

The Benefice of Harton



The Circular



Winter Edition 2020/2021

News and views in our benefice and communities

*A special edition reflecting the circumstances of
The Corona Virus Covid 19 Pandemic*

November December January

Sand Hutton Claxton Flaxton
Gate Helmsley Upper Helmsley Bossall
Buttercrambe Howsham Harton
Whitwell-on-the-Hill Crambe Foston
Barton-le-Willows Thornton-le-Clay

From the Vicarage

Dear friends

"Simpler, humbler, bolder."

I was rather inspired when I heard these words the other day, uttered by our new Archbishop Stephen Cottrell.



The context, however, of the Zoom meeting in which these words were spoken was far more sobering. And yet, by the end of the meeting, a sense of hope for the future prevailed - and that is what I found inspiring.

He was, as I'm sure you've guessed, talking about the future of the Church of England, both as an Institution for Christian Worship and encounter through its buildings and structures, and also its pastoral care shared by its members and communities.

In essence, he wanted to put Jesus back in the heart of who we are and what we do - to make ourselves a more 'Jesus-centred' Church, and less a 'Church-centred' Church.

And what steps could we take to encourage this priority?

Well first, to make the church simpler. We're possibly going to take a while to discover what this means, but the concept is a good place to start a conversation. With all the implications of the pandemic, both locally and globally, the financial, physical and mental health effects will take its toll on many of us. Re-valuing what is important to us and our communities and cutting out the unnecessary things in life might be a start; engaging more with the small and local would be a good attitude to continue.

I recently preached on the Swedish word Lagom. It's a way of life in Scandinavia and it means 'just enough': Loving, Adaptable, Generous, Optimistic, Modest. Perhaps if we focused a bit more on those five words under the umbrella of 'just enough' then that would be a good place to start not only for our church, but also for ourselves.

Secondly, we need to be far more humble as a church. The latest report (IICSA) on the attitudes of both some priests and the hierarchy of the church over several decades, has just underpinned what a malignant strain there has been in certain quarters which has severely damaged the lives of children who were sexually abused. It is a shocking and damning report

that, as the Archbishop has said, requires us to hold our hands up and admit the horrendous collusion that has occurred. The stringent safeguarding measures that are now being embedded into our churches and councils can only seek to address the current and future safety of our vulnerable children and adults - but cannot excuse or amend any historic atrocities. It is only by being open and transparent that our respect can be recovered and strengthened. And yes, that means allowing ourselves to be humble and honest about ourselves and communities.

But thirdly, and finally, he asked us to be a bolder church - and I found this to be rather exhilarating actually. So often we hide behind the 'Church' in what we do as Christians, or perhaps rather embarrassingly pretend we're not Christian at all! But I have witnessed throughout this pandemic some truly wonderful things people have done as Christians, without necessarily needing the Church to shield them. Individual random acts of kindness, caring and welfare, the contact and prayers - such Jesus-like expressions of their faith. And the 'church in a bag' gifts - Pentecost, Harvest, Strawberry lunches - all wonderful expressions of the Good News without a pew or pulpit in sight!

So, although the setting was sombre, those three words, Simpler, Humbler, Bolder left me with hope for a new future for our church and our communities.

To have a priority to become more Jesus centred. And to become more Loving, Adaptable, Generous, Optimistic, Modest - that would be a good thing for all of us I feel, not just our church.

None of us truly knows what the future may hold when we eventually turn the corner in all this. But if we do change to a new way of being both church and ourselves, then I hope that by adopting the Archbishop's three words we can be a fitter, safer and more inclusive church and community.

And by so doing, be a church that's fit for purpose for the new generations - one that has the simplicity, humility and boldness of Jesus at its heart.

Yours in Christ

Revd Chris Wingfield

Services for the Benefice of Harton

November 2020

Sunday 1st November

All Saints

10.00 am



5.00 pm

Zoom service Shoe box blessing

BCP Evensong

Howsham

Sunday 8th November



Remembrance Sunday

10.30 am

Service of Remembrance

Bossall

12 noon

Act of Remembrance

The War memorial Sand Hutton

(Should you wish to attend the service at Bossall please let Chris know as soon as possible as numbers are limited due to Covid 19 rules)

