

The Benefice of Harton

The Circular



Spring Edition 2022
February March April

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

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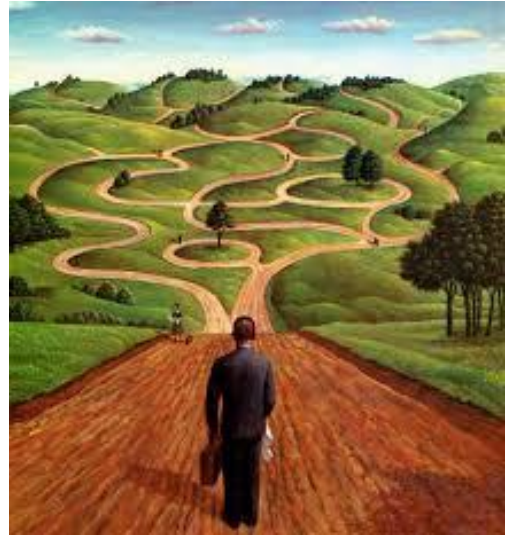
Adrian Watson and Jezz Kipling

In memory of
John Kipling, and Allan and Jane Watson

Dear Friends,

“The best laid plans...”

I remember reading a novel some time ago, which included the story of a man who wanted to go on holiday, without a guidebook, to Venice; he just wanted to wander around and discover what was there. The man’s wife agreed and they had two weeks in which they appeared to amble around aimlessly, and yet saw all the great architectural and art treasures of the city. The man was pleased and told his wife, who usually planned their excursions to the last detail, how his method was just as good as hers.



She smiled and nodded, not disclosing to her husband that, for two weeks beforehand, she had read every guidebook available and it was through her gentle but firm steering they had ‘accidentally’ discovered the treasures of Venice!

As someone who is an instinctive planner, I have a lot of sympathy with the woman in the story. I like to be prepared, to know where I am going (though not necessarily via the quickest route!), and generally happy with spontaneity providing I have planned for it! Equally though, I recognise that I live in a world of uncertainty and as, at the time of writing, there is still uncertainty of how Omicron or any new COVID-19 variant will impact our lives in the months or even years ahead. I know that uncertainty is something we all live with.

Even the most meticulous planners amongst us have to recognise that uncertainty is, and always has been, a part of life. When Abraham (then still called Abram) set out with his family from his home city of Ur, he had no idea where God was leading him. God’s call and promise told him no more than he was to go “... *To the land that I will show you. I will make you a great nation and I will bless you, and make your name great so that you will be a blessing...* “. (Genesis 12:1-2).

When the Israelites left captivity in Egypt to journey to the Promised Land, when the prophets answered God’s call to speak to other nations, when the fishermen left their nets at the call of Jesus and when Paul embarked on his missionary journeys, the mark of uncertainty about what the future would

bring was ever present. In these and many, many more instances, there was no clear plan or itinerary, no timeline and no agreed outcomes. What there was, implicitly or explicitly, was the promise that God, through Jesus and the Holy Spirit, would hold our hand (if we so desired) no matter where our journey took us. As Jesus said, at his Ascension, *“and remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age”*. (Matthew 28:20). Things are no different now.

Faith does not depend on certainty and thankfully, does not depend on our advance planning. Whatever we think we know about our future, however we would like to see things turn out, we simply do not know what is around the corner. Circumstances alter, plans change and the unexpected becomes the reality. As people of faith, we are far better employed seeking not for certainty but instead to *“... Run the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith...”*. (Hebrews 12:1).

I have no more idea than you what 2022 will bring us, despite my tendency towards planning and preparing. 2021 more than amply demonstrated the frailty of our plans, both as individuals and as a Church. So without doubt, the best way forward is to place our hopes and dreams in the framework of faith and *“the assurance of things hoped for, the convictions of things not seen”* (Hebrews 11:1).

Wishing you all a very much happier and healthier New Year.

