

The Benefice of Harton

The Circular



Summer 2023
May June July

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 Mary's Church, Gate Helmsley

My dear friends

“To be continued....”



All good things come to an end, they say. And this is a good ending to a wonderful part of my journey, having been here amongst you for the past nine years. But as I begin a new part of my travels, on this road called 'retirement', it's time to stop and sit for a while to reflect.

There is a wonderful story about Jesus, a few days after he'd been crucified, where two friends were walking away from Jerusalem, on the road to Emmaus. Just chatting away about the annual Passover celebration and, of course, the crucifixion they'd witnessed, they were joined by a fellow traveller, who asked them about what had happened. And so, they spent the next part of the journey, walking and chatting with their companion until supper time. And then, as they were about to start their meal together, their companion broke the bread..... And they suddenly realised they'd been travelling with the crucified, but now risen Jesus all along. And they are amazed.....

But what happens to them next, I cry?!

I read that story time and time again and compare it to my own personal experience of Jesus. I see myself as one of the travellers, thirty three years ago, this time journeying by train from Tonbridge to London, chatting with my fellow companions. Stopping at a church to pray on my way to work, at the back of the Bank of England, I exit to see a stranger in a dog collar walk past. Silently, I jest with God: "Heavens, don't tell me you want me to become a 'priest'!"

And a physical jolt to the back of my neck, with the words "YES".

My very own Emmaus, a Godly revelation and I am amazed....

Only this time I know what happens next!

It's been a thirty year pilgrimage of telling the Emmaus Road story, and many, many others about Jesus, everywhere I've gone. From a host of Suffolk villages and towns, through Worcestershire and South Birmingham, to here in Yorkshire, I've tried to walk alongside people on their own journeys, no matter how long or short that might have been.

And I don't think I'll ever really stop; for me, it doesn't matter whether I'm telling God's story as a Vicar, Rector, Area Dean, or 'retiree'...., I just see it as the pilgrimage of life we're all walking and sharing together – telling our stories and God's stories and how the two overlap or intertwine.

And I believe that's how it should be – actually, how we all should be.

Archbishop Stephen recently said he'd like to add three words to the end of the Bible:

“To be continued.....”

And that's how I hope we all see our own pilgrimage of life with God, through Jesus.

So as I travel this new road of adventure called 'retirement', my prayer is that you, my fellow travellers, will always be on the lookout for other pilgrims who are curious about this 'Emmaus Road', who are drawn to walk with you, and want to hear you share your stories about yourself and Jesus. Because that's what we should be: Lookouts; Beacons; Storytellers.

So finally, thank you all – each and every one of you - for making us feel so welcome here in the Harton Benefice. You have been so kind to Thelma and I (and Alfie of course!) and have enriched our lives with your stories and for allowing us to be fellow pilgrims in your own walks of life and faith.

We say farewell, but not goodbye, because like all our journeys, they are:
“To be continued “...

With much love and gratefulness

Chris and Thelma. X



No excuses!

Revd Nigel Benson



For those of you who I haven't yet met, or those I have only spoken with briefly, here is a quick bit about me. Following careers in the Army (Royal Signals), and the Police (North Yorkshire), with a few years on the Fraud Squad, I worked for a central government department for just shy of twenty years, investigating financial crime and doing some complex stuff with computer system design and upgrade.

I moved to Haxby with my family in 1993, to take up my post on the Fraud Squad, having spent some years in rural policing. It was a return home for me, as I was brought up in York, attending Dringhouses Primary School and then Nunthorpe Grammar.

I became involved with St Mary's Haxby in about 2001, serving as a Warden for five years, and I was licensed as a Reader (LLM) in 2013, having studied at the University of York St John.

In 2019 I was ordained Deacon after training part-time at St Hilda's college, Mirfield. I was ordained priest the following year, serving my curacy in Haxby and Wigginton.

I am absolutely delighted to now be ministering in the Harton Benefice, and to be here for you all after Revd Chris retires. I look forward very much to getting to know you all and hearing about what is going on in your lives.

With every blessing

Nigel

revnas@btinternet.com

Nigel's Licencing Service

On the evening of 28th March at St Mary's Church Sand Hutton, members of the churches in the Harton benefice came together with those from Nigel's previous parish in Haxby, to witness and celebrate at a special service, Nigel being granted his licence to serve in the Benefice of Harton.

It was a good evening with rousing hymns of Nigel's choosing, and a great start to his new ministry among us here. Nigel has been shadowing Chris for some weeks now, and so has got to know quite a few folk and visited all the churches. We welcome him, and hope that his time here will be fulfilling and rewarding for us all.

Following the service there were refreshments and a chance to meet some of Nigel's supporters from Haxby.



Nigel with friends old and new



Simon Littlejohn, Gillian Morley, James Stephenson and Bishop John



Sand Hutton meets Haxby



Adrian, Jez and Rachel Baker



Elizabeth lends a hand



Bishop John, Chris and Michael Harran

Services for the Benefice of Harton

May 2023

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

Wednesday 3rd May

10.00 am	Midweek Service	Howsham
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Sunday 7th May

Easter 5

9.00	Zoom Worship	
10.00	Holy Communion	Crambe

Wednesday 10th May

10.00	Midweek Service	Sand Hutton
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Sunday 14th May

Easter 6

10.00	Holy Communion and Baptism	Whitwell
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Ascension Thursday 18th May

