

The Benefice of Harton

The Circular



Autumn 2026

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
is sponsored by All Saints Church, Foston

From Rev Nigel.....

At the time of writing this we are still enjoying (or enduring) rather warm weather. I do hope everyone has been able to remain as comfortable as possible. I know I have found the nights rather difficult at times.

I am old enough to remember the long hot Summer of 1976. It was when I, as an eighteen-year-old soldier fresh out of training, flew out to what was then West Germany for my first foreign posting. What followed was a great adventure in many foreign countries, that lasted many years.

But just before making that journey, having finished my trade training at Catterick, I found myself for a few weeks in 'Holding Troop'. This was where young soldiers waiting for postings or to start courses worked and were given all sorts of tasks to do, some OK, and some really rather unpleasant.



As a result of the prolonged hot weather there were serious fires on the North York Moors, and a number of us were tasked with assisting the Fire Brigade in keeping the fires contained. Having been taken up to the moors on trucks, we were quickly briefed, issued with beaters, which were long poles with some sort of heavy flexible sheet on the end,

something akin to lino, and set to work beating down fires wherever they flared up.

It was exhausting, hot work, made all the more unpleasant because of the smoke. It was also quite dangerous work and, as I discovered, very frightening at times. I remember, having successfully beaten down a flare up, a mate and I were taking a bit of a breather when a breeze caused a sudden flare up and we quickly found ourselves surrounded by burning heather. The only thing we could do was jump through the flames to get to a safer spot. Combat trousers a bit singed, we both got to safety unscathed but shaken. Fortunately, some of our comrades were there to make sure we were OK.

There were other times over the following years in the Army when, because I was doing my duty and the job I was paid for, I found myself at risk of harm. We accepted it because it was what was expected and, through training we were prepared.

When Jesus was preparing his Disciples for the times ahead when he would no longer be with them, he did not hold back on describing the risks and dangers they would face. The disciples were told that they would be ridiculed, persecuted, arrested, imprisoned or perhaps even face an untimely end because of their faith in Jesus Christ. Despite that, as we can read about in the New Testament in 'Acts', they continued to face those risks.



Even today, we who try to be good Christian disciples, can face risk. In some parts of the world being a Christian can actually be dangerous. But even here in our pretty safe country, Christians can face ridicule or have to deal with secular workplace rules that mean they cannot be open about their faith. Perhaps that all paints a pretty bleak picture of what being a Christian is like. However, the risks we take in the name of Jesus are far outweighed by the benefits of having a loving relationship with God through Jesus Christ and enjoying Christian fellowship in a worshiping community.

In the Harton Benefice we have ten churches, but rather than being ten separate congregations we are a Benefice community which comes together to worship and enjoy wonderful fellowship. It brings together people from all the villages in an area similar in size to the island of Guernsey. It is a community that cares for one another. We are there to make sure we are all OK.

Of course, we don't just care for those in our church community. We care very much about and pray for everyone who lives in, works in, visits and travels through our area.

We also have a Pastoral Care Team, a team of people who visit and/or call on people who may not be able to come to church, either temporarily or permanently.

Our Youth and Families Worker, Rachael, is running some wonderful schemes the details of which can be found on the benefice website and in the events section of this Circular. Mums and young babies and toddlers will be welcome at the LAMBS sessions every Tuesday during August - 9.30am to 11.30am in St Mary's, Sand Hutton, where they can share a cuppa and have a chat and there is a safe indoor play area. This will run throughout the Summer Holidays and beyond. Dates on the website.

Please do check out the benefice website to see when and where our services and other events are. We would love to make you feel welcome and if you are uneasy about coming to a church service, there will be someone to make sure you are OK.

God Bless you
Rev Nigel

Following our services there is always an opportunity for coffee and cake and time to chat, you will be assured of a warm welcome.



