

**'The Circular'**

**Copy deadline for the next edition October 18<sup>th</sup> 2020**

**This will cover: November December 2020 January 2021**

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

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**Use this QR code to link directly to the Benefice website where you can read The Circular in full colour**



**The Benefice of Harton**

# The Circular



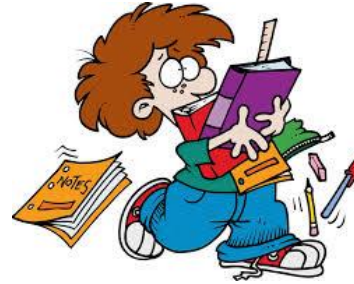
## Autumn Edition 2020

*News and views in our benefice and communities  
A special edition reflecting the circumstances of  
The Corona Virus Covid 19 Pandemic*

## August September October

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

## **NEWS FROM OUR SCHOOLS.....**



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

With one more week to go of the strangest year of my teaching career I just wanted to extend my thanks to staff and parents across our federation. Their support during these strange times has been amazing.

Their dedication to do the best for our children has been second to none.

We recognise that this has been an extremely challenging time for everyone and that all have faced varying personal and work challenges. I cannot thank all of them enough for their positivity and can do attitude throughout it all. Whilst we have a large number of our children already back in school we cannot wait to welcome all of our Foston and Terrington Federation family as they return to school in September.

Despite restrictions of the Covid situation all children whether at home or in school loved taking part in our sports day. A huge well done to our PE coordinator Miss Cooke for organising this and making it such a fun event.

We are lucky to have had all of our year 6 children in school to give them a good send off as they leave us to embark on their secondary education. We wish them all so much success. They have worked so hard throughout their primary years and I know they will flourish in whatever they do.

We are also excited to be welcoming another school into our flourishing collaboration. Stillington Primary School will join us from September 2020 and we look forward to working with the new team at the school.

Please get in contact if you require a nursery place for the next academic year as we have very limited spaces available due to the growing popularity of our setting. We also have available places at our federated school Terrington.

**Please contact us at**  
**[headteacher@foston.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@foston.n-yorks.sch.uk)**  
**for further information.**

concept of seeing and speaking to a friendly face on a laptop was a little too much! The staff team continued to work throughout to exacting standards of infection control procedures, and our recent Covid tests have been negative which we are really proud of. We have remained Covid free thus far. The period has caused much anxiety and stress with many sleepless nights along the way, for the safeguarding responsibilities have been enormous.

After reviewing the situation with the national easing of restrictions we were able to re-open the care home for limited visits for residents' families again from the 6<sup>th</sup> July 2020, some 16 weeks after the initial lock down.

Although the visiting is still restricted it has meant that families have been able to see and spend time with loved ones again – something which we all appreciate. It is also a time to pause and reflect on the unprecedented demands brought during the past 16 weeks.

The visits are still on a restricted basis and take place either in the converted summerhouse in the garden or in a dedicated room in the building. Since visiting started it is evident that residents are much happier and look forward to their relatives visiting again. For the moment, this is the new “norm”, and no one knows yet how long it will continue.

For us at the care home, as we continue to manage the residents' daily living throughout this pandemic, we have seen first-hand how the support and good wishes from the wider community actually makes a positive difference and enhances what we do. On the plus side Covid 19 has shown that true community spirit exists, it is strong and will always prevail throughout times of crisis.

***A sincere thank you for your support from Debra, Keith and all staff at Prospect House.***

## **WHITWELL**

Our annual village get together is scheduled for Sunday September 13<sup>th</sup> but please check the notice board in Whitwell for any changes.

During these COVID times, If anyone wishes to go into the church, please contact  
Janie Bell 01653618270 or Anthea Mitchell 01653618514

## **From the Vicarage**

***Dear friends***

***Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee O Lord***

Just a few weeks ago we began to reopen some of our churches for private prayer, and now we've started Sunday worship in some of them as well. It has been a long wait for us all, so thank you for all your patience and understanding.

