

The Benefice of Harton



The Circular



Winter 2025/26

November December January

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



From Rev Nigel.....

I guess that for most of us, there are rarely enough hours in the day to do all the things we would like to do. This is certainly true for me in my role as the vicar of the Harton

Benefice, particularly as I am only half time. The administrative work and service preparation is still the same as it would be for a full-time vicar.

This unfortunately means that I don't have as much capacity as I would want for some areas of my ministry that I would like to spend more time on, such as pastoral visiting.

I'm not going to moan about it though, because I am given an incredible amount of help by numerous people from across the benefice. No one person can do everything!

Jesus was very aware that he could not carry out His ministry without help. So, he gathered around him a group of faithful followers, who were prepared to learn from him and then go out and carry out ministries in accordance with Jesus' instructions.

These were the disciples of Jesus, and they carried on His ministry and spreading the good news even after Jesus was no longer bodily with them. Those of us who continue to minister and live out our lives in Christian discipleship, whether in ordained or lay roles, are a continuation of Jesus' legacy, and follow in the footsteps of those first disciples.

I would certainly be setting myself up to fail if I believed I could physically do all the things I would like to in the ministry and mission life of our benefice.

With that in mind, and with very willing and faithful volunteers, forms of team ministry are being created in the benefice (which doesn't mean I am planning to be bodily elsewhere any time soon!).

We have established a Pastoral Care Team, which is being led by Adrian Watson, who has a heart for getting alongside people in need of pastoral care. He and the team will be visiting people in their homes and have also been visiting Prospect House, the care home in Gate Helmsley, much to the delight of the lovely residents.

We now also have a Healing Ministry Team headed up by Ian Lyall our Licensed Lay Minister. We had an evening service of stillness and healing in

St Mary's Sand Hutton, and more of these services will be held in our churches every few weeks.

These are quiet prayerful services with gentle music, and they offer an opportunity for people to have hands laid on them by members of the healing team, who have received appropriate training, and to have healing prayers said for themselves or for others. This form of healing prayer is intended to bring about a wholeness of body, mind and spirit. It can be a great comfort in times of ill health or stress. Eventually members of the Healing Team will be able to make home visits.

We also have a new Youth and Families Worker in the benefice, Rachael Tearney, who, amongst other things, is a professional drama coach and musician. Alongside her husband John, she has already created some wonderful all age worship services which have been very popular with their mix of storytelling, drama, music, songs and crafts. She is also running a drama group, Harton Youth Players at Sand Hutton Village Hall. Further details are in Rachael's article in this edition of The Circular, and on our benefice website. Rachael is also in the process of making sure each of our churches has books and materials for use by children. Watch out for Rachael's Boots and Brunch walks too. A nice bit of fresh air followed by tasty brunch and a brew in one of our churches. Fun for all the family.

It is a great privilege to be able to work alongside Adrian, Ian and Rachael, along with all the other wonderful people who make the benefice work so well.

As we move swiftly through Autumn and into the Advent and Christmas periods, and perhaps begin looking forwards into next year, there will be lots of things happening across the churches in the Harton Benefice. Details of services are in this edition of The Circular. I would also encourage you to keep an eye on our benefice website to keep up to date with what's coming up.
www.sandhuttongroup.org.uk

As the weather gets colder, it is quite natural that we should want to stay indoors a bit more. But with less of us out and about it can become a very lonely time for some people, especially those a bit older or less mobile. Please do take the time to check in on your neighbours. In any case, don't shut yourselves away too much. The air may be a tad cooler, but it's still fresh. Autumn and Winter walks are a treat.

I do hope to see as many of you as possible at our services through Advent and Christmas. There will be services to suit everyone! You will be most welcome.

But remember: a church isn't just for Christmas!

With every blessing for the coming season.

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

November 2025

Sunday November 2nd



4th before Advent

9.00	Zoom Service	
10.00	Holy Communion	Upper Helmsley
	<i>Blessing of Christmas Shoeboxes</i>	

Wednesday November 5th

10.00	Service of the Word	Sand Hutton
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Sunday November 9th



Remembrance Sunday

10.30 Service of Remembrance and Holy Communion Gate Helmsley
This will be followed by an Act of Remembrance at the war memorial at Sand Hutton at 12.00 noon

Wednesday November 12th

10.00	Holy Communion	Sand Hutton
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Sunday November 16th

2nd before Advent

10.00

All Age Worship

Bossall

Wednesday November 19th

10.00

Holy Communion

Flaxton

Sunday November 23rd



Christ the King

10.00

Holy Communion

Gate Helmsley

Wednesday November 26th

10.00

Holy Communion

Crambe

Sunday November 30th

Advent Sunday

10.00

Holy Communion

Howsham

December 2025

Wednesday December 3rd

10.00

Holy Communion

Howsham

Sunday December 7th



9.00

Zoom Service

10.00

Advent Carol Service

Sand Hutton

Wednesday December 10th

10.00

Holy Communion

Flaxton

Sunday December 14th



Advent 3

10.00

Toy Service

Flaxton

Wednesday December 17th

10.00

Holy Communion

Crambe

Friday December 19th



7.30 pm

Carol Service

Flaxton

Saturday December 20th



6.00 pm

Celebration of Christmas
by candlelight with the '200 Singers'

