

**The Benefice of Harton**

# **The Circular**



**Autumn Edition 2021**

**August September October**

*News and views in our benefice and communities*

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

*The colour cover of this edition of The Circular  
was sponsored by Sister Margaret Ann CSPH*

*Dear Friends,*

**“Praying for a new normal 2020” – updated to a Transformed Normal for 2021!**

I sit here, just looking at my article for The Circular this time last year and reflecting how my thoughts have changed or been redefined over the year.



***Covid-19: This is a worrying and fearful time for many of us.*** - I think for many it still is, but rather than being fear tinged with hope, I sense it's more hope tinged with fear.

***I, like many others, miss going to the Church for a multitude of reasons. But I understand why I can't.*** Now we can – but still with an air of prudence and caution.

***I, like many others, miss seeing my family; my granddaughter. But I understand why I can't.*** Now I can, but am aware that things could change.

***I, like many others, miss going out to see friends, out for a meal, out for a drink, out to the cinema or theatre. But I understand why I can't.*** Now I can, but again with sensitivity towards others.

***I know it will all change – but for the time being, I understand why I can't do the things I want to.*** Things have changed – but I'm aware some things could change back again!

I went on to talk about how the disciples of Jesus were in their own 'Lockdown' in the Upper Room after Jesus has died and rose again. Fear and self-isolation kept them secluded from their own normal way of life. But now I can talk about how they were then released from their confinement with the gift of the Holy Spirit – giving them that cautious confidence that is necessary to re-engage with the world again.

After Jesus had said to each of them 'Peace be with you' it released in them a confidence that the Peace of Jesus would be with them always as they ventured forth. Released and inspired, each of those locked in that upper room eventually came out transformed.

Liberated, they spoke to people, strangers as well as friends, in ways that could be understood. They showed kindness, compassion, generosity and healing. They discovered a new 'normal' way of being. A more Jesus-centred, 'selfless' way, rather than their world's 'selfish' way.

I do hope that the fear and angst we experienced during the past year will gradually dissipate and be tempered with a respectful confidence to reconnect with each other in Church, Community, family and the wider

environs. And prayerfully, our reconnection will be in a much more selfless, generous and humble way than before. By going out (of our way) we have a kinder and more considerate attitude to others; engaging with those who care for the vulnerable; serving lives by our acts of generosity and selflessness.

Then, prayerfully, we can be cautiously confident that our worry will be turned to rejoicing and our fear into selfless celebrating!

And, like the disciples, by keeping the Peace of Jesus in our hearts and the Spirit driven awareness of others in our actions, we become agents of a new transformed normal for 2021!

May God bless you all.

***Yours in Christ***

***Revd Chris Wingfield***

## **Services for the Benefice of Harton**

*Please note all services may be subject to change depending on Covid 19 regulations prevailing at the time*

### **August 2021**

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

10.00  
5.00

Holy Communion  
Evensong

Crambe  
Howsham

#### ***Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> August***

9.00  
10.00

Holy Communion  
Zoom

Upper Helmsley

#### ***Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> August***

10.00  
5.00

Holy Communion  
Evensong

Buttercrambe  
Gate Helmsley

#### ***Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> August***

10.00

Holy Communion

Whitwell

### ***Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> August***

10.00	Holy Communion	Flaxton
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## **September 2021**

*From September 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday morning Holy Communion in church will resume taking the place of 'Conversation at 10' on Zoom. Location of the service will be announced later.*

### ***Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> September***

10.00	Holy Communion	Sand Hutton
	<i>'Welcome back!' celebration service</i>	

### ***Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> September***

9.00	Holy Communion	Crambe
10.00	Zoom	

### ***Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> September***

10.00	Holy Communion	Bossall
5.00	Evensong	Howsham

### ***Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> September***

9.00	Holy Communion	Flaxton
10.00	All Age Worship	Sand Hutton Village Hall

## **October 2021**

### ***Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> October***

10.00	Holy Communion	Foston
5.00	Evensong	Gate Helmsley

***Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> October***

9.00	Holy Communion	Sand Hutton
10.00	Zoom	

***Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> October***

10.00	Holy Communion	Whitwell
5.00	Evensong	Crambe

***Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> October***

9.00	Holy Communion	Gate Helmsley
10.00	Zoom	

***Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> October***

10.00	Holy Communion	Buttercrambe
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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'.

