

The Benefice of Harton

The Circular



Summer 2026
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 Botolph's Church Bossall

From Revd. Nigel.....



Loch Rannoch

At the time of writing this I have just returned home after a week in Scotland. We stayed on the bank of Loch Rannoch in the very heart of Scotland. Where we stayed was overlooked by a mountain called Schiehallion. This is one of the Munroes, a mountain with a peak of over 3,000 feet above sea level.

It is a beautiful mountain, with, from the direction we viewed it, a very pointed peak. Being mid-April there was still a considerable covering of snow which over one night, was added to considerably.

In an earlier part of my life, whilst in the Army, I spent a substantial period as an Adventurous Training Instructor. I trained in Norway, and I spent a lot of time in the mountains in the UK and abroad, teaching soldiers, both men and women, how to live, work and play in challenging environments.

As I looked up at Schiehallion, admiring its beauty, and wishing I had taken all the gear needed to climb it, I thought of how something so beautiful, majestic even, can be extremely dangerous, particularly with all the snow and ice. The risks of trying to tackle such a mountain without proper equipment and preparation are serious indeed.

Whilst enjoying the peace and quiet of the locale, I also had time to meditate a bit. I thought about how being a Christian disciple can be rather like climbing a mountain.

Just as with climbing a mountain, where there is an objective of reaching the summit, the Christian journey has the objective of bringing us as close to God as possible.

The journey of Christian discipleship is often exhilarating, sometimes exhausting, full of surprises, and occasionally risky. As with the journey up the mountain, it is better when there are pauses to take in the beauty and to rest. Sometimes, when the journey becomes hard, we join others for support. As with on the mountain, where a map and compass are essential, we have Bible scripture to guide us.

Mountains have great significance in the Bible:

Mount Sinai: The place of the covenant and Ten Commandments.

Mount Zion: Represents the city of God, the temple, and his established kingdom.

Mount of Olives: The site of Jesus' prayer, teaching, and ascension.

Mount Carmel: Where Elijah confronted the prophets of Baal.

The Mount of Transfiguration: The place where Jesus' divine nature was revealed to the disciples.

I have stood atop a considerable number of mountains of varying sizes, and there is, for me, always something very spiritual about it. I feel somehow closer to God. I know I am far from alone in that experience.

To take on serious Alpine mountains, the services of a guide will often be advisable, if not essential. Sometimes the journey of a Christian disciple becomes more serious and somewhat harder, perhaps involving some form of mission work or answering a call to ministry. It is then that a guide is also essential, and through prayer we find our perfect guide in Jesus. He helps us when we are weary, when we feel overwhelmed, and leads us on the right path, even if we can't see it at the time.

Jesus knows all about the difficult and risky course of the Christian disciple's journey. In the period leading up to his arrest and crucifixion, he warned those disciples who were to continue his Earthly ministry, of the dangers to come.

Even now, Christian disciples in some parts of the world face dangers we can barely understand, because of hostility and persecution, yet still they strive for the objective, the summit. I do hope that, as we slip from Spring into Summer, and the days get warmer, you will be able to get away for a holiday, or even just a short break. I hope it gives you an opportunity to take time out

and refresh. You may not go where there are mountains, but I do hope you see and experience beauty wherever you go.

As any experienced mountain climber will tell you, it is hard work, it is risky, even downright dangerous at times, but reaching the summit is worth any of that.

I do hope and pray that you reach your own summit over the Summer, and that you don't let a little risk stop you having an adventure.

Talking of risk, it can feel rather daunting stepping into a church for the first time in a long while, or even for the first time. The ten churches in the Harton Benefice are open most days and are interesting places just to visit or are places where you can find quiet and peace. They are also nice and cool on a hot day.

You will, of course, be made most welcome should you decide to attend a service. Please do have a look at our website to see when and where the services are, and for details of any other events and happenings.

www.sandhuttongroup.org.uk

Have a lovely Summer, be outside lots, and slap on the factor 50.