Crambe

Sunday December 21st

Advent 4

10.00

Holy Communion

Sand Hutton

6.00 pm

Carol Service

Howsham

Wednesday December 24th



Christmas Eve

4.00 pm

All Age Worship and Christingle

Foston

11.00

Midnight Mass
Holy Communion

Bossall

Thursday December 25th



Christmas Day

10.00

Holy Communion

Gate Helmsley

Sunday December 28th

Christmas 1

10.00

Zoom Service

Wednesday December 31st

10.00

Morning Prayer

Sand Hutton

January 2026

Sunday January 4th

Christmas 2

10.00

Holy Communion

Sand Hutton

Wednesday January 7th

10.00

Holy Communion

Sand Hutton

Sunday January 11th

Epiphany

10.00

Holy Communion

Foston

Wednesday January 14th

10.00

Holy Communion

Flaxton

Sunday January 18th

Epiphany 2

10.00

Holy Communion

Buttercrambe

Wednesday January 21st

10.00

Holy Communion

Gate Helmsley

Sunday January 25th

Epiphany 3

10.00

Holy Communion

Bossall

Wednesday January 28th

10.00

Holy Communion

Sand Hutton

February 2026

Sunday February 1st

Epiphany 4

9.00	Zoom Service	
10.00	Holy Communion	Howsham

Wednesday February 4th

10.00	Holy Communion	Flaxton
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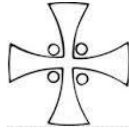
Welcome to those newly baptised

24 th August	Eden Kristiina Manders-Wilde	Sand Hutton
14 th September	Barney Michael Lee Venton	Gate Helmsley



Congratulations to those newly married

16 th August	Katrina Thomas and Alex Webster	Sand Hutton
25 th August	Emily Hayes and Ross Wick	Sand Hutton
29 th August	Phillipa Jackson and Robert Holmes	Sand Hutton
25 th September	Mollie Pulleyn and Lewis Jackson	Howsham

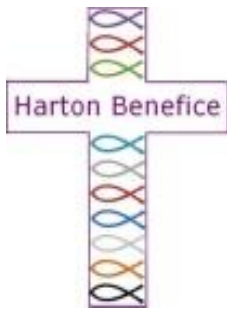


Our condolences to the family and friends of

17th July
29th August

Karol Anne Jelbert
John Thompson

Gate Helmsley
Claxton



Benefice PCC.....

The Benefice PCC last met on 16th October. We welcomed the new Deputy Diocesan Secretary, Kate Cameron (who is also Director of Operational Support) as an observer. Kate has been in post for only a few weeks, so she was pleased to be visiting local parishes. She was interested to see how effectively Harton functions as a Joint Benefice, co-ordinating work through the Joint PCC without any loss of autonomy to the local parishes.

The main business discussed was the recent appointment of Rachael Tearney as the Benefice Lead for Youth and Families. Rachael started in post on 1st September. She is making good progress: co-ordinating services of All Age Worship (AAW), establishing a youth drama group, setting up a walking group, engaging with local schools, and further developing the allotment at St Peter's churchyard Upper Helmsley. Individual PCCs will need to discuss how they will contribute financially to support this post.

The next meeting will be on Thursday 22nd January 2026 at 10.00 am at the Lyalls' in Claxton.

Please refer agenda items to the Honorary Secretary, Ellen Stott.

Delyth Harran

Lay Chairman

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





Cake and Company

We are a group meeting in
Claxton and Sand Hutton Village Hall

You can join the sessions for as much or as little time as you like. There are things to do but what we do best is just chatting, having coffee or tea and sampling the cakes!

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

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

Forthcoming dates

Tuesday Nov 4 th	2.00 pm - 4.00 pm	Thursday Nov 20 th	10.00 am-12.00 noon
Tuesday Dec 2 nd	2.00 pm - 4.00 pm	Thursday Dec 18 th	10.00 am-12.00 noon
Tuesday Jan 6 th	2.00 pm- 4.00 pm	Thursday Jan 13 th	10.00 am-12.00 noon



GIFTS for CHRISTMAS

Quality Gifts
at affordable
prices
for all your
Christmas giving

SATURDAY
1st NOVEMBER 2025
Sand Hutton Village Hall
YO41 1LL
10am to 3pm (entry£1)

**CAROLINE'S
KITCHEN**
for coffee, tea,
cakes and light
lunches

A good range of classic stalls and some new ones too!
All proceeds to St. Mary's Church Sand Hutton

Please put the date in your diary and if you have never been,
we'd love to see you.

Further information from giftsforchristmas@hotmail.co.uk

WINTER MARKET: HANDMADE LOCAL GOODS

WINTER MARKET 2025

FRIDAY 14TH NOVEMBER FROM
4.00pm—7.30pm
AT BARTON LE WILLOWS VILLAGE HALL

A CHANCE TO BUY GIFTS IN A
COVIVIAL ATMOSPHERE
WARM DRINKS, SNACKS AND RAFFLE



St Mary's Church Gate Helmsley



CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Saturday 6th December 2-4 pm

Orchard House

Tombola : Raffle : Mulled Wine

Cakes : Gifts : Garlands : Table decorations

Admission by donation : Includes tea/coffee and mince pie

Items also available online – contact Delyth on

01759 372215 / dandmharran@gmail.com for an order form



ADVENT CAROL SERVICE
at
ST MARY'S CHURCH, SAND HUTTON
on
SUNDAY 7th DECEMBER at 10.00a.m.

