

The Benefice of Harton

The Circular



Summer 2025
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, Sand Hutton



I write this piece during Holy Week, the week between Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. It is a time when Christians remember the journey of Jesus Christ to the cross at Golgotha. During Holy Week we read and pray about all that Jesus went through, the cruelties he faced, the betrayal and the desertion, and finally an agonizing death on the cross.

Then, following the sadness of Good Friday, and the quietness of Easter Saturday, our churches burst with joy, music and colour, as we celebrate the resurrection. It is what our faith is founded on, the promise that Jesus died to take away our sins, all our sins, and that in the resurrection we receive the promise of eternal life.

Our world seems to be going through such a difficult period, with multiple major conflicts, political uncertainty, and a financial outlook that is far from optimistic. The news brings us much to worry about and can leave us feeling anxious and stressed. On a secular level there is hope, hope that things will get better, that conflict will be replaced by peace, and that we will all learn to be better custodians of our planet, supported by a worldwide political will to cut all the things that harm our environment. But that hope is often dashed, or tempered by a belief that, even if things do improve, it will only happen again. Hope seems to be finite in such circumstances.

But, as Christians, we have hope that goes beyond all that is happening now, good and bad, it is hope embedded in the promises made by God as revealed by the death and resurrection of Jesus. It is hope that stretches beyond even our lifetime.

But that doesn't mean we can be complacent. We must still strive for peace, and to protect and improve our environment, not just for ourselves, but for our children, grandchildren and so on.

As the weather gets warmer, we will all spend a lot more time outside. I know I very much enjoy working on my allotment, and eventually having the vegetables I have planted and nurtured on my dinner plate gives me a great sense of achievement. It is also a place where I can forget, for a while, all the things that give me cause for concern. A place where I physically and spiritually connect with the Earth.

It is important that, as we enjoy our time outdoors, we also try to do what we can to maintain our natural spaces. What we do and how we behave can have real impact on our wildlife. If we are out enjoying nature a good approach is to try to leave little or no sign that we were there once we have left. I am always frustrated when walking well off the beaten track, and find plastic bottles, drinks cans or other litter. Why not take a carrier bag when out walking, put any litter you find in it, and then deposit it in a bin when you find one, or when you get home? If we all do little things like that, our natural spaces will be allowed to improve.



There is great power in lots of people doing little things. Contemporary society often looks to its leaders to get things done, but politics often gets in the way or gets it completely wrong. We should all do our little bits, and where necessary, speak out about social matters, particularly injustices or inequalities, and also about environmental issues.



Save the Parish



The Church of England has, for some considerable time, been centralizing a lot of its assets, and as a result parish churches, and perhaps particularly rural parishes, have been starved of resources. This, tragically, includes the loss of clergy ministering in parishes. This has meant that lots of parishes have been merged into Benefices.

Many are quite large (Harton has ten churches across eight parishes), and many parish priests are part-time or unpaid (I am half time). This, of course, can have an effect on the quality of parish ministry, and in turn negatively impact church attendance and engagement.

But all is not lost, because many individuals are now joining their voices in the **Save the Parish** movement, a nation-wide movement which is gaining momentum, has some support at General Synod (the Church of England's governing body), and is receiving favourable press in mainstream national media.

Our churches, particularly in the rural context, do a great deal to enhance community life. The rural church is a constant, there across the generations for life's big events, sharing life's joys and giving comfort and support in times of sadness, and supporting community welfare.

All this is done because of the willingness of faithful volunteers who support the churches financially and in many other ways. Our churches are, in the main, self-funding, and that must cover the maintenance, repair and running costs of these beautiful and ancient buildings which sit, often physically, at the heart of our villages and communities. Our churches are good places to bring our worries, stresses and anxieties, either to quietly share them with God, or to share them with others in Christian fellowship. They are, put simply, places of hope.

Why not add your voice in support of your local church? For more information go to:

www.savetheparish.com

I do hope you all have a wonderful Summer and manage to enjoy the outdoors as much as possible. Remember, it's good for you, physically, mentally and spiritually.