7.00	Ascension Holy Communion	Flaxton
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Sunday 21st May

Easter 7

9.00	Morning Prayer	Gate Helmsley
10.00	Holy Communion	Howsham

Wednesday 24th May

10.00	Midweek Service	Crambe
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Sunday 28th May ***Pentecost***

10.00	Holy Communion	Foston
4.00	All Age Worship	TBA

Wednesday 31st May

10.00	Midweek Service	Sand Hutton
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June 2023

Sunday June 4th ***Trinity Sunday***

9.00	Zoom Worship	
10.00	Holy Communion	Upper Helmsley

Wednesday 7th June

10.00	Midweek Service	Crambe
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Sunday 11th June ***Trinity 2***

9.00	Morning Prayer	Flaxton
10.00	Holy Communion	Gate Helmsley

Wednesday 14th June

10.00	Midweek Service	Howsham
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Sunday 18th June ***Trinity 3***

10.00	Holy Communion	Sand Hutton
5.00	Evening Prayer	Whitwell

Wednesday 21st June

10.00	Midweek Service	Flaxton
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Sunday 25th June**Trinity 4**

10.00	Holy Communion	Howsham
4.00	All Age Worship	Gate Helmsley VH

Wednesday 28th June

10.00	Midweek Service	Bossall
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July 2023**Sunday 2nd July****Trinity 5**

9.00	Zoom Worship	
10.00	Holy Communion	Buttercrambe

Wednesday 5th July

10.00	Midweek Service	Flaxton
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Sunday 9th July**Trinity 6**

9.00	Morning Prayer	Sand Hutton
10.00	Holy Communion	Whitwell

Wednesday 12th July

10.00	Midweek Service	Howsham
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Sunday 16th July**Trinity 7**

10.00	Holy Communion	Gate Helmsley
4.00	All Age Worship	Barton le Willows VH

Wednesday 19th July

10.00	Midweek Service	Sand Hutton
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Sunday 23rd July**Trinity 8**

10.00	Holy Communion	Foston
5.00	Evening Prayer	Bossall

Wednesday 26th July

10.00

Midweek Service

Crambe

Sunday 30th July

Trinity 9

10.00

Holy Communion

Howsham

PRAY14Me

We had our latest Pray One For Me service at Foston All Saints church on Wednesday 22nd March. The card distribution team were great. Afterwards kind hospitality was enjoyed. David enjoyed collecting the cards and seemed to be appreciated by those he met in Foston and Thornton le Clay, with ten cards being collected with specific prayer needs. These needs are prayed for at the service and are treated with confidentiality and pastoral sensitivity. A candle is lit for each prayer.



It is a quiet half hour service with a series of quotes on prayer, a Bible reading, Taize chants are sung, other music is listened to during a short reflection led by one of the clergy, or our reader Ian Lyall. On this occasion Ian led us, reflecting on the disciple Peter drawing back from Jesus before his trial. We were encouraged not be afraid to draw alongside Christ, and so benefit more from his great love, and the hope He gives us through his death and resurrection.

The timing of these services needs more thought so more people can benefit from them; any input will be welcome, please.

We continue to pray for our communities and work places in our Benefice. Prayer requests can still be made at any time using the prayer table resources in each church, or by completing a web request form on our website under the resources tab <https://www.sandhuttongroup.org.uk/resources/>. Scroll down to find Pray One For Me or speak to any of the clergy or pastoral workers.

David Fletcher

Pray One For Me co-ordinator

Welcome to those newly baptised



19th February

Samuel George Yates

Sand Hutton



Congratulations to those newly married

22nd April

Phillip Starke and Lydia Kitchen

Bossall

29th April

Samuel Jones and Kimberley Chamberlain

Howsham



Our condolences to the family and friends of

13th December 2022

Ann Smedley (Bidly)

Flaxton

2nd April

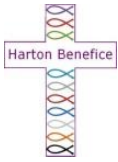
Ivy Freer

Barton le Willows

21st April

John Daish

Sand Hutton



Benefice PCC.....

The Benefice PCC last met on 28th March.

This was the last meeting with Reverend Chris Wingfield as chairman. Thanks were expressed to Chris for his work over the past 9 years and for the way he had led the development of worship and mission across the benefice.

Reverend Nigel Benson, newly appointed Assistant Curate to the benefice, was welcomed to his first meeting of the Benefice PCC. Nigel's Licensing Service was to be held that same evening at St Mary's Sand Hutton. This service turned out to be a great success in the presence of the Venerable Sam Rushton, Archdeacon of York, the Bishop of Selby, Bishop John Thomson, and several other clergy.

Topics discussed at the business meeting were:

- The financial accounts had been inspected and were approved
- John Holman had approved the decision to split the money (£1,350) raised at Wendy Holman's funeral between the 10 churches of the benefice, so that they could purchase something for their church in Wendy's memory. The honorary treasurer would action this
- Rachael Harrison, lead for children and young people, was concentrating her work on the youth group, Aubergine Operations. There would be a competitive "spudathon" and craft competitions over the Easter weekend. The back of St Peter's Upper Helmsley has been reordered to make space for youth activities, etc
- Various clergy recruitments are progressing across the Deanery
- Safeguarding: Emma Allen-Goss, lead for safeguarding, was progressing online applications for enhanced DBS checking where this was needed, and updating the policy documents
- Future services: Chris Wingfield would be holding a final service in each of the 10 churches during April, including a service of Choral Evensong at St Mary Gate Helmsley on Sunday 23rd April. The very last service would be Holy Communion at St Botolph Bossall 10.00 am Sunday 30th April. This would be followed by a buffet reception at Aldby Park Buttercrambe. Zoom services would continue to be held once a month. Ian Lyall had agreed to take on the hosting

The next meeting is scheduled for 6th June at 2.00 pm at Holderness House Claxton.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS AROUND THE BENEFICE.....

ON HOWSHAM BRIDGE

**Bank Holiday
Monday
1st May
From 10 am**



CAKES AND PLANT STALL

**Come and join us for teas and coffee
All contributions for the stall are most welcome**

Proceeds will go to St John's Church, Howsham

Pop-up Pub - Gate Helmsley Village Hall

Dates for your diary

Friday 26th May 18:30 to 23:00

Saturday 1st July 'Family Day' 12:00 to 23:00

(further details to follow)

Friday 28th July 18:30 to 23:00



All profits to be shared between the Village Hall
and St Mary's Church Gate Helmsley

Everyone welcome



Visit Sheriff Hutton's monthly village market

50 artisan stalls

including fruit, veg, fish, bread, bakeries, cheese, charcuterie, ice cream, sweets and chocolate, plants, interiors, pet food & treats, gifts, art. Laundry/other re-fills and so much more.