Sunday 15th November

2nd before Advent

10.00 am

Holy Communion

Foston

Sunday 22nd November

Christ the King

10.00 am

Holy Communion

Whitwell

Sunday 29th November

Advent 1

10.00 am

Zoom service

5.00 pm

BCP Evensong

Crambe

December 2020

Sunday 6th December

Advent 2

9.00 am

Holy Communion

Sand Hutton

10.00 am

Zoom Service

Sunday 13th December

Advent 3

10.00 am

**Toy Service
with Holy Communion**



Flaxton

Sunday 20th December

Advent 4

10.00 am	Holy Communion	Buttercrambe
5.00 pm	Zoom Christingle Service	

Thursday 24th December



Christmas Eve

3.00 pm	Crib Service	Foston
4.00 pm	Crib service	Bossall
7.00 pm	Holy Communion	Upper Helmsley
11.30 pm	Zoom Midnight Mass	

Friday 25th December



Christmas Day

9.00 am	Holy Communion	Gate Helmsley
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Sunday 27th December

Christmas 1

10.00 am	Zoom Service
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During these uncertain times there is a possibility of some or all of these services being cancelled due to government restrictions prevailing at the time. You will be able to access up to date information about church services and Zoom services through the benefice website: Every effort will be made to inform those without access to the internet where things have had to be changed.

As yet services for January 2021 have not been finalised. Once they are they will be found on the website

www.sandhuttingroup.org.uk

Covid 19

All precautions will be taken to ensure your safety in all our churches but ultimately it is up to the individual to abide by the guidance given both by the Government and the church you are visiting. Further advice can be found on the website.



Chris our Vicar will continue to hold an act of worship on some Sundays via an App called Zoom. Should you have access to the internet and would like to join one of these services please let Chris know via email at:

chris.wingfield@btinternet.com
[or Tel: 01904 468418](tel:01904468418)

For those new to Zoom you will first have to download the free App from the app store on your iPad, phone or computer.

The App symbol is a white camera on a blue background. Once you have downloaded it, Chris will send you via email an invitation to join the 'meeting', together with a meeting ID and a password.

It is easy to use; just follow the steps as they appear. Chris will guide you through any technical difficulties you may have once you have joined the 'meeting'.

On Wednesday mornings at 10am

you are warmly invited to join us for

'Conversation at 10'

also by Zoom. Relax at home with a cup of tea/coffee and a biscuit as we enjoy discussing a range of topics. As for Sunday morning worship, contact Chris to receive an email invitation.

Details are in the Calendar section of the Benefice website.

WhatsApp



Chris has also set up a WhatsApp group chat. If you have a smart phone and would like to join this group please contact Chris via his email or phone. You will have to download the WhatsApp app from the Apps store on your phone if you haven't already got it.



REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY NOVEMBER 8th

One thousand men are walking,
walking side by side
singing songs of home
the Spirit as their guide.



They walk towards the light milord.
They walk towards the sun.
They smoke and laugh and smile together,
no foes to outrun.



These men live on forever
In the hearts of those they saved
A nation truly grateful
for the path of peace they paved.



They march as friends and comrades,
but they do not march for war.
Step closer to salvation
a tranquil steady corps.



The meadows lit with golden beams
A beacon for the brave
The emerald grass untrampled
A reward for what they gave.



They dream of those they left behind
and know they dream of them.
Forever in those poppy fields,
there walks one thousand men.



Joshua Dyer Aged 14 2019





Congratulations to those recently married

Sept 5 th	Charles Talbot-Smith and Elizabeth Shepherd	Bossall
Oct 3 rd	Graham Horley and Sandra Pickard	Foston

Service of Blessing

Sept 25 th	Mark and Marina Fattorini	Buttercrambe
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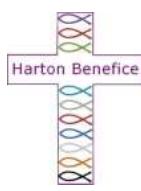
Our condolences to the family and friends of

24 th April	Dick Tagg	Sand Hutton
20 th October	Anne Atkinson	Claxton

Burial: The funeral service was held at The Methodist Chapel Sheriff Hutton

16 th October	Mrs Florence Mary Colley	Flaxton
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Benefice PCC.....



The Benefice PCC has not been able to meet during the pandemic, so there is no formal report. Arrangements are in place for each individual PCC (Parochial Church Council) to meet for their Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) during October and November. The APCM is equivalent to an Annual General Meeting.