There will be lots going on in our churches over the Summer - details of services and other events are in this edition of **The Circular**. But please do visit our Benefice website to keep up to date with what's going on and who to contact for such things as Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals (life's big events): www.sandhuttongroup.org.uk

Blessings
Rev Nigel

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

May 2025

Sunday May 4th

Easter 3

9.00	Zoom Service	
10.00	Service of the Word	Howsham

Wednesday May 7th

10.00	Service of the Word	Flaxton
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Sunday May 11th

Easter 4

10.00	Holy Communion	Foston
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Wednesday May 14th

10.00	Service of the Word	Crambe
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Sunday May 18th

Easter 5

10.00	Holy Communion	Gate Helmsley
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Wednesday May 21st

10.00	Holy Communion	Howsham
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Sunday May 25th

Easter 6

10.00	Holy Communion	Crambe
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Wednesday May 28th

10.00	Holy Communion	Sand Hutton
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June 2025

Sunday June 1st

Easter 7

9.00	Zoom Service	
10.00	Holy Communion	Whitwell

Wednesday June 4th

10.00	Holy Communion	Flaxton
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Sunday June 8th

Pentecost

10.00	Holy Communion All Age Worship	Buttercrambe
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Wednesday June 11th

10.00	Holy Communion	Crambe
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Sunday June 15th

Trinity

10.00	Holy Communion	Upper Helmsley
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Wednesday June 18th

10.00	Holy Communion	Howsham
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Sunday June 22nd

Trinity 1

10.00	Holy Communion	Bossall
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Wednesday June 25th

10.00	Holy Communion	Sand Hutton
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Sunday June 29th

Trinity 2

10.00

Holy Communion

Flaxton

July 2025

Wednesday July 2nd

10.00

Holy Communion

Flaxton

Sunday July 6th

Trinity 3

9.00

Zoom Service

10.00

Holy Communion

Howsham

Wednesday July 9th

10.00

Holy Communion

Crambe

Sunday July 13th

Trinity 4

10.00

All Age Worship

Foston

Wednesday July 16th

10.00 pm

Holy Communion

Howsham

Sunday July 20th

Trinity 5

10.00

Holy Communion

Sand Hutton

Wednesday July 23rd

10.00

Holy Communion

Whitwell

Sunday July 27th

Trinity 6

10.00	Holy Communion	Crambe
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Wednesday July 30th

10.00	Holy Communion	Flaxton
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August 2025

Sunday August 3rd

Trinity 7

9.00	Zoom Service	
10.00	Holy Communion	Bossall

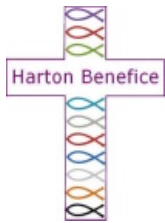
Wednesday August 6th

10.00	Holy Communion	Crambe
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Our condolences to the family and friends of

18 th January	Susan Waite	Sand Hutton
19 th January	George Baxter	Flaxton
25 th February	Barbara Chappell	Gate Helmsley
February	Margaret Elderton	Buttercrambe
5 th March	Heather Dale	Crambe



Benefice PCC.....

The Benefice PCC last met on 17th April

The main discussion points were:

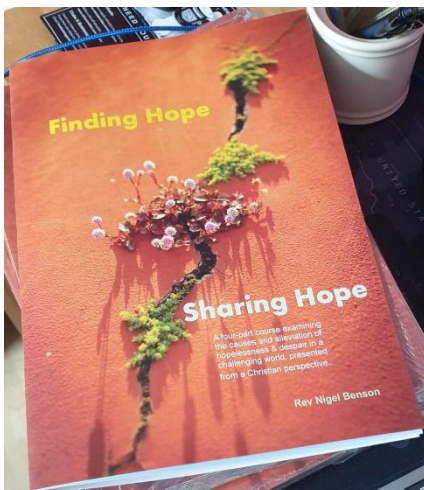
- Children and Youth Worker: Rachael Harrison has moved on from this role. As a result, a new strategy for Children and Families will be developed, possibly to apply across two benefices.
- Allotment matters: as the Aubergine Group no longer meets, new tenants – from the community – will be sought to maintain the benefice allotment in Upper Helmsley churchyard.
- Safeguarding: a new benefice Lead for Safeguarding is being sought.
- Save the Parish: Gill Littlejohn presented details of this organisation, which is a significant national pressure group. It seeks to redress the balance between central church authorities and local parishes, which are under threat of losing vicars and vicarages. There is a recently formed local group in York which is free to join. It is important for our local parishes and PCCs to support this initiative.
- Upon David Fletcher's retirement as Honorary Treasurer, Derek Linsley has kindly taken on the role.