The café serves hot and cold drinks, bacon and sausage butties, cakes galore and a huge warm welcome!

The perfect Sunday morning for everyone.

2023 dates are Sunday, 1030am-1.30pm:

21 May, 18 Jun, 16 Jul, 20 Aug, 17 Sep, 15 Oct, 19 Nov, 17 Dec

Follow us on facebook@sheriffhuttonvillagemarket

Murder Mystery at Howsham Hall

Sat 23rd September 6.30pm

Turn sleuth for the evening as events unfold around you- can you solve the fiendish murder?

Enjoy a fabulous night of mystery, with delicious 3 course dinner.

More info and to book: www.dine.co.uk/venues/public-events/

We're recruiting!

We need staff to join our events team at Howsham Hall please email your CV to jake.myers@dine.co.uk



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making every event special since 1998



from Sister Margaret Ann CSPH



“He lives, He lives. Jesus Christ lives today
He walks with me, He talks with me
Along life’s narrow way, He lives, He lives,
Salvation to impart
I’ll tell you how I know He lives,
He lives within my heart”

What an incredible story the Easter story is with an amazing happy ending. But NO! Its not the end of the story, but a new beginning of a new life in Christ.

After Jesus’ Passion and death upon the cross on Good Friday, his close friends lovingly took him down from the cross and laid him in the tomb in the garden, saying their final ‘goodbyes’. After three days Jesus returned to them, standing among them as they gathered in the Upper Room, for fear of the Jews. ‘PEACE BE WITH YOU’, a greeting he says to us all today ‘Peace be with you’ and he breathed on those frightened men and women his new resurrected life that we too may live.

No, it’s not the end of the story it’s only the beginning for each and every one of us. As I read through the Holy Week and Easter narrative, something struck me that I’d not thought about before. In all the agony that Jesus went through there were people standing by him trying to remain faithful, attempting to understand what was happening, wanting to support him, and love him. On Palm Sunday there was a man who gave Jesus the use of his own donkey to ride triumphant into the city of Jerusalem against all the odds. Remember how the crowds waved palm branches and shouted out ‘Hosanna to the Son of David, blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!’

Then, a few days later in Bethany, the home of Lazarus, Mary and Martha, Mary poured expensive ointment over Jesus’ head and feet as an act of love to the one who gave to them that new life in him.

On Maundy Thursday Jesus and his disciples gathered in the Upper Room, again a space loaned to the Master for the occasion. There Jesus washed the disciples' feet and they shared in the Last Supper.

That evening Jesus went out and into someone's garden, Gethsemane, and there suffered tremendous agony on our behalf. His sweat fell like drops of blood.

Then there was the cross on which Jesus died, mounting it as if a throne fit for a king, 'The King of the Jews.' At the end of that dreadful, dark and bitter day Jesus was laid by those who loved him in a borrowed unused tomb in the garden.

NO, it is still not the end of the story, but only the beginning. An opportunity for us all to give what we can to Jesus to be used for the spread of the message of Good News that Christ is risen and is alive today, walking with all of us in our everyday lives. Jesus lives on in the life that he gives to each of us. His life in us, and life in him.

'Were the whole realm of nature mine
That were an offering far too small,
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all'

The way of return to God is through obedience to his will. What we have to realise is that God is ever present, IS WAITING FOR US TO LOOK AT HIM. He has given us the God-Man, the incarnate Word, not only as his image whom we may contemplate, but as the ONE WHO LIVES IN US, AND IN WHOM WE LIVE. He has given us also the individual power of the Holy Spirit helping us all to:

PUT LOVE WHERE LOVE IS NOT
So, what can you give to the Lord of Life
for the spread of the gospel of peace?

Margaret Ann
+ CSP4





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

It's always such a relief to see the early signs of spring. Longer days, spring flowers and green shoots all uplift our spirits with the promise of summer around the corner. Easter feels like a really significant start of that hope and anticipation. Things have definitely gone up a gear on the allotment now that the growing season approaches.

On Good Friday, the traditional day for planting potatoes, we held a Spud-athon at the allotment. A huge 'Thank you' to all those who came along and supported us. As well as it being a potato growing competition, we also had a few stalls selling items that the Aubergines had made such as bird boxes, fat balls, Easter wreaths and some potted up primulas and tomato plants.

We will be holding a 'Harvest-athon' in late July/early August where our competitors will be invited back, to see whose potatoes yielded the heaviest crop!

Over the Easter weekend the churches in the Benefice hosted some craft activities for local families and children. Some had colouring tables; Buttercrambe, Flaxton and Sand Hutton held craft sessions, whilst others provided bags of crafts and Easter resources for families to come along and collect. A big thank you once again to the following for all their help and support - Sara, Ida, Jenny, Ellen, Rachel, their Aubergine helpers and the Churchwardens. A special mention must also go to the Robinsons, Geraldine and Keeley who visited 9 churches over the Easter weekend, that's dedication for you!!!

The results of the colouring competition are as follows.....

Class 1

- 1st Rupert Arkle
- 2nd Molly Stephenson
- 3rd Jack Wilson

Class 2

- 1st Artie Arkle
- 2nd Fevely Charlton
- 3rd Ruby Stephenson

Class 3

1st Keeley Robinson

2nd Bertie Bateman

3rd Albert Arkle

Many thanks to Sister Margaret Ann for judging the artwork.