Delyth Harran



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



The children are back at school and the evenings are drawing in. Despite the limitations of lock down, we have continued supporting the Children and Families within our Community. Back in July I decided to start a monthly newsletter to distribute to our families. We have now had 4 editions. It goes out mid-month, and also goes to the schools who send it around electronically. Each month, after I have put it together it is distributed to village volunteers (many of whom are children) who kindly take it around to the families. I really enjoy putting this together. It is bright, colourful and hopefully informative. There is usually a puzzle too such as a word search or crossword, plus jokes!

Many thanks to the village deliverers!

We had some lovely feedback from the families who took part in the HOPE summer club which involved distributing bags of themed resources around the Benefice. These were supported by a weekly Zoom session and took place over the summer break. I very much enjoyed collaborating with Lisa Horton, the Rural East York Children and Family worker. We hope to run a project together next summer. Fingers crossed it will be an event where children can physically meet together!

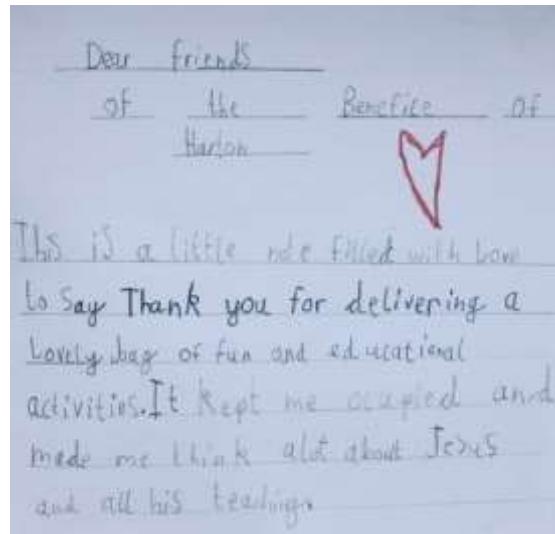
During September and October, I have been distributing 'Journey through the Bible' calendars to families across the Benefice. Each family at Foston and Sand Hutton School has received one too. They are a lovely, good quality product. Each week has a different biblical focus and lots of practical suggestions for children to assist them in engaging with the Christian message.

I am also helping David Fletcher and Mari Richards by promoting the AMEN Romanian shoebox appeal. Last year we collected approximately 182 boxes, and this proved to be a very worthwhile and thought provoking activity for our young people to take part in. This year we encouraged families to bring items to the school gates to avoid the risk of cross contamination, and boxes were made up elsewhere; as well as families making them at home.

I enjoy maintaining good links with the schools within the Benefice. I would like to work on strengthening PTA links with the schools as these groups are really valuable and supportive.

Unfortunately we have been unable to meet up together for Pray and Play, and Messy church, although we met several times using Zoom up to the end of July. Whilst Covid continues to prevent us from enjoying each other's company, we are planning future events for families and children using door step deliveries and Zoom.

This lovely Thank you card came from Bella in Barton following the 'Messy Church 'Pentecost in a bag'



We aim to involve as many families from within the Benefice as possible in our Services, activities, newsletter and Facebook page, as well as families whose children attend Foston and Sand Hutton schools.

Please do contact me if you do not receive a Children and Families newsletter and would like to via:..rachaelyouthharton@gmail.com
Or, if you would like to join the Facebook page, the Facebook link is
www.facebook.com/groups/HartonBenefice



WHATS NEXT!?.....

Look out for.....

'Messy Harvest in an envelope'

and

'Messy Christingle in a bag'

**Please let me know if you would like more information on these events;
would like to be on the mailing list, or to join the Harton Benefice FB page.**

rachaelyouthharton@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/groups/hartonbenefice

www.sandhuttongroup.org.uk

White Coat to Cassock.....

When I retired from General Practice 6 years ago, I would never have anticipated the journey that I was about to undertake.

Not long after Chris arrived as our Rector here in the Benefice of Harton, he asked a number of us to share our faith journeys from the pulpit.

I remember it well – the fear of standing up in front of everybody added to the anxiety of talking about my faith journey in public. I described my journey as a slow infusion of the Spirit over my whole life with a number of identifiable “nudges” over the years.

However, whilst I was working, I was able to comfortably avoid responding to these nudges as I felt I was too busy to take on anything more than I was doing in the church already.

Then came the next nudge! After a great deal of prayer and talking to Chris, I put myself forward for discernment for Reader ministry. As part of this I signed up for a diploma course in theology, ministry and mission at the York School of Ministry.