The next meeting of the BPCC will be on Thursday 17th July at 10.00 am at Orchard House, Gate Helmsley. Please send any agenda items to Ellen Stott, Honorary Secretary

Delyth Harran

Lay Chairman

Lent Course



We are very grateful to the vicar, Reverend Nigel Benson, for designing and delivering an excellent Lent Course. The theme of the course was 'Hope', very much needed and welcomed at this time when there are so many distressing things happening in the world. The course was accompanied by a comprehensive booklet.

Lent lunches



Thank you to everyone who attended the Lent Lunches and who gave so generously to the cause we were supporting this year, Dementia Forward. The total amount raised was £734, which will attract an additional amount through Gift Aid, an excellent result. Warmest thanks to the hosts for the varied selection of soups and cheeses.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS AROUND THE BENEFICE.....



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**



BARTON LE WILLOWS PLAYGROUP



Every Friday during term time at
Barton Le Willows Village Hall
9.30 am — 11.30 am

£3.50 per child or £3.00 if under one year old

Includes snacks for the children and hot drinks for the adults

A friendly welcome awaits and lots to
keep the little ones entertained

Perfect for ages 0—5 years



SHERIFF HUTTON VILLAGE MARKET

A monthly Market held on the following Sundays

Sunday 18th May

Sunday 15th June

Sunday 20th July

Sunday 17th August

Sunday 14th September

Sunday 19th October

Sunday 16th November

Sunday 14th December

A mix of outdoor and indoor stalls selling largely locally produced, homemade or home-grown products. Market cafe selling hot and cold food and drinks.

Free entry.

The market is organised by a group of villagers selling a variety of goods, which are often locally produced, home grown or homemade. Perfect for groceries, baking, drink, pet treats, art, gifts, beauty products, interiors, haberdashery, plants and more!

Our market cafe serves an array of homemade hot and cold food and is run by a different local group each month. Funds generated from the market and cafe are used to support groups and causes within the local community. There is more information on our website www.shvm.co.uk or Facebook and Instagram pages



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

Forthcoming dates

Tuesday May 6 th	2.00 pm – 4.00 pm	Thursday May 15 th	10.00 am – 12.00 noon
Tuesday June 3 rd	2.00 pm - 4.00 pm	Thursday June 19 th	10.00 am – 12.00 noon
Tuesday July 1 st	2.00 pm – 4.00 pm	Thursday July 17 th	10.00 am – 12.00 noon

ON HOWSHAM BRIDGE

**Bank Holiday
Monday
5th May
From 9.30 am**



CAKES, JAMS, 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

A talk by

Allen Warren

'Scenes from Clerical Life'

church and society in the Benefice of Harton 1830 to 1880.

Friday 27th June

at Claxton and Sand Hutton Village Hall at 7.30 p.m.

Refreshments to follow the talk.

Tickets £10 from E. Stott 01904 468404

or Ian Lyall 01904 468209

All proceeds to St Mary's Church, Sand Hutton

Come and join us at

St Michael's Church Crambe YO60 7JR

Saturday June 28th at 7.00 pm

Music for a Summer Evening with The Terrington Choir

The programme includes a selection of sacred, classical and popular modern choral music, interspersed with seasonal readings and poems.

Tickets £12.00 under 16 yrs £6.00

includes refreshments and free entry into the raffle following the concert

As seating is limited, please could you let Fiona know if you would like tickets.

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

Tickets can be collected at the door. Cash or card payments accepted

All proceeds will go to St Michael's Church



St Mary's Church, Gate Helmsley

Strawberry Lunch

Gate Helmsley Village Hall

Sunday July 13th 12.30 p.m.