Looking ahead, we are planning a summer programme for the Aubergines and exploring the possibility of 'Play & Pray' restarting; plus, we are hoping to be providing a summer club once again, although it may need to be on a smaller scale this year. So, it's definitely a case of watching this space and, as usual, keep an eye on your local notice boards, village Facebook pages/WhatsApp groups, and the newsletter for more up to date information. If you haven't already joined the Harton Children and Families Facebook page, please do!

www.facebook.com/groups/hartonbenefice

rachaelyouthharton@gmail.com

UBERGINE OPERATIONS

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!!

Contact Rachael Harrison (07847 329015) or Katie Hopkins (07951 726412) for more information

'Cambodia, Healing hearts and instilling hope'

My name is Lynne Barnett

I live in the Benefice of Harton.

I have worked with and supported the survivors of the Khmer rouge regime in Cambodia.

Let me share a little of my story, and how I wish to continue that support.



Generally speaking, people associate Cambodia with the phrase 'the killing-fields' or 'the Khmer rouge'; that is if they remember the Cambodian Genocide at all. It may help if I offer a short historical recap. I will start from the reign of the Khmer rouge. Many people often turn away at this point, but I respectfully ask you to continue reading...

On 17 April 1975, the Khmer rouge (KR) entered the capital city of Phnom Penh and evacuated the entire population into the countryside with a promise of their return after three days. The KR considered people in the city as being tainted by capitalism and of being elitist. The psychological manipulation they used, meant that at the time of the evacuation very little blood was shed. Nobody could ever have predicted what was to follow.

I will be careful with my words as the topic can be emotionally distressing.

I will just state that the nature of what followed the evacuation is beyond understanding. The KR wished to return the Kingdom of Cambodia to 'year zero'; with all educated, bilingual, skilled workers and people with 'status or high position', being the first to be systematically '*re-educated*', never to return. Over approximately 1.7 million people were dehumanised and died of malnutrition, illness, starvation, over-work and executions. Many KR soldiers were indoctrinated children; some of whom are the adults of today.

I believe it necessary to say, that the Cambodian people are mostly of humble nature, hard-working, resilient and appear to have a 'thirst for connectedness'. Cambodian people value education and have a wish to be self-sufficient and not dependent on international aid.

My work history in the 'Kingdom of Wonder'

In February 2005, I visited Cambodia for a one-off visit to explore the possibilities of short-term mission. Little did I know that it would lead to 18 years of volunteer work, and much respect for the Cambodians I have met and worked alongside. I travelled back and forth over the years, until eventually living there for five years; returning to the UK in July 2019 (but still supporting from a distance).

My volunteer work took on many forms, including working in a non-government organisation (NGO), which rescued sexually trafficked children. It was there that I became aware that a small number of staff wore the badge entitled 'counsellor', but at best, had only attended short workshops/training days. This is not a criticism of the NGO, but based on the fact that within the nation, there were no professional counselling training courses available. At this time, I was completing my Masters' thesis study based on intergenerational trauma. I suggested to anyone who would listen, that a professional training course was of crucial importance in a post-Holocaust nation; considering the intergenerational trauma and high incidence of family violence, distrust, dysfunctional relationships and psychosomatic illness - to name but a few issues that still persist following the regime. One amazing Cambodian woman responded to my suggestion with wit and enthusiasm, ***"You want it and see the need, you start it!"***. I just laughed.

The more I witnessed, the more driven I felt. When my volunteer contract ended, I decided to take a year to undertake a national 'assessment of need survey', which provided the evidence required for a training programme to begin as a pilot project. I developed a two-year part-time training programme, based on a western standard counselling diploma course. It was contextualised, with the help of the few professional Cambodian colleagues I knew, the majority of whom had trained overseas. (There are very few trained Cambodians in the field of mental health). The programme was then translated into the Khmer language ready for use. I travelled nationally to promote a clear understanding of what counselling is, by providing short interactive workshops. I had to design leaflets to promote the course and fundraise to support the programme.

The training course began in Phnom Penh in 2017. With few professionally trained tutors, we could only accept 15 students, of which we recruited 13. In the second year we recruited another cohort of 13 students

The 'journey' was extremely challenging, as counselling was not understood as a concept, and the term often only recognized as financial advice.

Two student graduates spoke of their training:

"We students are like family now. The relationship really is the therapy and the key to healing."

"I believe that we, as the first cohort of students, will be able to help develop the counselling profession in our nation."

The next chapter:

Sadly, the training was put on hold due to the covid pandemic. The good news is, that a number of NGO's have asked for the course to be re-started, as they spoke of experiencing a ripple of 'positive attitude' that was changing their staff. They verbalised an improvement in work ethic and enhanced mental well-being.

Thus, I will be returning to Cambodia as an independent volunteer in November for two years to restart the course, and provide training opportunities and workshops for Cambodian students in both university and village settings. It is my hope and belief, that the Cambodian team will solely manage the training from 2026.

**If you would like to support this important project
by making a donation, please contact Lynne for further details.**

Email: lynnebarnett05@gmail.com Tel: 07436 428089

All donations however small would be much appreciated.

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

BARTON LE WILLOWS

The Village Hall Annual General Meeting in November 2022 was well attended and we started 2023 with two new committee members, one from Barton Hill and the other from Crambe, and most of the roles are now filled. This is important, particularly as the Village Hall is a registered charity and therefore cannot run without Trustees. It was good to see representatives of villages other than Barton le Willows at the meeting as the Village Hall was built for the use of people from the whole area; if you are interested in joining the committee, please contact Mark Mirfin on 07833 667058. If you would like to use the hall, please contact Anne Roebuck on 01653 618683 or on the email below.

Litter Picking Day

On Sunday 25th February, between the Harton and Barton le Willows litter pickers, 42 bin bags and other large items of litter were collected from local roadsides. Thanks to Becky for organising refreshments in Harton and Louise and Ed for organising the same, and equipment and collection of bags, along

the route. Almost 50 villagers took part, helping to keep our local area clean and tidy; thank you!