The day of discernment dawned; a whole day of interview, group presentation and written problem-solving assessment. Three weeks later a letter arrived from the bishop – I had been accepted for training as a Lay Reader.

So, life now went in two directions; the YSOM course with lectures and examinations as well as the time spent with Chris in the role of my training incumbent, both in and out of church. Earlier this year I had a spell away from our home turf on placement in the benefice of Malton; this gave me valuable experience and some new ideas that may help us here.

The last 6 months have given all of us quite a challenge with the Covid 19 pandemic; my courses have been changed to internet Webinars (and old dogs don't like new tricks), the placement was cut short, the churches were closed and our worship together was forced onto the internet.

However, on the 26th September, the day arrived and, with four other colleagues we were presented (fully masked and distanced) to Archbishop



Dr Ian Lyall, Lay Reader

Stephen for licensing. It was a sadness that due to the current restrictions we could only have four guests each to help us celebrate the day.

So, where am I going from here? My YSOM course continues (for now) but you will see and hear more of me as time goes on. The study I have been involved in has given me much more insight into my own spirituality which I am looking forward to sharing with you.

When I look back to my days as a junior doctor, I am aware that I only really learnt the skills by experiencing them. In the same way, this is only the end of the beginning of my Reader training, and with your help I will be able to walk alongside you all on our own various faith journeys.

In conclusion, I would like to thank you all for your support, tolerance and good wishes over the last three years. At times when I ask myself “what am I doing”, Chris points me to John 15:16: “You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit – fruit that will last.” I pray that the fruit will be acceptable to God.

Ian Lyall

Lay Reader



Ian (far left) with Archbishop Stephen Cottrell and fellow Lay Readers following their licensing in York Minster on Saturday September 26th 2020.



Musings from the Churchmouse.....

The circular is still the victim of circumstance and therefore we are unable to do the usual print run. As before, if you are reading this online, please could you check with friends and neighbours whether they would like an albeit shortened, but printed version. If you are able to print a few copies off yourself that would be great, if not if you can phone Rachel Baker 01904 468 809 and she will print some off for you to collect and distribute.

Alternatively, if you or anyone you know would like to receive the full read only (as opposed to home print) version via email, please send an email to **churchmouse@crambehouse.co.uk** and I will send a copy directly to you or them.

I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of all our communities to thank all those who have been so kind and helpful by their actions, and proved what wonderful communities we live in.

Winter is upon us, almost, but spring is just around the corner hopefully bringing with it better times ahead. It is hoped that everyone will be able to celebrate Christmas with at least some of their friends and families depending on the rules at the time! With luck we should be able to celebrate the reason for Christmas in our churches this year and with a bit of help from Zoom. We look forward to reporting your Covid Christmas news in our next edition of The Circular, in the meantime.....

***The printing team send their very best wishes.
for a Happy and Healthy Christmas and a better New Year!***



FORTHCOMING EVENTS AROUND THE BENEFICE



Claxton Carol Singing

We hope to be able to sing carols this year but cannot make a final decision for the time being due to the Covid 19 situation. We will give notice of the decision early in December together with arrangements for the event if it can take place, no doubt if it does, it will be a Covid version!!

GIFTS FOR CHRISTMAS 2020 Cancelled

But workshops are still going on!

We have made more masks, some with Christmas fabric.

They cost £3 each and can be bought from Caroline 01904 468338
or Anne White 01904 468550

Caroline is making her classic 6 inch Christmas Cakes approx 1 kg
at £12 each so please order, again phone 01904 468338.

All the proceeds will go to St Mary's Church.

Gifts For Christmas will be back!

On Saturday November 6th, 2021

sorry not be seeing you this year
thank you for all your support over the years,



Christmas Fayre with a Difference

Sorry - no mulled wine this year, but you can still get some delicious mince pies, cakes, preserves as well as Christmas wreaths and table centres

Orders taken from 1 December for collection or delivery

01759 372215 / dandmharran@gmail.com

Proceeds in aid of St Mary's Church Gate Helmsley





North Yorkshire
Music Therapy Centre

Resonance

Finding community through music

Join us in group music therapy sessions for adults with mental health problems arising from the Covid crisis. Ten free sessions will provide opportunity to express and explore feelings and emotions through playing and listening to others in a supportive environment. Musical expertise is not required.

WHEN AND WHERE?