£12.50 : EVERYONE WELCOME

Soft drinks provided—bring your own wine

Booking essential—01759 372 215 or 372 663

ALL DAY TO MIDNIGHT MOVIES

From 10.30am to midnight Saturday 26 July 2025
SAND HUTTON AND CLAXTON VILLAGE HALL

Price - £7.50 for adults; £2.50 for kids

Drinks, refreshments, popcorn

from Sister Margaret Ann CSPH



To all my dear friends across the Benefice of Harton and beyond.

I would like to share with you today a verse I learnt in my early days at the convent at Horbury.

“On the Holy Cross I see
Jesus’ arms stretched out for me
On the Holy Cross I see
Jesus’ feet nailed for me
Loving Jesus let me be
Still and quiet, close to thee
Learning of thy love for me
Giving all my love to thee.”

As I looked upon the cross of Christ over the run up to Easter, I was reminded of the mess I have made over the years, of my life. I am far from perfect, having thought, said and done things I am far from proud of and so need to ask for forgiveness. The cross is our hope - Jesus suffered on our behalf taking all our sins to the cross, nailing them there forever. The victory over sin and death has been won already for you and for me by the unconditional love of God our heavenly father, and in this we must rejoice and be glad this Easter time.

Wherever you are on the road of life and however dark it sometimes seems remember Jesus walks with us. He has suffered shame and insults and the cruelty of man, the pain and suffering, loneliness, isolation and rejection.

Scripture reminds us:

“He came unto his own and his own received him not.” He came to restore our relationship with the Father, giving us the gift of life in all its abundance. Thanks be to God.

Easter Day brought new life to the Risen Lord and that new life is for us too. As Jesus appeared to his disciples, reassuring them and walking alongside them, so he does with us today. Our hope, trust and strength are in the power of the Risen Christ. If in doubt, listen to Him as he calls your name as he called Mary in the Easter Garden. You are his child, created and held by Him today

and every day. He knows exactly what he is doing with us all. So, rejoice and be glad for Jesus Christ is risen and walks with you every step of the way.

This is our joy, our hope, and our peace

May God bless you all this Easter tide.

Margaret Ann
+ CSPK

The Lunch Club



We had a lovely meal at the Wentworth Arms, Old Malton. Ten of us enjoyed lunch together with laughter and good company (not pictured Rev Nigel who was also there.)

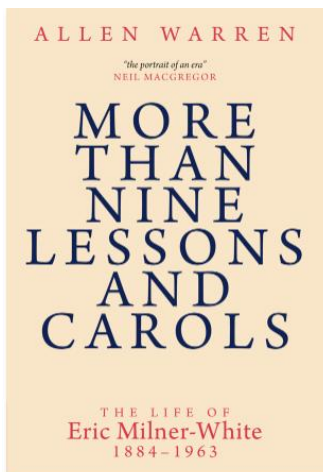
Thanks to everyone for coming.

Allen Warren

Allen Warren joined the Department of History in 1971 from the University of Oxford and remained a member until his full retirement in 2011, including a period as its Head from 1996 until 2003. Over that period, he had a number of areas of historical research interest in modern British and Irish History.

Allen is on the PCC of St Mary's Church Sand Hutton, and has recently written a book entitled:

More than Nine Lessons and Carols: The Life of Eric Milner-White (1884 -1963).



Eric Milner-White was Dean of York from 1941-1963, the longest serving and most influential during the last century. Now largely forgotten, this is the first comprehensive study of his life. Most often remembered as the creator of the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols from King's College, Cambridge in 1918, with its moving bidding prayer, he was many other things as well.

Notoriously private, he destroyed all his personal papers prior to his death, including his time as army chaplain on the Western Front, in which he won the DSO. As Dean of King's from 1918 until 1941, and prominent Anglo-Catholic, he was a very productive writer of prayers for all occasions, controversialist, and characterful Dean.

Moving to York, he was a major civic presence, as well as powerful Dean, playing a critical role in the development of the Civic Trust, the City Art Gallery, and heading the campaign for a university in York.

