

The Benefice of Harton

The Circular



Spring 2025

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

The colour cover of this edition of The Circular
is sponsored by St Michael's Church, Crambe

From Rev Nigel.....

Out of the darkness into hope.

As we move out of the darkness of winter towards the brighter and longer days of Spring, we begin to see signs of new life. There is a renewal that speaks of hope, hope that all will be set right.



In the contemporary world, the rapid growth of the internet has revolutionized the way we receive news. We now have access to almost instant updates from all corners of the globe. Events occurring thousands of miles away are often reported within minutes, keeping us constantly informed and connected.

For those who strive to keep abreast of international news, this immediacy is generally a positive development. It allows us to stay informed about global events, understand diverse perspectives, and make more educated decisions. The quick dissemination of information can also foster greater awareness and prompt timely responses to crises, potentially saving lives and mobilizing support for those in need.

However, this constant stream of information can also bring its own set of challenges. The overwhelming influx of news, much of it distressing, can leave us feeling anxious and burdened. The sheer volume of negative reports can create a sense of unease and helplessness, leading some to lose hope in the face of so much adversity.

For those who view the world solely through a secular lens, the relentless parade of troubling news may indeed seem overwhelming. The prevalence of conflict, injustice, and suffering might lead them to question the goodness of humanity and the possibility of a better future. It can generate a deep feeling of hopelessness.

Yet, for Christians, the story does not end there. No matter how dire the circumstances may appear, our faith reminds us that God continues to offer hope. Throughout history, Christians have found solace and strength in the belief that God's love and providence surpass all human understanding.

For Christians, the knowledge that God is always present, working through the events of our lives, provides a profound sense of comfort and hope. Scriptures remind us that, even in the darkest times, we are never alone. The Bible is replete with assurances of God's enduring faithfulness and His plans for our ultimate good.

Moreover, the Christian community itself can be a source of great encouragement. By coming together in worship, prayer, and fellowship, believers can support one another, share burdens, and offer mutual encouragement. This sense of community can be a powerful antidote to the isolation and despair that may result from constant exposure to negative news.

In response to the myriad challenges of the modern world, Christians are called to live out their faith in practical ways. This might include acts of charity, advocacy for justice, or simply being a source of kindness and compassion in our daily interactions. By embodying the love and hope that our faith inspires, we can make a positive impact on the world around us.

While the rapid dissemination of news in today's internet age brings both benefits and challenges, it is ultimately our perspective and response that determine its impact on our lives. For Christians, the foundation of hope in God's unchanging nature offers a beacon of light amid the darkness.

By holding fast to this hope and actively living out our faith, we can navigate the complexities of the modern world with a sense of purpose and unwavering confidence in the ultimate goodness of God's plan.

The worshipping community in the Harton Benefice continue to strive to face our world's difficulties in practical ways, as well as with prayer. We believe that, through God, there will be constant renewal. He has brought that hope to us in the person of Jesus Christ. We seek to share that hope with everyone, whether they come to church or not.

But church is a good place to come, and we have ten of them in our benefice area. We have traditional services, family orientated 'All Age Worship' and 'Messy' services, as well as special services at times of festival. It will be good to welcome 'new' people to our services, and when you do come you will be able to enjoy wonderful fellowship (and lovely cakes!).

On the subject of Hope, we will be running a four-session course in March and April, during Lent, entitled '**Finding Hope, Sharing Hope**'. Details will be

on the Harton Benefice website very soon. Please also visit the website to find out what's on in our churches. You will be very welcome.

To finish, I just want to recommend that you take time out to notice the arrival of Spring. To focus on the resetting that nature's renewal brings, and to let yourselves be reset and refreshed. For a while at least, turn off the TVs, computers and gadgets. Put your phones on silent, or turn them off altogether, and get out amongst God's creation. Go for a walk or a cycle ride and enjoy this time of renewal and fresh hope.