Services for the Benefice of Harton

Some services may be subject to change. Please check the website and WhatsApp group or ask a member of the clergy. Contact details are on the back of The Circular

A Zoom service will be held on the first Sunday of every month at 9.00 am. If you would like to join this service, please let Ian Lyall know and he will send you the link: ian.lyall2@gmail.com

August 2026

Sunday August 2nd

9.00	Zoom Service	
10.00	Holy Communion	Bossall

Wednesday August 5th

10.00	Holy Communion	Howsham
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Sunday August 9th

10.00	Holy Communion	Upper Helmsley
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Wednesday August 12th

10.00	Holy Communion	Sand Hutton
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Sunday August 16th

10.00	Holy Communion	Gate Helmsley
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Wednesday August 19th

10.00	Holy Communion	Crambe
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Sunday August 23rd

10.00	Holy Communion	Buttercrambe
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Wednesday August 26th

10.00	Holy Communion	Flaxton
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Sunday August 30th

10.00	Holy Communion	Flaxton
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September 2026

Wednesday September 2nd

10.00	Holy Communion	Howsham
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Sunday September 6th

9.00	Zoom	
10.00	Holy Communion	Crambe
..6.00pm	Harvest Thanksgiving	Howsham

Followed by supper and our annual auction of gifts

Wednesday September 9th

10.00	Holy Communion	Whitwell
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Sunday September 13th

10.00	Holy Communion	Bossall
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Wednesday September 16th

10.00	Holy Communion	Sand Hutton
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Thursday September 17th

6.00pm	Family Harvest Thanksgiving	Gate Helmsley
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Followed by Harvest Supper in Gate Helmsley VH

Sunday September 20th

10.00 All Age Worship Sand Hutton

Wednesday September 23rd

10.00 Holy Communion Crambe

Sunday September 27th

10.00 Holy Communion Howsham

Wednesday September 30th

10.00 Holy Communion Flaxton

October 2026

Sunday October 4th

10.00 Holy Communion Whitwell

Wednesday October 7th

10.00 Holy Communion Howsham

Sunday October 11th

11.00 Harvest Service Flaxton
Followed by Harvest Lunch in Flaxton VH

Wednesday October 14th

10.00 Holy Communion Sand Hutton

Sunday October 18th

9.00	Zoom Service	
10.00	Holy Communion	Foston
	<i>(The Marathon will run today)</i>	

Wednesday October 21st

10.00	Holy Communion	Crambe
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Sunday October 25th

11.00	Harvest Holy Communion	Buttercrambe
	<i>Followed by Harvest Lunch at Aldby Park</i>	
	<i>Please note the clocks go back one hour!</i>	

Friday October 30th

Lilies and Light



St Michael's Church, Crambe
Festival of Lilies and Light
with The Benefice Choir
Friday October 30th at 7.00 pm



An opportunity to celebrate and remember those who we have loved and lost
If you would like a name or names to be added to the roll that will be read out
during the service, either complete one of the forms which can be found at
the back of a church near you or contact Fiona

Email: churchmouse@crambehouse.co.uk or Text/phone 07774 886 833

The church will be decorated with arrangements of lilies. If you would like to make a small
donation towards the lilies it would be much appreciated.

You will be invited to light a candle in memory of your loved ones during the service.

If you are unable to attend the service, you can still add names to the roll.
Please let Fiona know by Tuesday October 27th. The church will be open every day
following the service so you can visit and light a candle at a time to suit you.

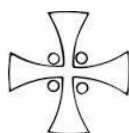
November 2026

Sunday November 1 st	9.00	Zoom service	
	10.00	Holy Communion	Upper Helmsley
Wednesday November 4 th	10.00	Holy Communion	Howsham



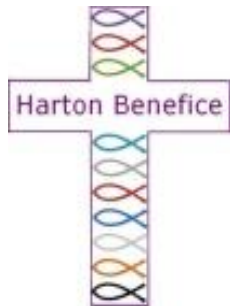
Congratulations to those newly married

2 nd May	Harry Wibberley and Kate Ferguson	Buttercrambe
23 rd May	Aiden Fitchett and Isabella Crook	Flaxton
23 rd May	Dylan Foster and Kate Hinchly	Howsham
24 th May	Joscelyn Varney and Rebecca Taylor	Foston



Our condolences to the family and friends of

18 th April	Brian Kingston	Claxton
14 th May	Margaret Silver	Formerly of Sand Hutton
3 rd June	Christine Robinson	Formerly of Sand Hutton
14 th June	Ken Ford	Gate Helmsley
20 th June	Michael Dickinson	Gate Helmsley
25 th July	Noel Bickerdike	Gate Helmsley



Benefice PCC.....

The Benefice PCC last met on 9th July and will meet again on 15th October at 10.00 am at Crambe House, Crambe.

Main discussions at the last meeting centred on funding for the post of Leader for Youth and Families, and on the need to bring all PCC members up to date on Safeguarding.