Readings, congregational carols and choir pieces
to mark the beginning of Advent.

Seasonal Refreshments to follow service.

PLEASE DO COME ALONG

St Michael's Church Crambe



Come and join us on

Saturday December 20th at 6.00 p.m.

'CHRISTMAS AT CRAMBE'

A Celebration of Christmas

by candlelight in carols, prose and poetry
with

THE '200 SINGERS'

And afterwards for mulled wine and refreshments
at Crambe House All are very welcome



CHRISTMAS ANGEL HOLY TRAIL



December 20th to Twelfth Night

Visit any of our Churches throughout the Christmas Holidays
and discover the secret Christmas code from the Benefice Angels.

Find the Angels and the letters they hold to unlock
their musical messages for you

Delight in our beautiful Christmas decorations



All are welcome at our Christmas Services

Carol Service 10 am December 7th

Toy Service 10 am December 14th

Christmas Eve Crib Service 4 pm

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE 10 am



SAND HUTTON AND CLAXTON VILLAGE HALL UPCOMING EVENTS



Saturday 17 January 2026

10.00am – 3.00pm Tabletop Sale

Get rid of those unwanted Christmas presents and other unwanted bric a brac . Cost = £10 per table

Saturday 16 May 2026

10.00am – 3.00pm Caroline's Memorial 2026 Plant Fair named
In memory of Caroline Hall.

Please bring as many plants to sell as you can. Profits to be
shared between the Village Hall and North Yorkshire Music
Therapy.



from Sister Margaret Ann CSPH



Hello Everyone,
Greetings from Bossall, I hope you all had a lovely summer and managed to enjoy the long, warm sunny days. Now we are into those autumnal days with all their array of colours and fruitfulness. I am reminded of some words from that amazing film 'The Calendar Girls' - 'the last phase is the most beautiful of all. God is good!'

We are now entering that time of Remembrance. The Saints, all these men and women who struggled with life like most of us do, but managed by God's good grace to change the human into the divine. All of them had such stories to tell, to encourage us, to guide us and to show us that God is in all things and without Him we are nothing.

At the end of October, we come together as a Benefice to celebrate the life of all those we have known and loved, in our Lily and Light Festival held at Crambe. People who have lived by faith and shown us how to love. God loves each one of us whoever we are with that unconditional love. The very air we breathe is God Himself. So come to Crambe to reflect and remember, who and what all these souls have meant to us, and thank God for them.

Then we have Remembrance Sunday when we come together to remember before God all those who gave their lives during the Great Wars, and in more recent wars too, that we might live in peace in the sure knowledge that God is with us however our own lives pan out. In the dark days and the gloriously bright days and in everything in between, God walks with us and covers us in his peace and joy. Giving us hope in a brighter future. God is indeed very good.

As Christmas approaches be sure to give yourselves time and space amidst the hustle and bustle of the shopping, carols and celebrations to be still and quiet in the presence of God who alone is our peace and joy and hope.

With my continued love and prayers for you all.

*Margaret Ann
+ CSPH*

YOUTH AND FAMILIES' WORKER

Rachael Tearney

I'm pleased to be able to share with you some of the events and activities I have undertaken as the new Youth and Families Worker for the Harton Benefice in this my first quarter.



As the long hot summer drew to a close, we launched our action plan to repurpose the allotment in Upper Helmsley churchyard. St Peter's has been home to the Green Space for the last few years and we felt it was time to move away from vegetable growing and towards cultivating flowers and herbs. Our hope is that from the gloom of Winter, Spring will burst forth



with a bloom of bulbs. Members of the benefice came together on a fine day in September, even Bonny the Vicar's dog came to help us, as we set about weeding, tidying and planting up bulbs. As the miracle of Spring unfolds, our planting plan is designed to bring colour and beauty to our new **Garden of Prayer and Healing** most of the year round. It is an ongoing project which you can be part of throughout the year.

We have complemented the garden with a Reflection Corner inside the church and we plan to host healing services outside (weather permitting) in the future. It has often been commented that God can be found in the garden and we trust that his spirit will go with us as we build this prayerful place.

The ministry team and I have begun to hold All Age Worship Services in the church. These are taking place every half term, with one service every six weeks. The services will move around the Benefice and the aim is to share the stories of the bible and in particular the gospels, in technicolour through song, drama and crafts. We hope that children and families from all villages will come along and share in the fun, music, fellowship and Christian message. In the last few months, we have heard about The Good Samaritan, The Holy Spirit and King David.

The Harton Youth Players are now up and running. We are a drama and performance group currently focused on years 3-6 and we meet on Monday evenings in Sand Hutton Village Hall. We have been exploring the world of Narnia through improvisation, storytelling, drama, song and games. If you would like to be involved, please contact me via the drama email at the bottom of this article. You can be of any age as a teenage group will be launched in the future and we are also open to those of you who love to design, draw or create costumes and sets.

Drama Club will end this term on November 14th with a Narnia Party at Sand Hutton village hall at 5pm. If you have not been able to attend drama but would like to come to the party you are welcome; please email the drama email so that we can cater accordingly.

Our last **All Age Worship** this year will be on November 16th at 10am in St Botolph's, Bossall. This will be our Narnia service.



