proceeds to St Mary's Church

Never been?..... come and see what you have missed!

Guest appearance of Nancy finalist from The Great British Bake Off
Nancy will sign books from 10.30-11.30 books available to buy on the day

Contact: Rosie Miers

giftsforchristmas@hotmail.co.uk



Coffee Morning

Thursday November 27th

10.30 - 12 noon

at Crambe House, Crambe



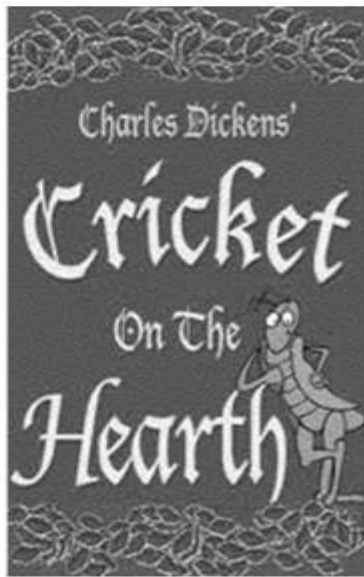
Entrance £2 (includes refreshments)

there will be a range of Christmas gifts and decorations on sale
together with a bottle tombola, raffle, Christmas cakes
and mince pies (suitable for freezing)

all proceeds for St Michael's Church, Crambe



St John's Church, Whitwell
Thursday December 4th at 6.30 p.m.



One fine day, a mysterious elderly stranger visits the Peerybingle family and takes up lodging with them for a few days and

to find out more
you must come along!!

a seasonal play by Charles Dickens
performed by Chris Cade.
audience participation,
great for children!

Refreshments available following the performance
Entrance free, donations to St John's church in lieu



St Mary's Church
Sand Hutton



THIS CHRISTMAS

Hang a Bauble
in memory of a loved one
in Sand Hutton Church

tree and baubles available from 7th December

Donations to St. Mary's Church Sand Hutton.



St Mary's Church Gate Helmsley



CHRISTMAS
— FAIR —

Saturday 6th December
2 p.m. – 4 p.m.

At Orchard House
Gate Helmsley

TOMBOLA

RAFFLE

GIFTS



CAKES

PRODUCE

Adults £3 Children 50p
Includes tea/coffee and mince pie

(or admission by donation)



Quiz

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

Prizes to be won!

Friday December 12th at 7pm
at Barton Le Willows Village Hall
with

The Dynamic Duo!

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



Claxton and Sand Hutton, Parish Council



Invite you to a

Christmas Saturday Social

Saturday 13th December 10.30 a.m.—12.30 p.m.
Sand Hutton Village Hall

Get into the festive mood!

Free coffee, tea and mince pies

Shopping for local products

Fairtrade gifts

Music making and entertainment

visit from Father Christmas

See our website: claxton-sandhutton.org.uk





St Michael's Church Crambe
come and join us on

SATURDAY DECEMBER 20th at 6.30 p.m.

for

A candlelit celebration of Christmas
in carols prose and poetry

with

THE STAMFORD BRIDGE SINGERS

All are welcome

The service will be followed by mulled wine and mince pies
Please bring a torch, the village and car park have no lighting!

Carol Singing in Claxton

Monday 22th. December

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

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

If you would like to sing some carols around Claxton & raise money for

Macmillan Cancer Support

Please ring Anne Atkinson on 01904 468226

SAND HUTTON AND CLAXTON VILLAGE HALL

Upcoming Events

“Synolda Arms” Pop-up Pub

Friday November 28

- Christmas Quiz
- Warming winter ales and hot punch
- Pork pies

Christmas Saturday Social

Saturday 13 December

Burns Night Supper

Date to be arranged

- Kilts and whisky

All our usual clubs are running throughout the winter; come and join us for good company and activities!

- ☆ Indoor Bowls
- ☆ Knit and Natter
- ☆ Women in Harmony
- ☆ Green Finger Tips
- ☆ W.I.

And coming soon, Tai Chi – watch for details.

Come down on Monday mornings!

Wake-up walks leaving Hall at 9.30,
Library open 10 am – 12 for books, chat and coffee

**For further information on events,
see the parish website www.claxton-sandhutton.org.uk,
or contact Caroline 468376 or Fiona 468001**



Come and sing with Women in Harmony!

As an experiment during the dark days of winter, we will be meeting at 10.30 in the morning instead of evenings.