Blessings

Nigel

Rev Nigel Benson, Vicar



Everyone is welcome to join us at the Lent Course

'Finding Hope, Sharing Hope'

The sessions follow on after the morning service of Holy Communion

On the following dates

Wednesday March 12th

Wednesday March 19th

Wednesday March 26th

Wednesday April 2nd

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

February 2025

Sunday February 2nd

Candlemas

9.00	Zoom Service	
10.00	Holy Communion	Gate Helmsley

Wednesday February 5th

10.00	Holy Communion	Sand Hutton
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Sunday February 9th

10.00	Holy Communion	Flaxton
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Wednesday February 12th

10.00	Holy Communion	Flaxton
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Sunday February 16th

10.00	Holy Communion	Howsham
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Wednesday February 19th

10.00	Holy Communion	Crambe
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Sunday February 23rd

10.00	Holy Communion	Foston
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Wednesday February 26th

10.00 Holy Communion Howsham

March 2025

Sunday March 2nd

9.00 Zoom Service
10.00 Holy Communion Upper Helmsley

Wednesday March 5th

Ash Wednesday

7.00 Holy Communion Sand Hutton
Anointing with Ashes

Sunday March 9th

10.00 Holy Communion Crambe

Wednesday March 12th

10.00 Holy Communion Flaxton

Sunday March 16th

10.00 Holy Communion Whitwell

Wednesday March 19th

10.00 Holy Communion Crambe

Sunday March 23rd

10.00 Holy Communion Buttercrambe

Wednesday March 26th

10.00 Holy Communion Howsham

Sunday March 30th

Mothering Sunday

10.00

All Age Worship

Flaxton

April 2025

Wednesday April 2nd

10.00

Holy Communion

Sand Hutton

Sunday April 6th

9.00

Zoom Service

10.00

Holy Communion

Bossall

Wednesday April 9th

10.00

Holy Communion

Flaxton

Sunday April 13th

Palm Sunday

10.00

Holy Communion

Upper Helmsley

Thursday April 17th

Maundy Thursday

7.00 pm

Holy Communion

Crambe

Friday April 18th

Good Friday

2.00 pm

An hour before the cross

Sand Hutton

Sunday April 20th

Easter Day

10.00

Holy Communion

Sand Hutton

Wednesday April 23rd

10.00

Holy Communion

Howsham

Sunday April 27th

10.00

Holy Communion

Gate Helmsley

Wednesday April 30th

10.00

Holy Communion

Sand Hutton

May 2025

Sunday May 4th

10.00

Holy Communion

Howsham

Wednesday May 7th

10.00

Holy Communion

Flaxton



Welcome to those newly baptised

12th January

Arnold Charles Herbert Calpin

Sand Hutton



Congratulations to those newly married

16th November

Lewis Fraser and Chelsea Webster

Sand Hutton



Our condolences to the family and friends of

14th October

Thomas Hudson

Sand Hutton



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

CHILDREN AND FAMILY WORKER REPORT—January 2025

Autumn and the lead up to Christmas seems to get busier and busier for everyone, and this year was no exception! After a very productive Shoebox campaign which I'm sure David will be reporting on, we held the Festival of Light, Santa Lucia at Gate Helmsley Village Hall during November where we explored the story of Santa Lucia and engaged in creative activities which were fun for all ages.

A highlight for the Aubergines was wreath-making in Upper Helmsley church in early December, the children were very pleased with what they achieved and rightly so! The Crib and Christingle Service on Christmas Eve at Foston was extremely well supported as always, to the point where I was down to my last orange! It is always lovely to see our beautiful churches full to capacity and when that includes lots of families, it is even more special.

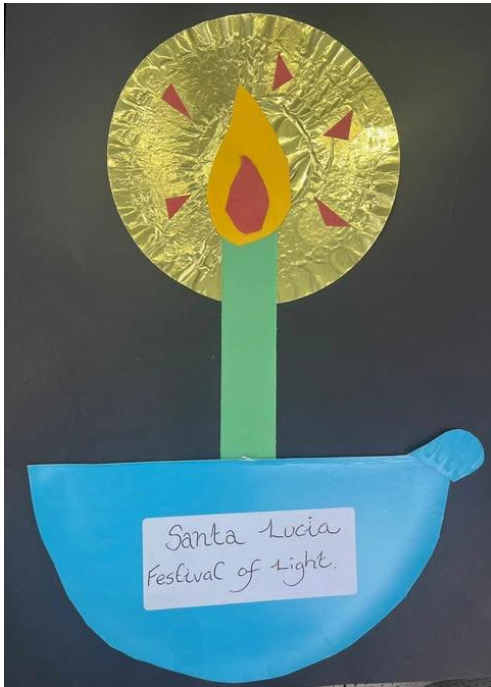
Many thanks to the children who did the bible reading & read out prayers.

In January we combined a family Christening with Messy Magi, which Revd. Nigel managed to blend together with great skill! Again, it was lovely to see families in Sand Hutton church to welcome Arnold Calpin to the church family; and we reflected on the coming of the Magi and its significance to the Nativity story. Thanks again to Aiden who kindly agreed to read at the Service.