Brunch and Boots is a new venture where we combine walking round the benefice with a late breakfast at the end. So far, we have used a circular route in Howsham, passing the Mill and beginning and ending at the Church. We were met with a deluge of conkers on our October Walk as the strong winds had blown them all from the trees. We have hung up our boots until the New Year now, but please keep an eye on the website, Instagram and join our mailing list to

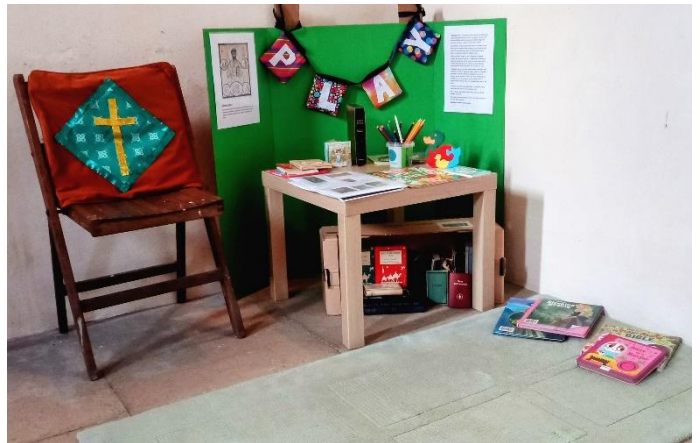
learn of our next outing. Mums, Dads, Grandmas, Grandads, children and friendly dogs are all welcome.

We have enjoyed being invited to share in the Harvest Festival services at both Foston and Sand Hutton Schools and loved hearing all the wonderful singing, readings and prayers. So much hard work and preparation went in to

producing these excellent performances, well done everyone! We are very much looking forward to the Christmas school services in December.

In October myself and other members of the benefice visited schools in Sand Hutton and Warthill with our Christmas Boxes appeal. We are very pleased that you are helping once again in this very generous activity of filling and wrapping beautiful Christmas Boxes to be sent to disadvantaged families in Romania. I know children have been thinking about the topic of Generosity in school this term and these Christmas gifts are a very special manifestation of those thoughts. I'd like to share that one of the ladies who helps distribute boxes in Romania was once a child in receipt of a box from the Harton benefice. It is wonderful to know that the children are part of this legacy of kindness.

I'd like to take a moment to remind you that children and families are welcome at all our services and I am busy creating Children's Corners in all our churches. If you want to come along with your children, take a seat near the Children's Corner and little ones can enjoy the books, activity sheets and colouring. Please join us and don't worry if they talk a little; no one expects children to be as quiet as church mice. We are one family and you are all welcome.



Finally, as we look forward to Christmas, I hope that families will find the time to enjoy our Christmas Angel Holy Trail which runs from December 20th – Twelfth Night. Travel around the benefice churches and find the musical messages the Angels have left for you to discover. More details online, on Instagram, on posters in village notice boards, and via the mailing list. We look forward to seeing children and families at our **Carol service on December 7th and at our Crib Service in Foston at 4 pm Christmas Eve.** We invite children to come to the Crib Service dressed as their favourite character from the Nativity.

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**

BARTON LE WILLOWS

'The Cinema'



"Oh, wow!" was one recent exclamation from a new visitor when they entered the hall for the first time to see a screen which is nine times the area of a fifty-inch TV. Another apologetically said, "I told the kids it wasn't a proper cinema". The screen is bigger than some

that you will see in commercial cinemas and we have active 3D which is better than the passive sort you will see in the big cinemas.

We have a growing number of regular visitors, but it is always great to see new people. Community cinema has so many advantages over its bigger cousins. It provides a local hub in the community where you can meet your friends and neighbours. Even if you don't know anyone when you first come you will quickly get to know the regulars. When we first started and I resurrected the half way intermission, that older ones will remember from their youth, I wondered whether it would annoy people. However, it turned out to be very successful with people chatting to each other about the film and local issues, grabbing an ice cream and stretching their legs. The difficulty is deciding when to start the film again!

We show a variety of films - some older ones and some that have just been in the cinema. "Conclave", "The Salt Path" and the original "Titanic" in 3D were particularly popular. We are also very happy to put on requests for people. Maybe you have a special film that you would like to see again in cinema quality. Recent requests have been "The Ballad of Wallis Island", "The Bourne Supremacy" and "Casablanca". This summer we also catered for a teenager's birthday request with a group of friends coming to see the 3D version of "Guardians of the Galaxy". If we can find it, we'll try and show it for you.

The friendly nature of the cinema means you can ask during the showing to adjust the volume or put the subtitles on. Our high quality surround sound system will also link to your hearing aids directly if you have Bluetooth. There are instances where the dialogue in some modern films can be quite indistinct and some help in understanding is appreciated by many. We may even be able to delay the start of a film a little if you are running late. You would be lucky to get this service at the Odeon!

I am often asked about pricing and we are called the free cinema. Unfortunately, if everyone paid nothing, we would go bankrupt! We work by a donation scheme to keep us to the terms of our cinema licence. You can donate whatever you like to see a film and this does include nothing. If you can afford a donation, it will keep the cinema running and help support the Village Hall. The most common donation by far is a fiver, but people do give more or less. We also ask that you pay for any ice cream or popcorn you get from us (£1 each). You are very welcome to bring any or all of your own food and drinks (including alcoholic ones). This means it's always much cheaper than commercial cinema.