Coffee and cake first!

then we'll be practising some songs ready for Christmas.

**New members always welcome to come and sing,
or just listen with your coffee!**

If you want to know more, do get in touch.
Individual help with singing is also on offer –
ring me to arrange some sessions (Caroline Hall 01904 468376).

**Meetings on Thursdays, on the following dates:
November 13th and 27th December 11th and 18th**



**“Hark, the Harton Angels Sing..... again”
(or they will soon)
would you like to join them??**

I know – it all sounds a bit Christmassy, but “Behold, I bring you tidings of great joy” – even more Christmassy!

Just to say that the Choir that used to sing at our Church Services once a month is to be reformed for 2015. And we would love to hear from you if you'd like to join in!

So long as you enjoy (tunefully) singing, and would like to experience some simple choral settings, and some anthems, as well as favourite and some new hymns – and hopefully commit to an evening service once a month and a morning service once a month - then that would be wonderful.

Do please let us know and we'd love to meet you and have a chat.

**Revd Chris Wingfield 01904 468418
Peter Stott 01904 468404**

Around the Parishes.....

News views and information from:

BARTON LE WILLOWS

Hog Roast: A highly-successful ‘first go’ at a hog roast village lunch was held on September 20th. Many thanks to all who came and brought salads and puddings and to those who donated raffle prizes. Very special thanks to Catherine Bell and Jo who cleared up! Over £350 was made – a magnificent contribution to village hall funds. We shall do this again!!

‘Stretch & Flex’ Exercise Class: This Monday evening class has made a great start and is now FULL. Anyone wanting to put their name on the Reserve List please call Jo V. on 01653 619282. If there is sufficient interest the VHC will try to run a second class.

Christmas Quiz: Friday December 12th at 7 p.m. By popular request the ‘Dynamic Duo’ has been pressed into service as Quiz leaders again for another entertaining and fun quiz night. All proceeds to VH funds – raffle prizes welcome, as always!! Strictly a maximum of 6 people per team. £5 per individual entry with pie and peas supper included. The special Christmas Draw will also take place during the evening.

Hundred Club winners: July: 32 (Barton) August 28 (Harton) September 19 (Barton)

Refurbishment: The Draw and our fundraising events all help to maintain and improve the hall. VHC is actively seeking additional grants to update the kitchen, improve toilet facilities, including disabled access and provide additional storage space. Whilst these are longer term aims the VHC has already commissioned a ‘deep clean’ of the hall and volunteers have also cleaned and sorted storage provision especially in the kitchen as we seek to improve our current facilities

Village Hall Website: The Barton le Willows Village Hall now has a website! The address is bartonlewillowsvillagehall.weebly.com and we're hoping it will help generate more bookings for the Village Hall. Do take a look at it. Feedback, comments and ideas for content are very much welcomed. Please email Clare Taylor at ctaylor@yorkat.co.uk or alternatively drop a note into Little Holme (next to the Village Hall). It's very flexible, can be changed easily and extra titles added so don't be shy with any feedback, Thank you.

Community Representatives: Delighted to report that the VHC has been able to recruit reps. Barton Hill – Alison Simpson-Jones; Crambe – Fiona Le Masurier; Harton – Alison McCandless and Phil Thomas and Howsham – Gail Arkle. Contact details of all VHC members are on the website.

Annual General Meeting: The VHC AGM is on Wednesday 19th November at 6.30 p.m. All welcome. The AGM will be followed by a committee meeting for the committee only.

If you would like to receive a copy of the Barton Village Hall Newsletter via email please contact Catherine Bell Email: catbell80@googlemail.com

BOSSALL

Probably the correct way to start is to report on the Rector's informal visit .It was a good opportunity to 'show' him our own parish and to discuss informally all relevant (and some not so relevant) matters. Many aspects discussed echoed his experiences in other places so we were left with a comfortable feeling that matters would be addressed.

Chris then followed this up by attending a very enjoyable teatime get together at the home of our friendly Catholics in Harton - Charles and Penny Jackson.

Services to note were:

August 4th to mark the outbreak of WW 1 which 39 people attended
August 31st Holy Communion and baptism of Emily Jane Walker and Evelyn Precious. This service was attended by some 217 people!!

Proposals are under way re the Church and the churchyard - apart from what might be required following the 5 Year review by the Church Architect - Peter Pace.