I also need to pass on to you all that this will be my last report in the Circular as Children and Family worker as I am standing down from the post at the end of February. I have thoroughly enjoyed the five and a half years that I have spent working with young people and families across the Benefice and I will be very sad to leave it behind. However, it is time to move on. I am very proud of what we have achieved together and I am especially gratefully to the hard working allotment team, Katie, Phil, Mari and Carolyn who have enabled the Aubergines to run on a regular basis; and also the Messy church team, who over the years have consisted of Rachel, Ida, Mari, Mandy, Vanessa, Louise and Laura. I would also like to express my thanks to the Ministry team for their support and guidance, and to all you families who have come along to Worship and to the events I have helped to organise and support.

At the moment I am not able to pass on what will be happening next with the Children and Family role, but I am certain that as soon as Nigel and the team have any news to pass on, they will let you all know. I live within the Benefice of course so I look forward to seeing everyone round and about.

However, for now, it's goodbye and thank you to you all.

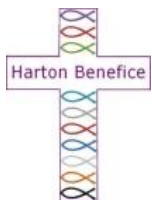




Are you aged between 11-16 and have an interest in the environment and making friends?
Why don't you come along to our fortnightly sessions at Upper Helmsley allotment/church and see what we do?



- Support of the allotment at Upper Helmsley Church
- Greening activities e.g. recycling, environmental issues
- Running charity and fundraising events e.g. pop-up cafes, sales
- Meeting friends
-and you even get a free sweatshirt!!



Benefice PCC.....

The Benefice PCC's first meeting of 2025 was held at Crambe House on 16th January. Discussions included:

- A Lent course has been arranged by Reverend Nigel Benson. The theme is "Hope", which reflects the Diocesan theme for the Lent season. There will be 4 sessions on successive Wednesdays, 12th, 19th and 26th March and 2nd April, starting after the service and held in the same church. Details elsewhere in the Circular, with a list of 3 Lent lunches on 5th and 20th March and 8th April
- David Fletcher is retiring from his post as Honorary Treasurer. He was warmly thanked for his several years of service in this role, and for the excellent way he has kept the benefice accounts

- The Aubergine group is on hold for the present. There is a continuing need for more support from other parishes for Rachael Harrison and the team, and more involvement with the allotment. The group and the allotment are part of the whole benefice, which happen to be based at Upper Helmsley
- Safeguarding: we are still looking for a new Benefice Lead for Safeguarding. Until someone is recruited, Rachael Harrison is working to bring the local records up to date
- A service schedule has been produced for the whole of 2025. Copies will be printed for each church, to be placed in the vestry
- The website “A Church Near You” has been updated for each church in our Benefice. The contact person is now Reverend Nigel Benson (to replace Reverend Chris Wingfield). He will put a link to the benefice website in the entry for each of our churches. Churchwardens and parishioners are urged to contact Nigel to have news and information about their church included. At present there is no information at all under 9 of our 10 churches. This website is often the first port of call for outsiders searching for information about churches

The PCC will next meet on Thursday 17th April at 10.00 am at Delphinia Lodge, Upper Helmsley.

Please send items for the agenda to the Honorary Secretary, Ellen Stott.

Delyth Harran

Lay Chairman

PLAY THE ORGAN YEAR 2025

**If you ever wondered how a pipe organ works or fancied having a go?
2025 is the year for you:**

There will be events running throughout the country, but in the meantime if you would like to come and find out what it's like to play "The king of instruments" and fill a large building with sound....or you may have wondered what all those "stops" are for.....or find out if you can play music with your feet(!) then come along and give the organ at St Mary's Church, Sand Hutton a try. (Picture below)



This invitation is open to anyone of any age.

If you need a little inspiration, try typing : Anna Lapwood organist, BBC Breakfast 29-9-2023 into your browser or RCO (Royal College of Organists) website under "Play the Organ Year 2025"

Please get in touch to find out more or to arrange to have a go:

**Contact : Peter Stott
Email : petermstott@yahoo.co.uk
Tel : 01904 468404**

Romanian Shoebox Report December 2024



Thank you to every one of you for your support and prayers and for contributing again to the Amen Annual Family Shoebox Appeal. It's greatly appreciated and the recipients experienced the love of Jesus Christ through Christmas gifts you sent.

This year David Fletcher volunteered to join the Amen team from the UK in distributing the shoeboxes and saw first-hand the families receiving your gifts. Our 170 shoeboxes went ahead of us by lorry and, with other contributors from across the UK there were almost 3000 shoeboxes in total.