Pop up Pub

Our regular Pop up Pub held on the evening of St Patrick's Day in March, was a well attended event. This is a great opportunity for neighbours to come together and it was great to see new folk who have moved into the area. This is a key fundraiser for the village hall; we look forward to welcoming more at our next when the date is confirmed.

Table top Sale

This was held on the afternoon of Friday the 31st March. It was lovely to see people from the churches at Crambe, Bossall, Flaxton and Buttercrambe who all had tables with goods to sell, as well as North Yorkshire Music Therapy Centre's plant stall, and Bella who had a table as part of a charity project for her school. It was the day that schools broke up for the Easter holidays and the atmosphere was very joyful! Everyone who had tables raised funds for their chosen good cause. Thanks to Fiona at Crambe for the idea and publicity, and to Linda Walker and others who contributed delicious cakes for refreshments.

Coming events

There will be a **"Coronation Cake Off"** on the afternoon of **Monday 8th May**
There are plans for some Himalayan Balsam pulling later in the spring and another Pop Up Pub soon.

We are also investigating setting up some badminton opportunities.

If you would like to join the email list to be notified of events, please let us know on **bartonlewillows@gmail.com**. There is also a Facebook page and a website.

BOSSALL

We had a funeral for Madge Lockwood on 3rd March. She had lived in Harton all her married life. What an amazing lady she was too. Very active in the community until her latter years. The collection was for St Botolph's Church, raising over £450, and very gratefully received.

On 25th March we held a fundraising concert in the church. Music was kindly performed by Peter Richmond with his acoustic guitar and Joseph Carville on

the piano. The evening was very well supported with over 70 guests, and including some kind donations, raised some £750 towards the church repair fund.

On 31st March we participated in 'Table Top Sale' at Barton Le Willows village hall. We were provided with a mesmerising array of items to be offered for sale through Chrissie Keller's networking in Harton, as well as plants from Ann Atterby. Sadly, sales were slow and the event was not quite as well supported by purchasers as it was by the numerous vendors! Instead, we took the items donated to St Catherine's Hospice shop in Malton, who were delighted! We are thankful they will be put to a good cause through their wonderful work.

BUTTERCRAMBE

It has been a busy month for Buttercrambe Church. The table top sale at Barton le Willows village hall raised £103 for the church which is a fantastic amount. Thank you to all those in Buttercrambe who donated. We had a jolly afternoon, catching up with friends within the Benefice and fellow stall holders and eating far too much cake!

The craft table on Easter Monday was disappointing with only one family attending.

Big shout out to the Robinson family in Upper Helmsley who supported us and a big thank you to Bentley who lives in the village and helped prepare and man the craft table. Chris' final service at Buttercrambe was a wonderful event. Emma Louise Metcalfe was the youngest member in the congregation who Chris had baptised in the church last year. As always, well supported by our friends in the Benefice and it was great to see many from the village. Refreshments were enjoyed at the end, particularly Sally Ferguson's freshly baked leek tartlets whose mouth-watering smell filled the church!



CRAMBE

We have had seven services here in Crambe including the Ash Wednesday service. By the time this is published Chris will have left us after nine years of ministry in the Benefice, and moved to a well earned retirement in Pocklington with Thelma. He goes with our very best wishes for the future. We will therefore be in an interregnum and waiting to see who or what comes next.

However, we have not been left 'priestless', as Revd. Nigel Benson has recently joined us as Assistant Curate. We wish him good fortune during his time with us.

Sadly one of the stalwarts of St Michael's Church, Ivy Freer of Barton le Willows, died at the age of 90. Ivy was a staunch supporter and member of the PCC in times past, and her gentle presence will be missed. Our condolences go to Malcolm her son, who has devotedly cared for both his parents until their deaths.

The re-wilding of the churchyard continues with new species of plants emerging and a notable increase in the insect life which feeds the birds. We are grateful to Mark for overseeing this project, and to Sam who has mown winding paths through the churchyard making a lovely walk from which to enjoy the beautiful views. Over the summer we hope to add a few 'log' benches for people to sit on.

We are also starting on another project to make the gravel pathways user friendly for those in wheelchairs, prams or mobility scooters. Currently it is like fighting one's way across Chesil beach with a danger of becoming stuck!

FLAXTON

The PCC Annual General Meeting took place on 5th April. This was the last meeting for our Rector Revd. Chris Wingfield before he retires at the end of April. A vote of thanks was given to Chris for all his help, guidance and support over the last 9 years. Voting took place for members of the PCC and the following people agreed to stand for another year.

Churchwarden: Ida Terry, Deputy Churchwarden: Jenny Towse, Secretary: Mark Cockerill, Treasurer: Jonathan Hotoph, Lucy Terry, and Beryl Cartmell. We welcomed Nigel Benson, our newly appointed Assistant Curate for the Benefice at the meeting. There were no other representatives from the village present.

A vote of thanks was given to everyone who supports the church in various ways.



On Easter Saturday we welcomed children and their parents in church for an afternoon of Easter Craft. Thank you to Kathryn for her help and to all of you who came along.

It was good to see you.

Wed 12th April was Chris' last service at Flaxton. Following the service we celebrated his time with us with excellent refreshments and much laughter. Chris went home with a goody bag of cake, balloons and banners. It was also good to have a couple joining us who are getting married at Flaxton in September.



On Friday 19th May Flaxton Singers are giving a Spring Concert in church. Please come along and support them. They really are excellent.

As ever a huge thank you to the churchyard and church opening teams for their continued hard work, support and commitment.

FOSTON

We have had a busy time here at All Saints, Foston.

Once again, we would like to say a huge thank you to Peter Mills. He was our wonderful quiz master for our quiz and curry evening. It really was a lot of fun, and definitely tested everyone's skills, from general knowledge questions, to modelling an aerodynamic paper plane, to building a tower from marshmallows and wooden sticks! It was an excellent evening, enjoyed by all, and we raised over £200 for our church.