People may well have noticed that the trees between the entry gate and the side gate opposite the Old Vicarage have been lopped, and this has revealed the terrible condition of the church wall. The proposed renovation has been agreed with Peter Pace, and we are currently waiting for the grant of a faculty in order to proceed. The cost will be met by the generous donation in Margaret Reeve's will, and will bear a suitable inscription. It will however require some renovation to the tombstones which were 'resting ' against the wall.

The churchyard itself has had a second cutting and looks good and we are grateful for the help we receive for this.

Two aspects which will be reported on in more detail in the next edition are

- A reprint of the booklet re the history of the Church
- A review of the custody of parish records with a view to 'hand over' to the Diocese or as directed.

BUTTERCRAMBE

From Ray BarryJust a note to say that, eventually, your new church officers are in place. They are:

Hon-Secretary Sara Winn-Darley

Hon-Treasurer Joe Horsley

Fairly obvious to me that each will do a far better job of looking after church matters than I ever did, thank you all for putting up with me for so long.

Teetering on the edge for many years in a financial sense brought about the open meeting when closure was on the agenda but the opposition you all provided stopped that. Pleased to say that my Hon-Treasurer successor starts with a relatively healthy bank balance (thanks to you all) and it's up to you to keep up your involvement, or become involved, in that respect. Otherwise the prospect of having a dilapidated, unused church in your village will hardly do good to anyone – but it's up to you ALL.

Not that my interest and feeling for Buttercrambe has evaporated, too much of the happy times Jo and I enjoyed over the last 25 years have been linked one way or another with church life in your Benefice for that to happen.

Thank you for tolerating me for so long – keep the place going! Even if front line involvement is not your cup of tea, the idle way of involvement is by a standing order for whatever amount you consider is worthwhile to you.

**An open, functioning church is a tremendous asset in a small village –
lose it and it's gone for ever.**

CRAMBE

Amazing- the year seems to have flashed past and here we are in Autumn already! Misty mornings are giving way to sunny days and the trees ablaze in yellows and reds. Ron has recently had sheep in the churchyard carefully chaperoned by a young ram. After a few days of 'keep away from my

ladies!' curiosity got the better of him and he came over to nuzzle and have his head patted. We became quite chummy and I was sorry to see him go!

On 12th August we had a parish day when Chris, our new Rector, spent a day in Crambe and Barton Le Willows, walking the bounds and meeting and chatting with people. A most successful day, and one that may be repeated annually we understand.

Our other visitors, on 13th September were the cyclists of the Tour de Deanery organised by Andy Bowden, an event almost as eagerly anticipated as the Tour de France. St Michael's provided admin back up in the form of water and loo facilities. Andy's team came by in the morning and was followed in the afternoon by a team led by Taff Morgan vicar of the Howardian group of parishes. There was also a 76 year old lady who cycled on her own all the way from Pocklington, no mean feat!



Andy Bowden(left) and his team visit Crambe on the Tour De Deanery

There have been four services in St Michael's over the period including Harvest Thanksgiving on 25th September which was led by Sister Margaret Ann. This was followed by delicious homemade apple pies and cheese and wine.

A note here for your diaries - our annual candlelit celebration of Christmas in carols prose and poetry will be held on Saturday 20th December at 6.30 p.m. The Stamford Bridge Singers with their recently appointed musical director Stuart Nettleship will be there to lead the singing and to perform a number of Christmas choral pieces. (see boxed advert)

There will be a Christmas coffee morning at Crambe House on November 27th (See boxed advert)

FLAXTON

Following the summer holiday Sunday School is now up and running once again. We meet at 09.30-10.30 in church and are a very relaxed small group welcoming any new members from inside or outside the Benefice (parents also welcome to stay). There is no commitment to attend every week. A suggestion earlier in the year from parents to have a Sunday School outing came to fruition on the 28th June. Having caught the village bus into York, we called for refreshments in St Crux and then went on to visit York Minster, followed by a picnic lunch, a walk on the walls and ice cream before catching the bus back home. A good time was had by all. In November we are going to see "Joseph and his Amazing Technicolour Dream Coat" in Stamford Bridge.

On 5th September we held a fund raising event at St. Crux. Many thanks to everyone for all your hard work to help make this an enjoyable and successful occasion once again.



