

The Benefice of Harton

# The Circular



Spring edition 2015

February March April

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

This edition's cover has been sponsored by  
St John's Church, Whitwell

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

## *A note from the Editor.....*

This seems a good time to update you on the long running saga of the Benefice printer (aka The Claxton Press). Despite giving into its demands for more luxurious accommodation, which was found for it at in the office of the Baker's home, keeping it company at regular intervals, speaking to it nicely, not kicking it or otherwise abusing it, it has continued to cause as much nuisance as possible to the printing mice. It has done its best to foul up every edition of the Circular bar one since the summer of 2010. Its favourite tricks have been changing the colours on the cover to unrecognisable sludge, jamming the paper the moment one has one's back turned, and trying to do origami with the finished booklet by folding it in very strange and unacceptable ways. We have worked the day shift and the night shift to bring all your contributions to the Circular into readable form. This is your magazine and contributions are always welcome.

**However this printer's days are numbered!!!!** We have received permission from the Benefice Council to buy a new printer...one that works, from someone in the locality who knows how to fix it if it should inadvertently disgrace itself, and who will come when called, not several mind numbing days or weeks later. For that the printing team will be eternally grateful and offer up a profound thank you! We look forward to a stress free time drinking coffee, munching on Rachel's biscuits, and chatting about life and other amusing things while the printer simply churns out the copy for us to admire and pack into boxes.

Of late we have had the enjoyable task of producing new service booklets for the various principal services and seasons throughout the year as well as the Circular, and hope that you are all pleased with the result and that they enhance our worship.

The printer (when working) is a great asset to the Benefice, and has been well used (occasionally with something stronger than coffee in hand to calm the nerves) and has enabled us to produce the Circular at a fraction of the cost of using a commercial print firm, and has reduced the overall Benefice printing costs to a manageable level.

Thank you to all our distributors around the Benefice without whom The Circular would not reach your letterbox.

*Happy days ahead.....The Churchmouse.*



# Services for the Benefice of Harton

## February

<b><i>Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February</i></b>		<b><i>Epiphany 4</i></b>
9.00	Holy Communion	Sand Hutton
10.30	Holy Communion	Buttercrambe
10.30	Holy Communion	Foston
4.00pm	Evensong	Howsham
<b>Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February</b>		
10.00	Holy Communion <i>Candlemas</i>	Gate Helmsley
<b><i>Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> February</i></b>		<b><i>2 before Lent</i></b>
10.30	Benefice Holy Communion	Bossall
<b>Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February</b>		
10.00	Holy Communion	Gate Helmsley
<b><i>Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> February</i></b>		<b><i>Next before Lent</i></b>
9.00	Mattins	Foston
10.30	Holy Communion	Sand Hutton
10.30	Holy Communion	Whitwell
<b>Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February</b>		
7.00 pm	Holy Communion	<i>Ash Wednesday</i> Gate Helmsley
<b><i>Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February</i></b>		<b><i>Lent 1</i></b>
9.00	Holy Communion	Flaxton
10.30	Family Holy Communion	Gate Helmsley
10.30	Holy Communion	Crambe
<b>Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February</b>		
10.00	Holy Communion	<i>St Matthias</i> Gate Helmsley

## March

### ***Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March***

***St David Lent 2***

9.00	Holy Communion	Sand Hutton
10.30	Holy Communion	Upper Helmsley
10.30	Holy Communion	Foston

### **Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March**

10.00	Holy Communion	Whitwell
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### ***Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March***

***Lent 3***

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

### **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March**

10.00	Holy Communion	Whitwell
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### ***Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March***

***Mothering Sunday***

10.30	Benefice Holy Communion	Sand Hutton
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### **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March**

10.00	Holy Communion	<b><i>St Patrick</i></b> Whitwell
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### ***Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March***

***Lent 5***

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

### **Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March**

10.00	Holy Communion	<b><i>Annunciation</i></b> Whitwell
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### ***Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March***

***Palm Sunday***

10.30	Benefice Holy Communion	Upper Helmsley
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# April

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April**

7.30pm.