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

February 2022

Wednesday 2nd February

Presentation of Christ in the Temple

10.00

Worship

Sand Hutton

Sunday 6th February

Epiphany 5

9.00

Zoom Worship

10.00

Holy Communion

Crambe

Wednesday 9th February

10.00

Worship

Flaxton

Sunday 13th February

Epiphany 6

9.00

Morning Prayer

Foston

10.00

Holy Communion

Gate Helmsley

Wednesday 16th February

10.00

Worship

Howsham

Sunday 20th February

Epiphany 7

10.00

Holy Communion

Flaxton

Wednesday 23rd February

10.00

Worship

Crambe

Sunday 27th February

Sunday before Lent

10.00

Holy Communion

Howsham

4.00

All Age Worship
Self Reflections/Lent

Gate Helmsley VH

March 2022

Wednesday 2nd March

Ash Wednesday

7.00

Ash Wednesday Holy Communion
Imposition of Ashes

Sand Hutton

Sunday 6th March

Lent 1

9.00

Zoom Worship

10.00

Holy Communion

Gate Helmsley

Wednesday 9th March

10.00

Worship

Flaxton

Sunday 13th March

Lent 2

9.00

Morning Prayer

Foston

10.00

Holy Communion

Sand Hutton

Wednesday 16th March

10.00

Worship

Howsham

Sunday 20th March

Lent 3

10.00

Holy Communion

Flaxton

Wednesday 23rd March

10.00

Worship

Crambe

Sunday 27th March



Mothering Sunday

10.00

Holy Communion

Howsham

4.00

All Age Worship

Barton Le Willows VH

Wednesday 30th March

10.00

Worship

Bossall

April 2022

Sunday 3rd April

Lent 5

9.00 Zoom Worship
10.00 Holy Communion Buttercrambe

Wednesday 6th April

10.00 Worship Whitwell

Sunday 10th April



Palm Sunday

10.00 Palm Sunday Holy Communion Upper Helmsley

Thursday 14th April

Maundy Thursday

7.00 Maundy Holy Communion Flaxton

Friday 15th April



Good Friday

12.00 noon Devotion Sand Hutton

Sunday 17th April



Easter Day

10.00 Easter Holy Communion Crambe

Wednesday 20th April

St George

10.00 Worship Howsham

Sunday 24th April

Easter 2

10.00 Holy Communion Flaxton

Wednesday 27th April

10.00 Worship Crambe



Welcome to those newly baptised

2nd November 2021

Elodie Rose Cohen

Bossall



Our condolences to the family and friends of

25th October 2021

Pam Wray

Gate Helmsley

3rd November 2021

Jeff Marley

Gate Helmsley

20th November

Les Taylor

Crambe

30th November 2021

Linda Mullenger

Flaxton

1st December 2021

Edmund Vincent Wells

Flaxton

18th December 2021

Mrs Sarah Shields

Flaxton

3rd December 2021

Stanley Hall

Crambe

11th January 2022

Pauline Harrison

Upper Helmsley



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

MESSY CHRISTINGLE



Spirits were high despite the damp misty weather on the Sunday afternoon of our Christingle celebration, just before Christmas. Due to the restrictions we were outside for the event but this didn't seem to put folks off and we were delighted when 27 children and their grown-ups arrived to sing, pray, share refreshments and most importantly put Christingles

together. We had tea lights twinkling up the drive of St Mary's church at Sand Hutton and we moved the keyboard outdoors so that we could sing the Christingle song, and Away in a Manger. We were so pleased this event could take place when children had missed out on other events in the lead up to Christmas. Thank you to everyone who supported this event, and to the volunteers who as usual did a tremendous job.

Our next 'Messy' event to look out for is 'Messy Holy Week' which is on Saturday 9th April at Sand Hutton Village Hall.



BENEFICE OF HARTON

WE ARE DELIGHTED TO WELCOME YOU TO OUR

Babies, Toddlers & Pre-schoolers

'Play & Pray'

Fortnightly on Mondays

9.15 – 10.45

(24th January, 7th 28th February
14th 28th March, 4th 25th April)

ST MARY'S CHURCH SAND HUTTON



For more info contact Rachael Harrison 07847 329015 rachaelyouthharton@gmail.com

You are invited to



'Holy week'

Saturday 11th April

2-4pm

Sand Hutton Village Hall



Come and Join us as we explore Jesus's last week with us from Jerusalem to Calvary, through crafts & games.

For all the family to enjoy together.
We'll end by sharing some refreshments.

*It's lots of fun - and its free
Suitable for children aged 4-11.*

(Sorry no unaccompanied children)

For more information contact Rachael Harrison on 07847 329015

rachaelyouthharton@gmail.com

PLAY & PRAY

We are really pleased to be back up and running once again with our Play & Pray sessions on alternate Monday mornings at St Mary's church in Sand Hutton. We have great fun, so why not come along and join us with your pre-schooler? We have a period of free play (where the parents/carers can grab a hot drink and a chat), and also have a themed craft activity on offer. We then all gather together for snacks and juice, and do some singing and signing, sometimes read a story, and end with a prayer. When the better weather comes we hope to occasionally meet up at our allotment in Upper Helmsley. The session is drop in and very welcoming and informal.



Our youth volunteers (newly named the Aubergine Operations!) have had a busy winter despite it not being the growing season on the allotment. They have continued to meet fortnightly and have been very creative, making bird boxes, fat balls and Christmas wreaths.



Our final meeting of 2021 was a Nativity escape room quiz which went down very well! In January we were pleased to welcome Ian Lyall to our first session back, where he talked about his passion for collecting moths and butterflies.