An aesthete by temperament and scheming by nature, he divided opinion throughout his life, which touched many parts of national life.

**For those intrigued, more detail is to be found at
www.sacristy.co.uk/books/biography/eric-milner-white**

Allen will be giving a talk on Milner-White as part of the York Festival of Ideas at the Merchant Taylors Hall, Aldwark, York.

**Tuesday June 3rd at 6.30 pm to coincide with the publisher's launch.
Tickets are free and should be booked online through
Eventbrite and York Festival of Ideas.**

BOSSALL



We are on the final stage of the renovation programme for St Botolph's. The works to the roof, leadwork and new guttering all look fantastic, with some impressive workmanship from our main contractor Gary Payne and his team from GPM (Ripon) Ltd. The delays have mainly been due to a lot of extra repairs unearthed during the project, only visible once the high level scaffold had been put in place.

We hope sincerely that the church is now watertight and we have a sturdy roof at least, for the next fifty years or more!

Unfortunately, the interior, hitherto untouched by the current works, has suffered a bit with the lack of heating and as a result of the years of damp build up. Now that we have had the exterior repaired we will be looking to have the damp plasterwork dried out and in time re-painted, which we expect to do in late summer once we have had time to allow the walls to aerate. That said, the church should be open again for services from May onwards.

BUTTERCRAMBE

We have had a busy few months at St John's Buttercrambe. The Estate team and Sara have been carrying out various repairs/improvements flagged up by the Quinquennial Report. This has included the removal of moss from the roof and the gutters have been cleared. Various slipped and broken roof slates have been replaced and much lime repointing where the cement has crumbled away including around the altar. Repainting of the metal bars on the outside of all the windows and gravestones made safe.

The list goes on!

We have had two services, Sunday 26th January and Sunday 23rd March with well over 30 in the congregation and refreshments enjoyed by all.

In February we had the funeral of Margaret Elderton. It was a wonderful family occasion celebrating a 90 year long and happy life. The family were very much involved; her 2 daughters Sally and Jane gave the eulogy; granddaughter Eve did the beautiful flowers and the grandsons read the

lessons and carried their grandmother into the church. She is buried in Buttercrambe churchyard with her husband Graham who died in 2017.

The second Lent lunch was enjoyed at Aldby Park in March and thirty people attended. Thank you to everyone who supported the lunch and £217 was received in donations which has been given to Dementia Forward - a local charity supporting people living with dementia and their families across York and North Yorkshire.

CRAMBE

After a busy run up to Christmas things have been relatively quiet in Crambe though we have had four services in the church.

On March 5th all that changed with the death of Heather Dale after a long and challenging illness. Heather was a remarkable woman known and loved by many far beyond the confines of this village.

Heather was born in Crambe 87 years ago and lived here all her life. It was a great privilege for all of us to be part of 'Team Crambe' in supporting her through the last difficult year or so enabling her to stay in her own home until the end, which was her fervent wish. She lived through WW2, and periods of evolving change in Crambe. She was a fount of knowledge about the people who over the years have called Crambe home. She was a passionate supporter of the church, and she gave a great deal of her time in her role of churchwarden over the years.



We will all miss her cheerful smile and optimistic attitude to life and all its difficulties. She took an interest in everything and always had a story to tell.

Her last wish was to have her ashes buried by the church so in one sense she will always be with us. Heather's funeral was very well attended, a tribute to the esteem in which she was held by so many. It is truly the end of an era.

On Saturday June 28th we will be welcoming the Terrington Choir who will be presenting a concert in St Michael's Church with music and readings to suit all tastes, so we hope many of you will be able to come for what will be a very enjoyable evening. More details in the Forthcoming Events section of this magazine

FLAXTON

Mothering Sunday service.

It was good to see so many of you at the Mothering Sunday Family Service. The Benefice Choir were present and time was set aside during the service for the children take part and enjoy their own activity. This is on display in church. It also gave the opportunity for the adults to talk to each other about their mothers. The children also took part by reading prayers and lessons of the day. Posies of flowers were given to each member of the congregation and delivered to those in the village who were unable to attend. Thank you to those who provided and served refreshments after the service.