We usually have a children's film (often 3D) at 2.00 pm, requests at 4.30 pm and a main film at 7.00 pm on alternate Saturdays. If you would like to find out what films will be showing and when please join our mailing list by emailing **bartonlewillows@gmail.com**. You would be very welcome to join us at the cinema.

I'd like to finish by thanking everyone, but particularly the regulars, who have come along over the last eighteen months to support the cinema and make it such a friendly experience. Without you this local service would have gone the same way as the village shops, post offices and pubs so many of which have disappeared. Please help keep our community going.

BOSSALL

We completed all the renovation works at St Botolph's church at the end of June. As part of the Lottery Heritage Funded project we also focused on heritage, inclusion and nature. We invited a group of reception and year one children from Sand Hutton Primary School to the church at St Botolph's.

We spent a lively, fun morning in the churchyard learning about wildlife habitats and engaging in nature based activities. They built a bug hotel, bee boxes and ladybird lodges.

They watched and learnt about the resident house martins and created collage nature pictures. A great time was had by all. Worksheets have been created for children visiting the church relating to both flora and fauna as well as quizzes about the history inside the church. In addition a booklet has been written - "The History of St Botolph's Church and Village of Bossall".



Also a churchyard survey has taken place and the community payback team have undertaken some maintenance to the churchyard, strimming around the gravestones and tidying the area. This only took two days instead of four the previous year as the grass wasn't as thick to cut.

Bossall PCC wishes to express our thanks to all those who played their part in helping with this project. In particular we wish to make special mention of Ellen Stott's extensive and vital input throughout the process, from securing the Lottery Funding and helping manage the contract and subsequent fulfilment of the Lottery conditions. Without her help this would not have been possible. On the 7th September we had a service with the Bishop of Selby. It was a celebration of all the work that has been completed in the last nine months. She gave a wonderful sermon describing how the walls of the church have enormous history and we are part of the stones that continue to make history.

We had an All Age Worship service on the 21st September with Rachel Benson and Rachael Tearney. The theme was young King David. They had two children who thoroughly enjoyed decorating harps. Oliver and Gillian Morley stood in as churchwardens as we were away.

Finally on Saturday 11th October we had a fundraising concert in St Botolph's Church with Ripon Resound. Sadly, we didn't have quite the turnout that we would have liked, but enough to make it a very special evening.

The choir sang a mixed repertoire as well as poetry and solo pieces which were all to an exceptional high standard.

Drinks and nibbles were served in the interval with the evening raising much needed funds of just over £700.



BUTTERCRAMBE

We have had one service this summer on Sunday 17th August which Reverend Nigel took and Brian Atkinson kindly played the organ. We had over thirty in the congregation and refreshments were enjoyed at the end.

By the time you receive this Circular, we will have had our Harvest Festival service which we all look forward to. Considering the harvest was brought in early this year, the fruits and nuts on the trees and in the hedgerows have been plentiful and many branches are still laden.



A bit of history from our church. On the north wall of the chancel is a large mural tablet to Dorothea, she was the wife of Richard Darley of Aldby Park. She died in 1674 and would have lived in the previous house which was a medieval timber framed building which we believe was situated in the park. On the opposite wall is an elaborate marble monument to her husband Richard Darley who died in 1706 and two of his four sons. Sadly, the inscription is very worn now and almost impossible to make out. Richard and Dorothea had four sons and they all died unmarried so the Estate passed to their sister Jane Darley and she and husband John Brewster who was from Hertfordshire built the current house in 1726. It will be 300 years old next year!

CRAMBE

There is remarkably little to report since the last issue of The Circular. We held our Harvest festival service on Sunday October 19th. The church looked lovely. Many thanks to those who helped to decorate it and supply foodstuffs to represent the harvest, all of which have been given to either the Food

Bank, or the Free Fridge, in the case of the fresh food. Though the service was not as well attended as in previous years, those that were there enjoyed excellent fellowship over glasses of wine and apple pies afterwards.

On Thursday 30th October at 7.00 pm St Michael's will be hosting the Lily Festival once again, a beautiful service at which loved ones will be remembered.

The next big thing on the horizon is the Carol service, a celebration in carols poetry and prose by candlelight. Once again, we look forward to welcoming the '200 Singers' and hearing their choral pieces. As always there will be wine and refreshments afterwards

On a very different note. In common with many churches, not just in our benefice, it is becoming increasingly difficult with dwindling numbers, to find people willing to join the PCC, or become a churchwarden. If you are reading this and think you might have some time and enthusiasm to give to such a task, we would love to hear from you. If we are not to lose our wonderful churches and all the fellowship and support, they offer to the community we all need to chip in with whatever little bit of time and energy we have to spare in an already very busy life. If you would like to chat this through, please contact Fiona by email: churchmouse@crambehouse.co.uk

Tel: 07774 886 833



On Saturday 18th October a few friends of Heather Dale gathered with Nigel, at the small gate into the churchyard, for a simple blessing of a new plaque on the gate, inscribed in memory of Heather and her mother Olive. The plaque was kindly donated by Adrian and Jezz. A lovely reminder that Heather spent the whole of her 87 years living in this village.