Blessings
Rev Nigel



Schiehallion

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 2026

Sunday May 3rd

9.00	Zoom Service	
10.00	Holy Communion	Flaxton

Wednesday May 6th

10.00	Holy Communion	Sand Hutton
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Sunday May 10th

10.00	Holy Communion	Whitwell
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Thursday May 14th

Ascension

7.00 pm	Holy Communion	Crambe
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Sunday May 17th

10.00	Holy Communion	Upper Helmsley
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Wednesday May 20th

10.00	Holy Communion	Crambe
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Sunday May 24th

Pentecost

10.00	Holy Communion	Gate Helmsley
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Wednesday May 27th

10.00 Holy Communion Sand Hutton

Sunday May 31st

10.00 Holy Communion Howsham

June 2026

Wednesday June 3rd

10.00 Holy Communion Howsham

Sunday June 7th

9.00 Zoom
10.00 Holy Communion Foston

Wednesday June 10th

10.00 Holy Communion Whitwell

Sunday June 14th

10.00 Holy Communion Bossall

Wednesday June 17th

10.00 Holy Communion Sand Hutton

Sunday June 21st

10.00 Holy Communion Sand Hutton

Wednesday June 24th

10.00 Holy Communion Crambe

Sunday June 28th

10.00	All Age Worship	Flaxton
4.30	Choral Evensong	Gate Helmsley

July 2026

Wednesday July 1st

10.00	Holy Communion	Flaxton
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Sunday July 5th

9.00	Zoom	
10.00	Holy Communion	Crambe

Wednesday July 8th

10.00	Holy Communion	Howsham
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Sunday July 12th

10.00	Holy Communion	Buttercrambe
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Wednesday July 15th

10.00	Holy Communion	Sand Hutton
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Sunday July 19th

10.00	Holy Communion	Whitwell
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Wednesday July 22nd

10.00	Holy Communion	Crambe
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Sunday July 26th

10.00 Holy Communion Howsham

Wednesday July 29th

10.00 Holy Communion Flaxton

August 2026

Sunday August 2nd

9.00 Zoom Service
10.00 Holy Communion Bossall

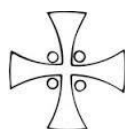
Wednesday August 5th

10.00 Holy Communion Howsham



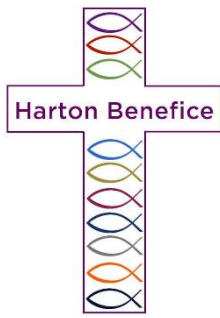
Welcome to those newly baptised

February 15th 2026 Elsie Mae Dean Gate Helmsley



Our condolences to the family and friends of

February 2026 Ray Barry Benefice of Harton
April 1st 2026 Brian Atkinson Claxton
April 19th 2026 Anna Baldwin Howsham



Benefice PCC.....

There have been two meetings of the Benefice PCC, one on 22nd January and the other on 2nd April 2026.

These were the topics discussed:

- Chairman's (vicar's) report: Reverend Nigel reiterated his half-time hours; the best way to contact him is by email. He is concerned about the possible lack of churchwardens in some of the benefice churches
- Safeguarding: Anna Sawkins is progressing well with updating the training and DBS status of PCC members and churchwardens. PCCs must officially endorse and ratify the local Safeguarding Policy. They must also elect one of their number to be a link and co-ordinator between the safeguarding lead and the PCC. A supporting paper has been produced and distributed to all Benefice PCC members, to be shared with their local PCC members.
- Youth and Families: Rachael Tearney as lead continues to innovate in this area with the development of Club Capernaum and a Zoom book club for adults to discuss theological issues. She has set up a mother and toddler group and is forging links with other local church youth leaders and with Archbishop Holgate school, in order to reach older children.
- Church insurance: PCCs are strongly advised to investigate alternative brokers when their church insurance is due for renewal as cheaper options may be available. Some parishes are already making such changes.
- The Pastoral Care Team is thriving under the leadership of Adrian Watson. It is unfortunate that the only care home in the benefice, Prospect House Gate Helmsley, has closed. Reverend Nigel (and others) visited once a month to give Holy Communion to the residents.

- Healing Ministry, led by Ian Lyall and Reverend Nigel, recently hosted Southern Ryedale Deanery members at St Mary's Sand Hutton for a special service of healing.
- The need for clear channels of accurate communication was emphasised. Currently the benefice uses the Circular, the benefice website, pew sheets and WhatsApp. There are plans to set up a benefice Facebook page. Reverend Nigel plans to establish a brochure for wide distribution to link with wedding couples.