October was a very busy month for us. We had a Wedding, a Harvest Thanksgiving and a Fundraiser all over two consecutive weekends. Ida, Lucy and James would like to thank Jill Lewin and her team of ladies from the village who did a fantastic job of decorating the church for the wedding – the theme being harvest so you can imagine the beautiful colours. The team then came in the following week to make sure the flowers were refreshed for the harvest service. Also a huge thank you to the team who were working hard on the morning of the wedding to ensure the path was clear of weeds

At the Harvest Thanksgiving service the children took part by presenting the offerings for blessing followed by communion. Thank you to everyone who gave so generously the harvest gifts. The Salvation Army were very grateful to receive these for distributing to those in need.

OKOBERFEST fund raiser in a Tepee!

We are very grateful to Margaret Singleton and the PCC of Farlington Church for giving us the opportunity to share this occasion with them. The evening was a four course meal, raffle, auction and firework display. A very special



thanks to the Flaxton Singers for entertaining us. Thank you to those who were able to come along in support and special thanks to the four helpers from Flaxton who, along with Farlington helpers, served meals and drinks. We very much appreciated the generosity of local Flaxton businesses who provided prizes for the auction and raffle. A superb evening enjoyed by 170 people.

The Nativity and Toy Service will be on Sunday 14th December at 10.30. If there are any children / young people within the Benefice who would like to be involved please call Ida 01347 878 432 or speak to Liz, Kate, Rachel or Tony, parents of children already involved.

On Friday 21st December at 7.00pm we have our Nine Lessons & Carol Service. Flaxton Singers are already in rehearsal.

Christian Aid

I am writing this on the day of Flaxton's Church Harvest Festival, when we celebrated again all that we are given. So many people are less fortunate and often hungry. A small project on recent Sundays to offer surplus garden produce has encouraged giving of donations to Christian Aid, and I have sent £100 to this charity. Thank you for your generosity.

Wendy Holman

FOSTON and THORNTON LE CLAY

At our last Benefice service, Chris presented our organist of 75 years, Celia Todd with cards, flowers and a restaurant voucher to mark her 93rd birthday. Contributions came from her many friends in the church and local community. Celia was surprised but touched by the gifts. Luckily someone was on hand with a camera to record the occasion.



Our ceilidh in September was a great success. Over forty people turned out to enjoy a lively and fun evening in Thornton Village Hall with John and his excellent junior ceilidh band. Thanks to all who supported us, we made over £600 for church funds and got a good work out as well! Chris and Thelma were amongst our guests and hopefully knew a few more faces following the much appreciated parish visit Chris made in summer.

We held our Harvest Festival at the end of September and celebrated what must have been a good summer for farmers. After the service we stayed for mulled wine and refreshments.

Our next fund raising event will not be quite as strenuous as the last: We hope you will join us for morning coffee or lunch on Saturday 15th November from 11am until 1pm in Thornton Le Clay Village Hall. Our menu will include hot roast pork rolls and a selection of homemade cakes and savouries. Try and win some early Christmas gifts in our raffle and tombola.

Christmas cannot be far off as we are already thinking towards our Carol Service. We hope as many people as possible will join us at 7pm on Wednesday 17th December for nine lessons and carols followed by seasonal refreshments and more mulled wine!

GATE HELMSLEY

Harvest Thanksgiving

As I write this, St Mary's Gate Helmsley is still beautifully decorated with autumn flowers and garden produce after the Harvest Thanksgiving service a week ago. The Rector, Revd Chris Wingfield, led the service and preached to a full church. In his sermon, Chris emphasised the need for us to think more of others than of ourselves and to be more willing to share our plenty with those in need.

After the service everyone enjoyed an excellent harvest supper in the Village Hall. Thank you once again to all those who helped in any way to make this such a warm and successful evening – those who decorated the church, those who prepared and served the food and helped with the clearing up and to Dick Garnons-Williams, who, as usual, ran the raffle.

PCC Meeting

The next meeting of St Mary's PCC will be held on Tuesday 11th November at 7.30 pm at the Manor House, courtesy of Dick Garnons-Williams. Please let Delyth Harran know (on 01759 372215) if there are any items you would like to be discussed at the meeting.

Christmas Fayre

Our next fund-raising event, the annual Christmas Fayre, will be held at Orchard House on Saturday 6th December from 2.00 to 4.00 pm. For full details see the flier elsewhere in this Circular.