There is a serious social problem with the gypsy population. Romania has more gypsies than any other European country, and they are totally despised by their Romanian neighbours, largely due to lifestyle issues.

The Roma gypsy communities live in rural villages in their own zones which in the main look like shanty towns. Many gypsy women and children suffer great hardship and live in extreme poverty and squalor. Often, children do not go to school. Early motherhood is the norm from 12 years of age upward. Hospital treatment is very difficult and always entails 'gifts' for every service. There is supposed to be free health treatment but in reality it is non-existent.

Here's my diary of the trip:

Tuesday 10 December We flew out from Luton Airport to Targu Mure, Romania. Our destination was Sighisoara, a holiday resort with beautiful buildings.

Wednesday 11 December. We covered a lot of ground today distributing shoeboxes to nearby villages in the morning.

Later, arriving in Danes at an inspirational centre, 'Perspective' run by Romanian Christians Liviu and his wife Elena along with their children, who aim to be role models for young people. You can see the work of 'Perspective' on their website <https://perspectivedanes.ro/programs/after-school-program/>

We played games; gave a puppet show based on Jesus calming the storm and his promise to be with us. We then did craft work making Christmas decorations. Romanians love singing and we sang together.

Their appreciation was obvious. We also went to village where a retired Nazarene pastor and his wife (Norman and Linda) from Belfast lived. They stored shoeboxes in their barn for us to load up.

Thursday 12 December. More shoeboxes distributed in the morning, well organised by a Roma lady who received a box as a child and now helps as an adult. John and Rosanne (Brits living in Romania at Perspectives Centre) kindly took us, and more shoeboxes to a residential home for the blind, deaf and handicapped. They were delightful and some read us Psalms from Braille and others sang solos of joyful songs.

Friday 13 December. We had an amazing breakfast at Perspectives Centre Danes and Chris Chatfield gave a talk on the love of God. We then went to another very poor gypsy village with the local pastor and Dave McGuire.

Saturday 14 December. We went to another village beyond Danes to give out shoeboxes. The local church leaders were very well organised and it was less demanding physical work. The village reminded me of Laramie the old TV western. The pastor's family operated a small shop with pasta and fruit and veg but no alcohol. They had a church built by Dave in the village.

Lovely morning worship in church down the road from our hotel. They had headsets that translated from Romanian to English for us. Two young women led lively worship with aid of a microphone and keyboard.

In the afternoon we went to gypsy village and joined a lovely service led by a gypsy pastor from a very poor background before his conversion to Christ. His two lovely teenage daughters who had bucked the trend of young motherhood and were going to school, had wonderful voices and led our worship. The prayer was on our knees accompanied by sighing and tears.

Monday 16 December. A long 2hr+ drive after breakfast to our last village Pe Lunca, where there is another centre for Roma gypsies funded by Amen, mostly run by a Flemish couple.

Tuesday 17 December. After breakfast we said our farewells to the hotel owner and left for a good journey to the airport and the flight back to Luton.

David Fletcher

(For reasons of space this is a heavily edited version of David's diary of his trip to Romania. If you would like to read the unedited version, please contact Fiona Editor of The Circular contact details on the back page)



FORTHCOMING EVENTS AROUND THE BENEFICE.....



LENT LUNCHEES

12.30 – 2PM

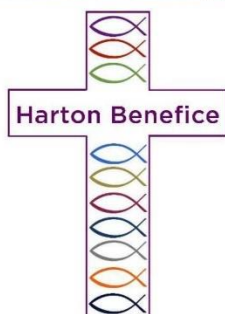
*Join us for a simple lunch
of soup, bread and cheese*

Wed 5 Mar – Orchard House, Gate Helmsley

Thu 20 Mar – Aldby Park, Buttercrambe

Tue 8 Apr – The Pavilion, Howsham

Free – no booking needed



Donations in aid of N. Yorkshire charity:

<https://www.dementiaforward.org.uk/>



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 February 4th 2.00 pm – 4.00 pm

Tuesday March 4th 2.00 pm - 4.00 pm

Tuesday April 1st 2.00 pm – 4.00 pm

Thursday February 20th 10.00 am – 12.00 noon

Thursday March 20th 10.00 am – 12.00 noon

Thursday April 17th 10.00 am – 12.00 noon



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



Message from Adrian and Jezz.....

The Lunch Club:

Next lunch club is Sunday 16th March at 12.00 at the Wentworth Arms, Old Malton. Places are limited to 8 so please let me know if you are coming. Order from the menu on the day.