Crambe PCC is kindly funding the Youth and Families post for a year until October 2026. Other PCCs are reminded of their obligation to make a regular contribution to fund this valuable work. It is also hoped that individuals will make their own personal donations.

The benefice Lead for Safeguarding, Anna Sawkins, is anxious to receive responses from each PCC to a series of questions that she has circulated about the safeguarding status of all PCC members. Anna will also be completing several DBS checks over the summer.

We also discussed a plan to update and reprint the benefice orders of service, and the lack of toilet facilities in most of our churches. This is problematic for weddings and funerals when guests may have travelled a long distance. It also limits the use of some churches for Rachael Tearney's activities with children.

Please submit any agenda items for the next meeting to the honorary secretary, Ellen Stott.

Delyth Harran

Lay Chairman

Sand Hutton

Village Hall



Saturday 19th September

2.00 pm to 4.00 pm

Jezz and Adrian's Afternoon Tea

Everyone is welcome to come and share some good company
along with home made cakes coffee and tea

All funds raised will go to St Mary's Church Sand Hutton

Harvest



Festival

Thursday 17th September

Service at 6.0 pm
in St Mary's Church, Gate Helmsley
All Welcome

Harvest Supper at 7 pm

in Gate Helmsley Village Hall

*Prior booking for supper essential - contact
Delyth Harran (01759 372215)*

BYO drinks (*soft drinks available*) : Raffle
Tickets £12.50



The Free Cinema at Barton Le Willows Village Hall

Now showing regular films on our 150 inch cinema screen in HD or UHD

No tickets to buy, any donations to improve the cinema and village hall are gratefully received.

Bring your own drinks, snacks and soft drinks available at much less than regular cinema prices!

Visit our website by searching for Barton Le Willows Village Hall or scan the barcode

Or contact Graham Tel: 07812 151 234 to get on the email mailing list for up to date listings



Cake and Company

We are a group meeting in
Claxton and Sand Hutton Village Hall

You can join the sessions for as much or as little time as you like. There are things to do but what we do best is just chatting, having coffee or tea and sampling the cakes!

We welcome those who wish to just drop in for the odd half hour after a dog walk, to those just passing by. Children are welcomed if accompanied by an adult.

Come and join us, it is what it says, cake and company!

Forthcoming dates

Tuesday 1st September 2-4 pm

Tuesday 6th October 2-4 pm

Tuesday 3rd November 2-4 pm

Thursday 17th September 10-12 midday

Thursday 15th October 10-12 midday

Thursday 19th November 10-12 midday

CLUB CAPERNAUM

POP UP CAFÉ Wednesday September 16th and October 21st

6pm-7.30pm – St Mary's Church Sand Hutton



When Jesus was on earth, he spent much time with his disciples at Simon Peter's house in Capernaum. It was a home and a haven for them as they listened to Jesus and learned the lessons they would need to carry out their ministry after Jesus ascended to his Father God in Heaven.

Our **Club Capernaum** is a monthly **POP-UP CAFE** for adults.

Come and have a coffee, a tea, a chat, ask questions and find out about the philosophy of Jesus Christ which revolutionized the world.

It doesn't matter if you know nothing of the Bible and the Gospels, if you had faith once, if you've never been to church, if you just want to know more or if you're returning after many years away from the church; we would love to see you.

Email: hypdrama@yahoo.com



Little Angels Mums and Babies



*Come and join us for our play group.
Hosted by the Harton Benefice of Churches.*

*St Mary's Church,
Sand Hutton
Tuesdays throughout
August.
9.30 am to 11.30 am*

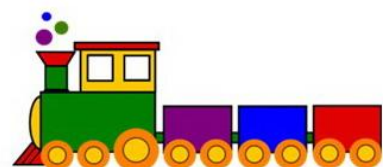


*Mums and Babies
welcome,
0 to 5 yrs.
Refreshments
Toys, books, colouring
Baby change facilities*

*for more details see
www.sandhuttongroup.org*

or email

HYPDrama@yahoo.com





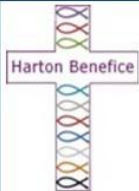
Stop being **BORED** try **BOARD GAMES NIGHT!** **At St Mary's Sand Hutton**

Fridays throughout August 6.30pm-8.30pm
Scrabble, Chess, Cluedo and more!
For years 11+, parents welcome,
at St Mary's Sand Hutton. With Pizza and drinks!