Look out for our pop up café and nature trail on 5th March at Sand Hutton Village Hall, and fingers crossed a bike repair workshop!

Chris, myself and the Ministry team are keen for folks to support and engage with the monthly All Age Worship services that are happening in village halls on Sunday afternoons at 4.00. We hope that this later time of 4.00 pm will suit those families who would like to gather together for

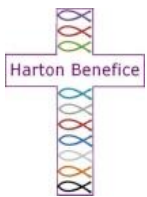


worship but who find Sunday mornings a struggle. Please do come along and see for yourself what we are doing, we would appreciate feedback from all ages.

All that remains is for me to once again say a huge 'thank you' to the army of dedicated volunteers who support me with the Children and Youth work. I couldn't do a fraction of what I do without you all; and as ever we like to look forward so, fingers crossed we will be able to have a Summer club once again, over the Summer holidays, and we can't wait for the allotment to be up and running again.

ALL AGE WORSHIP 2022 Sundays 4.00pm

January 23rd	Foston Village Hall
February 27th	Gate Helmsley Village Hall
March 27th	Barton-le-Willows Village Hall
**April 9th (Saturday)	<i>Messy Easter Sand Hutton VH (Messy Church 2pm-4pm)</i>
May 22nd	Foston Village Hall



Benefice PCC.....

The Benefice PCC met in person on 17th November 2021. The following topics were discussed:

- Financial issues. There will be a rebate to parishes from last year's contribution to central benefice funds. Parish contributions for 2022 will be kept at the 2021 level. No central benefice contribution to York Diocese will be made this year. (Individual parishes will, as usual, make their own free will offerings)
- The benefice printer has come to the end of its life and will be replaced with a new one, this time leased rather than purchased
- A total of 180 shoeboxes were dedicated at a service in St Mary's Gate Helmsley in October before delivery to people in need in Romania through the Amen charity
- There is a new service schedule which includes Messy Church, All Age Worship and a monthly Zoom service. New orders of service are being developed for Morning and Evening Services
- All parishes responded to the Diocesan survey, "Living Christ's Story". Chris encouraged unity and co-operation across the benefice as this is taken forward

- Rachael Harrison's role as lead for children and family has been through its first 3-year cycle. This means that a new round of fundraising (from parishes and from individuals) is needed.
- A budget will be brought to the next meeting

The next meeting will be held at the Bakers', Holderness House, Claxton at 2.00 pm on Thursday 10th February.

The Honorary Secretary, Wendy Holman, would welcome items for the agenda.

Delyth Harran

Lay Chairman



Christmas Shoebox Appeal 2021

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this year's shoebox appeal for Romania.

Happy New Year from the AMEN team.

Despite various challenges, the 2021 shoebox collection was very successful and we were able to send 2417 boxes to Romania in December.

Chris Chatfield, Gareth and Malou Bolton and AMEN volunteer Sharon spent ten days in Romania helping to distribute the boxes and minister alongside the partners.

The many hand crafted blankets were shared out between the partners – the picture below shows some being donated to the widows' group run by Liviu.

Best Wishes for 2022

Janet



Carols on the Green, Claxton December 20th 2021

Thank you so much to all the people of Claxton and the surrounding area for donating to the Carol Singing Evening The huge sum of **£594.68** was raised, the most ever for the carol singing in Claxton

Thanks also to the singers, musicians and all those who helped put on such a successful evening and a special mention for the children who sang so enthusiastically. All the proceeds have been sent to **Macmillan Cancer Support** who are so grateful for our support

FORTHCOMING EVENTS AROUND THE BENEFICE.....



Mills Family Quiz Night

Friday 18th March at 7.00pm
At Sand Hutton Village Hall

Come and join us for a fun filled evening!
Tickets £7 pp to include a light supper
Only 4 to a table please!
There will be a raffle

**Admission by ticket only. Please contact Dot Tel: 01759 372601 ,
Rachel Tel: 01904 468809 or Vanessa Tel: 07946855419**

All proceeds for St Mary's Church Sand Hutton



St Mary's Church Gate Helmsley

Coffee Morning

Saturday 30th April

10.30 am to 12.30 pm

At Gate Helmsley Village Hall

Cake stall Raffle

Please use carpark opposite village hall

Admission £5 to include drink and cake

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

Rachel Benson



The following article is here by request for all to share. It is one I used with permission, as the basis of my sermon at the Christmas Day service held at Gate Helmsley. Dr John Habgood was Archbishop of York from 1983 until 1995. The article was found by his daughter Laura among papers he left after his death at the age of 91

Article for the Yorkshire Post – Christmas 1993

I remember the days when there used to be three London newspapers – The Star, The News and The Standard. They provided an excellent basis for a Christmas sermon.