Tel: 07870591142 to book your place



from Sister Margaret Ann CSPH



My Dear Friends,

A very happy, healthy and peaceful New Year to you all. How quickly the time goes. Here we are already nearly at the end of January 2025. We have to make every day count before it is lost.

Mary was a lady I knew in Manchester many moons ago. She lived alone as all her family had long gone. She had been in the same house for most of her life. She lived in a street of back to back houses long gone too now.

Everything happened in the street. One could hear the sound of children playing, watch the old men leaning up against their doorposts smoking their pipes, and watch the world go by in the street. The women hung their washing out in the street - imagine that today! Everything seemed to happen in the street. Tradesmen brought their wares to the street - milk, green groceries, meat, fish, and the baker came with his bread. That is if you had the money to purchase their goods. Yes, life was hard, but a lot of good came out of those dark old days of the 1940's and 50's.

Mary was housebound so things sometimes passed her by, but she was always grateful for anyone who called in to see her. She always greeted them with a smile, never complained about her life, or being alone, or her aches and pains. She was always just pleased to see you. Always interested in what you had to tell her or had been getting up to. Consequently, people often called in, young and old alike.

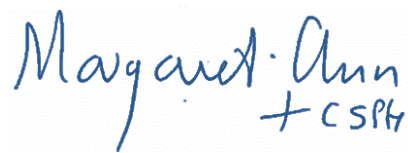
One day a lady went to see her, and in the middle of the conversation she asked Mary "what is it that makes you so happy, always smiling never complaining". Mary thought for a minute then stretched up and took a black leatherbound book down from the shelf above her chair where she sat throughout her long days. She held it up to the visitor "I believe this is the answer" she said "every night, before I lay down to sleep, I write in my book one thing I have to say thank you for."

You should try it, once you start it is endless, we all have so much. Ask God that you may open your ears and eyes wide, so that you don't miss anything. It could be anywhere, at any time, don't miss anything, all these things that make life worth living and be thankful.

It could be the robin who visits each day on the window ledge, or the first wild roses in the hedgerows, someone's smile or friendly face, a kind word or the helpful hand of a stranger, the sunshine or wintry sun on frosty paths, alight with diamonds, a stairway to the stars. The colours in the sky, an animal, wild or otherwise, the purr of an affectionate cat and their soft furry coats. A phone call, or a letter through the letter box, oh so many things, all God's gifts to us day by day. We might not have a lot, or find it hard to pay the bills but we are oh so rich, for by the grace of God, we have everything we need and we are never on our own, for God always provides what life requires, and He walks beside us every step of the way.

So, take a moment each day to think about that gift given to you, thank God for it, Let Mary teach you as she taught me all those years ago, find something that will give you an inner peace, joy and perfect contentment. This is what I truly pray for you all as we go into this New Year of 2025

With my love to you all,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Margaret Ann" followed by "+ CSPK" on a new line.

BARTON LE WILLOWS

I am Graham, and I run the Free Cinema at Barton Le Willows Village Hall.

We have a 150 inch screen (that's nine times the area of a 50 inch TV) and a projector that shows films in ultra high definition. We also have a surround sound system for high quality audio. We have active 3D which is particularly good and it's great to see the children reaching out to touch things (apparently) in front of them. It's really worth seeing - a number of new arrivals are surprised when they first see the size of the screen and the quality of the picture.

It's a very friendly set up with a small group of (largely) local people that come on a regular or semi-regular basis. You can bring all your own food and drink (including alcohol). We take a break around half way and you can get ice creams, popcorn and make yourself a hot drink in the kitchen for a small

charge (£1). People discuss the film or life in general. We have new infra-red heating and it was a comfortable 19 degrees centigrade in the recent subzero weather. Many people come for the company as much as the film.

Our licence does not allow us to charge for films or to advertise actual titles outside of the village hall. However, you can join the email and/or WhatsApp groups to be sent the upcoming titles. You can also suggest and discuss possible new films to see using these methods. If you can drum up a small group of half a dozen people that would like to come and see a particular film at a particular time, I can probably put it on for you.

We work by donations which support the cinema, and the running and improvement of the Village Hall. The most common donation is a fiver for a film and an ice cream. However, you really can pay less, or even nothing if the cost would prevent you from coming. If you are reluctant to pay nothing, even a pound makes us a pound better off. We're much cheaper than the commercial cinema and you can see a film that you missed when it first came out and won't be able to see again on the big screen.

I hope everyone is managing to cope in the recent bad weather. Cinema runs on alternate Saturdays and I was beginning to think that we were jinxed with two snow days and Storm Darragh affecting three recent Saturdays. The latter brought down a 350-year-old oak tree in my garden and I am still clearing up! It has also led to some smaller audiences.