Holy Communion

***Maundy Thursday***

Crambe

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April**

10.00

2.00pm

Family Service

Devotion

***Good Friday***

Foston

Sand Hutton

***Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April***

***Easter Day***

9.00

Holy Communion

Sand Hutton

10.30

Holy Communion

Foston

10.30

Holy Communion

Bossall

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> April**

10.00

Holy Communion

Crambe

***Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April***

***Easter 2***

9.00

Morning Prayer

Gate Helmsley

10.30

Family Service

Flaxton

10.30

Holy Communion

Buttercrambe

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> April**

10.00

Holy Communion

Crambe

***Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April***

***Easter 3***

9.00

Mattins

Foston

10.30

Holy Communion

Whitwell

10.30

Holy Communion

Sand Hutton

**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April**

10.00

Holy Communion

***St George***

Crambe

***Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April***

***St Mark***

10.30

Benefice Holy Communion

Crambe

**Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April**

10.00

Holy Communion

***St Philip & St James***

Crambe



### **Welcome to those newly baptised**

16<sup>th</sup> November

Lily Marian Borthwick

Crambe



### **Congratulations and good wishes to those who were married recently**

20<sup>th</sup> December

Charles David Lewis McNeill  
Sarah Jane Mary Scriven

Bossall

31<sup>st</sup> December

Christopher Robert Faudy  
Belinda Lucy Sheppard

Bossall



### **Our condolences to the family and friends of**

24<sup>th</sup> October

Rose Lauren Parry

Bossall

5<sup>th</sup> November

Peter Ronald William Chainey

Bossall

11<sup>th</sup> January

Maureen Parker

Gate Helmsley

## *From the Vicarage*



My dear friends

“More Tea, Vicar?.....”

First of all may I wish you all a very peaceful and holy New Year. I know that for some of you, 2014 was overshadowed by personal tragedy, and I am sure that the pain continues to a greater or lesser degree. For you, I hope that this year will bring in some way, a form of peace and healing.

And for those of you who sailed through on a wave of euphoria, I hope that your state of well-being continues for a long time to come! Whilst for those of us whose last year was the usual bag of mixed blessings, I hope that next year's mixture is rich in content, yet balanced in distribution!

Talking of ‘rich in content’, the perennial examination of my ‘diet’ begins in earnest once again. I remember a few years back following Carol Vorderman’s detox routine – never again! Although the results were pleasing enough, the pain of giving up ‘tea’ was too much to bear. Caffeine was banned during the period, so my favourite drink was forbidden. But the headaches that ensued were just too hard to bear and after a fortnight, I gave in and had a cup or two of the golden nectar and within half an hour the headache had disappeared.

This whole incident reminded me of a story I read which involved a bishop presenting a teapot as a retirement gift to a clergyman, who like me, must have been another tea-oholic. In his presentation speech the bishop drew some interesting parallels:

*“Perhaps I may point out to you some details that may have escaped your notice to show how appropriately your friends have selected this gift, and the useful lessons you may draw from a study of it; as typical of the calling of a clergyman.*

*It is as useful as it is beautiful (?), that is to say, not only does it faithfully carry out the work it was made for, but it lends charm and joy to any company into which it may be introduced. Among its most prominent features you will observe the spout, which discharges one of the primary functions, for what flows from it should cheer and gratify all that partake of it.*



*Again, you will remember that before anything is permitted to flow through the spout, a process of infusion must silently take place. The same should be true of that which flows from the lips of the clergy; if their words are to be effective, there must be a short period of thoughtful preparation.*

*The lid is another prominent feature, illustrating the importance of being able to 'shut up' at the right time.*

*You should also appreciate that which flows from the teapot does not originate there; it is only the instrument, the means, the channel. The water must be drawn from the eternal source and it must be pure. Sometimes, too, the plain truth will not be accepted by everyone who partakes of it until it has been sweetened or mixed with the milk of human kindness.*

*You may also notice that it is not ostentatiously paraded, though it will always be found by those looking carefully for it, and that is the stamp of its Maker. A clergyman declares himself to be an ambassador of Christ, and in the true ambassador the credentials are always to be discerned.*

*Finally, in some mysterious way, age confers a higher beauty and value and, although perhaps infirm in places, there is sanctity and reverence that Time alone can confer on vessels decrepit with service."*

Well, I can't say that I'm anywhere near as venerable as the bishop's teapot, but if ever you would like me to pop 'round for a chat to share your tragedy or good fortune, then I would be delighted to join you in a cup of tea. And if you ever said 'More Tea Vicar.....?' then the answer would be a resounding 'Yes please!'

Have a happy New Year

Yours in Christ

***Revd Chris Wingfield***



Oops! Sorry vicar, your cup  
runneth over!

## ***From the Benefice (or Joint) PCC.....***

The Benefice PCC last met on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2015. Matters under discussion were:

**Service rota** – Reverend Chris Wingfield has prepared a service rota that covers the whole of 2015. This has been shared with churchwardens and a copy will be placed in each church vestry. It is being introduced on a trial basis.

**Benefice finances** – The honorary treasurer, David Fletcher, presented a quarterly report. Nearly all the churches have made a freewill offering for 2015. The deadline for making the offering for 2016 is the end of July 2015.

**Replacement printer** – Michael Harran, a member of the printing team, attended the meeting with a proposal to replace the current printer (which has suffered numerous problems during print runs) with a similar model, but using a different provider. The proposal was accepted unanimously, and plans will be made to purchase the new machine once this particular edition (February, March and April 2015) of the Circular has been printed. The treasurer has set aside a reserve sum of money annually to cover the cost of a new printer.

**Preparation for Annual Parochial Church Meetings (APCMs)** – Chris reminded members that these meetings should be held during April, and should be preceded by a meeting to sign off the PCC accounts. Chris will be circulating a sample agenda for use at the APCM.