**'Conversation at 10' will take a break during August and will return on Friday mornings from 3<sup>rd</sup> September – on 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.**

## WhatsApp



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.



### **Congratulations to those who have recently married**

July 3<sup>rd</sup>

Christopher Hall and Katie Sharp

Howsham



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

July 11<sup>th</sup>

Penelope Jackson-Young

Sand Hutton

July 16<sup>th</sup>

Jasper Rickleton

Sand Hutton



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

June 24<sup>th</sup>

Anne Podmore

Gate Helmsley



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

### **MESSY ALLOTMENT OPEN DAY**

We were blessed with fantastic weather for our allotment open day on 18<sup>th</sup> July, at St Peter's Church Upper Helmsley. A small germ of an idea back in November, followed by a lot of hard work, a faculty application and many generous contributions have led us to be able to finally declare ourselves 'OPEN' for business!

Messy Allotment is a great example of something really positive coming about as a result of the Covid restrictions. As we have been unable to run our usual Messy Church sessions in the village halls, the allotment has allowed families to meet up together outside and engage with God's Creation whilst remaining socially distanced. To date we have had thirty five children and young people joining in with gardening activities. We have planted potatoes, beans, peas, carrots, lettuce, onions, leeks, tomatoes, cucumbers, aubergines, pumpkins, courgettes, squashes, sweetcorn....the list goes on.

We were delighted that Archdeacon Sam Rushton was able to officially open our event. The children enjoyed stone painting, making a bug church, creating a herb bed, harvesting potatoes and enjoying the surroundings! The grown-ups enjoyed tea, cake and a chinwag in the sunshine! So many people have contributed to the success of this project, however I would like to say particular thanks to Mari and Phil Richards, Alan Richmond, Michael Harrison, Alan and Christine Clarke, and Rachel and Graham Baker.

We have a small stall in the churchyard entrance and are selling our produce. Why not call in and have a browse next time you are passing?



*Emma, Esther, Catherine, Mieszko, Sam, Ellie and Fraser and others worked hard helping Phil Richards to build this 'Bug Church'*

*To you all a big thank you!*





*Pippa, Alma and India doing a potato reveal*



*Log slice prayer circle with moss cross*



*Catherine, Esther, Ellie and Alfie, tasting the first of the strawberries.*



*Edward and Genevieve Planting cucumbers*



*Chris assisting Archdeacon Sam to cut the ribbon officially opening our Messy Allotment*



*Jenny and Alice*



*Pippa and Sophie demonstrating that it's not just veg we are growing!*





## **Cabbages in the churchyard – how a family-friendly lockdown project took off**

**Upper Helmsley is a tiny village of only a handful of households, 8 miles northeast of York. Hidden behind mature trees just north of the village, St Peter’s church would be easily missed, if it were not for the cheerful roadside signs pointing to the ‘churchyard allotment’ and the vegetables for sale.**

Where a year ago there was an uncared-for corner of the churchyard, now there are eight raised vegetable beds, brimming with produce. Children & Family worker Rachael Harrison explains: “When we were forced to close the churches in the Benefice due to COVID19, we started thinking about ways in which we could bring families together outdoors. A plan was hatched to start an allotment club for youngsters, as a Covid-safe alternative for Messy Church in the benefice. We thought the produce could be distributed to older or housebound residents in the community, or perhaps sold at the roadside.”

The project caught the imagination of the local community. Two farmers provided fertile soil, friendly villagers brought spare gardening tools, the vicar donated an old greenhouse, local gardeners shared plants and good advice, and a churchwarden salvaged wood to create the vegetable beds and produce stall. Even the Fire Brigade volunteered their help, filling the water storage tank behind the church (St Peter’s isn’t connected to the mains). “The response from the local community has been incredible”, say churchwardens Phil and Mari Richards, “everyone has been so positive and helpful!”

Throughout the churchyard allotment verses from ‘All Things Bright and Beautiful’ are displayed on colourful A4 posters. A simple log seating area surrounds a wooden cross. Meetings start with a prayer: “Dear Lord, bless this sacred place, our precious church allotment space. Show us your care from up above, help us to work with united love.” The work at St Peter’s churchyard has been blessed: the vegetable beds are overflowing with produce, and since the start of the project three months ago, no fewer than 21 families and over 30 young people aged 1 year to 14 years have visited and taken part – tilling, planting, weeding, and finally, harvesting!