The Christmas Star is a sign of hope. In the story of the Wise Men journeying to Bethlehem it is the star which alerts them and guides them and points them to the infant Christ.

The Christmas News is the good news of our salvation. It is the tidings of great joy which sent the shepherds running to the manger. It is the message which was eventually to be carried by the disciples to the ends of the earth.

The Christmas Standard is what follows from the news; a vision of what life could, and should be, if it were filled with the spirit of Jesus Christ. It is the call to holiness from God who, by meeting us in Christ, has set new standards of love.

I am sure the actual newspapers did not think of themselves in these terms. It was just their names which, by coincidence, told a story. But now two are gone, and only the Evening Standard remains. And there is a story in that too. British public opinion has recently and rightly shown much concern about standards of morality. There has been a somewhat frantic breast-beating about all that seems to have gone wrong in our society. There have been questions about whether we are offering our children and young people any decent standards at all. And there have been the inevitable demands that the churches should do something about it.

The trouble is that without the Star and the News, the Standard is dangerously isolated. Attempts to teach high moral standards have little on

which to base themselves without vision, and hope, and the good news. That good news that God cares about the kind of people we are. This is where people often get things the wrong way round. They think the standards come first and, provided our children are taught the Ten Commandments, then all will be well. The hope and new supposedly come later as a kind of rescue operation when we fail, as we inevitably do.

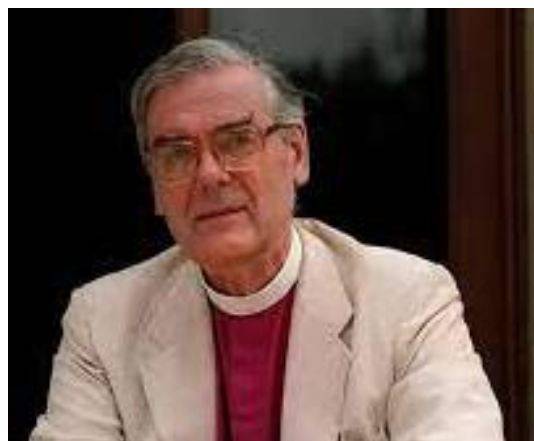
But Christian morality actually starts at the other end, not with what we do, but what God has done. He has come to us in Christ. He calls us to be his children. He fills us with his own love. He gives us a new vision and inspires us with new hope. And then he tells us to live like his children and be worthy of our vocation.

Christian morality, in other words, is not about striving with might and main to win favour with God. It is a response to his goodness, shown in Christ. Those who grasp this don't have to be exhorted to be good. They actually want to be. Some of this attitude can rub off on even the most unlikely people at Christmas time in response to the spirit of generosity, as they themselves experience a strange desire to share it.

This is not to say that morality cannot be taught without a religious basis. Clearly it can be, and there are many good people to prove it. Good people can encourage and inspire goodness in others, as a kind of human reflection of what Christians believe God does for us. But to expect the churches to teach morality without its religious basis would be nonsense. It is precisely because we have hope to offer and news to tell that we can commend a way of life inspired by thankfulness for what God has given us.

Christmas reminds us that the gift is for all, just as the call to live good, loving and generous lives is for all. The exchange of gifts with each other can attain a new depth of meaning as we think of God's stupendous gift of himself to each one of us.

*The Rt Revd Dr John Habgood
b. 1927 d. 2109*



from Sister Margaret Ann CSPH

We were all saddened by the death of Desmond Tutu that great servant of the Lord. Known worldwide for his work, political, spiritual and physical to bring about peace and unity in that amazing diverse and beautiful continent of Africa, and indeed across the world.



The day I met Desmond Tutu is a day I will never forget. His face beamed like the sun.

Father Trevor Huddlestone was a member of the Anglican Religious Community of the Resurrection based at Mirfield, West Yorkshire. My community of St Peter at Horbury had a very long association with Mirfield. They provided great men as

Wardens, Confessors and Spiritual directors to the Sisters over the years and we held them all in the highest regard. People like Donald Paley, Keith Davey, Norman Blamires, Ronald Haynes, Gabriel Sanford Eric Simmons, Crispin Harrison and many more. All good and holy men.

The Community of the Resurrection did parish work up and down the country, had a large theological college based at the Mother House in Mirfield and two or three houses in South Africa. Trevor Huddlestone served in Africa during Apartheid and met Desmond Tutu in their early days and set up a lifelong friendship. All Bishop Tutu's children were named after Mirfield Fathers.

Each year Mirfield held what they called a Commemoration day. A large open day for anyone who cared to join them. It began with a service in the morning, picnic lunch on the sports field, and a speaker and entertainment in the afternoon. Hundreds of people turned up from across the country and it was always a very happy event I remember.