The next meeting is scheduled for 10.00 am on Thursday 9th July at Orchard House, Gate Helmsley. Please give agenda items to the honorary secretary, Ellen Stott

Delyth Harran

Lay Chairman

Lent Lunches



The three soup and cheese lunches held during Lent yielded total donations of **£512.00** and this was given to the local charity Ryedale Special Families.

Many thanks to all who so generously supported these events, and especially “thank you” to the hosts. We all enjoyed good fellowship with good food.

Delyth Harran.

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



Monday 4th May

Come and join us on the bridge

9.30 am onwards for

Tea and coffee

Cakes and plants for sale

Cash or card



Cake and Company

Claxton and Sand Hutton Village Hall

This is a popular venue for anyone to come and chat, relax, meet new friends, do your crafting, puzzling or just pick up a book

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

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

Forthcoming dates

Tuesday May 5th 2-4pm

Thursday May 21st 10-12 midday

Tuesday June 2nd 2-4pm

Thursday June 18th 10-12 midday

Tuesday July 7th 2-4pm

Thursday July 16th 10-12 midday

Any queries please contact Kath: 07592 345 126 or Anne: 01904 468 550

CLUB CAPERNAUM

POP UP CAFÉ Monthly on Wednesdays (April 22ND – May 20th - June 17th)
6pm-7.30pm – St Mary's Church Sand Hutton



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

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

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

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

Email: hypdrama@yahoo.com



Little Angels Mums and Babies



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

St Mary's Church,
Sand Hutton
Tuesday 21st April
10am-11.30am,
then fortnightly.

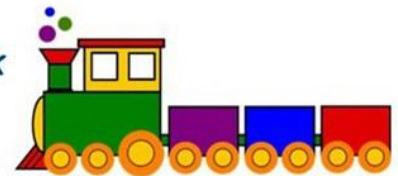


Mums and Babies
welcome,
Bumps to 5 yrs.
Refreshments available.

for more details see



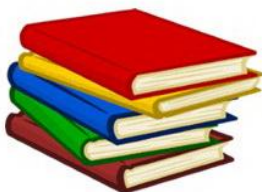
www.sandhuttongroup.org.uk
or email



Join our Zoom Book Club!

Christian themed books

Books for MAY, JUNE and JULY:



NEWTON and POLLY - by Jody Hedlund

FISHERMAN'S APPRENTICE – by Dan Floen

SPRINGTIME AT HOPE HALL - by Pam Rhodes

For more information contact Rachael
Email HYPDrama@yahoo.com



Spring Drama

with The Harton Youth Players HYP



HARTON BENEFICE DRAMA CLUB

Sand Hutton Village Hall, Mondays 4.30-5.30pm. 6-11yrs

We will explore the wonderful stories of the Bible and other Christian tales
Parents welcome to stay and relax in the waiting room with a cuppa.

For details please email hypdrama@yahoo.com



Caroline's Memorial Plant Sale May 16th 10-3pm

Proceeds shared between North Yorkshire Music Therapy
and Sand Hutton and Claxton Village Hall YO41 1LL
where the sale will be held.

Refreshments all day.

**Herbaceous, Shrubs, Annuals, Hanging Baskets,
Veg Plants Houseplants, Gardenalia,**

Enquiries - Fiona 01904 468001

Benefice Lunch Club



Next Lunch is on

July 12th at 12.15

at The Wentworth Arms, Old Malton

Places are limited so please contact Adrian as soon as possible
if you would like to go

Tel: 07870 591 142

St Mary's Church, Gate Helmsley

Strawberry Lunch



Gate Helmsley Village Hall

Sunday 19th July 12.30pm

£12.50 : EVERYONE WELCOME

Soft drinks provided - Bring your own wine

Booking essential – 01759 372215 or 372663



**ORGAN CONCERT : ST MARY'S
CHURCH, SAND HUTTON
WEDNESDAY 22ND JULY: 7P.M.**

**Alexander Woodrow,
Organist and Director of Music at Leeds Minster,**

will be visiting St Mary's Church to give a special concert on our excellent church organ. The concert will last for around one hour with a very wide range of music, including some famous and familiar tunes.

It is free to attend, with donations welcomed. Donations -cash (preferably) or card, will be split equally between St Mary's Church and the Choral Scholarships programme at Leeds Minster. Refreshments will be provided following the concert.