From 12th October 2020

Mondays weekly sessions at 6.00pm

At The Byre, Wath Court, Hovingham, YO62 4NN



HOW TO BOOK

Visit www.musictherapy.org.uk or email us to book a place.

enquiries@music-therapy.org.uk

or call us on 01653 628 725

Plants for Donations



As a way of supporting our charity, we are developing a project of supplying plants in return for a donation to the charity. The blog posted in late June tells us about a link between music and gardening based on “growing” a crucial concept at the heart of therapy.

A list of plants currently available can be viewed on the website. To acquire one or more, please contact us by email with any queries or telling us what you would like from the lists and we can arrange delivery. Payment should be via the Donate page on the website. You may also be able to collect from plant donors’ gardens to see how the plants work in their place.

BARTON LE WILLOWS

Barton le Willows Village Hall is officially open again and “Covid Secure” with all the relevant markings, hand sanitisers at entry points and QR codes for track and trace. We are currently leaving it empty for three days between bookings as an extra precaution. Our risk assessment specifies good ventilation and cleaning procedures as well as other measures, depending on the type of use.

If you would like to book the hall for a meeting or event that you believe could be run within the current guidelines, please call Anne on 01653 618683 to discuss. Users will need to provide their own personal risk assessments and contact details for track and trace prior to and as a condition of booking.

Some committee members will be resigning this year (they've done pretty long service!) and we will be looking for others, particularly if they are interested in helping as Treasurer, Chair or Secretary (Please see role descriptions on the noticeboard outside the hall or on our Facebook page) In the long run however, we are just a team of volunteers who want to keep the village hall up and running for community use so anyone who wants to join the committee is very welcome. It would be great to have more representatives from villages other than Barton as well.

Since the hall had to close at the start of the lockdown the committee and other volunteers have been using the time to maintain and improve it. You may have noticed the outside painting, new noticeboard and garden tidy up? Inside displays have been improved and the floor has been sanded and sealed (to our knowledge, for only the second time since 1961!) and some more decorating is planned. As all income ceased in March with no possibility for lettings or fundraising events, we have been worried about income but fortunately managed to secure one of the government grants for COVID support to “see us through” and pay the winter fuel bills etc .

Although the Village Hall Committee have not been able to run any of the events that we had planned for this year, we hope to see some of you when we come carol singing before Christmas. We are constantly monitoring restrictions to see which other activities might be possible. Restrictions permitting, we are thinking of a Christmas Cafe on Saturday mornings in December, so watch this space.

The Annual General Meeting of the Village Hall Committee is at 7pm on Tuesday 3rd November - local COVID rules permitting, in the hall.

It will be helpful to know how many people to expect in order to ensure social distancing. We will email and post reminders on noticeboards nearer the time in case the rules change and you can let us know if you are coming.

Recipe for Bullace cheese!

It seems to have been a good year for sloes and bullaces. I have a slight preference for bullace as, being bigger, they are much quicker to pick. Having got a bit carried away, I had a couple of pounds left over after making bullace vodka!

So - “Bullace Cheese”

Simmer the bullaces in a little water for half an hour or until really soft.

Press through a sieve, including all the pulp.

Weigh and add the same amount of sugar, and a bit more. (Taste it! Bullaces can be quite tart) I used a 1lb of pulp and 1lb 4oz of sugar.

Boil to setting point (doesn't take long, 2 or 3 minutes.)

BOSSALL



On Sunday October 18th Rachel Benson conducted a service of Holy Communion at Bossall Church. This was to be Mary Denison's last service at St Botolph's as a resident of Bossall before moving to her new home in Malton. Teddy and Mary have been the mainstay of Bossall Church for almost half a century. Without all their hard work, expertise and commitment St Botolph's would probably have closed long ago. It is a great testament to them and all who have helped them over the years, that this beautiful church is still an important place of worship in our Benefice. Along with sincere thanks Mary goes with everyone's good wishes for a happy future in her new home. No doubt she will be back from time to time!