In the late 1970's it was my privilege to represent Horbury with several of the other Sisters, and Desmond Tutu was their guest. He celebrated the Eucharist and preached in the open air, which was unforgettable. He spoke about Transformation in the hands of God. Something that is offered to us all here in the Benefice of Harton if we place ourselves in our Saviour's hands.

In the afternoon Desmond Tutu mingled among the crowds clearly enjoying the day. He was like a ray of sunshine, bubbling with joy and love for all who he met, and overflowing with fun. What a man full of the Spirit of Jesus.



I was so reminded of this at the weekend when, on the 2nd Sunday of Epiphany we were thinking of the first miracle performed by Jesus at Cana in Galilee, the changing of water into wine. What a transformation that was! We too can be changed, transformed, if we simply place our lives in the hands of the Christ Emmanuel, God with us.

Part of a hymn I love to sing in the quietness of my room is:

‘Sprit of the Living God
Fall afresh on me
Spirit of the living God
Fall afresh on me
Break me, melt me, mould me, fill me,
Sprit of the living God
Fall afresh on me.’

And a prayer quoted by King George VI in his Christmas broadcast on December 25th 1939, is my prayer for you all today, and for the year ahead, 2022.

‘I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year: Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown. And he replied: ‘Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be better than a light and safer than a known way’

With my continual prayers for you all as we continue to grow into the Kingdom of God in this place.

*Margaret Ann
+ CSPG*

BOSSALL

After a fairly quiet few months, St Botolph's sprang into action during November hosting three separate services. First the annual service of Remembrance on November 14th, which as ever was a poignant and sobering event, rightly remembering those who, in significant numbers from our Benefice, gave their lives for this Country during the two World Wars. Ian Lyall gave a moving sermon recounting his personal memories of family members affected by the conflicts. After the service, wreaths were laid at the Sand Hutton War Memorial.

The second of our services was a very happy and memorable occasion, with the baptism of Elodie (pronounced Eh-Luh-Dee) Rose Cohen. Elodie is the daughter of Rebecca and Daniel Cohen from Harton, and they managed to fill the church with some sixty family, friends and godparents. We received a most appreciative thank you note following the service which we would like to share, as it very succinctly sums up the event:

"Dear All,

We can't believe a week has already passed since Elodie's baptism.

We would like to say a huge thank you to you all for your efforts to make her day so special. It meant the world to us to be able to share it with so many of our loved ones. In particular my father-in-law, who made it over from Cyprus.

To Reverend Chris - it was such a lovely service and so many of our guests remarked on how impressed they were with your delivery. Everybody felt so welcome and you also made our friends with small children feel at ease with the lovely things you said to them. We also appreciate how you made sure to include Edward the whole way through, which was very thoughtful.

Thank you very much again for everything.

Best wishes,

Rebecca

That Sunday was finished off with a further service of evensong at 5.00pm. Sadly not terribly well attended, but as ever appreciated by the few who did turn out.

Our Christmas services at Bossall were curtailed slightly by the dreaded Covid, seeing the cancellation of the Crib service, but thankfully the Midnight Mass did go ahead.



The church looked magnificent with plenty of Christmas decorations, including a fabulous large Christmas tree very kindly donated again by Trish and Colin Russell from Claxton.

We kept to the tradition of a candlelit service, and had the benefit of at least some of our amazing choir, if not all, making it a lovely spiritual start to the official Christmas Day morning. We counted about 45 who attended, so not a record crowd, but certainly quality. One family announced they had travelled from France to attend, so that was impressive. They were staying with family at Westow.



On a final note, St Botolph's will be somewhat out of action for a couple of months now, as we start remedial works to the organ and flooring beneath the pews, all suffering with Death Watch Beetle and Woodworm infestation. Additional work to the exterior is also being scheduled, including stonework, drainage and new rainwater guttering, all of which awaits further detailed design and necessary faculties. The total expected repair costs are extensive, and grant assistance is being sought. Should any members of the Parish wish to make a donation towards these costs, all contributions would be gratefully received!

BUTTERCRAMBE

The last service we had at St John's Church was our Harvest Festival at the end of October which as always was well attended by the Buttercrambe residents and our loyal supporters from the Benefice. We had about 50 in the church and most of them came back to Aldby Park for lunch afterwards. It was a wonderful occasion and lovely to get everyone together again. Donations were split between Ryedale Food Bank and the church. Sadly we had to cancel our carol service because of a number of cases of COVID in the village. Our next Sunday service is not until May.