Recently, the allotment team has sought advice on how to make other areas of the churchyard more wildlife friendly. Some areas are now left uncut, to encourage wildflowers. The next project is to build a 'bug hotel'. The church building itself is not forgotten – planned improvements to the facilities will make the building more accessible and user-friendly. The allotment project has given the church a great reputation - no doubt the local community will respond positively to fundraising initiatives.

### ***'Children of Light' Art competition and display***



The weekend of the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> June saw Flaxton village hall hosting the 135 exhibits that had been created by our children for the 'Children of Light' Art competition. This was launched by the Diocese of York earlier this year, as part of their year-long Festival of Light celebrations; a festival which aims to nurture and celebrate the contribution that children and young adults make to the Church. The theme of the competition was 'Being a light in dark times'.

As we would expect from the children and young adults in our Benefice and schools, this theme was approached with great creativity and gusto! We were delighted that Foston, Terrington Primary, Stillington and Sand Hutton were all able to take part, along with lots of other young people from the Benefice villages.

A huge thank you must go to our very own Sister Margaret Ann who kindly judged the competition. The artwork was of a very high standard and the winning entries together with all of the artwork completed was displayed in Flaxton village hall.

***Many thanks to all who were able to support this great event.***



*Esther, Malton Secondary school*



*Esther's stunning winning entry*



Bella, Welburn Primary School

Beau's entry,  
Sand Hutton Primary School



Nina, Terrington School



Mabel, Pre-School

Their prizewinning pieces of work were forwarded on to the Diocese to be judged at a further round and we were delighted to hear that Esther Edwards from Claxton won first prize in her category!! The judges' comments were as follows....

*'...We loved the way the perspective in this painting draws the viewer into the picture, where the young girl is leading us towards the dancing light...'*

**A HUGE WELL DONE TO ESTHER! IT WAS A WELL DESERVED WIN.**



# A Prayer initiative by The Benefice of Harton for the parishes of

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



## Weary, feeling alone, anxious.....

The Coronavirus and resultant changes have made life so much harder for many of us in many different ways.

However, we believe there is still hope and we'd like to support and encourage you in the best way we know how, through prayer.

Simply let us know what you would like us to pray for and we will include you in our prayers.

### What do we need from you?

What you would like us to pray for.

Whether you would like us to contact you.

### Visit our website:

[www.sandhuttongroup.org.uk/resources.php](http://www.sandhuttongroup.org.uk/resources.php)  
and complete a dedicated webform

The QR code below takes you there

Email your request to ,  
[pray14mehartonbenefice@gmail.com](mailto:pray14mehartonbenefice@gmail.com)

Post your request to:  
The Team Coordinator  
Pray One for Me



David Fletcher  
The Old School House  
Gate Helmsley  
York YO41 1NL

# AMEN



## Christmas Shoebox Appeal 2021

Once again we are hoping to collect filled shoeboxes for Christmas for children and adults living in poor communities in Romania. Each shoebox should contain something for the whole family Mum Dad and the children. The shoeboxes are given to those who are known personally by at least one Amen trustee. Each December Amen trustees and supporters travel to Romania at their own expense to be part of the delivery of these shoeboxes.



**If you would like to take part by filling a shoebox and for further details please contact your local coordinators who are**

**David Fletcher Tel: 07900 998 378**

**Rachael Harrison Tel: 07847 329 015**

**Mari Richards Tel: 07930 338 516**



### ***FORTHCOMING EVENTS AROUND THE BENEFICE.....***

*It is good to be able to publicise events again after the cancellation of so many over the last year. All the events listed will have been carefully planned to take account of whatever Covid 19 restrictions there may be in place at the time of the event. If you feel able, do come along, meet up with people you may not have seen for a long time, and lend your support to the good causes they support.....*

**If you have an event you would like to publicise within our Benefice community, please contact the Editor via email at**

**churchmouse@crambehouse.co.uk. Or Tel: 01653 619 368**

**She will be able to devise a suitable advert for you, or you can submit one of your own design.**

***The Churchmouse***







# KEEP KIDS SAFE



Are you interested  
in improving **ROAD SAFETY** for children  
**YES?**

Take the **IAM ROADSMART**  
**Advanced Driver Course**  
**IMPROVE CHILD SAFETY**

Normal cost £149, your initial outlay only £134.10, 8-12 WEEKLY training sessions in your own car with a qualified trainer over a 3 month period....