Moles

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) are aware of the numerous mole hills present in the churchyard. Efforts are being made to rectify this problem. If anyone is an expert mole catcher, or knows of anyone, please get in touch with a member of the PCC.

Churchyard Maintenance

The season is now upon us for the maintenance of the churchyard. The PCC is very grateful to the churchyard team for their time and effort. This year we have three new members on the team. Thank you to you all.

FOSTON

Our churchyard always looks its best at this time of year - full of primroses and wildlife. The children from Foston C of E Primary school were also lucky to have beautiful sunshine when they walked down for their Easter service.

Ongoing repairs and maintenance of the church building have been taking place, and we are waiting to have the interior painted in May.

We were saddened to hear of the death of Angela Haswell, whose ashes have been interred in the churchyard.

We are always looking for volunteers who would like to support our lovely historic church in any way. This could just be helping with some routine cleaning, putting flowers on the altar or by supporting our events.

Please speak to any member of the PCC or message the secretary on 07783031815 if you are interested.

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

Foston and Thornton Le Clay Village Hall

Our lovely Village Hall is undergoing some exciting improvements. With the aid of grants and some match funding, we have installed a new boiler and replaced some windows. The remaining windows at the front and side of the hall are to be replaced shortly and will complete this phase of improvements.

Everyone is very welcome at our forthcoming events and you can generally pay on the door.

Wednesday 30th April: Our final soup and pud lunch at 12pm - £5, all welcome. We hope to start them again in Autumn.

Saturday 28th June: Games afternoon – 2-4pm. Lots of games for all the family and the café will be open.

Saturday 2nd August: Jorvik Vikings TOMCC for Yorkshire Day - with brass band “Simply Brass” - supporting the charity ‘Chronic Lymphocytic Leukaemia’.

Weekly coffee mornings will start again in September – Mondays 9am to 11am. Drop in for a chat, coffee and cake and to see the work that has been carried out.

Following a sell-out event last year, we are hoping to host “THE PROFFS” – formerly known as “MANNA” for a night of music and supper in the Autumn. Details will be provided nearer the time.

Foston C of E Primary School

Sunday 11th May - village mystery trail - activities and refreshments 11am - 3pm. This is a PAFS event and there will be trails for all ages and adults

GATE HELMSLEY

Spring is here, with good weather and nature bursting into colourful life. We wish everyone a very happy Easter, with plenty of chocolate eggs to enjoy. Many moving services have been held over Holy Week in various churches across the benefice – Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, culminating in the joy and hope of Easter Day itself. Thank you to Nigel, Rachel (Benson) and Ian for leading these services. Thanks also to Mandy Fletcher for refreshing the prayer table in St Mary’s in preparation for Easter and for the poignant Easter Garden.

We celebrated Candlemass at St Mary’s on 2nd February in a Holy Communion service led by the vicar, Nigel. Forthcoming services at the church will be on Sunday 27th April and Sunday 18th May. Everyone is very welcome.

Thank you again to all those who help to maintain the churchyard. Work has already begun for the summer season, and everything is looking very neat and tidy.

We recently held the PCC annual meeting (the APCM or Annual Parochial Church Meeting). David Fletcher, who has been the diligent Honorary Treasurer to the PCC for many years, has decided to retire from the post. We are very grateful for all the work David has done to keep the church finances in good order. Thank you to Claire Sykes who has kindly volunteered to step into the breach.

Our regular fund-raising events provide enough money to pay for the day-to-day running of the church. A major fund-raising effort will be needed to finance major repairs to the rainwater goods and the church tower. Please let us know if you would like to be involved, or if you have any innovative ideas for fund-raising events.

Our next fund-raiser is the annual Strawberry Lunch to be held at Gate Helmsley Village Hall on Sunday 13th July 12.30 for 1.00 pm. Tickets £12.50. More details can be found elsewhere in the Circular. We can give advance notice of a dance in support of the church to be held on 25th October, arranged by Mandy Dodds.