**Sharing information** – this is a standard item on the Benefice PCC agenda where each representative gives a brief summary of the current situation in their own church. It has proved very useful for sharing ideas about church services, fund raising, building renovation, etc.

The next meeting of the Benefice PCC will be held at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May at Orchard House, Gate Helmsley. Please send any agenda items to the honorary secretary, Wendy Holman.

***Delyth Harran***

***Lay Vice Chairman***

# ***RACE NIGHT***



**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> February**

**Gate Helmsley Village Hall**

**Doors open 7pm : First Race 7.30pm**

**Entry £5 *includes* Pie & Peas Supper**

**BYO beer/wine : glasses/soft drinks provided**

To sponsor a race, own a horse  
or just buy a ticket, contact

Michael Harran: 01759 372215 / [mj@mharran.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:mj@mharran.freeserve.co.uk)

*Lucky ticket wins a bottle of bubbly*

Come along, have a flutter –  
and lots of fun!

***In aid of Pipe Up! –  
St Mary's Gate Helmsley Centenary Organ  
Restoration Fund***



WELBURN VILLAGE HALL

## **FAKE THACKARY**

**Saturday 14th March at 7.30 p.m.**

**'An evening without Jake Thackary'**

**by John Watterson**

Funny, witty, satirical, irreverent and gloriously un-PC songs

This highly acclaimed singer has appeared at many venues across the UK including The Edinburgh Festival

**Tickets £8**

Contact Elaine: 01653 619276 or Sylvia: 01653 619764

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

**Bar and Raffle**



Aldby Park  
Buttercrambe



Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2015

*In aid of Buttercrambe Church*

## **Musical Concert**

6.30 for 7.00 p.m.

*Finger buffet supper & first glass of wine*

Tickets £15 available from

Sara Winn-Darley, [sara@winndarley.net](mailto:sara@winndarley.net)

01759 371 398

St Michael's Church, Crambe

## ***SPRING COFFEE MORNING***



**Saturday 28th March**  
at Barton Le Willows Village Hall  
10.30 a.m.—12.00 noon



***Bring your friends!***

Cake \* Raffle \* Bottle Tombola

Entrance £2.00 children free  
Includes light refreshments

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



### **CLAXTON & SAND HUTTON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE**

We are a small thriving WI who welcome new members to join us 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.

**This year's talks include**

**Hen welfare, The History of Nursery Rhymes and The Amazon.**

**For the full programme**

**go to [www.claxton-sandhutton.org.uk/community/wi](http://www.claxton-sandhutton.org.uk/community/wi)**

2015 is the centenary of the WI movement with 212,000 members in around 6,600 WI's. Contrary to popular belief an interest in jam making is not a requirement for membership (although if you want to learn we can help you!)

If you would like to meet new friends or catch up with existing ones, come to one of our monthly meetings. Usually held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month in Sand Hutton village hall from 7.30pm You would be offered a warm welcome.

**For further details, please contact Helen (01904 468540)**

GATE AND UPPERHELMSLEY VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE'S

# **SPRING DANCE**

*DANCING TO*

# **CURLY'S BAND**

**(NORTHERN ROCK)**

**SATURDAY**

**18 APRIL**

**7.30 PM – 11.30 PM**

**TICKETS £10 ADULTS**

**INCLUDES TWO COURSE SUPPER**

**(BRING YOUR OWN DRINKS—GLASSES PROVIDED)**

Tickets available from

MANDY 01759 371148 and CHRIS 01759 371687

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

News views and information from:

### **BARTON LE WILLOWS**

**The Dynamic Duo's Quiz Night** on the 12<sup>th</sup> December was very well attended and raised over £160 for village hall funds.

**Stretch and Flex Exercise Classes** are now running every Monday and every other Friday evening and are proving very popular, with the Monday class now full! Anyone still interested please contact Jo Viner email: mijvin963@btinternet.com for more information.

Sessions from the Art Group and the Playgroup ensure that the hall is used regularly but is still available for private functions, parties etc. Please contact Jayne Carr for further details on 01653 618255.

**Prize Draw Winning Numbers:** September – 19; October – 18; November – 41 and the December Christmas Big Draw – 30.

#### **Future Events:**

The Planning Group has several events in the pipeline in addition to the 'regular' events described above, including a Children's Disco; Spring Plant Exchange; the next Quiz; the village Hog Roast and a Produce & Craft Show in collaboration with Sand Hutton Village Hall in late Summer.

Further details of all these – and any other events – will be posted via village notice boards, Village Hall newsletters, email contact lists and our own Village Hall website.

### **BOSSALL**

First - an apology, in that the last report in our Winter Edition promised details of a reprint of the history of the church and of the review of parish records. Both aspects are still 'ongoing' but will 'surface' in due course along with a report of the Quinquennial inspection of the church following its presentation to the PCC.