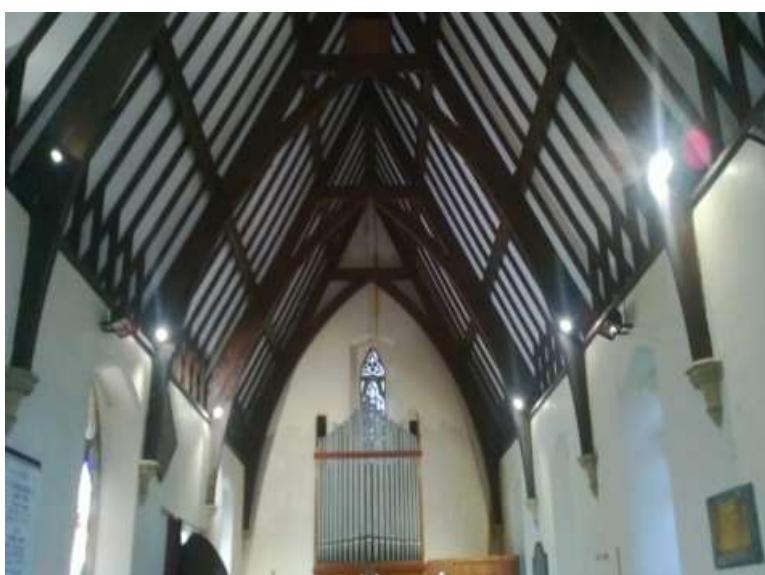
BUTTERCRAMBE

We held our first service since lockdown on Friday 25th September. Mark and Marina Fattorini were meant to be getting married in May which sadly had to be cancelled so they decided to get married in Antigua where they were spending their honeymoon and then hold a wedding blessing in St Johns. It was wonderful to have the church open. Chris held a short, intimate and moving blessing and the sun shone on the happy couple and a small group of their family and friends. Let's hope it is not too long before we can do it all again.

CRAMBE

Seven months on, Covid and its restrictions are still with us but as with the seasons things have moved on a bit. Zoom Church has become a regular Sunday morning feature. It has been a useful tool for keeping the Benefice together during the lockdown period when all the churches were closed for worship, but our traditional services, albeit being conducted in a less than traditional way, are once again becoming part of Sunday mornings. We have had two services at St Michael's, one Evening Prayer and one Holy Communion, both conducted by Rachel Benson. It is a slightly strange experience arriving in church wearing a mask, quickly skirting round everyone, not singing, and then scuttling away again at the end of the service, but at least it is the first step back towards normality. We are delighted to offer Ian many congratulations on becoming a fully fledged Lay Reader and look forward to his ministry in our parish and benefice.

FLAXTON



As reported in the last circular we were awaiting an upgrade on the lighting system which had been on hold since Covid.19 lockdown. We (the PCC) are pleased to report that the system was upgraded early October. We can now look forward to warmer and brighter surroundings. The heating system was upgraded just before lockdown.

Members of the PCC send a huge thank you to the churchyard volunteers who work tirelessly throughout the year cutting the grass to keep the churchyard and the green in front of the church looking its absolute best. This is very much appreciated. Good feedback has been received from families and friends visiting graves.

PCC members send their best wishes to everyone. We look forward to welcoming everyone back at St Lawrence Church just as soon as we are safely able to do so.

FOSTON

As the seasons change into Autumn, it's a comforting sight to see the trees and hedgerows fulfil their role in providing an abundant harvest for the birds and wildlife to enjoy. So lovely to witness in this ever changing world in which we are all living.

All Saints has had a few services recently. The marriage of Sandy Pickard and Graham Horley, both of Foston took place on the 3rd October. They were due to be married earlier in the year, however this was postponed due to lock down. It was a very happy event, witnessed by the maximum guests allowed of 15. Best wishes to you both from all at Foston church.

We sadly said goodbye to an old resident of Thornton le Clay.

Marjorie Dandy had lived in the village for a number of years. Her generosity towards the church will always be remembered in the beautiful linen altar covers she so kindly embroidered for us. She held annual coffee mornings to help raise church funds. She was also a very keen antiques collector and took a great interest in horse racing. Rachel Benson kindly conducted the funeral service.

A small service was also held for the interment of ashes of the late Doreen Gregory.

As we go to press, we shall be joining together in a small group of five volunteers to pack the shoe boxes, for the Christmas appeal.

This is always an enjoyable evening, spent trying to pack as many gifts and treats for all age groups into the shoe boxes., Watch out for a photo in the next Circular.

Everyone at Foston church sends out peace and love to all in the surrounding Benefice. Keep well!

GATE HELMSLEY

Unfortunately life remains rather challenging as the Covid-19 pandemic marches on. Because of this we remain unable to produce a printed version of the Circular. Please tell us (by phoning the Harrans Tel: 01759 372215) of anyone you know who is unable to access the Circular on-line. We can provide and deliver copies for them from our home printer.