This course is extensive, enjoyable and lots of fun! **FULL REFUND on completion**

**Interested?**

**Need more details?**

Contact Sue Kemp at York Advanced Drivers

Tel: 07837 629 717 or Email: [driveby185@gmail.com](mailto:driveby185@gmail.com)

100 courses available due to this initiative by IAM York and N Yorks Police, Fire & Crimer Commissioner  
Drivers must drive regularly with child passengers, and hold full current GB driving licence

St Michael's Church, Crambe

## Summer Bank Holiday Monday



August 30th

2.0p.m. - 4.30p.m.



Call in at Bridge Cottage, Kirkham  
(right next to the bridge)

For £2.50 pp

have a cup of tea / coffee / soft drink and slice of cake !

Homemade cakes and bread also on sale

**Ideal destination for your walk or drive!**

All proceeds will go to St Michael's Church funds



St Mary's Church, Sand Hutton

**Welcome back!**

**Afternoon Tea**

**Saturday September 4th**

In the church between 3.0 pm and 5.0 pm



Everyone is welcome....spread the word!

Come and enjoy a relaxing cup of tea /coffee  
with delicious homemade cakes.

Sit and chat with friends you may not have seen for a long time

If anyone is willing to help at Afternoon Tea  
please could you phone Adrian Tel: 07870 591 142



**Welcome back!**

St Mary's Church  
Sand Hutton



Sunday September 5th at 10 a m

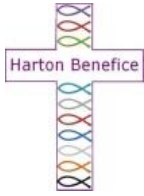
**HOLY COMMUNION**

All are welcome to come and join us to share in  
a special celebration service of

**Music and Worship  
with the Benefice Choir**

There will be refreshments following the service





## ***Benefice PCC.....***

There have been no recent meetings of the Benefice PCC.

A Diocesan consultation with Deaneries and Parishes is in progress. This is in response to Archbishop Stephen's initiative "Living Christ's Story" which urges the Church to simplify its mission and to live more like Jesus. We must also face up to the situation where the Church will have fewer ordained clergy in the future and will need to develop the ministry of lay people. This consultation gives us the opportunity to have a say in the way our parishes will be run in the future.

An open meeting is planned over the coming weeks to give all parishioners in the Benefice the opportunity to discuss these important matters.

***Delyth Harran***

***Vice-Chairman***

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



***from Sister Margaret Ann CSPH  
August 2021***

Dear Friends,

Hoping and trusting you are all well and managing to cope with the 'new normal' way of life that the lifting of restrictions has left us with. Please be assured that you are not forgotten and I continue to hold you all in my thoughts and prayers. The door of the cottage in Bossall is forever open and it would be good to see any one of you that cares to call.

Many years ago I met a lovely lady who on the surface had nothing. She lived alone in a little back to back house in Manchester. She had no family and in old age didn't have very good health so was housebound.

Despite that Mary was a joy to be around and was always delighted to see you if you called. She was always interested in you and everything you were getting up to. She never complained and always had a smile on her face. Hence Mary had lots of friends.

One day someone asked her what her secret to life was and her reply was 'Every night before I go to sleep I think of one thing to say thank you for'. What a gift for all of us today in these difficult and trying times!

Fires, floods, and pandemics rage all around us today but, all is well. I recall a verse of a well known hymn:

Breathe through the heats of our desires  
Thy coolness and thy balm  
Let sense be dumb, let flesh retire,  
Speak through the earthquake, wind and fire  
O still small voice of calm  
O still small voice of calm.

One thing Mary taught me was to be thankful for all that we have and content with who we are, where we are, and all that life throws at us. Thanksgiving and contentment breed peace. God's peace that passes man's understanding.

My prayer for you all this day and as we resume a more normal way of life is that God's Peace will fill your hearts and minds in all you think, say and do today and every day.

May the God of Peace be with you all and bless you and all whom you love.

*Margaret Ann  
+ CSPK*

***From Adrian.....***



Our garden has been a saviour in lockdown having a space. Although small, as a town house garden, every inch is packed and used with a few tomatoes, raspberries, a pear tree and apple tree, borders, lots of pots and a pond. The summer house is a valuable addition to the garden, a great place to sit, drink tea in, and relax in. We hope next year to open the garden up to the Benefice for an afternoon and welcome you here in Malton.