CRAMBE

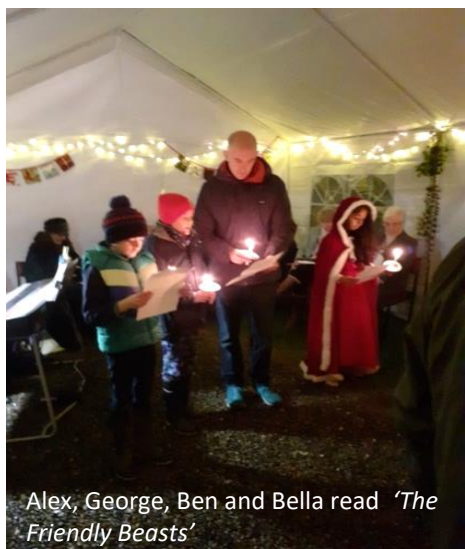
There have been five services held at St Michael's over the past quarter, including the Festival of Lilies and Light on November 2nd, All Souls day. At this service we remembered those whom we have loved and lost over the years and more recently. The church looked beautiful, decorated as it was with a multitude of lilies and candles. The congregation was supported by the Benefice Choir with Peter Stott, and Caroline Hall sang a very moving rendering of Schubert's Litany. The collection from this service was split between the church and Winston's Wish, a bereavement charity supporting children and their families through a time of loss.



Due to the havoc created by Covid, many of the scheduled Carol services were cancelled. After a lot of creative thinking we decided to go ahead with our Celebration of Christmas in carols, poetry and prose by shifting it from inside the church to outside the church! With the help of Sam Cook a large tent was erected to provide some cover, two fire pits were placed outside, fairy lights were hung, candles lit and swags of greenery enlivened the tent. The flames from the fires and the twinkling lights created a very special atmosphere. The door to the church stood open and the view from the tent down the length of the darkened, but candle lit nave to the altar at the far end was stunning.

The service was a shortened version led by Rachel Benson. Well wrapped up against the cold some forty five people came, from infants to the elderly and all sang lustily well supported by the 'Women in Harmony Choir' with Caroline Hall directing and the singing was accompanied by Peter and Ellen Stott.

Bella O'Shaughnessy aged 8 from Barton sang the first verse of 'Once in Royal David's City' and Clare Steele-King from Crambe sang two solo verses of 'I saw three ships'. The children, Bella, Alex and George read a poem between them. It was all rounded off with mulled wine, sausage rolls and mince pies. A successful and memorable evening.



Alex, George, Ben and Bella read 'The Friendly Beasts'



It is with great regret we record the deaths of two of our longstanding residents here in Crambe.

Les Taylor who lived with his wife Judy, down at Howsham Gates Crossing passed away on November 20th after a long illness. A lovely service celebrating his life was held on December 9th at Octon Crematorium.

Stanley Hall lived at the far end of Crambe with his son Graham, Stanley's wife having passed away some years ago. Stanley died on December 31st at the age of 93 after a short illness.

Our thoughts are with both Judy and Graham as they come to terms with their individual loss. Both Les and Stanley will be much missed by our community here in Crambe.

So here we are one month into a new year. It is hoped that at last we can look forward to having our freedoms restored, and we can move on into the new future with renewed vigour and enthusiasm.

FLAXTON

Wishing you a very Happy and Healthy New Year.

We now have a much brighter church thanks to the generosity of a parishioner who gave a monetary donation to enable us to improve the lighting in church.



Reach for the star!



Last few gifts to take to the car

We were very grateful for the donation of the Christmas Tree which the children enjoyed decorating.

Thank you to everyone who contributed so generously to the Toy Service in December on behalf of the Salvation Army (York) Christmas Appeal.

Major Andrew Dunkinson has written:

“May I take this opportunity to thank you for all your support of our Christmas appeal through the giving of toys, gifts and monetary donations from the Harton Benefice. We are very grateful to everyone for their kindness in helping to make Christmas special for struggling families. We have provided the 731 children referred to us with Christmas presents and 279 families with additional help with food. Evidence that your help was needed again this year.”

Major Dunkinson is retiring later this month and moving to Scotland. It has been a pleasure to know him over the last 10 years and we wish him and his family good health and happiness.

The Carol Service in December was with a difference! Just as the service was about to begin there was a power cut in church. Panic! Several of us made our way into the vestry to check the electricity trip switches. After



Carol service by candle and torch light

several attempts we all agreed it was the main fuse that had gone and there was nothing we could do immediately to rectify it. All was not lost. Dick and the Flaxton Singers and readers didn't give up and the service went ahead by candle and torch light followed by mulled wine and mince pies. Thank you to everyone for all your hard work and to those in the congregation who came along in support.

GATE HELMSLEY

A Happy New Year to you all.

We hope that you are keeping well and that you were able to enjoy the Christmas season.

We celebrated at St Mary's on Christmas morning, when Reverend Rachel Benson led a peaceful service of Holy Communion.

A small congregation enjoyed mince pies after the service.



Because of Omicron we had to cancel the village carol singing that had been planned for earlier in December. We can only hope and pray that we can return to a more normal pattern of life over the coming months.