The most exciting aspect has been the rebuilding of the perimeter wall between the two entrances to the churchyard. This was carried out with great interest and competence by P.H. Carr & Sons of Barton-le-Willows and is a wonderful tribute to Alan (Churchwarden for many years) and Margaret Leeves whose recent legacy enabled us to carry out the work. One day it might be possible to complete the appearance by providing a similar wall on the other side of the entrance gates.



*The newly completed wall*

We now have to replace certain headstones and trim the path - always something to do!

Funerals are reported elsewhere -formally - but both services for the old and the young were so appropriate and well attended.

Christmas period was an unusually exciting and hard-working time (but much appreciated) when more than three hundred people attended the services, two were weddings; a first time crib service on Christmas Eve, followed by Midnight mass attended by one hundred and fifteen people, the collection taken at this service was sent to the Ebola Appeal.

We enter the New Year in good heart. We are pleased to welcome all to our very special church of historical interest and all printable comments left in the church will be duly noted!



## CRAMBE

The mild weather forecast by the Met Office hasn't materialised yet! Christmas was bitterly cold with a series of hard frosts, and marvellous crisp and sunny days. Little by little the days are getting longer and the snowdrops are starting to appear.

There have been three services at St Michael's in the past three months. Remembrance Sunday at St Michael's was, as always, well attended, the names of the fallen throughout the Benefice were read out, and the Last Post and Reveille were once again played by young Gage Andrews. Gage also played at the Claxton War memorial after the service.

Mike and Fiona were away in Namibia – in 1914 this was a German colony – and on 11<sup>th</sup> November they took part in an impromptu service in the northern deserts. A rough cross was fashioned out of twigs bound by strips of bark and adorned with a poppy which someone had in their pocket, and a dozen of us stood and remembered in that hot and far away land. A poignant occasion made all the more so by its ad hoc nature.



Our next service on November 16<sup>th</sup> was the baptism of Lawrence Borthwick and Gemma Taylor's daughter Lily Marian. The church was packed with family and friends who came to share in this joyful occasion.

*Gemma, Lawrence and Lily*

The last service of 2014 was the Carol Service held on 20<sup>th</sup> December. It was a beautiful, dry if cold night. The church and pathways were decked out with a myriad of candles. The Stamford Bridge Singers with Geoffrey Coffin at the organ and keyboard were on magnificent form under the leadership of their new musical director Stuart Nettleship. The church was packed to hear the Christmas story told through poetry, prose and carols, and despite last minute extra seating many were left standing at the back. It was good to see so many children at the service. A marvellous evening was rounded off by mince pies and mulled wine at Kyreham House after the service courtesy of the Cook family. Very many thanks to all who contributed in any way.

## FLAXTON

Once again the Nativity and Toy service was a great success. The children reminded us of the true meaning of Christmas performing the story of the nativity. It was lovely to meet friends and family who had travelled, like the wise men from afar, to see and support the children. Chris then presented the children with their Sunday School prizes. Well done to all the children and to their parents for encouragement and support. The congregation were invited to bring up their gifts of toys in support of the Salvation Army Christmas Appeal. We have since received a lovely letter of appreciation from the Major of the Citadel in which he says "Your generosity helped the Salvation Army to deliver toys to 563 children (toy referrals were up 50% on 2013) and provide 238 food parcels to those in need". Thank you everyone for your generosity.



Our thanks to Dick Blackford and the Flaxton singers for leading our Nine Lessons and Carol Service which was once again a huge success. Thank you to all the readers, and special thanks to Angus McMillan for presenting the crib. Following the service we all enjoyed mince pies and mulled wine.

Towards the end of last year we discovered repairs to the roof are required. The PCC are now obtaining quotes with a view to getting the repairs done as soon as possible.

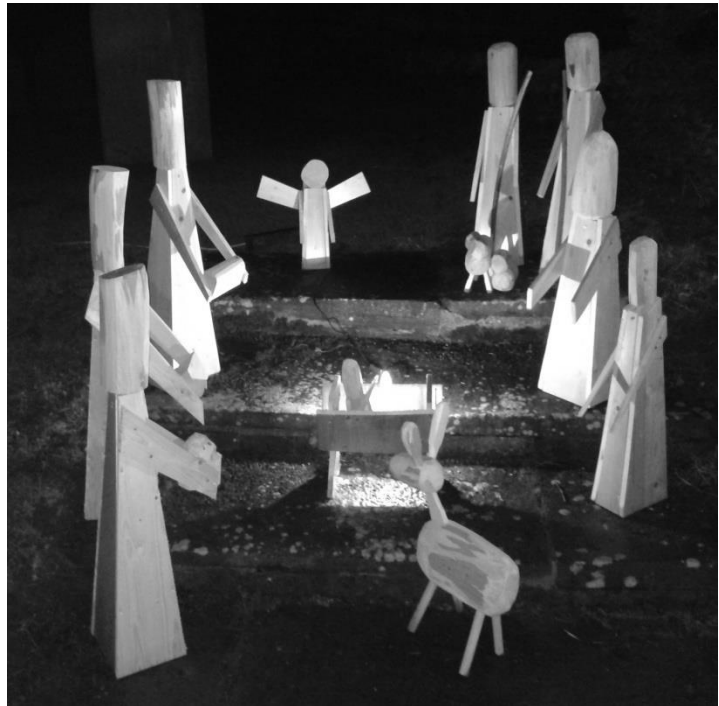
**On Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April  
we are holding a fund raising event at St Crux.**

If you are in town between 10.00am and 4.00pm do call in. If anyone has any good quality bric-a-brac / costume jewellery / toys / jams / chutney we would gratefully receive them to sell on the day.