Community Carol Singing

We are very pleased once again to be hosting a session of community carol singing from 12 midday on Saturday 13th December at St Mary's Church. Everyone is very welcome and we hope that you will bring along friends and family in full voice so that we can join together to raise the roof. Lunch will be served afterwards at the Duke of York and there will be a visit from Father Christmas.

Pre-booking for lunch is absolutely essential by calling 01759 373698 with details of free lunches and cost for others. **People who just turn up simply cannot be accommodated.** In the evening, there will be a buffet supper with live music, cost £10 per ticket; again pre-booking is essential.

Christmas Day

There will be a Family Service of Holy Communion at St Mary's Church at 10.30 am on Christmas morning. Hot drinks and homemade mince pies will be served after the service to give us a chance to exchange festive greetings.

January Parish Lunch

The annual parish lunch will be held at Orchard House at 12.30 pm on Sunday 18th January 2015. **Early booking is recommended to avoid disappointment as places are limited. Tickets £15 from Michael and Delyth Harran (01759 372215).**

“Pipez Up!”

St Mary’s, Gate Helmsley Centenary Organ Restoration Fund

Huge thanks to all those who helped to produce such an enjoyable and successful evening in Gate Helmsley Village Hall on 27th September. Not least the Stamford Bridge Singers under their new Director Stuart Nettleship and accompanied by Geoffrey Coffin of PPO. Their programme of music, “Just one of those things”, featured pieces by Cole Porter, Gershwin and Sondheim and included delightful solos by Katie Wood and Eleanor Audet. To round off the evening the audience joined enthusiastically in singing a medley of World War 1 songs. During two intervals we managed to serve almost 120 portions of pies & peas followed by apple crumble and we owe special thanks to those who set up the hall, provided and served the food and looked after the bar – and, of course, we thank all who supported us by coming along on the night. The evening raised £1500 for the organ fund.

By the time you read this we will know the outcome of one more grant application and in November applications to two other charities are to be considered – so fingers crossed!

The organ creaks along and, as always, we are grateful to Geoffrey Coffin and his team for helping to keep it going until the restoration can begin. They have just begun work on restoring the huge Hill organ in Selby Abbey but we hope that the more modest project in St Mary’s Gate Helmsley may be next on their list in the New Year.

The restoration fund now stands at just over £33000.

Look out for news of a “Race Night” in the New Year and for other events to follow.

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

The Committee of
Gate and Upper Helmsley and Scoreby
Village Hall
invite you to the

AGM

On Tuesday 25th November 2014 at 7.30p.m. in the Village Hall

We hope you will be able to accept our invitation
and look forward to seeing you on the 25 November.

**If you would like to join the committee please contact Lorraine on 01759 373052 or
Mandy on 01759 371148. We would be delighted to hear from you.**

Charity No. 523351

HOWSHAM

Many thanks to everyone (a record number) who helped with the **Grand Bank Holiday Clean-up** in the church and churchyard. This was followed by a very enjoyable barbecue with gorgeous puddings and salads from everyone.

Harvest Festival was well attended with a delicious supper and Auction in church. **We raised an amazing £560 for the Red Cross Ebola Appeal.** Grateful thanks to Tony for a lovely service, to the readers, all who decorated the Church and bought produce, canapés etc. Also to Jim Stephenson for wielding the gavel to good effect (be careful not to cough again Thelma!)

Our **Carol Service** will be on **Sunday 21st December 2014 at 6.30pm** followed by mince pies & mulled wine at the Great Barn.

We look forward with anticipation to 2015 with more services which hopefully will be well supported.

SAND HUTTON

Parish Day

Thank you to Chris for spending time in Claxton & Sand Hutton visiting folks in their homes, chatting over garden fences and socialising with parishioners in St. Mary's church during the evening.

Sponsored Cycle Ride

Thank you to Dot & Bryan Mills for organising this event. Well done to the few who braved the weather and completed the ride! An amazing £800 was raised for St. Mary's Tower Fund.

St Mary's Tower

Our current quinquennial report and recent high level inspection of both tower and spire have revealed the need for major remedial works.

Visibly decaying stonework, degraded spire coverings, the felt shingles having suffered extensive attacks by birds allowing ingress of water, badly decayed belfry louvres in places are indicative of the building's urgent need of attention.

English Heritage having reviewed our quinquennial inspections has concluded that part of our fabric is at risk of failure or loss and is therefore eligible for inclusion on the 2014 Heritage at Risk Register.