*Holman Hunt, 'The Light of the world'*

Our online Zoom services at 10am on a Sunday morning have been so popular, that our tentative and appropriate approach to using our churches again has started in August with a 5pm Evensong service using the Book of Common Prayer. This once common mainstay of church life has fallen out of fashion over the past few years – but it seemed an appropriate starting point in our journey from darkness back to light.

One of the prayers that we say (a Collect) is about illuminating the pathway ahead:

***Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord; and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.***

I often use the symbol of the light of Christ at our Baptism ceremonies. The candle we give the candidates is to remind them that the light of Christ can often illuminate the pathway ahead when times seem dark and worrying. When we walk into a dark room, we turn on the light – not to stare at the light bulb, but so we can see what it shows us in the room, creating a safe passage.

And so it is with the prayer above – inviting Christ to lighten our darkness – that we hope we can see a way ahead more clearly. That is why it seemed very appropriate to start our venture into the re-opening of our churches for Public Worship with a service on which the foundation blocks of church life were built and which includes such a prayer.

Whether you can join us on Zoom in the morning or wish for a more reflective afternoon service then you are very welcome.

At the end of the day, my prayer will always be that Christ will lighten our darkness – so that we can lighten the darkness of others.

***Yours in Christ***



***Revd Chris Wingfield***

## Services for the Benefice of Harton

A limited number of services are to be held in the Benefice in August as we work our way towards fully reopening our churches with a normal schedule of services, until then the following will apply.

### August 2022

<b>Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> August</b>	<b>Trinity 8</b>
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5.00 pm	BCP Evensong	Bossall
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<b>Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> August</b>	<b>Trinity 9</b>
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5.00 pm	BCP Evensong	Sand Hutton
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<b>Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> August</b>	<b>Trinity 10</b>
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5.00 pm	BCP Evensong	Crambe
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<b>Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> August</b>	<b>Trinity 11</b>
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5.00 pm	BCP Evensong	Foston
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<b>Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> August</b>	<b>Trinity 12</b>
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5.00 pm	BCP Evensong	Gate Helmsley
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I've chosen these venues as they are the churches we had down for Sunday Worship that day in the 2020 Service Schedule.

A simple service booklet will be provided for you to take home with you for use again at all subsequent services. If you would prefer to print your own, a print version will be available on the website, alternatively please send an email to [churchmouse@crambehouse.co.uk](mailto:churchmouse@crambehouse.co.uk) and a home print version will be sent to you via email.

All precautions will be taken to ensure your safety but ultimately it is up to the individual to abide by the guidance given both by the Government and the church you are visiting. Further advice will be on the website in due course.

During the transition period you will be able to access information about church services and Zoom services through the benefice website:

[www.sandhuttongroup.org.uk](http://www.sandhuttongroup.org.uk).

Every effort will be made to inform those without access to the internet as the situation develops

Everyone was initially being overwhelmed nationally with the increased demand for such essentials.

We had to quickly develop alternative suppliers, which often involved extended trips by managers to Hull and Leeds, and other exotic locations to collect items to ensure our continuous supply needs were met. It was at this crucial initial stage that we received support from the wider residents and community of Gate Helmsley and the church, who rallied and regularly brought items of shopping and other essentials to the care home – leaving them at a social distanced drop off point! This help was most welcome and certainly eased the pressures around this time.

All sorts of innovative lines began – there were regular parcel drops, a friend of the care home living in a nearby village began making items of PPE which included face masks and scrubs for staff to use. These were of a very high standard, and her skills were soon recognised within the wider area and she started supplying items of PPE to York and Scarborough Hospital as well.

We sourced visors from an aeronautical company, and a relative's daughter, who is a teacher, had pupils make visors as well for the staff to use. Amazing quality and workmanship.

Rachael Harrison's superb cakes were eagerly looked forward to by the residents as well as the excellent daily quiz prepared by Mike, and there were many other supportive and welcome items donated by many local residents from Gate Helmsley and the immediate area. Mike's quizzes have proved so popular that he has agreed to continue them for the foreseeable future.