FLAXTON

The church was beautifully decorated for the harvest service on 12th October. Thank you to all who came along to help or donated flowers and produce. The service was well attended as was the "Bring and Share" lunch that followed. Thank you to all who donated nonperishable foods. These gifts were delivered to the Salvation Army who pass on their sincere thanks to you all.

There will be our annual **Toy Service** on Sunday 14th December at 10.00 am. As in previous years we will be collecting for the Salvation Army Christmas Appeal. The Salvation Army ask the general public, churches and businesses to provide new unwrapped toys, games, books, soaps, aftershave, socks, gloves etc. The range is for male and female 0-18 years. **Monetary** gifts are also gratefully received.

If you are unable to make the service but would like to donate gifts, please leave them in church during the week. The church will be open each day between 9.00 am - 3.30 pm. With grateful thanks for your support from the PCC, Salvation Army and Social Services.

Carol Service Friday 19th December at 7.00 pm. We look forward to welcoming you to our ever popular service of Nine Lessons and Carols, supported by Flaxton Singers. Refreshments will be served following the service, giving you the opportunity to catch up with friends and neighbours.

Going forward in 2026. The Parochial Church Council (PCC) are in need of more help to organise fundraising events, maintenance work etc. If you can help, even if it's for a one-off occasion, please share your ideas with a member of the PCC. Thank you in anticipation.

GATE HELMSLEY

We have always known that Gate Helmsley is a great village, a good place to live, and a close-knit community. This has been emphasised over recent weeks and months as more people have become involved in working together to support the community through the village hall and St Mary's church.



This made a big difference to the harvest festivities at the end of September – first a service in the church, followed by supper in the village hall. So many more people got involved in decorating the church beautifully with flowers and harvest produce, and in preparing and serving a sumptuous supper. Thank you very much to all of you, and everyone else who supported this event in many different ways. A special thank you to Sister Margaret Ann, who led the service. We had a happy social occasion and raised £563 for church funds from the supper. The donated harvest offerings were gratefully received at Prospect House Care Home.

We have several other "thank you's" to make. We remain grateful to all who diligently maintain the churchyard. It looks good and natural over all the seasons. Chris Bickerdike and Annie Hurst spent time scrubbing the churchyard gates, which are gleaming – thank you so much. We are grateful to Chris also for maintaining the circular flower bed and running the monthly library in the village hall.

The pop-up pub, held in the village hall, is a highlight at the end of each month, generously run by Dan and Claire Sykes, with proceeds shared between the village hall and the church. Dan is developing an extra string to his bow by occasionally ringing the church bells. It was good to be called by the bells to our most recent service earlier this month.

We were pleased to watch the runners in the York marathon as they passed – especially as they finished before the weather broke.

On 14th September, Reverend Nigel conducted the baptism of Barney Venton, the baby grandson of the Abbey family, who live in the village.

Congratulations to Carrie, Sam and big sister Daisy Dean on the birth of baby Elsie. We look forward to Elsie's baptism in St Mary's in the New Year.

Please note that the Benefice Annual Service of Remembrance will be hosted at St Mary's Church this year, at 10.30 am (**not** the usual time of 10.00 am) on Sunday 9th November. This will be followed by an additional service at the War Memorial at Sand Hutton at 12.00 noon.

We will also hold a Christmas morning service of Holy Communion at 10.00 am, when mince pies will be served.

Our next fundraising event for the church will be the annual Christmas Fayre at Orchard House on Saturday 6th December 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm. We will also be selling goods online through December. See details elsewhere in the Circular and on the benefice website (www.sandhuttongroup.org.uk).

Please support the annual benefice project to send Christmas "Amen" boxes to needy communities in Romania. Thank you to David and Mandy Fletcher and their team for co-ordinating this effort. The boxes will be blessed at the service at St Peter's Upper Helmsley on Sunday 2nd November. The team has already helped the children at Sand Hutton and Warthill schools to pack over 40 boxes. Now it's up to the grown-ups to put in a good effort to support this valuable initiative.

We are aware that there are several people in the village who are unwell. We are thinking about you and send you our warmest good wishes. A warm welcome also to those who have moved into the village recently.

HOWSHAM

Apart from our regular services, which are much appreciated, there have been three principal events since our last report. The August Bank Holiday Monday church clean and churchyard clear up was, as usual, very well supported with some thirty people of all ages attending, including the children who did some very good work. These occasions, along with some much-appreciated work from a few sterling supporters throughout the year, means that the churchyard is looking very neat and has really been improved when one looks back over a few years. The clear up was followed by the traditional BBQ hosted by James and Judy at The Pavilion. The weather was kind and it was most enjoyable.

We had the wedding of Molly and Lewis in September which was a lovely affair with Nigel officiating. The church was beautifully decorated.



And of course, the other event was our Harvest Festival with Sister officiating. The church was full and after the service, we held our traditional auction, all the proceeds of which are always donated to charities.

This year we raised £900 to be split equally between St Catherine's and St Leonard's Hospices. Our thanks to our auctioneer James Stephenson and to Simon Knock who kept on top of the very fast-moving accounting.

Drinks were provided and our thanks go to the many who brought very tasty bites. And of course, a big thank you to all who supported the auction and gave so generously.

We look forward to holding the planned services, to include the Carol Service in December. The schedule has had to be modified due to the indisposition of both churchwardens.