Alex is walking 104 miles over the week, following the White Rose Way between Leeds and Scarborough, to raise money to sustain the Choral Scholarships at Leeds Minster that are offered to talented university students from Leeds and York Universities and Leeds Conservatoire to sing with the Minster Choir. Over his six days of walking, Alex is giving a 'pop-up' organ concert each day, and so his concert at St Mary's Church forms a part of that itinerary. We look forward to welcoming him and encouraging him in his long-distance hike.

Please do save the date!



WANTED!

TREASURER

for

St Michael's Church, Crambe

in

The Benefice of Harton

Is there anyone out there with book keeping or other relevant skills who would take on this role.

If this is you and you would like more information please contact:

Fiona Le Masurier

Secretary to the PCC

Email: Churchmouse@crambehouse.co.uk

Tel: 07774 886 833

YOUTH AND FAMILIES WORKER

Rachael Tearney



It is so lovely to see the sun in the mornings and know that another warm and pleasant summer is approaching. We have just enjoyed the Easter break and across the Harton Benefice we had an awful lot of fun. Drama Club ended on March 23rd with our Easter Party, where we enjoyed food and games such as 'Pin the Tail on the Bunny' and 'Feed Hungry Herbie!'

On Palm Sunday, we staged our first ever Passion Play at St Peter's Upper Helmsley. Members of the congregation played the roles of those in the Easter story including Jesus, played by Reverend Nigel, Caiaphas and Pontius Pilate, complete with costume and props. It was a new approach and very different but everyone agreed it was very good and conveyed the Easter message with poignancy and emotion. We look forward to an even bigger and better production next year!

There was a wonderful, joyous service on Easter Sunday at Gate Helmsley with everything coming together to create an exceptional experience, the bells rang, the choir sang, the Gospel was shared, as were coffee and cake. However, the celebrations didn't stop there, an Easter Egg Hunt was held after the service with children finding eggs, following clues and receiving Easter bags filled with chocolate eggs and the Easter Mystery Quiz booklet. Our schools in Foston and Sand Hutton held marvellous Easter services in our churches with children performing songs, readings, poems and presenting beautiful artwork depicting the Passion of Christ. Well done to all involved in these services, which take a great deal of planning and preparation. They really are something special.

We have lots of activities coming up throughout the summer months. Drama Club continues on Mondays and we are launching our new mothers and toddlers Group, Little Angels Mums and Babies - **L.A.M.B.S** to be held fortnightly on Tuesday mornings in Sand Hutton.

The Youth Ministry is holding two exciting literary competitions, '**Have You Heard? - Harton Tales**', '**Pen a Poem**' along with an art contest, '**Pictures and**

Paints' and winning entrants will be published in our Diocese Magazine, **Quest**. I will be sharing details of this with schools in the coming weeks.

Please check in with our website regularly to see updates of summer events, Holiday Clubs and more and follow us on Instagram @HartonYouthPlayers

All Age Worship this term will be at 10 am on April 26th at Buttercrambe and June 28th at Flaxton. Families and children are welcome to join us for worship, crafts, drama and refreshments. Please be aware that unfortunately there are no toilets in either church.

Harton Youth Players Drama Club has started again and if you are interested in joining this free club, please email HYPDrama@yahoo.com. The club is held on Mondays after school at Sand Hutton Village Hall, 4.30-5.30pm for children aged 6-11yrs.

Boots 'n' Brunch will be back on Saturday 7th June. We will be leaving from Howsham Church on a walk and returning to the church for Brunch afterwards. Please join us and again, email me if you'd like to know more.

Zoom Book Club – This is a book club for adults. You can find details of the selected books on our website and you can join anytime, it is not too late.

Club Capernaum re-opens on April 22nd and again on May 18th and June 20th. This is a monthly POP-UP Cafe for adults at St Mary's Church, Sand Hutton 6pm-7.30pm. People have been very much enjoying the relaxed, friendly atmosphere. Anne from Claxton said, 'I found Club Capernaum a place to have easy discussion which happened naturally and well worth going to.' If you are curious about Christ, interested in the Christian philosophy and want to know more or would like to join us for fellowship and a cuppa please come along.

Introducing **L.A.M.B.S – Little Angels Mums and Babies** Play Group beginning on April 21st and then fortnightly at St Mary's Church, Sand Hutton, 10am-11.30am. I look forward to seeing you over the Summer months and sharing the hope and joy of the Gospels with all our families in the Harton Benefice.