VE Day tea party and Pauline Harrison's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday

One highlight was our VE Day party, which we held in the front garden, with relatives and friends from the village being invited. It was strange to see people social distancing, yet joining in with the songs at the same time. It was strongly supported and provided a much welcomed mid-lockdown boost.

We also set up a dedicated Skype facility which enabled calls to be made by relatives to residents directly at the home – it is fair to say that such technology proved a source of enjoyment for some, for others however, the



## *Our Journey so far living with Covid 19*

### *Notes from Prospect House Care Home from Debra and Keith Boughen*



As with everyone we were first alerted to the dangers and possible impact of Covid 19 around late December 2019, whilst of initial concern at that stage no one really appreciated just how serious the pandemic would become.

At Prospect House we have 12 residents, all elderly and 15 care staff. The home is a very close-knit micro community within the wider community of Gate Helmsley. Our residents enjoy daily excursions with staff walking around the village, and often sit in the church grounds at St Mary's which is next door to the home.

The seriousness associated with the pandemic soon became apparent to all, and avoiding the potential harm it could bring to all at Prospect House became our priority. We had to address how best we could mitigate to prevent the virus spreading to our residents and staff at the care home.

As the daily news feeds and government briefings became gloomier, showing the nation was in real danger of being consumed by the pandemic, we took the decision on the 12<sup>th</sup> March 2020 to close the care home for visiting and all but essential staff. This decision was difficult but essential in order for the staff team to introduce enhanced infection control measures within the building, to provide additional safeguards for our vulnerable elderly residents.

Relatives were informed of the measures, and from the beginning of the "lock down" were fully supportive of the need, despite the obvious issues around not being able to visit their loved ones during a very difficult time. The restrictions were wide ranging with staff and essential medical visits being the only persons entering the care home.

Our lock down phase had begun, a full 10 days ahead of the government national phase, but as far as we were concerned nothing took priority over maintaining the good health of our residents and our wonderful dedicated staff, so we decided to move ahead in order to minimise risk.

We soon realised that life was going to be far more challenging for us at the care home from this point onwards, as we encountered difficulties with our normal suppliers of PPE, provisions, and other normal deliveries.



## Sunday mornings at 10.00 am

In the meantime, throughout August, Chris our Vicar will continue to hold a short act of worship on a Sunday morning via an App called Zoom. Should you have access to the internet and would like to join one of these services please let Chris know via email at: [chris.wingfield@btinternet.com](mailto:chris.wingfield@btinternet.com) or Tel: 01904 468418

**For those new to Zoom you will first have to download the free App from the app store on your iPad, phone or computer.**

The App symbol is a white camera on a blue background. Once you have downloaded it, Chris will send you via email an invitation to join the 'meeting', together with a meeting ID and a password.

It is easy to use; just follow the steps as they appear. Chris will guide you through any technical difficulties you may have once you have joined the 'meeting'.

On Wednesday mornings at 10am you are warmly invited to join us for '**Conversation at 10**', also by Zoom. Relax at home with a cup of tea/coffee and a biscuit as we enjoy discussing a range of topics. As for Sunday morning worship, contact Chris to receive an email invitation.

Details are in the **Calendar** section of the Benefice website.



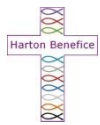
Chris has also set up a WhatsApp group chat. If you have a smart phone and would like to join this group please contact Chris via his email or phone. You will have to download the WhatsApp app from the Apps store on your phone if you haven't already got it.



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

3 <sup>rd</sup> May	Muriel Brown	Gate Helmsley
20 <sup>th</sup> June	Steve Reid	Buttercrambe
21 <sup>st</sup> June	Sheila Wicks	Bossall
	Elsie King	Foston

**Benefice PCC.....**



Because of the Covid-19 outbreak there have been no recent meetings of the Benefice PCC. Regular meetings will be resumed as soon as conditions permit.