For all events contact Rachael at HYPDrama@yahoo.com



@HartonYouthPlayers - Instagram
Harton Benefice Churches Youth & Families - Facebook
www.sandhuttongroup.org.uk



HARTON BENEFICE DRAMA CLUB **For Ages 4—10 years**

Sessions will begin
at the end of September.

If you are interested
please do contact Rachael.

Email HYPDrama@yahoo.com
Instagram: [@HartonYouthPlayers](https://www.instagram.com/HartonYouthPlayers)
Facebook:

Harton Benefice Churches Youth and Families



We will explore the wonderful stories of the Bible,
The Kingdom of Narnia and other Christian tales

Parents are welcome to stay
and relax in the waiting room with a cuppa





Join our Zoom Book Club!

Christian themed books

Books for SEPTEMBER to DECEMBER

TWELVE ORDINARY MEN

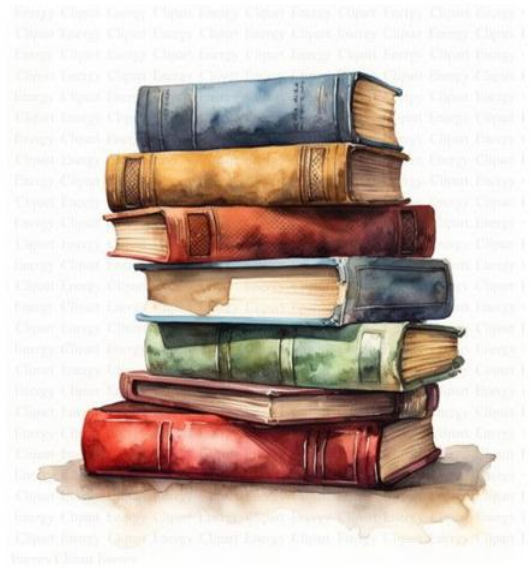
by John MacArthur

A SWARMING OF BEES

by Theresa Tomlinson

THE STAR OVER BETHLEHEM

by Daniel Whitaker



For more information contact Rachael

Email HYPDrama@yahoo.com

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

YOUTH AND FAMILIES WORKER

Rachael Tearney

We have had some excellent events and great fun over the last few months in Youth and Families and I'd love to share some of the memories and some of the upcoming events for your diary.

Boots 'n' Brunch is our walk for families with brunch afterwards somewhere in the parish.

We have walked from Howsham church in a circle, past the old mill and back up to the church for Brunch. We've had a couple of very successful walks with lots of chat and fun. Our next 'Boots 'n' Brunch' will be **on September 5th** and we will be leaving from **Buttercrambe church at 9.30 am** with Brunch at Aldby Park after.



We completed our first year of **Drama Club** with an end of term *Sea of Galilee Summer Party*. Children were invited to dress up as any character or creature you might find in the Sea of Galilee and we had games, a quiz, a party tea of pizza and cakes and finished with a disco. Throughout the year we have learnt about the Disciples, St Paul, Joseph and his coat of many colours, Moses, Jesus and his miracles and the Kingdom of Narnia.

For more information on our activities see the flyer.

Drama Club will resume in the Autumn for ages 4-10 yrs date tbc.

In the Spring I launched our **Little Angels Mums and Babies Playgroup (LAMBS)**. It is held on alternate Tuesday mornings in St Mary's Church, Sand Hutton. We have toys, books, colouring and refreshments for an informal play session. There is a lavatory and baby change facilities. Throughout the summer holidays, I will be running **LAMBS every Tuesday from 9.30 am - 11.30 am**, so please do come along. We'd love to see you.

We have had two **All Age Worship** services this term. We looked at the story of *Noah* and at *Jesus the light of the World*. These services include drama, storytelling, crafts, prayer, songs and hymns. We come together as a whole community, young and old and we love to have the little people in our churches. Please do join us for our next one on **September 20th at 10 am in St Mary's, Sand Hutton.**

In July we attended Leavers' ceremonies at our schools in Sand Hutton and Foston and presented children with the Christian themed book 'Soul Fuel' by Bear Grylls. We were really pleased to give this inspirational gift as they take the next step in the journey of life. It was so special to hear all their memories of school life as they said goodbye to their primary years.