Recently, the Pray One for Me team spent time going around our two villages. They enjoyed chatting to our residents, and offering prayers. A reflective service was later held in the church, where requested prayers were read.

April also saw our last service from Chris before he retired. The service was held on Maundy Thursday. It was a quiet, reflective service, with a small congregation. During the Easter weekend our church also hosted a colouring competition for any younger ones who wanted to take part. Free Easter eggs were on offer too.

As we move into the warmer months we look forward to the next chapter in our little church's story and all that it entails.

GATE HELMSLEY

We are going through a very busy period as we celebrate Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter, and the forthcoming coronation of King Charles III.

We are also in the process of saying farewell to Reverend Chris Wingfield as he begins his retirement. Chris has been Rector of the Benefice of Harton for the last nine years. We extend warmest good wishes to Chris and Thelma as they begin this new phase of their life.

We are pleased that, through April, Chris is conducting farewell services in each of the ten churches in the benefice. Our own local celebration was a service of Choral Evensong at St Mary Gate Helmsley on Sunday 23rd April, St George's Day.

Chris's final service was Holy Communion at St Botolph Bossall at 10.00 am on Sunday 30th April. This was followed by a buffet reception at Aldby Park, Buttercrambe, thanks to Sara and George Winn-Darley.

The above events will have already happened by the time this edition of the Circular is published.

We will soon be working to recruit a new vicar, a process which may take some time. We are fortunate that Reverend Nigel Benson, previously Curate at Haxby and Wigginton, has been licensed as part-time Assistant Curate to the Harton Benefice. Nigel is a most welcome addition to the Ministry Team and has already conducted a service at St Mary's. He also attended our PCC Annual Meeting which was held on 18th April. Nigel cuts quite a dash when he arrives on his very shiny Harley Davidson!

Thank you to everyone who supported the coffee morning held in the village hall on 25th March in aid of St Mary's church. A special thank you to Sue Hanson who organised the event, the stall holders, and those who provided cakes and other items for sale. Chris Bickerdike, with her helpers, was something of a star with books, jigsaws and home-grown plants to sell and an outstanding exhibition of her own artwork. £430 was raised for the church.

Each church in the benefice has received one tenth of the donations given at Wendy Holman's funeral which was held at Bossall last February. Thank you to John Holman for agreeing to this distribution. PCC members have decided that the money received by St Mary's will be used to purchase some altar linen.

The monthly pop-up pub sessions are going from strength to strength thanks to the generosity of Claire and Dan Sykes who run them. We are very grateful to Claire and Dan for their altruism in sharing the profits between Gate Helmsley village hall and St Mary's.

The next fundraising event will be our annual Strawberry Lunch which will be held in Gate Helmsley village hall on Sunday 9th July at 12.30 pm.

Can you help us solve a mystery? We wonder if anyone can explain the appearance of a large white plaque in the old churchyard. Is it meant as a family memorial? Please let us know if you've placed it in the churchyard and why.

Regrettably it has not been possible to organise a whole-village event to mark the King's forthcoming coronation. However, we hope that everyone will enjoy their own celebratory weekend with family and friends in early May.

We send good wishes to those in the parish who are ill and extend a warm welcome to anyone who is new to the village.

HOWSHAM

The Country and the Benefice have reached a new milestone in our history with the Coronation of King Charles III and the retirement of Chris as our Rector. We are delighted to welcome Nigel Benson in his role as Assistant Curate and look forward to the future.

The Bank holiday cake and plant stall is on Howsham Bridge on Monday 1st May.

We shall be celebrating the Coronation in the village.

We have decided to turn off the electric heating in church at all times except for services, following an astronomical bill. The boundary wall is in bad shape and we have plans to repair it which will also be expensive.

The Churchyard Clean-up will take place as usual on Bank Holiday Monday 28th August.

Meanwhile, many thanks to all those who look after the church and churchyard during the year.

SAND HUTTON and CLAXTON

Whilst travelling by train to London earlier this week, my thoughts of what to write in this edition were overtaken by the beauty of the scenery of our amazing countryside. The numerous shades of green foliage and brown soil being prepared for sowing, were enhanced by the brilliant sunshine and May blossom bordering the miles of fields where farm animals, oblivious to their surroundings, were caring for their young. The signs of new life and the calm made me appreciate how fortunate we are living in relative peace compared to many areas of our world.

For us in the Benefice of Harton there are changes afoot as Revd. Chris moves into the next chapter of his life's story!.. Retirement or change of direction. Thank you, Chris, for your support in many areas of the communities and for

all you have done and shared during the nine years you have been here. You and Thelma (and Alfie of course) will be greatly missed.

So, we move forward to welcome Revd. Nigel Benson, who was licenced in April to minister during the interregnum and support the new incumbent in due course. You may see him, and even hear him on his Harley Davidson travelling the lanes!!

Thank you Dot for entertaining us again with your quiz night in March what a way to spend your 89th birthday!



I'M NOT
89
I'M 18 WITH
**71 YEARS OF
EXPERIENCE**



Thanks too for the support of the Mills family and all who helped to make the evening a success. Approx £450 was raised.

Good Friday and Easter day services were very meaningful as we remembered Christ's sacrifice made for each of us and His resurrection an offering of new life for us all.

Thank you again for the generous Food Bank contributions both in the church and Claxton collection points. Seasonal clothes are also welcomed. Contact Rachel for more information: 01904 468809

Foil for Snappy has now closed so the collection bins at Sand Hutton Village Hall and Johnsons Farmhouse Claxton will be removed.

For your diary, Gift Day September 2nd in Sand Hutton Village Hall

The parish of Claxton and Sand Hutton wishes to express their deep thanks to Graham Baker who stood down from his role as churchwarden at the recent APCM. Graham has been churchwarden and a key figure at St Mary's for over 20 years. His dedication and contribution has been remarkable and much appreciated by all. Graham will continue as a member of the PCC."