Elisabeth and an array of 'stained glass' candles

We were pleased to host a service of All Age Worship at Gate Helmsley Village Hall on Sunday 5th December.

This service, led by the Rector, celebrated the festival of Santa Lucia. In keeping with the legend of Lucia bringing light and bread to prisoners in Sicily, the service featured many lights and candles including a crown

of candles and greenery. Rachael Harrison, our worker for children and families, guided us in making replica stained-glass candles

Thank you to everyone who supported our online Christmas Fayre, to Sue, Dorothy, Julia and Jane for their wonderful baking and to everyone who purchased goods. You enabled us to raise just over £900 for church funds, which will be a great help with our regular expenses.

We have various services at St Mary's over the coming weeks. The benefice choir will sing at the service on 30th January. Other services of Holy Communion will be held in church on 13th February and 6th March, with a service of All Age Worship in the Village Hall at 4.00 pm on 27th February.

It is sad to note the deaths of two long-standing local residents.

Pam Wray was brought up in Upper Helmsley but had farmed Manor Farm Gate Helmsley for many years with her late husband, Frank, and brought up their family there. Pam was a very keen gardener and a stalwart of St Mary's church, where she was a member of the Parochial Church Council. She is greatly missed.

Jeff Marley was a highly respected local builder, a kind gentleman always with a ready smile. He was often to be seen on long local walks with his beloved dog and had a friendly word for everyone. Jeff had not been well for several years but bore his illness with resilience and without complaint. We extend deepest sympathy to all the Wray family and to Alison and Claire and their families in the grief of losing a beloved parent.

Thank you to all those who have offered extra support to St Mary's church by arranging (through the Honorary Treasurer David Fletcher) to make regular donations. This is very much appreciated and will help us to continue the work of the church. Even the smallest donation is helpful – thank you.

As Covid regulations are gradually being eased, we hope to be able to return to our regular pattern of fund-raising events. As a starter we are arranging a coffee morning in Gate Helmsley Village Hall on 30th April. Please see details elsewhere in the magazine.

As I write the sky is a beautiful blue and the hedgerows are still white with frost. We can be cheered by signs of spring as the bulbs begin to appear in the gardens and verges. Let's hope that these are indications of a better time ahead in 2022.

HOWSHAM

We have had very few services in the last month and unfortunately had to cancel our usual carol service due to Covid. We were able to enjoy carol singing up and down the village. Over 25 adults and 8 children joined in and we raised £105 for the Salvation Army. We gathered outside afterwards for mulled wine and mince pies at Derwent Court. We were delighted to be joined by a couple from York who are to be married in Church this year.

We had 5 weddings in Church last year and have several already booked for this year. The income from these help us greatly.

Several new couples have moved into Howsham this year and we welcome them.

We were able to hold our usual cake stall at York Auction Centre Christmas Show. This was most successful.

We are very grateful to Olga Colledge for repairing the vestry curtain. Also to St Peters Church, Norton for generously donating 60 second hand hymn books; and to Chris for collecting them.

We look forward to Mothering Sunday service in Howsham on Sunday March 27th and hope that 2022 will bring a more normal pattern of events. We plan to arrange a celebration for her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee.

SAND HUTTON and CLAXTON

Welcome to all our new neighbours! Hopefully we will be able to get to know you as we start to circulate more and meet at various events.

Again we enter a new year feeling so privileged to live in and enjoy wandering around such a beautiful part of God's creation.

Looking at our TV's and newspapers we have so much to be thankful for when so many have so little.

Looking back to the end of 2021, many of us attended the Advent Carol Service at St Mary's church. Thank you to Peter and Ellen who worked hard with the Benefice choir to assist not only with the singing, but sang some beautiful Advent Carols and songs which we were able to sit back and enjoy.

The Christingle Service outside was a very special occasion, even if a bit damp! Thank you to Rachael Harrison for all she does for our children and young people throughout the Benefice, including Pray & Play.

We now look forward to a happier and healthier 2022!

St. Mary's Church and churchyard is always open for all to visit. Please feel free, when popping into the church, to help yourself to literature from the prayer table and enjoy refreshments, and perhaps take a moment to sit quietly/meditate/pray and maybe put memory ribbons on the tree at the end of the drive.

We have forwarded this month £535 to each of our 2021 Charities ... The Island, a local York Charity and Water Aid International.

The Charities for 2022 are:-

The Snappy Trust 'A York based charity providing special needs activities and play provision'

Christian Aid South Sudan based in Juba. Specific aims are to tackle conflict and build peace, to improve access to quality health care for the poor and marginalised communities. Also to expand community opportunities to sustain livelihoods that address short term well-being needs and contribute to poverty eradication.

There is a donation box in the church if you wish to give to these worthy causes or contact Ellen 01904 468404 / Rachel 01904 468809. Thank you.