I'm really pleased to be able to announce a **club for Teens on Friday nights**, beginning on **August 7th, 6.30 pm-8.30 pm**. I will be launching our brand new **'Thank God It's Friday Board Games Night' - TGI Friday Board Games.**

Come along and thank God for another wonderful week and have some fun with board games and pizza. For ages 11+

We are still running our **Zoom Book Club**, which will begin again in September open to all adults along with **Club Capernaum**, our informal Pop-Up Café and chat evening held once a month.

You are all welcome at any of our events and activities. Details of all our events and services are on the benefice website:

www.sandhuttongroup.org.uk

You can email me directly with any questions or queries on

HYPDrama@yahoo.com

You can follow us on

Instagram @HartonYouthPlayers

and do join our

Facebook Page - Harton Benefice Churches Youth & Families

'Hug a Teddy'



Photo by Lynne Barnett

Lynne is returning to Cambodia in December and is organizing an international conference to raise awareness of mental health issues after the Genocide. Lynne has asked if anyone would like to knit a small teddy bear in bright colours - NOT white. Lynne can take 20 if not over-stuffed and light weight (easier to hug). No glass eyes, no buttons and fire retardant. Max size 6 ins high - and don't forget multicoloured. As unique as children are.

The teddies are needed by 8th November.

**Please contact or give the teddies to Adrian
who is willing to deliver to Lynne, or give advice
07870 591142**

**Thank you so much,
Adrian and Lynne**

from Sister Margaret Ann CSPH



My Dear friends,
'Grace, mercy and peace be with you all'

I trust you have all survived the extreme heat and found your own ways of keeping cool. Sadly, due to the lack of water and very little rainfall, our gardens are all past their best, but God is good and there is much still to rejoice in. William Blake once said:

'To see a world in a grain of sand,
And a heaven in a wild flower,
Hold infinity in the palm of your hand,
And eternity in an hour.'

Coming home from Crambe the other evening I disturbed a pair of deer on our drive. What a gift there is in the fox who is a regular visitor to the cottage garden, and a family of hedgehogs. In spite of the suggested restriction on the feeding of our garden birds, they are still about, Woodpeckers, Tits, Finches and the Nuthatch. We have more Housemartins this year than ever before both on the front and the back of the cottage. We are now on our fourth clutch of young ones and the mess that brings! But it's worth it to see and hear them. And don't forget the peacock and red admiral butterflies busy on the buddleia this year. Yes, there is still plenty to thank you for Lord.

Rachel Benson shared a lovely book with me the other day called Perspectives by Diane Hoare, which included the following passage:

'To see the world in a drop of dew, quivering,
delicate, globe of water reflecting and refracting
the light hanging from the thorn of a wild rose.
The world is reflected in its dazzling liquid fragility,
reality transformed into moments of mirroring,
offers us pause for thought and contemplation at
the miracle of our world. Cradled in the branch
of a wild rose's embrace the drop reflects near and far
surrounded by the dazzling light of the sun.
As we gaze into the depths of the drop our seeing
is transformed into a whole new dimension and we

are called to consider what is reality and what is illusion? Nature's beauty all around us calls us to question, to gaze in awe and wonder at the infinite layers of beauty it offers to us'

Yes, there is so much to be thankful for beyond our seeing with the human eye. Allow God to open the eyes and ears of your heart so that he may reveal the secrets of this world --- Jesus once said 'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life' that he longs to share with us all.

Continue to enjoy the warm sunny days, stay safe and take time to stop and look at all that is about you, and see the Majesty and Wonder of our God.

May He bless each and every one of you richly.

My love and prayers for you all,

Margaret Ann
+CSPh

BARTON LE WILLOWS

The Craft & Chat Group meets fortnightly on a Thursday morning at 10 am at Barton-le-Willows Village Hall.

We are a friendly group and cover most crafts, indeed any new craft is most welcome, but no craft is necessary to participate, feel free to just come along and enjoy the Chat part of the group! We offer a drink and biscuit (usually a chocolate one!), occasionally some tiramisu or cake, and a warm welcome.

Advice and tuition are available on knitting, crochet, sewing, embroidery, small repairs to clothing and a variety of other crafts. If you have a long-forgotten project that needs a push to achieve completion, this is the perfect chance; bring it along and we'll do it together!