## FOSTON and THORNTON LE CLAY

Our church looked

Particularly beautiful for the Carol Service and the Crib service this year, thanks to a new Christmas tree, kindly donated by Joan Shipley and a lot of candles and decorations arranged to great effect by the Churchwardens. The two services were both well attended and the mulled wine and mince pies certainly encouraged a good turnout for the Carol service. Outside the church, Nigel Tulley's wooden nativity scene continued to impress our visitors.



This year we look forward to the challenges of addressing issues highlighted by the quinquennial review whilst maintaining current levels of giving. We always somehow manage to find the funds, usually by friends and the community continuing to support our various fundraising events. We will be looking for some new ideas at our APCM and hopefully a volunteer to take over the role of PCC secretary. If anybody feels able to give the church a few hours a year to do this, please speak to one of the churchwardens.

## GATE HELMSLEY

**December events:** We are very grateful to all who supported various events during December.

A very successful Christmas Fayre was held at Orchard House on 7<sup>th</sup> December, raising around £750 for church funds. This event is only possible because of the work done by all the helpers in making cakes and gifts, running the various stalls and donating gifts and raffle prizes. A special thank you to Dick Garnons-Williams for running the raffle, to Sister Margaret Ann for managing the tombola, Anne Podmore on gifts, and to various members of the Harran family.

Everyone enjoyed singing Christmas carols at St Mary's church on 13<sup>th</sup> December. Thanks to Michael Harran for accompanying the singers on the organ. The children helped Sister Margaret Ann to put the nativity figures in place as we sang "Away in a Manger". We regrouped later at the Duke of York for a splendid Christmas lunch and a visit from Father Christmas. Thank you to all the staff of the Duke of York for the hospitality, to the Village Jubilee Committee for organising the event and to the excellent band, Uncut, for providing the music during the evening festivities.

We were pleased to welcome Reverend Jeremy Valentine to conduct our service on Christmas morning. The service was well attended and many stayed for a mince pie and coffee afterwards.

### **Obituary: Maureen Parker**

Sadly we must end on a more sombre note as we mourn the death of one of our parishioners, Maureen Parker. Maureen, who hailed from the East Riding, had lived in Gate Helmsley for over 30 years and was an absolute pillar of the community. She had served as Parish Clerk for a long period (and latterly as Parish Councillor) during which time she gained an encyclopaedic knowledge of all things to do with parish councils and other local authorities.

Maureen ran a craft group in the Village Hall, organised an annual Christmas dinner for the women of the village, and delivered the Circular to some of the houses. She was part of the flower rota and the cleaning rota at St Mary's Church and she enjoyed growing, using and sharing the produce from her beautiful garden, where she and her husband, Tony, hosted the annual Village Hall barbecue.

Before retirement, Maureen was a staff nurse on the Special Care Baby Unit at York Hospital, working the night shift. She still maintained the close friendships that she developed at work, and used to enjoy regular get-togethers - many of which she organised and hosted - with former colleagues.

Maureen totally refused to succumb to the limitations imposed by her long illness, carrying on as near normal for as long as she possibly could, although she had been forced to give up her hobbies of walking and golf. She was brave and generous, honest and straightforward, a real Yorkshire woman who definitely did not call a spade a digging implement, and just the sort of person to have as a friend. She will be greatly missed.

We extend our sympathy to Tony, Alison, Antony and all the family in their loss.

## **Advance Notice**

We are planning to have the annual Strawberry Lunch at Gate Helmsley Village Hall and an Open Garden Afternoon at the Manor House, courtesy of Captain Dick Garnons Williams

**PCC Annual meeting: Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April 11.00 am. at Fox farm**

## **“Pipe Up!”**

### **St Mary’s, Gate Helmsley Centenary Organ Restoration Fund**

Since I last wrote we have received two further grants - £1000 from The Yorkshire Historic Churches Trust and £2500 from The John Pilling Trust. Unfortunately a third application was turned down. There are a couple more sources that might give small “top-up” grants once we have signed a contract for the work - the words “chicken” and “egg” spring to mind!

**The fund has now reached £36,000 – just another £8,000 to go!**

Our next event is a “Race Night” on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> February in Gate Helmsley Village Hall. See the separate advert for details. This should be great fun. You can sponsor and name one of the 8 races for £25 or own and name a horse (or even a whole stud!) for £3 / horse then collect the winnings at the end of the race if your horse comes first.

For tickets, to sponsor a race or to buy a horse, contact Michael Harran.