John Daish

We were sad to hear the news of the peaceful passing away of John Daish last week. Jean was thrilled that both of them were able to attend the Easter

Service. We send our warmest thoughts, deepest sympathy and prayers for Jean and her family.

From Rob and Joy

Samantha and I would like to thank all the lovely people who prayed and thought about our dear Rob. He has made a quite miraculous recovery - even the doctors and staff on CCU were amazed. I think apart from their wonderful care, Rob's determination and your prayers brought him back to us THANK YOU from the bottom of our hearts...we are so glad to have him home.

Samantha, Joy and of course Rob.

UPPER HELMSLEY

We are looking forward to the next quarter very much. The allotment activities are underway including a potato growing competition. We have welcomed some new children too.



Our most significant news is that we have removed some pews to make space for the Aubergine Operations group to be able to work inside the church when required, and to have a more comfortable space. We are hoping that we will be able to hold some

services outside weather permitting.

We are, of course, sad to see Chris leave the benefice, and send him and Thelma our very best wishes and love for their future adventures together.

We welcome Nigel, our new Assistant Curate who has already started. We will support him in his new role as much as we can.

WHITWELL

All of us at Whitwell will be very sad to say goodbye to Chris and we thank him hugely for all the help and service he gave to us. We wish both him and Thelma a very happy retirement and hope they enjoy life in Pocklington.

The Ashes of Commander and Mrs Milner (Peter and Sallie) were buried in the churchyard last month. Many people may remember that they owned Whitwell Hall and ran it as a country house hotel. It is lovely that they wished to be laid to rest in Whitwell having done so much for the church and the village during their time here in the 1970's to 1990's.

As always, the churchyard looks immaculate thanks to Michael Goodwill's hard work.

Easter weekend was lovely and sunny and several children came to the church to collect the crafts and enjoy the eggs! Many thanks to Rachael Harrison for organising this for us!

NEWS FROM OUR SCHOOLS.....



Sand Hutton C of E Primary School

We enjoyed a busy week leading up to the Easter break and celebrated Easter with a lovely service where we were joined by many. We feel very fortunate. Mrs Naylor led the singing admirably when the technology let us down. Thank you, Mrs Naylor! The children led a beautiful Easter Service. Thank you, children.

As Spring gets going, we are enjoying seeing life bursting out in trees and flowers all around. Our woodland is looking beautiful and we are looking forward to a little re-vamp, supported by parents on our extra Bank Holiday Monday for the Coronation.

Our federation has ventured onto Twitter and you are able to follow our adventures on @sand_warhill. We celebrate pupil achievement through their work and without showing faces. We are very proud of our schools and are happy for our learning to be re-tweeted too. Please feel free to follow us.

May will be busy for us with May Day and a Coronation to celebrate. Hidden in there will be our SATs for some children too; it will make May a very mixed bag!

In June we will be visiting the Eureka Museum in Halifax as a whole school. To be able to do something together as one unit is very special and we are fortunate that our hard-working PTA made this possible! We also have a Scarecrow Event planned, like last year, and invite you to look out for further information on this outside school. You might like to join the fun!

As we journey towards the summer, we are preparing for further end of year assessments but we hide these under layers of fun filled learning... We are also looking forward to building a new special relationship with Revd. Nigel as Revd. Chris embarks upon his well-earned retirement. The staff and families will miss him very much. We wish him a long and 'Happy Retirement'.

Enjoy the Sunshine. With every best wish,
From Staff and Families at Sand Hutton C of E Primary

Kind regards,

Beverley Pawson



Have a great



I hope you all had a wonderful Easter break filled with lots of chocolate and time with family and friends.

In the Spring term KS2, enjoyed an exciting learning experience at Murton Park.

They learnt about Roman warfare, art, culture and way of life in readiness for their summer term topic.

Our school also had a Sports Enhancement Day with Terrington and Stillington Primary Schools. We took part in cross country, tennis, shot put, and cricket. It was a fun-filled day, and we had so much exercise while enhancing our sporting skills.

We also have some news to share. We are sad to say goodbye to Revd. Wingfield, who has supported our school for a number of years. We are grateful for all his support during his time with us.

This term also saw the cementing of our collaboration with Stillington Primary School as a formal federation. Foston, Terrington and Stillington Federation Full Governing Board met for the first time on 28th March. We look forward to our future journey together as FST Primary School Federation.

As we head into the summer term, we're looking forward to our annual sports day and the sunshine that we hope comes with it! We'll also be preparing for our leavers' services, which is a bittersweet time as we say goodbye to our year 6's.

If you have a child who is turning 3yrs or due to start reception in 2024 we would be delighted to show you around our lovely school and nursery. Please contact the school office: fostonoffice@foston.n-yorks.sch.uk.



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Contact details for the churches in the Harton Benefice

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YO60 7NT

Churchwardens: Christopher and Belinda Fordy
Email: christopherfordy@fordymarshall.com
Tel: 01904 468682

Buttercrambe, St John the Evangelist

YO41 1AT

Acting Churchwarden: Sara Winn Darley
Email: sara@winndarley.net
Tel: 01759 371398

Crambe, St Michael

YO60 7JR

Churchwardens: Mike Le Masurier
Email: mike@crambehouse.co.uk
Tel: 01653 619368
Stewart Walker
Email: stewart.walker46@gmail.com
Tel: 07754 055658

Flaxton, St Lawrence

YO60 7NT

Churchwardens: Ida Terry
Email: idmt@hotmail.co.uk
Tel: 01347 878432

Foston, All Saints

YO60 7QG

Churchwardens: Karen Armitstead
Email: karen_armitstead@hotmail.com
Tel: 01653 619964
Linda Fothergill
Email: l.n.fothergill63@gmail.com
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Gate Helmsley, St Mary