Our forthcoming meetings are:

**6th August, 20th August, 3rd September, 17th September
and then fortnightly.**

**Information and further details from Clelia on 07905 628063 or email
cleliaboscolo@gmail.com**

BUTTERCRAMBE

On Saturday 2nd May, Harry Wibberley and Katy Ferguson were married in Buttercrambe Church. Katy's sister Eve did the flowers and their Uncle Graham played the organ. It was a joyous traditional wedding with the reception held at Burythorpe Hall.



Some sad news, Graham Edwards died in May after a short illness. He died peacefully while listening to the York Philharmonic Male Voice Choir of which he was a long-time member.

He was the founder of Graham Edwards Trailers. Together with his son Matthew, and a growing team, he built the business into one of the leading UK trailer manufacturers, based at Full Sutton. His wife Maureen is buried with her parents in the churchyard at Buttercrambe and he regularly tended to her grave. She was the daughter of Fred and Madge Rennison. Fred was the gamekeeper at Buttercrambe Estate and lived in Moor Cottage in the middle of Moor Wood.



BOSSALL

We had a lovely service in June, with a good turnout of both familiar faces and newcomers. It was wonderful to welcome everyone together for worship.

We also held the funeral of Brian Atkinson. Although it was a sad occasion, it was a very beautiful and fitting service. It was especially lovely to see Chris and Thelma Wingfield, who played such an important part in the service.

We are now looking ahead to the final phase of our church repair project, which will focus on the interior of the building. Thanks to the completed guttering and drainage works, the walls have now dried out, allowing us to begin the next stage.

In October, we will be limewashing the south transept and the nave. Before this can be done, however, the old plaster will need to be removed, so there will inevitably be a considerable amount of dust and disruption while the work is carried out.

Once the work is complete, we will need volunteers to help with cleaning the church. If you are able to lend a hand, we would be very grateful. Please contact us by email or phone to let us know if you can help.

CRAMBE

St Michael's Church is a wonderful place to be in at any time, but during these long hot spells it has been a deliciously cool place to be! We are generally berating it for being one of the coldest churches in the Benefice particularly in the winter, but come the summer, it's the place to be! We have had quite a few walkers taking shelter from the sun and enjoying their picnics from a pew.

We have had to cancel a couple of our services because The Church Commissioners had their contractors in the chancel repointing the walls. This involved raking out all the old pointing which created the most phenomenal amount of stone dust. It was to be wondered if we would ever get rid of it all such that we could use the church for services. Pinnacle Conservation, the builders have done the most magnificent job on the pointing; it is truly beautiful, and enhances the character of the honey-coloured stone which is



a feature of this church. They also deserve great credit for clearing up the mess afterwards. Since they left a number of people have been into church and taken a section to clean and polish, and last Saturday a gang of villagers got together with mops, brushes and vacuum cleaners and gave it a thorough clean. The shining brasses and the smell of furniture polish is testament to their hard work. A huge thank you to everyone who contributed. Thank you to Sand Hutton for picking up the two services we had to cancel.

We now have a new treasurer, Roz Collins from Scarborough, following the retirement of Linda Walker. We have had to take the unusual step of employing a professional as there were no volunteers for the job. We welcomed her at our last PCC meeting.

FLAXTON

At the end of May the church was full with family and friends to witness the wedding of Izzy and Aiden. We wish them good health and happiness for their future together.

There are now only three people on the Parochial Church Council and we would welcome some new members with new ideas going forward. Please give it some serious thought. If you feel you have some time and energy, please contact Jenny Towse or Ida Terry. Contact details in the back of the circular.

Thank you to the churchyard maintenance team for their continued time and energy keeping the churchyard tidy.

FOSTON

After having more work carried out, we were cleaning and polishing the church again in readiness for a May wedding. We couldn't quite get the vestry finished, but the floor already looked amazing after being sanded back and looks even better now it has been sealed and polished. On the big day, the church was filled with lovely floral decorations and the bride looked beautiful.

Since then, we have had all the windows washed, both inside and out, probably for the first time in half a century! What a difference it has made, the church seems much brighter now and the stained-glass window over the altar is even more beautiful with more light coming through. Have a good look at it next time you are in church.

It was lovely to have a full church for the June Benefice service and the musical accompaniment from the benefice choir always makes this service very enjoyable. It was also good to catch up with our neighbouring congregations over tea and cake at the end of the service.

We are always looking for volunteers who would like to support our lovely historic church in any way. This could just be helping with some routine cleaning, putting flowers on the altar or by supporting our events. Please speak to any member of the PCC or message the secretary on 07783 031815 if you are interested.