**Delyth Harran**



**From Rachael Harrison**  
**Benefice Children and Youth Worker**  
**Children and Families update**



It has been great to catch up with lots of families during lock-down. In our last report we had just completed a Messy Zoom Easter. We followed this up with a Messy Quiz at the beginning of May, which was great fun. Well done to Benjamin and Theo for coming 1<sup>st</sup>!

We then undertook the ambitious project of taking Messy Church to all our families' by dropping off a craft/activity bag with each family in the Benefice, to celebrate the festival of Pentecost. Hopefully this benefitted families who weren't able to join in with the Zoom activities. We delivered 126 bags in total and I have now learned in more detail where the families are living in the 14 villages that make up our Benefice!

**Many thanks to all the helpers who volunteered to take the bags around the villages.**



**126 bags loaded and ready to go!**

Following the completion of the internal repairs to the plaster work on the walls and ceiling. We look forward to the redecoration to be commenced at the end of September. It is also good to see that many of our headstones have been reset. Thank you to those who have kept the churchyard in order as others of us are unable to help due to obvious reasons.

We are indebted to Revd Chris for bringing us together for our 10am Sunday worship and Wednesday Conversations on Zoom, to which all are invited by asking to join. Thank you to both Chris and Ruth who co-hosts.

It is so good to share this special time with so many. We also look forward, as restrictions allow, to begin to use our Church buildings again, albeit in a small slow way. St Mary's, Sand Hutton will host its first service on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> August with a service of BCP Evensong at 5.0 pm

Here in Claxton we have enjoyed occasional 'Afternoon Front Garden Teas' when we have enjoyed music, singing, and fun by young and not so young! Chatting together up and down the street has been good for getting to know those who we perhaps would not normally see. 1<sup>st</sup> August being Yorkshire Day will be our next get together weather permitting!

**Wednesday 9.00 am on the Village green**  
**is the place to be**  
**for a 30 minute exercise session with Fiona!**  
**All ages and abilities are welcomed!**

During the last week of July, we are having our Strawberry Tea fund raising event with a difference for St. Mary's church. Each home in Sand Hutton and Claxton will receive a 'token tea with strawberries'.

**This will be followed on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> August**  
**with a plant sale, outside Holderness House, Claxton.**  
**courtesy of Paul and Louise Coulter (a big thank you!)**  
**Also a big thank you to the band of willing helpers**  
**who have enabled this event to take place.**

**In early September we are hoping to have a Professional Theatre Production on**  
**Claxton village green, so listen out for further information**

**From Adrian and Jezz.....**

I had hoped to have a date for our welcome back afternoon tea. Jezz and I will hold it at either Sand Hutton church or Foston (as there is a kitchen area now). As soon as it is safe and we are allowed to do it, the afternoon tea will happen, and we shall spread the word around. Take care everyone!

**Adrian**

mornings. Long may it continue. To find instructions on how to attend the Zoom sessions, see the Zoom page at the beginning of this Circular.

Restrictions on the use of church buildings have been lifted to some extent since 5<sup>th</sup> July. It is now possible to go into churches for private prayer. As a result:

**St Mary's Church will be open for individual private prayer from 19<sup>th</sup> July for two half days a week. Opening times will be:**

- **Monday morning 9.00 am to 1.00 pm**
- **Thursday afternoon 2.00 pm to 6.00 pm**

Social distancing and hand sanitising advice will still apply. Instructions on how to proceed will be displayed in the church porch.

Still better times are on the horizon and congregational services will start again during August in the Harton Benefice. St Mary's will host its first on Sunday August 30<sup>th</sup> with BCP Evensong at 5.0pm. Check the benefice website for details over the coming weeks.

One sad event has taken place in the churchyard recently. The ashes of Mrs Muriel Brown were laid to rest there on 14<sup>th</sup> July. Muriel grew up in Gate Helmsley and attended the school here. She spent a large part of her adult life here too, most recently living at Heathlands, The Lane. She left the village in 1988 to live in Dunnington. We mourn the loss of this kind and friendly lady, and send condolences to all her family in their sadness.