We are very grateful to all those who have supported our project so far. Now we need a final push to ensure that we can preserve this organ for another generation at least. Remember that you can sponsor one or more pipes or just make a donation that can be entered in the Sponsors’ Book for posterity.

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.freemove.co.uk](mailto:mj@mharran.freemove.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](http://www.sandhuttongroup.org.uk)).*

*Dick Garnons Williams, Michael Harran, Andrew Podmore*

## **HOWSHAM**

The Carol Service in the beautifully decorated Church attracted an 87 strong congregation who enjoyed a varied selection of musical items and readings. This was followed by the annual gathering at the Great Barn for mulled wine, mince pies and happy chatter.

We are looking forward to the new pattern of "Wingfield" Services with an early highlight of the 4pm Evensong on 1st February accompanied by the re-formed and perhaps reformed as well, Choir.

It is a pleasure to welcome Jeremy back to conduct some of our Services and to have the continuing help of Rachel Benson and the constancy of Sister.

We have no specific projects in hand at St John's but were delighted with the free Graveyard Survey completed by the East Yorkshire Family History Society. We now know where everyone is, so to speak!

As last year I have several free passes to York Minster for anyone to borrow.

Our next fund-raising events will be the Gun Dog Raffle (date to come) and our regular Cake Stall on Howsham Bridge on Bank Holiday Monday 4th May. A very happy and healthy 2015 to all.

## **SAND HUTTON**

### **Gifts for Christmas**

Many thanks to all who attended this fund raising event in its 25<sup>th</sup> year, and made it such a resounding success. A superb £2,500 was raised with proceeds going towards the repairs to the church tower. Our special thanks go to Nancy, finalist from "The Great British Bake Off" who made a guest appearance – a real highlight. We are grateful to all who contributed. Rosie and her team for preparations throughout the year, the ladies who prepared the delicious refreshments, those who set up and cleared up and the stall holders for their support.

### **Christmas services**

We were delighted to welcome Amici to the Benefice Carol Service. It was a moving event consisting of Christmas music, readings and congregational carols.

The Christingle and Crib Service raised £200.00 for The Children's Society.

## **Tower Restoration Project**

As you may be aware, urgent repairs need to be made to the tower and spire of St Mary's in order to ensure its future and heritage. We have submitted a project enquiry form to the Heritage Lottery Fund under the Grants for Places of Worship scheme and are delighted to report that it appears our proposal could meet the requirements of this programme. Our next step is to begin work on the first stage of the full application. We are most grateful for the professional assistance received from our church architect and to those contributing to the process. Any financial contributions towards this worthy cause would be much appreciated and can be enhanced by Gift Aid.



## ***News from our schools.....***

### **SAND HUTTON PRIMARY SCHOOL**

#### **Yorkshire Schools Dance Festival at York University**

It is always a pleasure to receive recognition for hard work and achievement, even more so when the activities themselves have been exciting and enjoyable. At Sand Hutton we were delighted to be recognised for our contribution. Secondary, Primary and Special schools from throughout Yorkshire took part in the weekend festival presenting unique dances on the theme of 'Revolution' Class 3 children from Sand Hutton performed their interpretation of 'Peace and Reconciliation' in front of a packed house in the Central Hall and were then able to enjoy watching an amazing variety of dances by children of all ages and abilities. It certainly was something to remember and as always we received generous support from parents and staff. It was very worthwhile as we watched the children happily thrive in front of our eyes.

*Peace and Reconciliation  
by Class 3*



Our love of everything sporty also was recognised when both Sand Hutton and Warthill were awarded the Sainsbury's School Games Silver medal for our commitment, engagement and delivery of competitive school sport. Inclusive sport of every kind is a central part of everything we do and are fortunate to have the facilities for it to take place along with very enthusiastic staff.

This term we have Dave Scorsby FA coach working in school and we continue to enjoy the sporting links with our partners in the Howardian Small Schools Alliance and the York School Sports Network.

As the term progresses we are looking forward to a range of outside visits including going to the National Coal Mining Museum in Wakefield, the archaeological experience 'Dig' in York and to 'Piglets' when it opens for the spring – we really do not have to go far to make the most of some wonderful venues.

Sand Hutton itself continues to be a perfect location  
for many history, art and wildlife projects –  
**how lucky we are!**

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

After a strange start to our new academic year in September, with the Juniors in Foston and Thornton Le Clay Village Hall, we can announce that our new classroom is completely finished and the children and staff love it. This has also meant an extension of the infant classroom, to allow a quiet space to be available for our Year 1 / 2 children to work.

The EYFS continue to enjoy excellent free flow provision in the original KS1 classroom. We are extremely proud that Katie Stringer our EYFS KS1 teacher has been chosen to be a lead teacher for the local authority. Whilst still working at Foston she offers advice and support to North Yorkshire Schools.