To join the mailing list and for any information regarding children and family events please email me, Rachael,

**at hypdrama@yahoo.com
you can follow us on
Instagram @HartonYouthPlayers**

from Sister Margaret Ann CSPH



To my friends in the Benefice of Harton,

Christ is risen, ALLELUIA!
He is risen indeed, ALLELUIA!

What a wonderful service it was on Easter Sunday at St Mary's Gate Helmsley. The coming together of the family of the church in this place. A celebration for us all. Christ is risen indeed and is with us in all we do every day for the rest of our lives. Something to be celebrated.

During the course of the following days, amidst the celebrations, the gathering of friends and family to catch up and enjoy each other's company, and the glorious weather we were blessed with, and appreciating the beauty of the countryside all around us, I tried to think of those early days, how it must have been for the disciples and all Jesus' close family and friends. They had been through a lot. They had seen him suffer and die, but here he was among them again. How could that be? What does it teach us today?

He appeared to Mary in the garden, then again on the road to Emmaus, in the upper room to his close friends, and again to Thomas. Then the crowds. He was alive, but at first, they did not recognise him. Isn't it like that for us today? He is alive, but we just don't see him in our ordinary everyday life.

He is there with us as we walk, as we talk and share, when we eat alone or together in community. On our good days and also on those days we are in the dark and find life an uphill struggle. He is there enabling us to show that love that he showed us all on the cross. Amidst all the suffering, shame and persecution, hatred and agony, his love for you and for me was, and still is constant. He holds us all as he did at the beginning of time, and he will never let us go. We are his children, all of us whoever we are, whatever we have done. He offers us all that merciful forgiveness and his unconditional love, yes unconditional! So, on those dark days, and those that are hard for you, remember. It is not just for Sundays and for days of joy and celebration. It is for every day that is left to you.

So do you acknowledge his presence with you? Do you give each task to him day by day? Do you talk to him and share your ups and downs with him? Do you give yourselves time to listen to what he might be saying to you and sharing with you? Do you share with others your story, your journey and your

experiences of the Risen Christ? It is in sharing with others that we show God's love in the world today, enabling his family to grow as he wills.

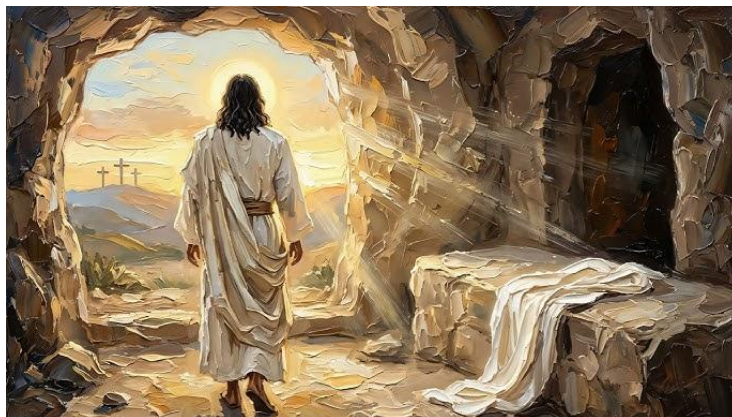
At the empty tomb on Easter morning, Jesus tells Mary to go back to Galilee and to tell his disciples that he is risen, and that it is there they will see him.

I have always thought that it is in everyday life that we find him, see him, feel his presence and receive the power of the risen Christ deep within us, not just in church on Sundays! Enabling us to show that love he showed to us all on the cross, his arms outstretched for us all.

But then there is that question we often hear people ask "Why is there a God who allows so much suffering in this world of ours today?"

God the Father is there in the midst of it all. He too shares in the dark and uphill struggles. Where there is suffering you will always find him. He walks alongside the hungry and the homeless, the abused and the outcasts. He is a God of love, and he is always there for anyone who opens their heart to him, who acknowledges him and his almighty power, who talks to him and shares their life with him. He is there to show us the way to a life of love and acceptance. He helps each one of us to 'put love where love is not'. Those outstretched arms, holding each and every one of us. And in the silence of your pain know that God is there in the midst of all that we suffer, and he walks with us every step of the way, never giving us more to carry than we can bear.

As we await the coming of his Holy Spirit let us with the disciples rejoice in the resurrection of our Saviour Jesus Christ, for he is indeed risen, and is with us all as we journey towards that day when we will all know and truly understand what Jesus has done for each one of us.