If anyone wishes to come to the cinema but is not happy to drive after dark or in poor weather, just let Graham know in advance and transport can be arranged with one of our regular supporters.

One of the problems of being in a rural setting is our potential audience is relatively small. Given people's busy lives and heavy commitments some audiences can be quite small. Fortunately, with zero staffing costs and other low costs, we can afford to run these. However, we are keen to expand our audience to include all the villages in the Benefice and beyond, it's much more of a cinema experience when more people are sharing the film. We always welcome new visitors and you will quickly get to know the regulars.

**If you want to find out more, please get in touch with me at
bartonlewillows@gmail.com.**

BOSSALL



As many of the parishioners will have seen, St Botolph's is currently covered in scaffolding and hoarding at lower levels. The repair works, being undertaken by GP Masonry Ltd, are progressing, although sadly slower than we would have hoped. We have been caught by persistent poor weather, and particularly the cold spell in the post-Christmas

holiday, which has delayed the re-start. Also, having been able to undertake closer inspection once the high level scaffold was erected, it became clear that additional urgent works were required, over and above the original specification drawn up by our architects, Purcell. This included loose coping stones at both transepts and at the chancel end, and widespread defective lead flashing, all of which has undoubtedly been adding to water ingress and inevitable damp to the main stone walls.

Revised budgets and specifications have now been prepared and agreed, but the estimated completion date for the contract is likely to move out to late March early April. All involved consider we must do everything possible to protect the safety, structure and fabric of this wonderful Church.

We hope to have the building open again for services just as soon as possible.

CRAMBE

Happy New Year if a little belatedly to everyone in the Harton Benefice.

It has been a busy time for St Michael's Church. At the end of October we hosted the Lily Festival, a special service of remembrance at which we remembered our personal loved ones. As ever the church was beautifully decked out with lilies and candles and the Benefice Choir under Peter Stott's baton, sang a very moving anthem. The roll of names was read, and everyone lit memorial candles.

On November 11th we said our farewells to Mike Le Masurier at his funeral. As it was Remembrance Day, with a packed out church, we remembered not only our own Old Soldier, but also the dead of past conflicts. It was very

moving to listen to the last post echoing round the walls of a church that has seen so many come and go over the years.

On December 22nd, once again we held our annual Celebration of Christmas by Candlelight with a very full church. It was wonderful to see so many people from babies to the elderly, and everything in between, many of whom were not from the Benefice, but from far and wide. It is always a pleasure to welcome new people to our church. Following the service most people managed to squeeze into Crambe House and enjoy lots of chatter over mulled wine and mince pies.



The year has turned, and we as a PCC are hoping that this will be the year when we can start to implement some of the projects that have been on hold for many years, thus securing the future of our much loved church.

Despite the deep frosts and snow of recent times, Spring is just around the corner, and we are looking forward to seeing swathes of colour as the many crocuses that were planted over a year ago start to emerge in the churchyard.

FLAXTON

Wishing you a Happy, Healthy and Peaceful 2025.

The Community: The table top sale on the 9th November was a huge success. Thank you to those who made it possible. It brought together not only different groups in the village but others from surrounding areas. Bacon and sausage baps were plentiful and the cakes were delicious. There were eleven stalls, each providing a different variety of goods. Feedback from visitors was very positive saying it was a friendly atmosphere and the cakes were some of the best they have ever had.

Toy Service: Thank you so much to everyone who gave gifts and monetary donations in aid of the Salvation Army Christmas Appeal. Gifts were collected by a member of the Salvation Army who went away with a full car load. As ever gifts were plentiful and were gratefully received. The Salvation Army have sent the following message

“On behalf of The Salvation Army’s annual Christmas Toy Appeal in York can I thank you once again for the generous donations of toys and gifts that your church has made once again this year. We are very grateful to you for helping us reach out to some of the neediest individuals and families in our community”



helping Andrew at the Salvation Army to sort the toys

Carol Service: It was very uplifting to have a full church for our service of Nine Lessons and Carols. Thank you to all the readers, particularly those who stood in at the last minute. A huge thank you to Juliet and the Flaxton Singers and their organist for the music and for providing refreshments following the service.

Christmas Day: It was good to welcome a number of people to the 10.00 am forty minute family service. The children did a sterling job of helping during the service by reading and presenting the figures in the crib.

Church: A belated thank you to the organists and to those who delivered the Benefice circular around the village during 2024. Apologies for missing you out in the previous edition.