On a positive note, we can only be very grateful to be living in such a good place, a place which provides us with pleasant surroundings and a community of supportive people.

St Mary's church remains open to individual visitors twice a week, on Monday morning (9.00 am to 1.00 pm) and Thursday afternoon (2.00 pm to 6.00 pm). We are pleased that some people do visit for quiet contemplation in this peaceful building.

Many of the Benefice services are still being delivered via Zoom (Sunday mornings at 10.00 am). There have also been services at 9.00 am or 5.00 pm in some of our churches. We make sure that strict Covid restrictions are observed – hand sanitising, face covering, social distancing and a limit on the numbers attending. A couple of these services were held at St Mary's, including the most recent on Sunday 11th October which had a harvest theme. Thank you to Reverend Rachel Benson who led this service. Singing was not permitted but the congregation very much appreciated the organ music played at the start and end of the service.



Restrictions prevented us from holding our usual annual harvest festival celebrations of a church service followed by a supper in the village hall.

This break with tradition gave us the opportunity to share the harvest more widely by bringing round harvest bags to every household in the parish, about 130 in all. We hope that you enjoyed receiving them as much as we enjoyed preparing and distributing them. It was an ideal opportunity to meet and have a chat with our neighbours. Thank you to all those who prepared and distributed the bags.

The contents of a harvest bag

Our thanks are also due to all those who have kindly made donations to the church at this difficult time. Some are making donations by standing order, others make one-off donations. PCC members are extremely grateful for any gift, no matter how small.

At this time the church has hardly any income from church services or from our regular events, which have all had to be cancelled. In a normal year, the events (Strawberry Lunch, Harvest Celebrations, Christmas Fayre and January Parish Lunch) raise just about enough funds to meet the regular costs of running the church – gas, electricity, insurance, etc. - costs which still must be paid in 2020. This is why the PCC is so grateful for any help and support received.

We would much prefer to be looking outwards rather than inwards and doing things to support other charities. We are able to do this every year through the AMEN charity's Christmas Shoebox Appeal for Romania. Thanks to David Fletcher for co-ordinating the appeal locally and thank you to everyone who has contributed. We know how much joy the gifts bring to the very poor families in Romania. As we go to press there will be a Zoom service on 1st November to mark the blessing of the boxes before they are taken to Romania.

The Christmas period is likely to be very different this year. It is difficult to see how we might hold the annual village carol singing. We hope to be able to host a service of Holy Communion in church on Christmas morning.

We will not be able to hold the annual Christmas Fayre at Orchard House, but we plan to organise a “Christmas Fayre with a Difference” or CFD through which we will be able to sell some of our usual goods – Christmas wreaths, table centres, cakes, mince pies and so on. We will take orders for these during December and will set up a delivery or collection system.

We are grateful to Graham and Jill Freer for maintaining the village Facebook page. Please check this and the Benefice website (www.sandhuttongroup.org.uk) for information and updates, as the situation changes almost by the day. **(See Events section of this Circular for more details).**

Also do not hesitate to get in touch with the churchwardens if we can be of help (Sue Hanson on 01759 372663 and Delyth Harran on 01759 372215). It can be difficult to remain optimistic under present circumstances, but we hope that we can continue to work closely as a community over the coming weeks.

HOWSHAM

Due to Covid restrictions we have had no services in church. We are able to join the Zoom services on Sunday mornings and “conversations” on Wednesday morning. There have also been several evening prayer and communion services in some of our churches.

We were able to have a scaled down church and churchyard clear up on Bank Holiday Monday. The weather was kind, a lot of hard work took place and this was rewarded with a BBQ at the Great Barn.

We are still awaiting repairs to be undertaken to the apse roof and downpipes.

It would be good to hope for a carol service and usual Christmas services but meanwhile:- keep well and take care.

St John the Evangelist, Howsham Safeguarding Precious Windows

An approach from Merlyn Griffiths, a conservator at the York Glaziers Trust, gave rise to a detailed study of our precious Clayton and Bell stained glass windows. We had been aware for some time that they needed repair, the most obvious problem being a missing piece of glass in the rose window above the entrance. However, Merlyn had chosen to write her dissertation for her MA as Howsham Church’s windows are very important example of nineteenth century glazing; and are a very accomplished series of windows from the early years of this stained glass firm, who were arguably one of the most popular and important firms of this time.