Fund raising for St. Mary's Church:-

March 18th : Mills Family Quiz £7 including light supper...admission by ticket only...contact Dot 01759 372601...Vanessa 07946855419Rachel 468809
More information in The Circular

July.(date tba) : Afternoon tea at Abbey House Farm, Claxton . Details in next edition of The Circular.

Again thank you to all who keep our villages spick and span!!

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

The villages of Claxton and Sand Hutton hope to organise an event to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee. Caroline Goodrick hopes to secure some funding for the Parish Council to spend on such an event or events.

We would welcome suggestions and ideas from villagers. Please contact either: Helen Lyall (01904 468209) or Peter Stott (01904 468404)

In addition, St Mary's Church PCC is discussing the possibility of planting a Jubilee tree in the church grounds.

UPPER HELMSLEY

Pauline Harrison It was with great sadness that we held the funeral service for Pauline on Tuesday 11th January 2022. Pauline was a much-loved member of the Benefice of Harton church family and a long standing churchwarden at St Peter's.

Pauline supported many church and fundraising events at St Peter's and throughout the Benefice and will always be remembered for her hard work, constant cheerful outlook, her willingness to help others and of course, her world famous meringues.



We wish to thank everyone who helped out with preparations.

In particular, villagers who cleared the churchyard, friends who cleaned the church and friends who provided floral tributes. Thank you also to Peter Stott for the organ music to accompany the hymns.

Our special thoughts, condolences and prayers are with Michael, Rachael, Catherine and Ellie and all the family. May God bless them and bring them a healthy and happy new year ahead.



Floral tributes to Pauline in St Peter's Church



'Aubergine Operations': At St Peter's, we would like to acknowledge the involvement of the Benefice allotment youth group, who regularly visit us on their events and activities.

They decorated the church Christmas tree and the windowsills for the festive season which we really appreciated. It is lovely that the church is being used so regularly. We look forward to the Spring season and welcome all the new gardening and worship activities that will be planned for the allotment year ahead.

May we wish all in the Benefice and beyond a healthy, happy, prayerful and prosperous 2022.



NEWS FROM OUR SCHOOLS.....

Sand Hutton C of E Primary School

Happy New Year from all of us at Sand Hutton. We are all so thrilled to be fully open for the Spring Term this year.

Before looking ahead we thought we would share a little of our Christmas fun. We were able to make the most of experiences open to us while keeping safe.

We exchanged cards and letters with Beaumont Care Home. Our children were excited to get cards in return.

We didn't quite make a full-on Christmas Fair this year but we did host an outdoor event with refreshments and a few games. Father Christmas also made an appearance in a beautifully decorated grotto which families came upon from the woodland path. Our children loved it and I happen to know that Father Christmas had an equally fabulous time!

We took both schools out to Stockeld Park at the beginning of December where children experienced a pantomime, woodland walk and seasonal maze. Oh yes we did!

Despite making the decision not to go ahead with our Christmas service in church, we did manage a fantastic online Nativity with a blessing from Rev Chris. It isn't the same as celebrating together in church, as we were able to at Harvest, but we made the best of it.

For our Spring Term excitement, we are looking forward to welcoming a real published author and having them kick start a library project as we all love reading!

We are also looking forward to some Commando Joe projects which will involve developing teamwork through problem solving.

Maybe we will have some exciting photos!

Best wishes from everyone at Sand Hutton C of E Primary School
Kind regards,

Beverley Pawson

Foston School C of E Primary School

Happy new year to everyone.

What a lovely end to term we had welcoming parents in real life to our Christingle and nativity.

What a performance our EYFS and KS1 children produced. The wriggly nativity had its share of tear jerking moments along with humour and amazing acting and singing. Well done to our staff and pupil team.

We have had a fabulous start back at school. We continue to welcome our dedicated music teacher who teaches the children many musical skills on a range of instruments. These include the ukulele, glockenspiel and even metal dustbins!

The KS2 children are looking forward to their residential at Robinwood in Todmorden. Children from year 3 - 6 at our 3 schools enjoy this experience. The piranha pool always causes much excitement!

Our parents and friends group will be hosting

**A 'preloved' sale
on Saturday, 12th February at 1.30**

at Thornton Le Clay Village Hall.

We hope some of you will be able to join us.

We have extremely limited places available in our nursery so if you require a place for a younger child please contact us on fostonoffice@foston.n-yorks.sch.uk for a visit to ensure your place is booked.



Board or bored?



After a long dry sermon the Minister announced that he would like to meet with the church board after the service.

The first man to arrive was a total stranger.

'You misunderstood my announcement. This is a meeting of the Board' said the minister.

'I know' said the man, 'but if there is anyone here more bored than I am, I would like to meet him.'

CH CH

What's missing?

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The Circular

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