GATE HELMSLEY

At the start of 2025, may we wish everyone a peaceful and happy New Year. There was a lot happening in our community over the festive season.

The annual Christmas Fayre was held in person at Orchard House on Saturday 30th November, when we joined together for mince pies, mulled wine, a bumper raffle and good fellowship. The fayre continued online for the next three weeks. This all resulted in a total of over £1,200 raised for church funds, a really worthy effort. Thank you to all those who supported this event in so many different ways.

The village carols, held in the church on Saturday 7th December, proved a great success, raising almost £100 for St Leonard's Hospice. Many thanks to Sister Margaret Ann for lighting the Advent candles, for setting up the crib and for speaking about the true meaning of Christmas. The singing was led by Mandy Dodds, with Michael Harran at the organ; thank you both. Some local talent for descant singing (Mandy, Angela and Jo) came to light during the event, hopefully we will hear them again next year.

Because of building work at St Botolph's Bossall, we were privileged at St Mary's to host the annual Christmas Eve service of Midnight Mass. Thanks to the vicar, Reverend Nigel Benson, who led the service and to the Reader, Dr Ian Lyall. The collection from the service was donated to the local charity, IDAS, Independent Domestic Abuse Services, which supports the victims of domestic abuse in York.

Orchard House was full of joviality for our annual Parish Lunch – it seems that everyone enjoyed the food and company and we raised £670 for church funds. Thanks to all who supported us at this event.

There is less work to do in the churchyard over the winter months, but we are grateful to Christine Bickerdike for the Christmas lights in one of the trees, which brought cheer to us all. Thanks to Richard Thompson for trimming the hedges, to Ian Piercy for use of a chipper and to Graham Freer and Dan Hearst for moving Ella's memorial bench onto flagstones in its permanent position. Also, in memory of Ella and engraved with her name, there is now a dogs' drinking bowl in the church porch.

HOWSHAM

Our Carol service was a great success with about eighty people attending. Sister Margaret officiated and there was plenty of participation by adults and children from the village with readings and solos. Thank you to everyone who took part and to those who decorated the church so beautifully.

Around fifty people joined us at the Pavilion afterwards for mulled wine and mince pies and we were all able to get thoroughly into the Christmas spirit!

We are still awaiting a visit from the architect to complete our quinquennial inspection.

We hope that the tree surgeon will shortly get permission from the Council for much needed work on the churchyard trees. Following that, the boundary walls will need rather costly attention.

The Bank holiday cake stall will take place from 9.30am on Monday 5th May on Howsham Bridge. Do come and join us for tea or coffee and a chance to buy cakes, jams and plants.

SAND HUTTON and CLAXTON

The final months of 2024 and the start to 2025 featured so much rain, followed by a really bitter spell. Hopefully the cold will help to dispel some of the nasty bugs which have been circulating. While there have been gloomy days, we have also enjoyed some spectacular and unusual sunsets and night skies. Each season brings its own personality and promise.

St Mary's PCC would like to say a huge thank you to all who supported our "Gifts for Christmas" event in early November. It was a lovely sociable day with a wonderful atmosphere, a host of delicious refreshments on offer and beautiful gifts to purchase. In addition, it raised a magnificent £2,451 for church funds. Our very special thanks go to the incredible talented team of ladies who beaver away all through the year crafting and creating all kinds of wonders; to those who prepare the mouth-watering delicacies for the kitchen and to all the volunteers.

Since the last Circular came out, we have held the following services: Remembrance Sunday, Advent Carols, two School Nativities, Holy Communion and Messy Magi. All were very touching in their own way and well supported. Our thanks go to all who contributed in any way.

We were very happy to celebrate the marriage of Chelsea Webster and Lewis Fraser on 16th November and the baptism of Arnold Calpin in January.

Each was a special occasion and we wish both families every happiness in the future.

We were so terribly sad to hear of the death of Thomas Hudson. A small, intimate gathering for his burial was held in November. Our sincere condolences go to all of Tom's family, friends and loved ones.

Electoral Roll

The PCC wish to thank all those who are on our electoral roll and identify or associate with St Mary's as their local or parish church. Each year this is updated but every 6 years the Diocese require that a new roll is created.

This is the case for 2025 and means a very short form has to be completed. If you are currently on the electoral roll, you will receive a form which we ask

that you complete and return to Ellen Stott, 17 Sand Hutton, or to Ian Lyall, Ashbourne, Claxton.

We would welcome others onto the roll – if you would like a form, please contact Ellen on 01904 468404.