Our church is open 24/7 if you want to have a look round.

Foston and Thornton Le Clay Village Hall

We would like to remind you of our upcoming events. Everyone is very welcome and you can generally pay on the door.

Soup and pud club – this will be starting again in September. Lunches are held on the last Wednesday of the month at 12 noon and the first will be held on Wednesday 30th September. The cost is £5; all welcome. Join us for a lovely home-made lunch in a relaxed and friendly setting.

Weekly coffee mornings – these will be starting again on 14th September and are held on Mondays 9.00 am to 11.00 am (excluding school and bank holidays). Drop in for a chat, coffee and cake. All welcome; we even have a box of toys for younger visitors.

History Group – we hope to meet on the first Wednesday of the month from 10.30 am until 12 noon There is a nominal charge of £2 to include coffee.

Ceilidh - On Saturday 28th November we would like you to join us for a Ceilidh and light supper. A pay bar will be available and we will be holding a raffle. Further details will be provided nearer the time.

Parish Council Open Day - Saturday 3rd Oct – 9.00 am-12 noon. This is an opportunity to meet some of your parish councillors and other local stakeholders. Further details will be provided nearer the time. A breakfast of bacon or veggie sausage sandwiches and cake will be available.

GATE HELMSLEY

We hope that you have managed to tolerate the soaring temperatures of the heatwave and have kept well hydrated. It's quite a lot more comfortable now that it's a little cooler.

A recent highlight at St Mary's church was a service of Choral Evensong, held on Sunday 28th June. It was a very special occasion with the benefice choir in attendance, singing to a full church. Thanks to Reverend Nigel who led the service, and to Peter and Ellen Stott who organised the music. Afterwards, we enjoyed refreshments and good fellowship. We hope it will be possible to hold services of Choral Evensong more frequently in the future.

Our most recent fundraising event was the annual Strawberry Lunch held in the village hall on 19th July. Over 60 people came together to enjoy a happy social occasion and to share an excellent lunch. Thanks to everyone's kindness and generosity, over £1,100 was raised for church funds. A very energetic team of villagers worked hard to prepare the food, run the raffle and set up and clear the hall, including a mountain of washing up. Thank you very much to you all.

The next fundraiser will be the Harvest Supper in the village hall on Thursday 17th September. This will follow the harvest service which will be held in church at 6.00 pm.

As ever, a big "thank you" to all who regularly help with the day-to-day running of the church, those who care for the churchyard, the cleaning team, those who put flowers in the church, and all the members of the PCC.

We are saddened to report the death of three parishioners. Local farmer, Ken Ford, died on 14th June following a period of ill health. Sister Margaret Ann conducted a very well attended funeral service for Ken at St Mary's Sand Hutton. Michael (Mick) Dickinson died on 20th June after a protracted period of ill health. Mick's funeral service was held at St Mary's Gate Helmsley on Monday 27th July, followed by cremation at York Crematorium. We send our deepest condolences to Eileen and Janet and all the family of both Ken and Mick in their grief. Noel Bickerdike, a lifetime resident of the village, died after a very short illness on 25th July. Funeral arrangements to follow. Our thoughts are with Christine, Eve and all the family.

We are thinking of everyone who is ill at this time, and sending good wishes for a speedy recovery.

HOWSHAM

We have had one lovely wedding and there will be another in October. More work on the trees in the churchyard seems to be necessary but there is much planning involved as they have preservation orders on them. Also, the village is a conservation village. We anticipate yet another drawn out exchange with the Council on the matter.

Our annual clean-up of the church and churchyard will be on August Bank Holiday Monday the 31st. This will be followed as usual by the BBQ at The Pavilion.



The two “Johns” in the village have made a wonderful job of repairing the bench which is situated opposite the church. Very many thanks to them.

The Harvest Festival and following Auction and Supper will be on September 6th at 6:00 pm.

SAND HUTTON and CLAXTON

We hope that everyone is as safe and comfortable as possible in the incredibly hot weather conditions we have been experiencing.

Apart from the scheduled Sunday and Wednesday services, we have been privileged to hold three funeral services at St Mary's over the last three months: Brian Kingston of Claxton in May, Christine Robinson, formerly of Sand Hutton in June and Kenneth Ford of Gate Helmsley in July. Each service was a fitting tribute and celebration of the lives of loved ones and we extend our sincere condolences to Brian, Christine and Kenneth's families and friends.