*Yours Adrian and Jezz*

## **BARTON LE WILLOWS**

Barton le Willows Village Hall reopened on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> May, in the afternoon, with a plant sale in aid of North Yorkshire Music Therapy - a very good cause. It was a well-attended event and everyone enjoyed the expert advice available for the wide range of plants as well as meeting up, albeit at a social distance, for tea and cakes in the sunny garden.

Currently "Be Amazing", a young people's theatre group, are rehearsing at the hall for a performance at the Eden Camp at the end of August. "Letters to Betty". It is a play based on wartime love letters and the ticket includes twilight access to the Eden Camp.

The Parent and Toddler Group has reopened on Friday mornings. For more details please contact Emma Clarke [emmalouiseclarke@outlook.com](mailto:emmalouiseclarke@outlook.com).

We are planning a "pop up pub" (the Barton Boozer!) on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> July, from 7pm to 10pm. Beer, Wine and soft drinks, bar snacks at reasonable prices. Hopefully the weather will be lovely and we can use the garden as well.....if there's a good take up and people enjoy the experience we are hoping to offer this on a regular basis !

Best wishes, Barton le Willows Village Hall Committee.

## **BOSSALL**

We have little of any real substance to report from Bossall, other than the following:

### **Collection of Old Photos and historical memorabilia - Mary Eleanor Holroyde nee Benson Aug 1878 – Dec 1978**

I received a call out of the blue back in April from a gentleman who lives in Keighley, asking if we would be interested in receiving a 'bundle' of photos and some family history about one his relatives, who used to live in Bossall, and is indeed buried in Bossall churchyard. I have that collection of photos here if anyone is interested, and I have attached a few just to give a flavour. There are some fascinating insights into the Buttercrambe and Bossall area dating back to the late 1800's early 1900's.

In brief, Mary Benson was born in Scrayingham in 1881, daughter to William and Mary, blacksmith and farmers of 18 acres in Buttercrambe. She later became a teacher and married Isaac Holroyde of Ripponden in 1912. He died in 1928 and she returned to live in Bossall, in one of the Church cottages. She was an active member of the congregation and became the church organist for many years. Moved to Ilkley to a retirement home where she celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. Shortly afterwards was knocked down by a revolving door, taken to hospital for operation on a broken hip, but sadly died. She had requested that she have her funeral at St Botolph's Bossall, where she now rests in peace in the churchyard.



*Mary Benson*



*St Botolph's Church, Bossall*



*Bossall Hall*

Obviously a lady who spent many years in our Parish, and gave much to the Church. She may just be remembered by some.

### **Repair Works**

Following our quinquennial survey at St Botolph's, it has become clear there are some reasonably urgent repairs required to halt damp penetration, and resulting insect infestations (woodworm and Death Watch Beetle). Some major works will be required; not least the internal workings of the organ have been infested as well as some of the timber floor platforms under the pews. New rainwater gutters and drainage is required. Quotes have now been obtained for these works, which are looking like they could exceed



£110,000. Grant submissions have been made to Historic England, and we very much hope and pray there will be some financial assistance from this or other sources. Depending on availability of suitable funds, the expectation is that work will need to start during the latter part of this year, and early 2022. There may therefore be some disruption, and a period of closure.

## **CRAMBE**

As I write this the government has issued an extreme heat warning - surely a first in this country where we are more accustomed to warnings about wind and rain! This came hard on the heels of the longed for 'freedom day' though due the many 'advisory' restrictions that still remain it hasn't made much of a difference! However services may now go ahead in the normal format more or less and we now have our church open daily for private prayer, and visitors.

During the period of lockdown the village held a photographic competition culminating in an exhibition. There were classes for all ages to enter, and over sixty photographs were exhibited. Judging, by means of popular vote, took place on a sunny evening at Beck Farm where almost the entire village gathered to take part, our first social gathering since the restrictions were lifted and much enjoyed by everyone thanks to our generous hosts George and Millie McCallum.

Our new PCC is now up and running. Our first project has been to designate most of the churchyard to creating a wild flower meadow. Sam Cook has mown paths through the churchyard which, whilst keeping the front of the church and the recent graves neatly mown, has created a lovely walk with beautiful views of both the church and the surrounding countryside.