It has been fabulous to get to know our new Vicar, Revd. Christopher Wingfield and we are looking forward to developing our church School Ethos and links alongside him. We are extremely pleased he has chosen to be a Governor at our school. He has already joined in with our Collective Worship and led our Harvest Festival. We will obviously continue our links with William Swires and Rachel Baker who are part and parcel of Foston School and our utmost thanks go to them for their input into school.



Over the Autumn Term our Junior Class studied World War One, we looked at the life of Arthur Walker, a Foston man who lied about his age to join his brothers in what they thought would be an adventure of a lifetime.

This was brought to life by Chris Cade, a historical interpreter in a dramatization with the children. A huge thank you to his daughter Elsie Mayhew and his widow Dot Walker who still live in Thornton Le Clay.

You may have heard the children, Mrs Mayhew, Mr Popplewell and Chris Cade interviewed about this on Radio York.

Just before Christmas we held a den building project with all the children. If you could have seen their faces it would have cheered your day. They were covered in mud but beaming from ear to ear with the excitement of building their own shelter.

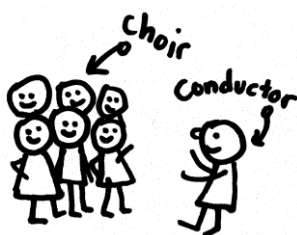
Our nativity play was a resounding success and term concluded by a moving Christingle Service in the Methodist Chapel.

**If you would like to come and visit us or be invited with your child to our play afternoons, which happen half termly, please feel free to make an appointment on 01653 618265.**

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## **The Benefice Choir**

**Is now up and running  
(singing!).**



Currently, the intention is for the choir to sing at  
**Evensong and Benefice Services.**  
Rehearsals are generally to be  
**one Thursday and one Wednesday evening each month  
from 7pm - 8pm at St Mary's Church, Sand Hutton.**

**We welcome members old and new!**

**For further details please contact**

Peter Stott Tel: 01904 468404 Email: [petermstott@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:petermstott@yahoo.co.uk)

Chris Wingfield Tel: 01904 468418 Email: [chris.wingfield@btinternet.com](mailto:chris.wingfield@btinternet.com)

## *Christmas Carol Singing 2014*

### *Claxton*



Carol singers turned out on December 22nd

**and raised the fine sum of £175.19**

**for Macmillan Cancer Support.**

Thanks to the lusty singers and to the kind people  
of Claxton for their support.

### *Flaxton*



Carol Singing on 20 & 21 December

**raised the fantastic total of £450.00**

**for York Against Cancer.**

Many thanks to all who sang,  
and all who donated so generously.

The singers were especially grateful for the refreshments offered  
enroute, which kept them going!

## ***If I ruled the world.....***

*The following article is reproduced with the kind permission of the author, Claire Walker, Chief Executive of The National Churches Trust and that of The Field magazine where it was first printed in the February 2015 edition.*



If I ruled the world I would end all wars, murders, crimes against humanity, torture and abuse of all kinds. Bullies would be a distant memory, neighbours would live side by side and life would be free of anxieties and hardship for all. Anger management would be on the national curriculum, as would setting the table for dinner. And before anyone bought a ticket for public transport they would have to pass a test to ensure they had good manners and respect for others. That would mean an end to those unthinking people who spill takeaway coffee over the floor for unfortunate passengers to slip on, put their feet on the seats so the next person has to choose whether to sit in mud and grime, or stand for the whole journey.

That test could take place in the UK's churches chapels and meeting houses, which do so much to help facilitate social cohesion. Enabling people from different walks of life, social and economic backgrounds to work, pray and live together. Churches also provide a place where it's possible to respect others, tolerate one another's differences and develop new skills. There is much to learn from their example. Churches could be holding the key to what I am looking for .

A tall order? To quote Margaret Mead, 'never doubt a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world; indeed it is the only thing that ever has'.

However the number of people going to church has been declining: not just those attending services but also visitors to what are some of our country's oldest and most historic buildings (churches make up 45% of Grade 1 listed buildings in England with similarly high numbers in the rest of the UK).

So, if I ruled the world I would start by ensuring that a clean accessible lavatory was installed in every church. That's because nothing in this life is certain apart from death, taxes and the call of nature. In the modern era we expect to be able to go to the loo when we are out shopping, at work, at a concert, on most forms of public transport. Even portable loos are doing a roaring trade. And yet it is estimated that more than half the Church of England's parish churches are without loos.

That's why the National Churches Trust, which for more than 60 years has been funding the repair of churches of all denominations, is receiving more

and more requests for funding to install loos. Last year lavatories topped the list of funding requests to the Trust's Community Grants programme for the third year running.

I am willing to bet that there are few people who would not be worried at the prospect of going on a long journey, going to work, attending a function or taking part in a church service if they knew they would not be able to visit a loo should nature call. Indeed the anxiety brought on by the thought that there would be no loo could generate the need for one. And what about children, the elderly, and those afflicted by such conditions as Crohn's disease, irritable bowel syndrome or Parkinson's disease?