WHITWELL

We hope all of you had a very happy Christmas. We had our Christmas carols around the village - not as well attended as last year but we made a good effort and ended up with some very welcome drinks and mince pies at the Manor House.

The Victorian Society commented on the poor lighting in the church when they visited us in July so armed with this information the lighting has all been improved in the church and it really does look good (except it shows up the cobwebs). Many thanks to Andrew and Anthea for climbing the ladder!

The church is open daily and we've had quite a few visitors recently who have signed the book, including a family from Ormskirk whose grandfather Albert French was churchwarden here and also remembering their mother Carol French who grew up in the village. She died early in December 2024. We much enjoy reading all the comments in the book so hope that this will continue.

And finally, we have a bit of a mystery in Whitwell. A beautiful bench has appeared in the churchyard and we have no idea who put it there or who has donated it. To our mysterious benefactor, very many thanks and please do get in touch so we can thank you in person!

We hope you all have a very good and prosperous 2025.

NEWS FROM OUR SCHOOLS.....



Sand Hutton C of E Primary School

Happy New Year from everyone at Sand Hutton C of E Primary School.

We hope that all enjoyed a lovely Christmas and stayed warm in the cold snap.

We have had a lovely start to the new year and are really pleased to be welcoming some new faces to our classes.

The new year began in a big way with our trip to Sheffield Arena for the Young Voices event. We took over thirty children from our two schools, all of whom made us incredibly proud. The singing was incredible and we all had lots of fun together.

We have started taking some of our younger children swimming this term along with a group from Warthill. Already they are impressing me with their behaviour and with their swimming. We had to hire an additional lane in the big pool....there were so many super swimmers!

We haven't set a date yet for our Easter Service. However, it is always something our children really look forward to and we hope to see you there.

With every best wish,

Everyone at Sand Hutton C of E Primary School

Kind regards,

Beverley Pawson

Headteacher, Sand Hutton and Warthill Federation

headteacher@warthill.n-yorks.sch.uk



Foston Cof E Primary School

Happy New Year to everyone from Foston CE Primary School. We are extremely proud to share the news of our recent Ofsted Inspection in the autumn term.

Our Early Years has been graded as **OUTSTANDING**. We would like to thank the school team and our families for their continuous support, but most of all the children who were superstars as always. The report truly reflects our school.

'Positive relationships between staff and pupils are at the heart of the school community from the early years onwards. Pupils are happy and thriving. Pupils are proud of their school and enjoy learning. They are polite and well mannered. Pupils feel safe in school and trust adults to deal with any concerns.'

Ofsted 2024.

School Updates

Mrs Moore is now Executive Headteacher of Foston, Stillington, Terrington and Langton Primary Schools, who work collaboratively together.

The children and staff benefit from this partnership through shared trips and networking. Miss Stringer is now Head of School of Foston and Langton Primary School. Foston School has four classes with over sixty children on roll and has grown in recent years. We now have our new designated library space at Foston that is used regularly by our pupils. Last year we released our new school federation website, please have a look using the QR code below.



Scan me!

Last term we were very busy with lots of fun enrichment activities, including first aid training for the children, a library visit, skateboarding lessons, a drumming workshop, a visit from a local author Dawn Treacher, drama lessons, forest school sessions and taking part in sports competitions at Malton.

We have nursery places available from three years old and offer full or part time places. Children in receipt of fifteen hours funding can also attend full time at no additional cost.

Please ring Foston Primary School on:
01653 618265 to organise a visit, or email:
fostonoffice@foston.n-yorks.sch.uk

Miss Katie Stringer
Head of School





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YO60 7NT

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Email: christopherfordy@fordymarshall.com

Email: belindafordy@gmail.com

Tel: 01904 468682

Buttercrambe, St John the Evangelist

YO41 1AT

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Email: sara@winndarley.net

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Crambe, St Michael

YO60 7JR

Churchwardens: Stewart Walker

Email: stewart.walker46@gmail.com

Tel: 07754 055658

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Email: george@scaledrinks.com

Tel: 07919 326 515

Flaxton, St Lawrence

YO60 7NT

Churchwarden: Ida Terry

Email: idmt@hotmail.co.uk

Tel: 01347 878432

Foston, All Saints

YO60 7QG

Churchwardens: Currently no Churchwardens have been appointed. In case of need, please contact the Vicar, whose details are on the back cover.

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YO41 1NE

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Email: dandmharran@gmail.com

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YO60 7PH

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St Michael's Church, Crambe

The Circular

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

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