There is currently much debate about the future of our churches concerning 'three lacks', lack of clergy, lack of congregations, and lack of finance.

St Michael's Church PCC is, along with many others, having to address the difficulties that this all poses. During the pandemic there have been Zoom services most Sundays, and it would appear that the future lies with a mixture of both Zoom and real services in our church buildings. Change has taken place during this pandemic and is here to stay. The PCC is now looking at how we are going to address the concept of change at St Michael's Church in the context of both the Benefice and the wider church.

## **FLAXTON**

In April we held our annual general meeting of the Parochial Church Council. The following members were willing to stand for another year and were duly elected - Chris Wingfield, Wendy Holman, Mark Cockerill, Beryl Cartmell, Lucy Terry, Margaret Render, Jonathan Hotoph, Ida Terry.

In June churchwardens throughout the Diocese were invited to an "admission" service in the Minister. Unfortunately Covid rules had not been lifted and so services were held at local level. At our service in June churchwardens from across the Benefice were invited to attend where they were officially/legally admitted as churchwardens. Churchwardens for Flaxton are Wendy Holman and Ida Terry.

Since the last circular two couples have visited church to start their wedding plans for 2022. It was very uplifting to share their ideas and hopes for the future.

Since Monday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2021 when the Government lifted a number of Covid restrictions, guidelines have been issued by the Diocese of York. The PCC are working to follow the legal requirements. We are aware that some people are still vulnerable and many still anxious. We will act cautiously and respect everyone's wishes.

## **FOSTON**

Hello from a very sunny Foston Church! I decided to take inspiration for this contribution to our circular, by sitting in the churchyard. It really is a very beautiful and peaceful place to be. Hopefully as a nation we are taking gentle steps towards a new normal, and we all learn to live with the effects of the pandemic.



*'In the meadow' – Claude Monet*

Our little church has weathered many storms, and this is no different. The comfort of knowing this little church is always here is wonderful. It gives us a constant in our lives, to hold our faith in God and each other. The circle of life is so evident, from the plants, the animals, the insects, all

continuing on their way. As within our church where we celebrate, life and death, and all the wonderful times in-between. We are stronger than we know, and we should celebrate our strengths, courage and resilience by coming together and giving thanks.

Hopefully we will be able to enjoy services in our church, and community events for a long time to come.

Peace and love to all from All Saints Foston.

## ***GATE HELMSLEY***

There have been several changes of home ownership in the village over recent weeks. Some people are completely new to Gate Helmsley, one family has just moved down the Lane, and yet another family is awaiting the re-building of their home. Whatever your situation, we warmly welcome you to your new home.

Thank you to Jill and Graham for organising a recent village get-together attended by several newcomers as well as longer-standing residents. We met in part of the new churchyard for conversation and a glass of wine, making good use of this village amenity

We are able to feel some relief as the pandemic situation eases a little, although there is still a need for considerable care. We have continued to open St Mary's church twice a week for quiet contemplation and have welcomed several visitors. We have also had three services over recent months and are grateful to Chris Wingfield, Rachel Benson and Ian Lyall for leading us in those services.

Although it remains difficult to plan ahead, we are hoping to hold a Harvest Festival this autumn, after a break of two years because of Covid. We intend to hold this in Gate Helmsley Village Hall at 6.00pm on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> September. The service will be followed by a Harvest Supper. These arrangements must remain provisional until we know how the pandemic is progressing.

We have been moved to great sadness by the recent death of Anne Podmore, formerly of Fox Farm but recently living in Stamford Bridge. Anne and her late husband, Andrew, who died only 18 months ago, were real stalwarts of village life in Gate Helmsley, involved in all its aspects. Anne had been a churchwarden and PCC member for several years. She was a great cook and entertainer and loved her beautiful garden. Sadly, she had

not been in robust health for some time. We send our deepest sympathy to Anne's son, David, her daughter, Susan, and their families in their loss.

You may or may not have heard that the Diocese of York is conducting a consultation with its local parishes under the title "Living Christ's Story". The pattern of parishes and of church worship will have to change in the future as we face a reduction in the number of ordained priests.

The consultation gives us the opportunity to have a say in the future of the parish. One possible outcome for the parish of St Mary's is that the church will close. You will be able to contribute your views at one of two meetings provisionally arranged for 12<sup>th</sup> August. More details will follow.