Blessings and prayers for you all,

Margaret Ann
+CSPT

BUTTERCRAMBE

George and Sara Winn-Darley hosted the last of the 3 Lent lunches on Monday 23rd March. Thank you to all those who came and provided such good company. We sat in the hall round the ping pong table, although with a pretty tablecloth on you wouldn't have known! Donations were gathered for Ryedale Special Families.

Sally Dykes who has a soft furnishing business in Buttercrambe, has kindly made some covered cushions to go along the altar rail which will make kneeling for communion more comfortable. We have had a tidy up in the churchyard, gathering all the blown off branches and stacking them up to create two log piles which the insects will enjoy. We have an ongoing battle with rabbits who enjoy the sandy soil and have made a great deal of mess. There is a large Cedar of Lebanon branch which has broken off by the side church door and is being dealt with in the next couple of weeks.

We are looking forward to the wedding of Sally Ferguson's daughter Katy on Saturday 2nd May.

BOSSALL

The graveyard in March was a sight to behold, filled with a beautiful array of spring flowers that looked absolutely stunning.

We still have logs available from the tree that was felled at the front of the churchyard, please do come and help yourselves.

It is always wonderful to see so many visitors stopping by and leaving such kind comments, often sharing how special and peaceful they find this place.

CRAMBE

Things are stirring at St Michael's Church! Winter is over, and the churchyard has been grazed by some sheep who have now been taken away, and we have been treated to a wonderful display of colourful spring bulbs that have been planted over the last two years.



We have just had our APCM and things are stirring there too. We have welcomed some new faces onto the PCC and farewelled others.

Our very grateful thanks must go to Linda Walker who has retired from the PCC and her role as our Treasurer. Over many years she has kept us on the straight and narrow, and kept our accounts meticulously. She has given a great deal of her time to decorating the church with flowers for special services and events, and provided delicious home baked cakes for us all to enjoy after services.

Stewart Walker, Linda's husband has also retired. He has been our Churchwarden for many years and carried out his role with great diligence. We shall miss them both. We will of course not lose them entirely, as they remain very much a part of our church family, and I for one am hoping Linda is not hanging up her apron any time soon, and we will continue to be the beneficiaries of her delicious baking from time to time!

The PCC is entering a new and potentially exciting phase in the life of St Michael's church, as in the light of the great gift we were left by Martin Monkman, we attempt and hopefully succeed, in resurrecting the project for bringing the church into the 21st century, which has been on hold for many years.

We hope this will future proof the church for a few hundred years more as it becomes not only a special place of worship, but a community resource as well.

The coming months will see the Church Commissioners carry out some necessary repair and refurbishment work on the chancel, and the PCC get to grips with what needs to be done in the nave.

FOSTON

Since the start of this year, we have had a lot of maintenance and redecoration work carried out on the internal walls of the church following advice from Nigel Cosey. We have started a programme of limewashing the walls which will hopefully mean they do not absorb as much moisture. The walls are already looking much better and any patches are gradually drying to an unstained fresh white.

Unfortunately, it turns out that all the pointing on the exterior of the church is also absorbing moisture and we are planning to have all the pointing replaced with a lime-based mortar in our next phase of maintenance. This work will be costly but will further prevent damp penetrating the walls for years to come. All maintenance work carried out is paid for by money raised through regular giving, individual donations, bequests and special services such as weddings. These costs are on top of contributing to the benefice, paying for heating, upkeep of the graveyard, insurance etc.

The redecoration required a lot of cleaning up and members of the PCC spent days scrubbing and polishing to get the church fit for Foston School's Easter Service in March. There is still some work to be done, but we hope the children enjoyed their visit to All Saints and had a lovely Easter break.

We are delighted that we have got some new volunteers to help distribute The Circular in Thornton Le Clay. We are very grateful for their support. This means we will still be delivering a copy to every house in TLC and Foston. Many thanks to our new helpers and everyone who has been delivering the copies for many years.

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

Please speak to any member of the PCC or message the secretary on 07783 031815 if you are interested.

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

Foston and Thornton Le Clay Village Hall

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

Village clean-up day - Saturday 18th April 10 am – 2 pm. Collect your litter picking equipment from the village hall. Please bring your own gardening

gloves. Bacon and veggie sausage sandwiches will be available as well as sweet treats and hot drinks.