YO41 1NE

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Tel: 01759 372215
Sue Hanson
Email: sjhanson50@gmail.com
Tel: 01759 372663

Howsham, St John

YO60 7PH

Churchwardens: Gill Littlejohn
Email: simoncklittlejohn@msn.com
Tel: 01653 618846
Judy Stephenson
Email: jfs@great-barn.co.uk
Tel: 01653 61867

Sand Hutton, St Mary
Churchwardens: Ian Lyall

Ellen Stott

YO41 1LB
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Email: ellenstott55@gmail.com
Tel: 01904 468404

Upper Helmsley, St Peter
Churchwarden: Mari Richards

YO41 1JY
Email: mjb.richards1000@gmail.com
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Whitwell on the Hill, St John the Evangelist YO60 7JJ

Churchwardens: Janie Bell

Emma du Mon

Email: janie.bell@me.com
Tel: 01653 618270
Tel: 01653 619804

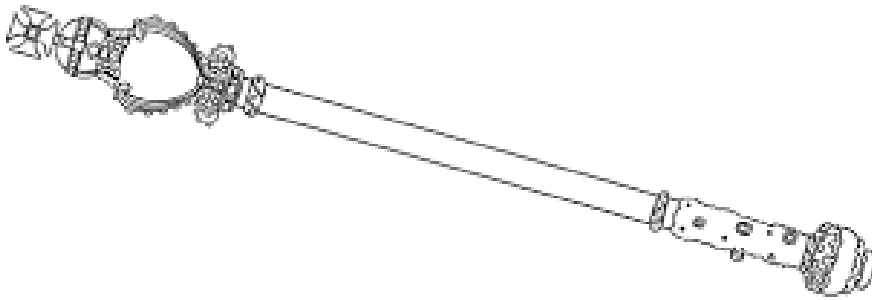


Coronation Quiz



1. When was Queen Elizabeth II crowned?
2. Who designed Queen Elizabeth II coronation dress?
3. When was Coronation Chicken invented?
4. Where will King Charles III be crowned?
5. Who will succeed King Charles III to the throne
6. Who was crowned on Christmas Day 1066?
7. Which of these flowers does NOT appear in the coronation emblem?
Daffodil/Shamrock/Sunflower/Thistle
8. Historically which Duke is in charge of the Coronation Committee?
9. Which coach will King Charles III travel in on coronation day?
10. Which two kings did not have a coronation?

Pictures to colour



1. 2nd June 1953. 2. Norman Hartnell. 3. 1953 4. Westminster Abbey
5. Prince William 6. William the Conqueror 7. Sunflower 8. Duke of Norfolk
9. State Coach 10. Edward V and Edward VIII

Happy Retirement - and 'Thank You' Chris!



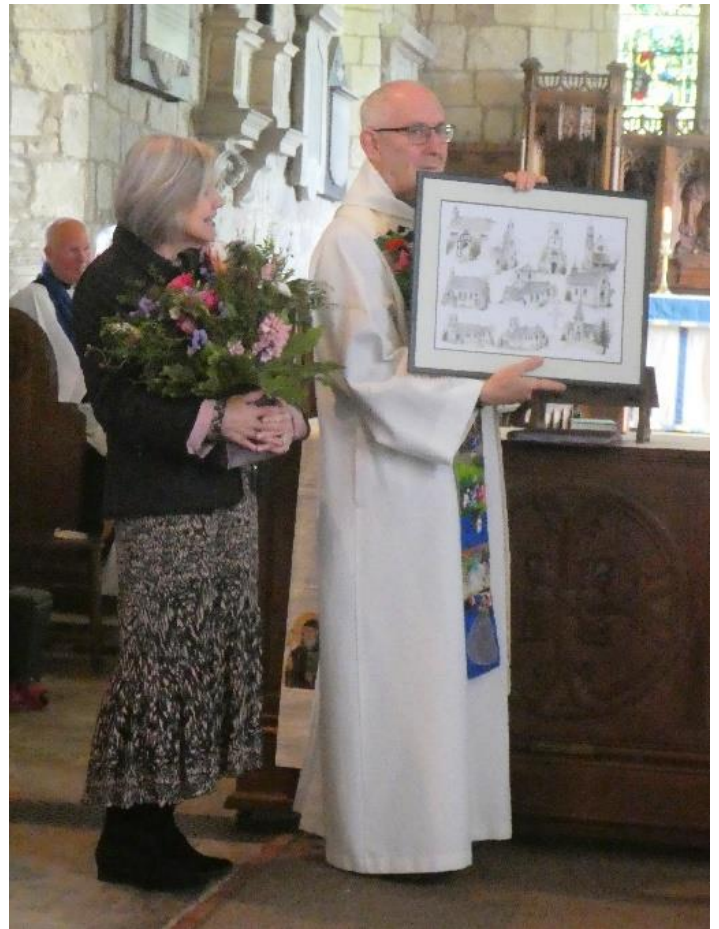
On 9th April 2014 we gathered in St Botolph's Church, Bossall for the Institution of Revd. Chris Wingfield as Rector of the Harton Benefice. Nine years on, the church was again full for the final service of Holy Communion conducted by Chris as our Rector before his retirement. A beautiful and moving service, enhanced by the Benefice choir was followed by refreshments at Aldby Park.

There will be more in the next (Autumn) print edition of The Circular but these few photographs have been added to this online edition.



Thelma: 'Oh Chris, look what they have given us as a retirement gift'

Chris: 'Oh no!'



Among the tributes and gifts to Chris and Thelma was this beautiful coloured sketch of the ten Benefice churches by local artist Carole Spreadbury

The Circular

Copy deadline for the next edition July 18th 2023

This will cover: August, September, October 2023

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

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Revd. Nigel Benson

Email: revnas@btinternet.com

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