We still await the Quinquennial and are expecting that this will involve us in more expenditure. We also have the repair of part of the boundary wall which must receive attention soon.

SAND HUTTON and CLAXTON

It has been a busy period at St Mary's Church over the last few months. We were delighted to welcome three wedding couples during the month of August. Our congratulations go to Katrina Thomas and Alex Webster who were married on 16th August; Emily Hayes and Ross Wick who were married on 25th August and Phillipa Jackson and Robert Holmes who were married on 29th August. We wish each couple every happiness in their future lives together.



Phillipa and Robert



Emily and Ross



Katrina and Alex

On 24th August there was a baptism for Eden Manders-Wilde. It was a lovely service attended by many family and friends.

On a sadder note, the funeral of John Thompson was held on 29th September, an opportunity to celebrate John's life, share memories and grieve his loss. John and Doreen have lived in Claxton for many years and we extend our sincere condolences to all the family.

Autumn has well and truly arrived and with it the harvest season. Sand Hutton School held their harvest festival in St Mary's on 14th October with a focus on crops, those in need and generosity towards others. The children were excellent with lovely singing and participation from each of the year groups.

We would like to offer our sincere thanks to all those who help to maintain the church and the churchyard. A lot of hard work is involved and this is very much valued and appreciated. If you would be interested in helping with cleaning, flowers, tidying etc please contact Ellen for more details – 01904 468404.

Fundraising and Dates for your diaries

We are pleased to report that Jez and Adrian's Afternoon Tea fundraiser in September raised £325. There was a great atmosphere and it was a lovely, sociable event. Our thanks go to them both plus all who helped in any way.

Our next major fundraiser is fast approaching - **"Gifts for Christmas"** on **Saturday 1st November** at **Claxton & Sand Hutton Village Hall** from **10.00 am – 3.00 pm**. It really is an amazing event so please do come along to purchase quality Christmas gifts at affordable prices, relish the delicious items from Caroline's kitchen and catch up with friends.

Please also make a note of the date **Sunday 7th December** when there will be the **Advent Carol Service at 10.00 am at St Mary's, Sand Hutton** – see separate advert.

UPPER HELMSLEY



We had a lovely summer service on 31st August.

Following a decision by the Benefice PCC it was agreed that the allotment space be tidied to prepare it as a Peace/Prayer Garden. This took place on 7th September. Thank you to all who came to help. We planted many bulbs for next year.

We were visited by three bellringers from Bedfordshire on 11th October and it was lovely to have the bells rung again after so long.

We are now looking forward to the Advent and Christmas season.

WHITWELL

Life potters on in Whitwell with the beautiful summer months slipping into Autumn. Everyone has had an abundant fruit harvest this year. People are even putting out masses of extra fruit for anyone to take from the church bench which has now reached its limit!

We are not holding a harvest festival this October as our service often seems to land on the marathon day and makes travelling to Whitwell a real challenge.

We have also decided not to do the annual carol singing in the village. Last year the response to our efforts was not great, and although we offered mince pies and sloe gin, it just didn't work. Our lusty voices kept doors firmly closed so we will think again on this, and in the meantime join the Christmas celebrations at other churches in the Benefice!

NEWS FROM OUR SCHOOLS.....

Sand Hutton C of E Primary School



Hello to everyone from Sand Hutton C of E Primary School!

The start to our school year has been incredibly busy and made more challenging by an outbreak of covid which swept through both our schools and left us managing classes through our business continuity plan; something we were not expecting! Thankfully, everyone is fully recovered now and we are marching through the autumn term.

We have been focusing on generosity as a value this term and have experienced it in abundance from our school community. We set the theme of Home and Away for charitable donations following our Harvest service. Through this we were able to support York Food Bank and a charity in Madagascar, founded by a wonderful young man from Driffeld called Nathan, the charity is LAB (Learn Achieve Become). As a direct result of generosity from our families in both our settings, we were able to support

the foodbank with much needed items and sent a donation of £200 to LAB, which is an enormous amount of money to them. In turn Nathan shares videos with our children, showing the difference they are making.

This week, we experienced one of our favourite events of the year. Our children work in mixed class groups to pack Christmas boxes for the Harton Benefice shipment to Romania. Listening in to the conversations our children have, as they carefully choose the items for their box, is a privilege. The children genuinely love the activity and this is made possible by more generosity from our families. We were able to fill more than 40 boxes from our small schools. They were filled with gifts and the love of our school community.

We are also pleased to say how many new families we met at our open school event for new Reception starters for 2026. Small schools such as ours are so important to the local community and stay open due to numbers staying strong. I am really heartened by the predicted numbers for the reception class for next year already which is fabulous news at this point in the school year! Should you wish to visit us, we are always ready to welcome you. Please contact the school office on 01904 468308 to make an appointment.

It seems difficult to believe that Christmas will soon be upon us and our Nativity will take place in church on Wednesday 10th December at 9am and 5.30pm. You are welcome to join us.

***Kind regards,
Beverley Pawson***



Foston C of E Primary School



A Great Start to the New School Year at Foston Primary School!

It's been a wonderful start to the new academic year at Foston School. Our recent Harvest Festival was a lovely celebration and we thank you for your donations to the foodbank and for joining us to support the event.