We have been saddened by the death of Barbara Chappell. Barbara had been severely ill for several years but had faced that illness with great stoicism and cheerfulness, never complaining. We send our deepest sympathy to David and to all Barbara's family in their loss.

In the last few days, we have learned of the death of Mandy Fletcher's sister, Carole, after a long period of ill health. Condolences go to Mandy, David and all Carole's family at this sad time.

HOWSHAM

We have finally been able to complete the tree work in the churchyard - very efficiently and reasonably by HPL Tree services. Our architect has visited the church, but we still await his Quinquennial report.

All three of the Benefice Lent lunches were very well attended and most enjoyable. An amazing total was raised for Dementia Forward.

We will shortly be approaching builders for quotations to repair the boundary wall, which we expect to be very costly.

The church will be hosting two weddings this year.

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

Spring is such a wonderful time of year – the vibrant colours of primroses, daffodils, bluebells and blossom, the birdsong and the stark tree silhouettes replaced by the lush and varied shades of green as they burst into leaf.

We have of course just celebrated the Christian festival of Easter. There was a very poignant and moving service at St Mary's on Good Friday comprising readings, reflection, prayer and contemplative pieces of music.

This was followed on Easter Sunday by a hugely uplifting communion service with refreshments and fellowship afterwards. It was lovely to see so many people, including a number of families, children and visitors to the area.

The Benefice choir sang a beautiful anthem and led the singing and our grateful thanks go to Peter Stott for his expertise on the organ and as the choir's musical director.

Thank you to Jean Daish for the stunning floral arrangements and to all those who contributed in any way to either of these special services. Thanks also to those who gave up their time and energy to participate in the Spring clean of the church – it is much appreciated.

Sand Hutton school held their Easter service in the church on the 2nd April and as always it was a source of thought, imagination, creativity and joy. Thanks go to the children, parents and staff.

On the 6th April a visiting speaker, Dr Neil Moran, gave a very interesting talk on his experience of Healing Ministry; it is hoped that this may be explored further within the benefice.

Some local people may remember Susan Waite who lived in the area a number of years ago. Her memorial service was held at St Mary's in March. We extend our condolences to her family and friends.

Each Wednesday evening in Lent, a vigil was held in church. This was the initiative of Rachael and John Tierney to give people the opportunity to gather and pray for Christians around the globe who are persecuted for their faith. The vigils were very moving and we thank them for this opportunity.

We are so grateful to all those who contribute to the life and maintenance of the church and churchyard. If you feel you could join the flower rota or the general team of volunteers, do please get in touch – the church is there for everyone in our community – you do not have to be a church goer!

Date for your diary

A talk by Allen Warren –

**'Scenes from Clerical Life': church and society in the Benefice of Harton
1830 to 1880.**

Refreshments to follow the talk.

Friday 27th June at Claxton and Sand Hutton Village Hall at 7.30p.m.

Tickets £10 from E. Stott 01904 468404 or Ian Lyall 01904 468209

All proceeds to St Mary's Church, Sand Hutton

UPPER HELMSLEY

At St Peter's we held Christmas Day service and our usual Palm Sunday service with the choir. Both were very well attended.

We are looking forward to a Baptism that is planned as part of our June 15th service for the late Jane Herbert's great grandson Oscar (Charlie Mackaness's son).

And now that the Aubergine Operations' work at the allotment has been suspended, we are considering other ways for use of the space.

We would like to acknowledge our thanks to Rachael Harrison for her help over the years with the allotment project as the Benefice Children and Families worker, and the great support from Phil Richards and Katie Read as part of our Allotment team. We would also like to thank all the members of the Benefice who helped us with time and resources over the years. We are very proud of the achievements of the project and all the young people who took part.

We are now looking forward to finer and warmer weather. Here is a little summer prayer that I found:

*Dear Lord
That we can glimpse you within creation
is a beautiful thought,
but also tells us that you desire to be seen,
to be found and known.
Open our eyes, Lord,
as we walk through this world,
feel the wind and sunshine,
see the majesty of creation
unfolding before our eyes.
Help us to see you*

Copyright - John Birch from the Faith and Worship website.