Consequently we are now planning with our church architect to initiate those major works necessary to ensure the continued availability of the building for worship. In anticipation of the cost of the substantial works needed being significantly in excess of our available finances, our recent fund raising has been directed towards the tower restoration and will continue to be so. We are extremely grateful that **some £17,000 has been raised to date** but we emphasise the need for further contributions which will we trust be supplemented by successful applications to grant giving bodies.

St Mary's has been part of our local community since around 1840 and needs the help of the community to continue its ministry to both present and future generations of parishioners. Therefore we ask our readers to support our future fund raising events or by making a gift aided donation at church or directly to any of our church wardens.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Gifts for Christmas November 1st: This event is advertised elsewhere in the 'Circular'. Thank you to Rosie Miers and her team who work through the year to make the day successful!

Hope to see you there!

Benefice Carol service: December 7th 10-30a.m.

Again this year we welcome ' Amici ' who, with their heart-warming musical gifts, enable us to focus on the Christmas Season.

Christingle and Crib service: December 24th 4-30pm

Christingles will be made on Tuesday 23rd at 2pm .in St. Mary's church. Children are invited to help whilst Mums & Dads enjoy a cuppa!

A reminder to children coming to the service to dress in Nativity costumes if you wish to.

WHITWELL

Reena gave an entertaining and interesting talk about the work she has carried out for different families around the world. It gave us an insight in to the lives of the rich and famous. A vote of thanks was given by Gabby.

Thank you to everyone who came along to the Harvest Festival at St John's. All the produce donated was taken to the Malton Food Bank for local distribution.

Window Decorations: If anyone would like to decorate a Christmas window in St John's for December, please do so. It would be fantastic if the windows could be decorated before Thursday 4th December in readiness for our Chris Cade Christmas Play.

Once again we are pleased to announce that Chris Cade will be performing another Dickens Tale at St John's on Thursday 4th December at 6.30pm. This year the performance is 'The Cricket on The Hearth'.

The story is about a small family, John Peerybingle and his very young wife Dot. They have a son and their nanny who lives with them. It is the chirps of the Cricket on the mantelpiece, which makes them feel the security but also sense some danger that comes to the house. One fine day, a mysterious elderly stranger visits this family and takes up lodging with them for a few days and to find out more you must come along!! The play has lots of parts available for the audience, especially children. So come along and join in the performance. Refreshments will be served after the play and there will be a collection plate at the back of church.

The Retired Bishop of Liverpool, The Right Reverend James Jones will be taking the Midnight service on Christmas Eve at St John's, Whitwell at 11.30pm. We look forward to welcoming him to our Midnight service.

News from our schools.....

SAND HUTTON PRIMARY SCHOOL



This term both Sand Hutton C of E Primary School and our federated partner Warthill C of E Primary Schools have benefitted from working closely together with other small rural schools in the area including Foston, Terrington, Hovingham, Ampleforth, Slingsby, Leavening, Langton and Gilamoor. This newly formed cluster of schools has the very grand title of the Howardian Small Schools Alliance. It allows schools to work together as we face yet another time of change with the national curriculum but it has allowed the children to come together to enjoy joint sports events.

The most memorable was a wonderful interschool cross country event for KS 2 held at Leavening CP School. It was a perfect autumn day; the setting was stunning and the course challenging! After the warm up the children set off in year groups up hill, down dale, over fences and ditches. Everyone finished, encouraged by their friends and parents. There were some impressive individual and team performances building upon previous success at the Huntington Cross Country event. An afternoon to remember, we are looking forward to future events including a volleyball tournament, a swimming festival and Tag Rugby afternoon.

We would also like to thank Sand Martins Nursery at Fera for agreeing to Sand Hutton children attending their After School Club. This is a new venture; the children have received a very warm welcome and have thoroughly enjoyed their time with the leaders and children. Another positive example of what is achieved through partnership and co-operation. Thank you to all involved.

History has been brought to life throughout the school this term. Class 1 had a visit from Florence Nightingale (one of our four year olds was anxious to tell me it wasn't the 'real one') and Class 2 had a marvellous day visiting the Railway Museum having had a model steam train enthusiast with steam train in school. Always keen to use local events and resources Class 3 have enjoyed a visit from Stamford Bridge Re-enactment group. Mr Tom Wyles brought costume, artefacts and expertise to bring the battle of Stamford Bridge to life, amazing to think this nationally significant event took place just down the road. These first hand exciting experiences make such a difference.