We're delighted to welcome Miss Lakin, who has settled brilliantly into her new role teaching Year 3/4. The children are thriving under her care and enthusiasm!

We're also incredibly proud that Ofsted graded our Early Years provision as Outstanding in November 2024. If you're looking for a Reception place for September, we'd love to show you what makes our Early Years so special.

Open Events this term:

Monday November 3rd 1.30 pm – 3.0 pm

Thursday December 4th 4.00pm – 5.30 pm

Don't forget we hold a weekly stay and play session each Monday for 2-, 3- and 4-year-olds from 1.30 until 3pm!



Please contact us at fostonoffice@foston.n-yorks.sch.uk to arrange a visit.

Kind regards

Sarah Moore

Executive Headteacher – North Yorkshire Rural Schools Federation



***Latest Information from South West Ryedale
Community Climate Action Group
August 2025***

**Why Reducing Our Carbon Footprint in Our Local
Community Matters**

It's often said that the UK only contributes around 1% of global CO₂ emissions – so why should we bother to reduce our carbon footprint? The truth is, there are several good reasons why taking action really does make a difference.

1. Our history

The UK was the birthplace of the Industrial Revolution. Over the last two centuries, we've emitted far more carbon per person than most countries – about 5% of all CO₂ levels in the atmosphere come from our historic burning of fossil fuels. We have a duty to lead by example.

2. Setting an example

The UK has already shown progress, phasing out coal and leading in offshore wind. By showing that emissions can be cut while still growing the economy, we inspire others to follow. That "1%" is still tens of millions of tonnes of CO₂ every year. If all the smaller countries opted out, more than a third of global emissions would go unchecked.

4. Benefits close to home

Saving energy cuts bills. Cleaner air improves our health. More renewables mean less reliance on imports and greater energy security.

5. Caring for the future

Acting now helps protect younger generations from flooding, heatwaves, and food shortages. So while the UK's share of emissions may be small, our responsibility—and opportunity—are great. By reducing our footprint we make our country cleaner, fairer, and more resilient, while playing our part in the global effort.

If you'd like to get involved locally, please consider joining the **South West Ryedale Community Climate Action Group** (contact Colin Garner: cgarner010@gmail.com or George Winn-Darley: george@winndarley.net) and help us work together for a more sustainable future. For more on wider initiatives, see the **North Yorkshire Council Decarbonisation Programme**: <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/environment-and-neighbourhoods/climate-change/beyond-carbon> www.northyorks.gov.uk/decarbonisation

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Contact details for the churches in the Harton Benefice

Bossall, St Botolph

YO60 7NT

Churchwardens: Christopher and Belinda Fordy

Email: christopherfordy@fordymarshall.com

Email: belindafor dy@gmail.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

Churchwarden: George McNicol

Email: george@scaledrinks.com

Tel: 07919 326515

Flaxton, St Lawrence

Churchwarden: Ida Terry

YO60 7NTEmail: idmt@hotmail.co.uk

Tel: 01347 878432

Foston, All Saints

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

YO60 7QG**Gate Helmsley, St Mary**

Churchwardens: Delyth Harran

Sue Hanson

YO41 1NEEmail: dandmharran@gmail.com

Tel: 01759 372215

Email: sjhanson50@gmail.com

Tel: 01759 372663

Howsham, St John

Churchwardens: Gill Littlejohn

Judy Stephenson

YO60 7PHEmail: simoncklittlejohn@msn.com

Tel: 01653 618846

Email: jfs@great-barn.co.uk

Tel: 01653 618673

Sand Hutton, St Mary

Churchwardens: Ian Lyall

Ellen Stott

YO41 1LBEmail: ian.lyall2@gmail.com

Tel: 01904 468209

Email: ellenstott55@gmail.com

Tel: 01904 468404

Upper Helmsley, St Peter

Churchwarden: Mari Richards

YO41 1JYEmail: mjb.richards1000@gmail.com

Tel: 07930 338516

Whitwell on the Hill, St John the Evangelist YO60 7JJ

Churchwardens: Janie Bell

Emma Du Mon

Email: janie.bell@me.com

Tel: 01653 618270

Email: emmaanne777@btinternet.com

Tel: 01653 619804

The Circular

Copy deadline for the next edition January 18th 2026

This will cover: February, March, April 2026

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

Members of the Ministry Team

Vicar of the Benefice of Harton

Revd. Nigel Benson

Mob: 07983 117865

Email: vicarofharton@gmail.com

Lay Reader	Ian Lyall	01904 468209
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For occasional offices please contact:

Funerals	Revd. Nigel Benson	07484 646470
----------	--------------------	--------------

Marriages	Vanessa Fitzpatrick	07946 855419
-----------	---------------------	--------------

Baptisms	Delyth Harran	01759 372215
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Youth and Families worker	Rachael Tearney	
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Lay Vice Chairman of the Joint PCC

Delyth Harran	01759 372215
---------------	--------------

Editor

Fiona Le Masurier

Mob: 07774 886833

Email: churchmouse@crambehouse.co.uk

Crambe House, Crambe, York YO60 7JR

Circular Printing Group members

Michael Harran 01759 372215

Peter Stott 01904 468404

Fiona Le Masurier 07774 886 833

Rachel Baker 01904 468809

www.sandhuttongroup.org.uk

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***Happy Christmas
from the printing team***