

CHILDREN AND YOUTH WORKER ROLE IN THE BENEFICE OF HARTON

*Bringing school and
community together*



My name is Rachael Harrison.

I am the Children and Youth Worker for The Benefice of Harton.

As some of you will be aware, I have been in post as a Children and Youth worker for the Benefice since June 2019. I can't believe how quickly the time has flown. I have been kept busy developing Messy church along with the extremely enthusiastic and hardworking Messy church team and on the day, helpers!

With a lot of assistance from a dedicated team of volunteers we have also set up a pre-school 'Play and Pray' group at St Mary's Church Sand Hutton. I have recently set up a Benefice Families and carers Facebook page, again with some technical help! (Thanks Ruth!) This is also going well.

If you are a family within the Benefice, have carer responsibilities for children and live within the Benefice (e.g. Grandparents, Guardians /close relatives) or have children at Sand Hutton or Foston schools and would like to join the Facebook page the link is.... <https://www.facebook.com/groups/HartonBenefice>

I am keen to network with as many people as possible who have key roles within the Benefice to find out more about their villages in terms of numbers of children, age groups etc. so I can target publicity for events and make sure all children and families are included, and that we are catering for everyone. Although I have already made contact with the schools based within the Benefice and some of the Churchwardens, I am aware I still need to meet more people and collect ideas. **Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any ideas you would like to contribute!**

We are also hoping to start a youth group in the later in the year which will be aimed at secondary school aged children, hopefully

with some older children (e.g. 16 to 18 year olds) acting as supporters/volunteers.

I am very enthusiastic about this but am aware I will again need to rely upon an army of volunteers!

If you have a few hours to spare and are interested in volunteering for any of the activities we are running please get in touch with me. You will find it a very rewarding experience and you will be well supported. We will provide DBS checks where appropriate.

I have really enjoyed taking on this role and developing what we can provide for our young people within the Benefice. I would like to extend a huge 'Thank you' to all the volunteers and supporters who have helped me get established. Everyone has been so positive about developing activities for Children and Young people.

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