Lavatories allow churches to become more welcoming to worshippers of course, but also to guests attending weddings or christenings, parents with young children, community groups, choirs, charities wishing to use the space for meetings – even to voters (one sixth of polling stations at the last election were inside church buildings).

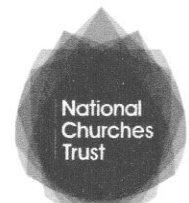
That said, it's important that loos are installed in keeping with the architecture of the building. But while it's true that churches, chapels, and meeting houses are full of history, the people looking after them know that buildings can't be stuck in the past. Many church buildings have adapted and changed over the decades and centuries. And installing modern facilities is essential to increasing their use and safeguarding their future.

Churches are at the very heart of communities and bring people together in a way that makes life better. That's especially true in our inner cities – think of their work helping the homeless – and in rural areas where, after the closure of local shops, post offices and even pubs, they are often the last building left in which people can gather together. So as well as installing a lavatory in every church, if I ruled the world I'd make sure there was adequate funding to keep churches repaired; too many still have problems with roofs and drains and once water gets in, then the building becomes damaged and you get a bigger problem.

Looking after church buildings usually falls to volunteers. In many of our villages, a handful of people look after priceless architectural masterpieces, many of them hundreds of years old. So, my final act as ruler of the world would be to make sure that the small battalions of churchwardens and lay people helping their minister, priests and vicars to look after places of worship were properly recognised as heritage heroes – because they are the people who are safeguarding our truly world-class religious heritage, enabling beautiful architecture, art, and history to be understood, interpreted and enjoyed for generations to come.

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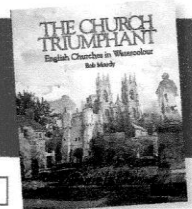
will not only be funding urgent repairs to roofs and spires but also vital improvements such as installing disabled access and toilets, enabling these treasured buildings to remain open at the heart of local communities.

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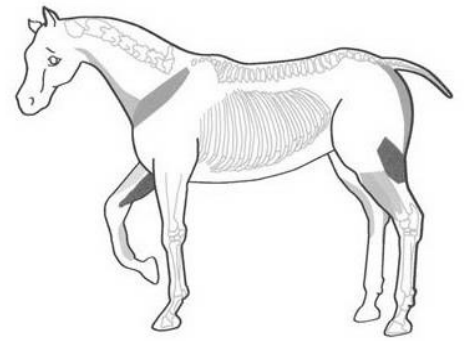
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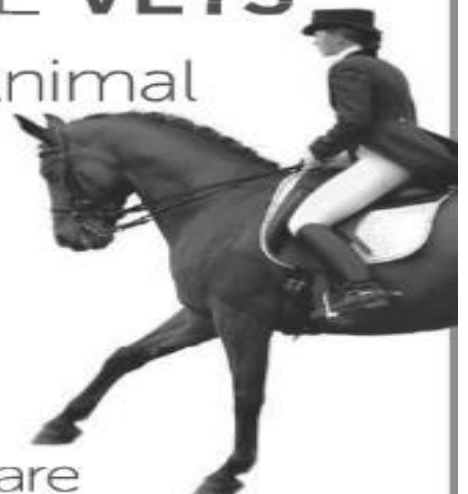
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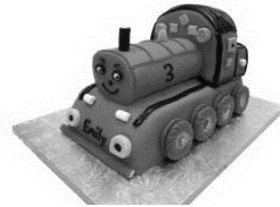


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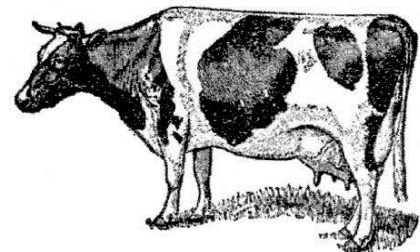
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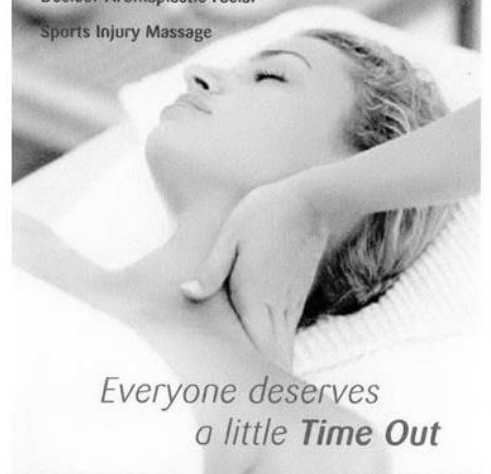
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## Items for 'The Circular'

**Copy deadline for the next edition April 11th 2015**

This will cover May, June and July 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](mailto:chris.wingfield@btinternet.com)**

### **Members of the Ministry Team**

Parish Sister:	Sister Margaret Ann CSPH	01904 468253
Reader:	Tony Hewitt	01904 632684
Lay Pastor:	Rachel Baker	01904 468809

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

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

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