WHITWELL

The lovely spring weather has brought everybody out of their houses and the sound of lawnmowers can be heard in the village - long may it last!

Following the replacement of the lightbulbs in the church, we noticed how dirty and dark our windows were looking so we commissioned a survey from the York Glazier Trust to find out the extent of the damage to some of the windows. We are waiting for the report but early correspondence has been more favourable than we thought. We have one window in the Nave which is plain so we may look to replace this with stained glass in the not too distant future.

Whitwell attracts groups of walkers who leave their cars outside the church. It is hoped they will take advantage of our lovely picnic bench (in memory of Wendy Holman) and also our new bench which is much admired but which we still have not been able to give thanks for!

Already, we have been very fortunate to have two lovely benefice services this year with the excellent choir, wonderful singing, and thank you to all, in particular to Peter and Ellen Stott for all their hard work in bringing everyone together.

Once again, a big thank you to Michael Goodwill for looking after the church grounds so well.



NEWS FROM OUR SCHOOLS ***Foston C of E Primary School***

We have had a busy term at Foston Primary School. Our junior children have taken part in the Young Voices Choir at Sheffield Utilita Arena, the Key Stage 1 children visited Dalby Forest and our EYFS pupils went to the Fairy Forest.



As well as our trips, we have had visitors into school, including a workshop from Phunky Foods, where the children made healthy snacks. We have also taken part in many sporting events, including netball, basketball and dodgeball, plus we had a fun Sports Enhancement Day with a karate teacher, a visit from a rugby player and a York City Football player. One of the benefits of our federation is the wider peer groups and our children always enjoy getting to know the children at the other schools. Our term ended with two brilliant Easter services at Foston Methodist Chapel and All Saints Church Foston. As always, our children made us extremely proud!



Foston Open Afternoons for Nursery Children or Reception 2025

We are pleased to share our open afternoons for our nursery provision at Foston Primary School. We offer term time only provision for children from 3 years old, so there is no additional cost for parents. Our open days are:

Wednesday 4th June 1:30-3pm

Monday 23rd June 1.30-3pm

Please email Foston office to confirm your attendance, or if you would like

to find out more information about Foston Nursery, which is now graded as Outstanding by Ofsted, please email: fostonoffice@foston.n-yorks.sch.uk

Miss Katie Stringer
Head of School
Foston CE & Langton Primary Schools

Federation Consultation

Following a period of successful and mutually beneficial collaboration, facilitated through shared Leadership arrangements, the Governing Bodies of FST Primary Schools Federation (Comprised of: Foston Church of England VC Primary, Stillington Community Primary and Terrington Church of England VA Primary), and Langton Primary School have been looking at ways of working more closely together to maximise the impact of the collaboration on educational provision for children in each of the schools.

Both Governing Bodies believe that building upon this existing close working relationship will ensure continuity and stability, providing the best education for our children whilst maintaining each school's distinctive culture and ethos. At separate Full Governing Board meetings on 27th March 2025, Governors approved a formal consultation with stakeholders, on a proposal for the four schools to form a new federation, with effect from September 2025.

This means, after Easter, there will be a formal six-week consultation with staff, parents and the local communities (of all four schools) with opportunities to find out more about the proposal, ask any questions, and/or provide a formal response. Detailed information about the proposal, along with details about how interested parties can participate and contribute their views, will be available from the schools (or via the schools' websites) throughout the consultation period, from 23rd April to 5th June 2025.

Stakeholder views and consultation responses will be considered in June 2025 by both Governing Boards separately, before they make a final decision on the proposal to federate.

Corinne Cross
Chair of Governors, FST Primary Schools Federation



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YO60 7NT

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YO41 1AT

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Email: sara@winndarley.net

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YO60 7JR

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Email: george@scaledrinks.com

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Flaxton, St Lawrence

YO60 7NT

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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

Tel: 01759 372215

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Howsham, St John

YO60 7PH

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YO41 1LB

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St Mary's Church, Sand Hutton

The Circular

Copy deadline for the next edition: July 18th 2025

This will cover: August September October 2025

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

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