Forthcoming events:

Christmas Fair:

Sand Hutton C of E School Friday 5 December 6 00 pm – 8 00 pm.

All welcome.

Nativity

Wednesday 17th December

in St Marys Sand Hutton, performances at 10.30am and 6.30pm.

Community E- news



**Local news, events, notifications & Neighbourhood
Watch in Claxton, Sand Hutton and surrounding villages.**

This wonderfully informative newsletter edited by Bill Heath is available to anyone free of charge if you have access to the internet. It is a great way to advertise your village event and to receive news of village activities together with alerts and information from our local police force, and to see many of Bill's superb photographs.

If you would like to be included in the distribution
please contact Bill via email at
bill@lawnswood.co.uk

Benefice website

Information about the churches in the benefice and a copy of the current
Circular can be found on the Benefice website
www.sandhuttongroup.org.uk

Work is being carried out to brighten up this website and good photographs
of your churches or villages if you have any, would be most welcome.
The website is being coordinated by Michael Harran who can be contacted
via email: **mj@mharran.freeserve.co.uk**



HOWSHAM GATES LEVEL CROSSING



Many people will be unaware that the working of Howsham Gates has changed recently due to a new safety system having been installed on the gates and signals.

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The gate bells now are no longer needed and will be removed in time and the pedestrian gates have been locked out of use.

The only way for walkers and cyclists is the main carriageway now.

If you have any concerns or want more information about the new method of operating the gates please contact Peter Boulton in the signal box who will be happy to help you.

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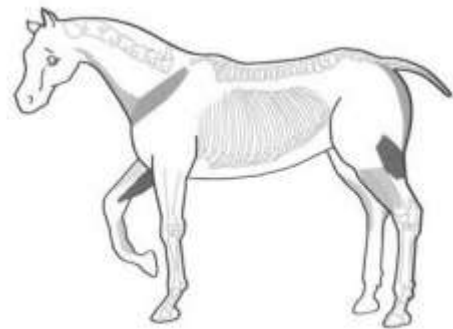
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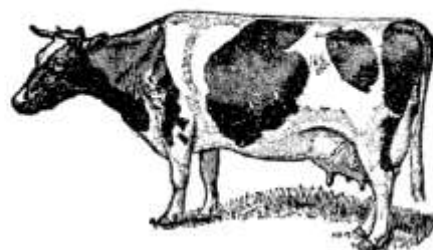
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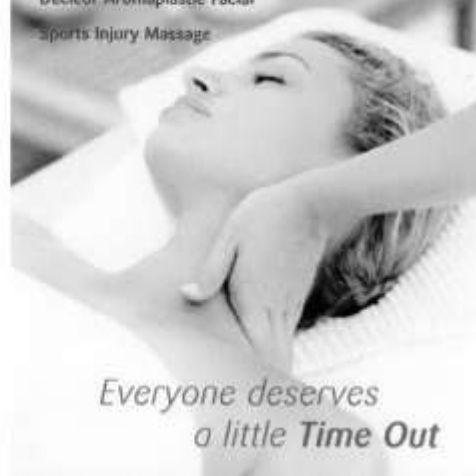
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Some children were having a discussion in class about the Nativity, these are a few of their comments!

Dominic aged 6: "I don't know what the three wise men brought Jesus but I would have given him a tin of biscuits. I think Mary, Joseph and Jesus would have all liked a biscuit.

Erin aged 6: "The Angel Gabriel is a big white fairy. He helped Mary and Joseph look after the baby - kind of like a doctor."

Jay aged 6: "There was also an angel called Gabriel, whose favourite thing was to fly around all day."

Alexie aged 5: "Baby Jesus was born in a stable made out of hay with string around it."

Matthew aged 6: "There were sheep, horses and a crocodile outside the stable."

Charlie aged 4: "Jesus's mummy and daddy are called Jovis and Mary."

Items for 'The Circular'

Copy deadline for the next edition January 16th 2015

This will cover February, March and April 2015

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

Members of the Ministry Team

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Reader:	Tony Hewitt	01904 632684
Lay Pastor:	Rachel Baker	01904 468809

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Marriages	Rachel Baker	01904 468809
Baptisms	Delyth Harran	01759 372215

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The editor and members of the Circular printing team wish all our readers a very merry Christmas and a happy and peaceful New Year