### **SAND HUTTON and CLAXTON**

How we all look forward to the day we can spend time with each other without the restrictions that keep us apart!??

But how grateful we are for all the love, care and concern many have expressed. Many of us have been, and still are, on the receiving end of kindness shown during these past few months. THANK YOU!

Although we all struggle at times, some of us feel that we live in a 'Rural Bubble' and therefore perhaps don't appreciate what so many people are going through during this strange time.

**As many of you know,  
St Mary's Church is now open to you all  
for private prayer  
on Wednesday's and Sunday's  
between 11am and 6pm**

We have also managed to keep our pre-school 'Play & Pray' going during lock-down by having a fortnightly, (where possible), get together on a Monday morning. I am very grateful to those families who have supported these activities during the lock-down period. It would be lovely to think we could soon start to think about meeting up in Sand Hutton church again!

More recently I have started a monthly Children and Families Newsletter, with the first edition going out in mid-July. Again we are trying to deliver as many as these as we can directly to families doors. Please do let me know if you haven't received a copy and would like one!

Over the Summer we are working alongside the Diocese of York providing a Summer Club over a period of 5 weeks, based on the theme of 'Hope'. Again, this will take the form of craft bags; and we are hoping it will be something we can build on year on year.

**Please let me know if you would like more information on any of these events; would like to be on the mailing list, or to join the Harton Benefice FB page.**

[rachaelyoutharton@gmail.com](mailto:rachaelyoutharton@gmail.com) [www.facebook.com/groups/hartonbenefice](http://www.facebook.com/groups/hartonbenefice)  
[www.sandhuttongroup.org.uk](http://www.sandhuttongroup.org.uk)

### **WHATS NEXT!?**.....**Messy Sports**

You are warmly invited to.....Messy Sports

'It's the taking part  
that matters!'

**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> August 2020**  
**3.00-5.00pm**  
**Sand Hutton School Field**

***Suitable for children 4 upwards.  
(Sorry, no unaccompanied children)***

All are welcome, however we need to know in advance if you are planning to attend for the purpose of managing numbers.

**Please confirm your attendance by contacting Rachael on 07847 329 015**



It'll be lots of fun - & it's free!

Come and join us as we gallop, race, bounce & jump through Jesus's message & check we are fit enough for his race of life! For all the family to enjoy together. We will have lots of fun & share some juice & cakes!

## *Musings from the Churchmouse.....*

We are still unable to produce a printed version of The Circular as printing doesn't lend itself to social distancing among other government edicts!

It is hoped that those of you who are reading this online may be able to share with others who do not have internet access, perhaps by printing off bits of it that might be relevant to a friend or neighbour, or indeed printing a few complete copies to distribute to people nearby. There is a shortened version of The Circular for home printing (see printable version on the website).

Alternatively, if you or anyone you know would like to receive the full read only (as opposed to home print) version via email, please send an email to [churchmouse@crambouse.co.uk](mailto:churchmouse@crambouse.co.uk) and I will send a copy directly to you or them.

We hope that you enjoy reading how our individual parishes have coped during this difficult and confusing time. Inevitably over the last three months there has been little to report as we have all huddled down in our individual burrows keeping safe and doing not a lot in the outside world!

I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of all our communities to thank all those who have been so kind and helpful by their actions, and proved what wonderful communities we live in.

As lockdown eases so we will all be able to emerge and take charge of our lives again meeting up with the families and friends who we have missed so much.

With luck and a fair wind we may be able to print a full edition of the next Circular in November, until then.....

*The printing team send their very best wishes.*

*Stay safe, Stay well, Stay happy and enjoy the summer!*



as one of the bell ropes snapped!! It made ringing the bell quite a challenge. (Later, we found out this was due to it being damaged at some time in the past), but with true VE day spirit we managed to improvise, and all was well.