We are looking forward to welcoming Gabrielle and Matt for their wedding in early August.

We would like to thank all those who attended the wonderful organ recital at St Mary's on 22nd July.

It was performed by Alexander Woodrow, organist and musical director at Leeds Minster. Alex was hiking 104 miles in six days with six pop-up recitals along his route – quite a feat.

We enjoyed an excellent 55 minute programme of varied pieces, followed by refreshments.

Donations of £688 were most gratefully received and have been shared between the Choral Scholarship programme at Leeds Minster and St Mary's Church.



We sincerely thank Alexander for the recital and his endeavours.

St Mary's "Roof it or lose it" appeal

St Mary's Church is a Grade II listed building of rich historical and architectural interest, built in 1840. The nave roof is the original roof from that time. The nails securing the original Westmorland slates are corroding and failing, a process known as "nail sickness". This has resulted in slates increasingly becoming loose, slipping and falling off the roof. As there is no membrane beneath, if the roof issues are not addressed, the loss of slates will allow rainwater to penetrate. Persistent water ingress will cause the underlying structure to become damp and rot, weakening the overall structural integrity of the building and damage to the interior.

We do not want the church to close. We want to ensure its history, heritage and use remain for the future.

We need to raise in the region of £65,000 to undertake the critical works to the south roof slope, ridge and coping stones. This is a huge amount for us to raise; we are exploring all grant options but these are very limited.

The PCC are extremely grateful to those people who have very kindly made a donation so far. Thank you – it means so much.

We would like to appeal to all who read this to please consider if you are in a position to help us by making a donation.

If so, donations can be made in any of the following ways:

1. **Cash** in an envelope with your name to : Ellen Stott, 17 Sand Hutton or to Ian Lyall, Ashbourne, Claxton.
2. **Cheque**, made payable to “Sand Hutton Parochial Church Council”
3. **Bank transfer** : Sand Hutton Parochial Church Council; Sort code 05-09-94; Account number 25486848; Reference : Roof and your name

If you require further information please contact Ellen on 01904 468404 or 07939 620613 or ellenstott55@gmail.com

Thank you so much for considering our request.

UPPER HELMSLEY

It has been a relatively quiet quarter but we have been busy in the churchyard. We had a big clear up of most of the things that we gathered for the allotment when it was up and running. Many of the old flowerpots were donated to Vertigro, and we cleared the undergrowth and mowed around, but leaving wild spaces to encourage pollinating insects. We also cleaned up all the cobwebs inside that gather very high up near the ceiling, so not a job that can be done too frequently because of the height. The PCC also gave the vestry a thorough clean when we removed all the old allotment related materials.

We are planning a fundraiser event in Gate Helmsley village hall on 31st July so hopefully that will go well. This will be the Dutch shuffle boards competition and a raffle to coincide with the pop-up pub.

We have a mid-summer service planned for August and are looking forward to that.

Wishing everyone a lovely summer.....

WHITWELL

As we drift gently into summer, with its hazy days and balmy evenings, our church continues to offer a warm welcome to everyone. The doors remain open throughout the day, and it is heartening to see a steady stream of visitors coming to enjoy this special place.

The churchyard is also well used by walkers and passers-by, many of whom take the opportunity to rest on the benches and enjoy a few moments of peace. We remain especially grateful for Wendy Holman's memorial bench, which is so well used and greatly appreciated by all who visit.

Last month we held another coffee morning, although on that occasion we found ourselves waiting rather hopefully for visitors! Undeterred, we have another coffee morning planned for later in July 22nd - 11-12am, and we would be delighted to welcome both familiar and new faces for a chat and a cup of coffee.

We have a book case at the back of the church with books to borrow or swap - new books always welcome!

Please do make use of the church. It is available for all kinds of meetings, talks and community gatherings, or simply as a quiet place to sit, reflect and enjoy a few moments of peace away from the bustle of everyday life. You are always welcome.

Our next services are
Wednesday 9th September at 10.00am
Sunday 4th October at 10.00am

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YO41 1AT

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Crambe, St Michael

YO60 7JR

Churchwarden: None

PCC Secretary: Fiona Le Masurier

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Flaxton, St Lawrence

YO60 7NT

Churchwarden: None

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Jenny Towse

Tel: 07808 063690

Foston, All Saints

YO60 7QG

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YO41 1NE

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