Soup and pud club - Wednesday 29th April at 12 pm. The cost is £5, all welcome, join us for a lovely home-made lunch in a relaxed and friendly setting.

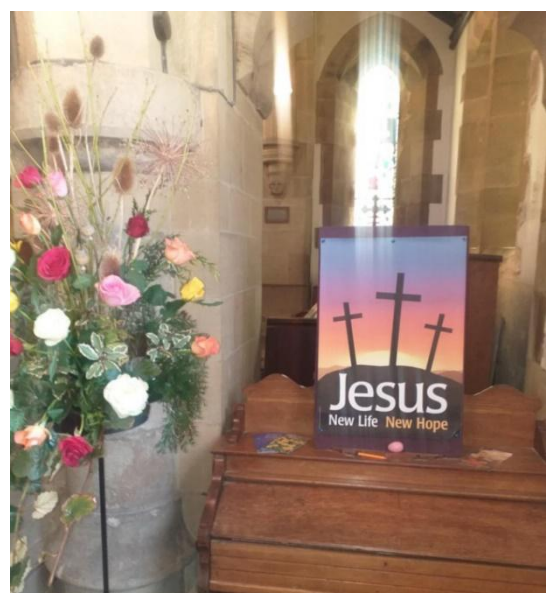
Weekly coffee mornings— Mondays 9 am to 11 am (excluding school and bank holidays). Drop in for a chat, coffee and cake. All welcome; we even have a box of toys for younger visitors.

Village Trail – Saturday June 20th – in aid of Foston School. Refreshments available.

GATE HELMSLEY

As this is written, we hope that you're able to enjoy the Easter break in glorious sunshine. It is such a relief to no longer be splashing through puddles and mud.

We had a wonderful Easter Day service at St Mary's. Thank you to Revd Nigel for conducting the service, and to Rachael Tearney for organising the Easter egg hunt afterwards. Music for the service was led by the benefice choir – thank you Ellen and Peter Stott. We were pleased to welcome more than sixty people into the congregation, some of whom were holiday makers. It was an uplifting service; much needed at a time when the whole world is facing so many challenges.



Earlier in the year, in February, we were pleased to welcome baby Elsie Dean into the church family through baptism, in another joyous service. We will have another service here on Sunday 24th May, with the benefice choir. We look forward especially to holding a service of Choral Evensong on Sunday 28th May, and hope that many from the benefice will be able to attend.

Fundraising events have proved very successful financially and – more importantly - socially. We held the annual parish lunch on 1st February and now look forward to the strawberry lunch in the village hall on Sunday 19th July. We give advance notice of the Harvest Festival and supper, which will be on Thursday 17th September.

We have been extremely saddened to learn of the closure of Prospect House Care Home. We hope that the residents will settle well into their new homes. And we send best wishes to Deborah Boughen, her family and care home staff for the future.

The PCC held its annual meeting on 14th April. Members were joined for lunch afterwards by some of those who offer their quiet and willing help towards the running of the church. We are very grateful to all those who take on this work and would be happy to welcome more helpers in the future. One way you could help is through regular giving to the church. To do this, please contact the PCC honorary treasurer, Claire Sykes.

We send best wishes to all parishioners, especially to those of you who are facing up to ill health or other life challenges. We are aware that some new people have moved into the village; we offer you a warm welcome and hope that you will be happy living here.

HOWSHAM

We have enjoyed several Wednesday and Sunday services, one with the choir. The churchyard has been looking lovely with snowdrops, primroses, daffodils and cherry blossom. Our Lent Lunch was well attended. Thank you to all who contributed cheese and cash for a very worthy cause.

We are looking forward to the wedding in May. We were pleased to have a visit from York University students to survey our beautiful stained glass. Our major fundraising event will be the Cake and Plant Stall on Bank Holiday

Monday, May 4th. We hold this from 9:30 am on Howsham Bridge and will be serving coffee and tea. Please come along. We will have a card machine too.

SAND HUTTON and CLAXTON

Spring has arrived – lambs gambolling in the fields, trees bursting into leaf, abundant blossom in bloom and a vibrant array of colours appearing. Such an inspiring season.

The children from our village primary school held their Easter service at St Mary's in March with each class portraying a different element of the Easter story. They were excellent – well done to all.