At the end of June a funeral service was conducted by Chris for Elsie King. Elsie had lived in Thornton le Clay for many years. Latterly she had been in a care home in Malton. Sadly, only a small group of family members were allowed to attend due to the current Coronavirus restrictions.

We are hopeful that soon we can all be back together, enjoying each other's company and support. Until then love and care to all of you, from all of us here in Foston.

## **GATE HELMSLEY**

Life has moved on fairly quietly in Gate Helmsley. The current restrictions to our lives have been ameliorated by some reasonably good weather. Our gardens are looking good, having benefitted from the extra free time we've had to tend them. This is only one of the benefits of the enforced slower pace of life.

We have been blessed with some effective support networks: a village Facebook page, a regular village quiz, and people supporting neighbours with shopping. We are fortunate to have the BATA shop and petrol station, and the Balloon Tree Farm Shop at the other end of the village.

Meetings of the village hall library are in abeyance for now, but it is still possible to borrow books, although these may not be returned to the shelves until further notice. For details of how to borrow books, please telephone Christine Bickerdike on 01759 371687.

As you will all know, St Mary's Church has been closed since the start of the lockdown on 23<sup>rd</sup> March, with no services held in the building. However, since Palm Sunday on 5<sup>th</sup> April, we have been able to gather together virtually for a Zoom morning service every Sunday and for a "Conversation at 10" each Wednesday. (See Benefice Website)

[www.sandhuttongroup.org.uk](http://www.sandhuttongroup.org.uk).

These services have been a great source of hope, support and inspiration at this difficult time. We are very grateful to Rector Chris for organising and leading these sessions, and to Ruth Wells for providing technical support. It has been amazing to find that up to 80 people have attended on Sunday



While the church has remained closed we have had access (if one has internet connection!!) to Chris' Zoom services on a Sunday. It has been good to share these services with other members of the churches around the Benefice. We are looking forward to hosting our first real church service in St Michaels with Evensong on Sunday August 16<sup>th</sup>.

Much that is good has come out of our lockdown experiences despite the difficulties and frustrations it has posed, and it is this that we need to concentrate on as we journey forward to a hopefully Covid free future.

### **FLAXTON**

Just before Covid 19 lockdown way back in March, work on a new heating system in church was completed. Our next project, a long awaited new lighting system, should have followed but had to be put on hold due to church closure. The electricians are ready to start just as soon as we are able to open the church.

Members of the PCC are keeping in contact and working on a plan to clean and air the church and to ensure the required health and safety checks have been put in place before we can safely open the church to contractors and visitors.

The PCC members are well aware of the hard work and dedication of the churchyard volunteers who have, at a safe distance since March, continued to cut the grass and keep the churchyard looking its usual best. This is very much appreciated and we send a huge thank you to you all. Families and friends visiting graves will have had peace of mind knowing that people continue to care during these unprecedented times.

PCC members send their best wishes to everyone. We look forward to welcoming everyone back at St Lawrence Church just as soon as we are safely able to do so.

### **FOSTON**

As the summer moves on our beautiful church yard here at All Saints Foston, just looks prettier every day. This is due to our very dedicated Gardener's Richard and Sophie. We really appreciate all their hard work.

The VE day celebrations were commemorated by two of us ringing the church bells. It was a lovely moment hearing the bells ring. However it wasn't without drama,

## **News, views and information from around the parishes.....**

### **BOSSALL**



The funeral for Sheila Wicks was held in Bossall Church on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July

**Edward, Susan and Richard** would like to thank everyone who has sent us cards and the many messages so very much for their kindness; it has been a great comfort to us at this sad time. We all have happy memories of living in Bossall for nearly 40 years.