If all goes to plan, this edition of the Circular will be back in print form for the first time for more than a year. We look forward to delivering it through your door.

## **HOWSHAM**

On August 1<sup>st</sup> Rachel Benson will be taking a service in Church at 5pm. At this we are hoping to celebrate the life of John Midgely, a village resident who volunteered to join up in Westow (and was given £1!) He was killed during the First World War His descendants have a plaque, photos and other memorabilia to install in Church. It would be good to have a well-attended church for this service.

We have three more weddings in Church which bring in much needed funds and are always delightful occasions.

On Monday August 30<sup>th</sup> we hope to have our usual bank holiday churchyard clean-up and BBQ. Very many thanks are due to Bill Selman for his regular (and voluntary) cutting of the grass.

Mike Shaw and others hope to be able to complete the restoration of the phone box - to set up a mini village heritage centre.

We welcomed several new residents in the village this year.



*John Midgely*



## ***SAND HUTTON and CLAXTON***

"Life is changing and getting better!" We hear this said so often now that we are out of most restrictions but there is still a long way to go and many are still very apprehensive about living life as if it were 'normal.' Changes for each of us will be different but during these last few months we have enjoyed spending more time with our families and friends and the weather has allowed us to appreciate our gardens, local walks, mini breaks and holidays.

It has been so good to have church services in different churches over the past few months albeit with the restrictions of social distancing, masks and no singing. When the weather has allowed we have come together outside the church to end our services with a hymn. Some Sunday services and Wednesday Conversations on Zoom have continued for which we are very grateful to Chris and Ruth for hosting. We look forward to slowly getting back to worshipping together without restrictions but with respect to those who wish to continue to take precautions.

During the service on July 18<sup>th</sup>, a plaque was unveiled and blessed in memory of Bryan Mills who served as churchwarden for many years. Bryan was well respected and loved in the local community both as a friend and in his work as Funeral Director and Undertaker. Our thoughts and best wishes go to Dot and her family.

St. Mary's Church will shortly be open each day so please feel free to come and spend quiet time relaxing and reflecting. Refreshments available.

Thank you to those who work tirelessly at this time of year to keep the churchyard tidy. If you have a spare hour in the week perhaps you would like to help particularly with strimming round the graves?

Thank you to those who organised a Claxton Village Green get together in June to raise funds for Music Therapy. There was musical entertainment, plant and cake stalls and of course the opportunity to chat whilst we enjoyed our picnics. A fun time was had by all!

**The 'Strawberry Tea in a box'** event on July 17<sup>th</sup> was a lovely social occasion for those who ventured out on a scorching hot day!! A big thank you to Paul and Louise Coulter who once again donated an amazing display of plants and hanging baskets. The saying 'Many hands make light work' is so true, so thank you to all those who contributed to making the day successful and to

those who generously donated, in excess of £800, for St Mary's church funds.

*A relaxing afternoon in the garden of Holderness house*



***Enjoy your summer and keep safe!***

## ***UPPER HELMSLEY***

As you can imagine, the spring has been so busy for us with the building and use of the new allotment!!... See the separate article.

We have been busy with church maintenance and the usual tasks. We had a visit from someone from York who is interested in church history and architecture who told us things about St Peter's that we did not know.



For example, the stained glass windows are from 1888 and not before.

*Detail from one of the Nave windows*

Most of the marble memorial plaques are from the previous church that was damaged and rebuilt in 1888. We also had a visit from Dr Jane Grenville from the University of York who is updating the 'The Buildings of England' originally written by Nicholas Pevsner. She is going to let us have her research data on St Peter's which is exciting, and we are looking forward to getting that and seeing the updated chronicle in the new version.

As lockdown eases, we are getting more visits from cyclists and holidaymakers and we hope to be able to offer refreshments again.

Let's pray for a safe transition from lockdown over the next few months and look forward to when we can pray and sing together again in larger numbers.

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



As you will have noticed..... there is no news from our schools!

After sixteen months of worry and disruption in our schools, we have arrived at the second summer holidays during the pandemic.

This time around things are looking a bit more hopeful with the roll out of the vaccines and a lifting of many of the restrictions that have so affected school life and life in general.

We wish all our school communities a very happy and restorative summer holiday, and look forward to hearing all your news next term when we hope that normal school activities will resume.....Have fun, stay safe!

*Editor*







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