On Good Friday we had the “Hour before the cross” service comprising readings, prayers, reflection and contemplative pieces of music. Our thanks to all who were involved.

We recently undertook a Spring clean at the church and sincerely appreciate the hard work of those who generously gave of their time and support. If you feel you may have a little time to give to help to keep the church and churchyard well maintained, please just let us know.

Save the date:

Organ Concert: St Mary's Church, Sand Hutton, Wednesday 22nd July: 7pm
By Alexander Woodrow, Organist and Director of Music at Leeds Minster
(See separate advert in this Circular for more details.)

Brian Atkinson

It was with deep sadness and shock that we heard of the death of Brian, a friend to so many in our communities. He and his late wife Anne lived in Claxton for many years and were well known, not only locally but in the wider York area.

Brian was a valued member of Sand Hutton PCC and the benefice as a whole, always happy to help out, playing the organ at some services or assisting in any way he could. He was gentle, thoughtful and kind and we will miss him greatly.

Our deepest condolences go to Jane, her husband and children.

ST MARY'S CHURCH: "ROOF IT OR LOSE IT" APPEAL

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

All the nails on a roof typically age at the same rate so the whole roof is nearing the end of its life and a full nave re-roofing is required.

St Mary's is run and maintained by the PCC - a small group of volunteers, supported by others who kindly make a regular donation or fundraise. We receive no direct funding from the Church of England.

This is a major project with huge financial implications. We are in the process of applying for grant assistance but we also need to raise as much money as we can ourselves.

We are committed to ensuring the safety, structure, character, history, heritage and use of our beautiful church both now and for the future.

Please can you help us?

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

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

If you require further information, please contact Ellen on Tel: 01904 468 404 or 07939 620 613, or Email: ellenstott55@gmail.com.

Thank you so much for considering our request.

UPPER HELMSLEY



Performers of the Passion Play, Nigel Benson, Ian Lyall, Gillian Colling, John Tearney and Oliver Colling.

We have had a quiet quarter. The highlight though, was our Palm Sunday service. The Passion Play directed by Rachael and John was a wonderful experience. The feedback was positive and everyone was able to join in and be part of Jesus's story.

We are looking forward to the healing warm weather and we welcome visitors to partake in a cup of tea or coffee and rest in our churchyard.

WHITWELL

Sadly, after the recent major tree surgery, another tree fell during strong winds. It had clearly been supported by neighbouring trees that were removed. However, all the work has now been completed and the churchyard is looking wonderful. Michael has done a brilliant job tidying everything up, and we are pleased to say it is now back to its very high standard!

We held a coffee morning in the church on Saturday 24th January, which was very enjoyable. Please put the following dates in your diaries for our upcoming Coffee and Catch-up mornings:

- Wednesday 15th May, 10:00–11:00
- Wednesday 22nd July, 10:00–11:00

Whether you stay for five minutes or an hour we'd love to see you there. It's a great way to meet people who live locally at a friendly get together; if you can spare any time -please do come along and support these events— everyone is welcome.

We have also started a book swap at the back of the church. If you have any spare books, or would like to borrow one, please feel free to take part. A bookshelf is already set up in the meeting area.

In which church in the benefice you have seen these?



A



B



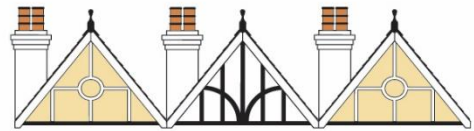
C



D

Answers inside back page

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YO60 7NT

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Buttercrambe, St John the Evangelist

YO41 1AT

Acting Churchwarden: Sara Winn Darley

Email: sara@winndarley.net

Tel: 01759 371398

Crambe, St Michael

YO60 7JR

Churchwarden: None

PCC Secretary: Fiona le Masurier Email: churchmouse@crambehouse.co.uk

Flaxton, St Lawrence

YO60 7NT

Churchwarden: Ida Terry

Email: idmt@hotmail.co.uk

Tel: 01347 878432

Foston, All Saints**YO60 7QG**

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

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Sue Hanson

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Howsham, St John**YO60 7PH**

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Email: simoncklittlejohn@msn.com

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Judy Stephenson

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Sand Hutton, St Mary**YO41 1LB**

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Emma Du Mon

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Answers to picture quiz:

A-Crambe, B-Bossall, C-Whitwell, D-Upper Helmsley

The Circular

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