### **BUTTERCRAMBE**

We have been so fortunate living in a small friendly village surrounded by glorious countryside. Certainly earlier on when the roads were quiet, the residents have been enjoying getting out and about, walking up through the village. There was always someone in their garden to have a conversation with. Master Metcalfe at Mill House was out on the road every day learning to ride his bike. The community here has really come together. Sally Dykes has been in charge of the weekly supermarket order which has been very welcome to many, particularly to those who live on their own and those who are shielding. Allan Markwell has done the newspaper run on a Sat morning. There has been many a telephone call to neighbours with offers of help. I gather two households meet at the end of their respective gardens for a G and T every evening, no names mentioned! I am sure there has been lots of similar get togethers.

Joe and Clare Horsley arranged a VE Day celebration at the entrance to the Church. Ann Archer's memorial bench was the bar. I hope she would have approved and about 30 people gathered during the afternoon.

The churchyard is looking tidy and the church has had a good clean, ready to be opened, hopefully in the not too distant future.



*George with Muddler on VE Day*

Some sad news, Steve Reid a Buttercrambe resident for 20 years died suddenly at home on 20th June. We are planning to hold a memorial service for him at Buttercrambe Church in due course. The following announcement was made by York Minster where he worked until recently. 'We announce with sadness the sudden death of Stephen Reid, a popular and committed Host who loved welcoming people to the Minster. Before joining the Host team in 2014, he worked for ten years as a member of the Minster Police, who also remember him fondly. Steve's first love was music and he was an accomplished musician, composing and even publishing songs that he sang with his guitar. He was a veteran of the US Military and a survivor of the Vietnam War. In recent years he lived with a number of serious health conditions and his colleagues admired his fortitude and courage in the face of illness.

Steve will be hugely missed by all his colleagues. He was an amazing friend, colleague and musician. He loved to share a story, a joke and most of all a bag of sweets! His joy was infectious and he made the Minster a warmer place to visit and work. He was an authentic, one-of-a-kind treasure, just like his trademark leather jacket. We were his extended Minster family and he was ours. We will never forget his kindness, warmth and his smooth voice saying "see ya buddy".

'Our thoughts are with his wife Liz and with his family back in the United States.

## CRAMBE

The Big news is, of course, Covid 19 and its effects on us all. Whilst we are tired of the restrictions, there are also benefits. Two spring to mind. Firstly an enhanced sense of community and secondly the welcome sound of children about the village. It is good to hear their voices and see them around the village as they play in the great outdoors.

**Mark ran a wildlife competition for the children**, the challenge being to build a 'Bug Hotel' for insects. The children embraced it and were all winners in the end!



Alex with 'Bugingham' Palace



Sonny's Bug Hotel

**We also had a visit from Ethan Somboon aged 8** Who, inspired by now Sir Captain Tom, with his father rode round all our villages on his bike to raise funds for NHS charities. His goal was £999, a special number in Thailand, and he rode 100 miles.



Ethan riding out



In normal times we see little of each other as we go about our daily lives, as generally we are coming and going in our cars. During lockdown people have been out walking more, taking their daily exercise and the Clap for Carers brought us all out of our homes on a Thursday evening, giving us an opportunity to chat whilst observing the obligatory social distancing.

Dorothy bell ringing!

The high spot was VE day on May 8<sup>th</sup> which was a gloriously sunny day. We decorated the village with bunting and flags and gathered in the street to celebrate with a tea cum drinks party which gave our spirits a much needed boost.

A weekly newsletter has enabled us to keep abreast of events and provided us with news, views and information about local services and shops. The much loved moments of Lockdown have been the weekly word game run by Andy and Julie, Andy's fish and chip run, and Carol and Ricky's home cooked takeaway nights. We have been treated to delicious pizzas, venison burgers and Thai beef with noodles all beautifully presented. As a result they have raised generous sums both for St Michael's Church and a York Children's Bereavement Charity. Each week, a volunteer from the village has done errands for those who were shielding thereby making their lives that much easier. Little by little as the lockdown rules have eased we are getting back to some semblance of normality. Friendships have been strengthened and new ones made in this truly wonderful little community.



Crambe celebrates VE Day