As a result of this study, we became aware of the phenomenon of “crizzling”. Following the Reformation, the demand for stained glass had rapidly declined and in the years up until the nineteenth century, many of the recipes for glass manufacture were lost. The 'Gothic Revival' brought back a desire to make windows in the same manner as in the Middle Ages and so firms like Clayton and Bell were formed to take advantage of this demand for stained glass. Before this point, the production of glass did not match that of this earlier period and the quality was deemed poor in comparison. Glass manufacturers like Powell and Sons (who generally supplied Clayton and Bell with the glass for their windows) were engaged in attempting to recreate glass of the same high quality as that produced in

the Middle Ages; and so for a number of years this was a time of major experimentation in glass manufacture.

The windows made for Howsham fall right in the middle of this period and in both the West window and the window next to the font, there can be seen the results of this experimentation. Within these two windows is found some dark purple glass, that had deteriorated in a way that are referred to as 'crizzling'. Unlike the rest of the glass in the windows, it had formed microcracks right the way through its thickness, had lost its transparent glassy surface and had begun to disintegrate; leaving the holes that could be seen prior to repair.



This type of glass deterioration is relatively understudied in the field of stained-glass conservation and the purple glass at Howsham is an exceptionally good example of an extremely advanced stage of this phenomenon. Merlyn's study included taking a sample of this glass and having it tested using a Scanning Electron Microscope and offering professional advice. Leading on from Merlyn's study, the churchwardens asked the York Glaziers Trust to undertake a comprehensive survey as a basis for obtaining quotes for repair and preservation. Estimates varied widely. In the end a compromise had to be pursued with a focus on repair and some preservation measures.

We are very grateful to Merlyn for her initial approach and subsequent advice, to the York Glaziers Trust for their comprehensive condition report, the Barley Studio for carrying out the work; and to all the organisations who supported us with grants and made the work possible.

***If you would like to know and read more please visit the benefice website:
www.sandhutongroup.org.uk***

SAND HUTTON and CLAXTON

Congratulations to Ian Lyall, our Church Warden, on his licencing as Lay Reader for the Benefice. We wish him every blessing in his new role!

Who would have thought we would still be adhering to Covid restrictions and rules after so many weeks and months, but here we are perhaps a little frustrated and weary, trying hard to keep ourselves busy! Our gardens have never looked so good and maybe, just maybe next summer we will have the opportunity to hold 'Open Gardens' and enjoy all the hard work that we have been doing. Following serious cleaning at the beginning of lock down, our homes are now crying out for another 'Spring clean' due to us spending so much time out of doors!

In our village here in Claxton (and I guess in neighbouring Sand Hutton), we have enjoyed afternoon tea events in our front gardens with some music and singing followed by socially distanced wandering up and down the street chatting to village folk.

At the end of July over 200 households enjoyed 'Strawberry teas in a bag' followed by the sale of plants donated by Paul and Louise Coulter. Thank you to all of you who participated and gave so generously towards St Mary's church funds. In excess of £1,200 was given 'THANK YOU'!



As the School and St. Mary's have been unable to celebrate Harvest Thanksgiving, we wanted to bring Harvest into your home...hence the token gifts in the Harvest Bags. Ellen and Rachel had fun putting the bags together (most of the time!) The biggest challenge was trying to pour the home made Blackcurrant jam into the miniature jam jars and then screwing the lids onto scorching hot jars that were almost as jammy outside as inside! A different way to while away the Covid hours!!

Sand Hutton School decided to send their Harvest Gifts to Malton Food Bank so we at St. Mary's agreed to support the school by adding donations given by Parishioners. Thank you to John Thompson for delivering the gifts.

Several people have suggested that we continue to collect for the Food Bank for the time being. A box will remain outside Anne White's and also Rachel Baker's house in Claxton if you wish to donate.

Thank you to all who have shown acts of amazing kindness over the past months! I guess we will need to be good and considerate for many months to come!!

Also thanks to those who have tirelessly looked after the churchyard and village greens. Hopefully there will be more available helpers in 2021!

St Mary's Church, Sand Hutton

Following on from the pinning and lime plaster works completed in May, the church has now been repainted. We would like to thank Miles Pote for his professionalism and expertise. St. Mary's Church is now open again for quiet space and prayer. You are very welcome to visit the church on Wednesdays and Sundays 11am - 6pm following the Covid guidelines and restrictions. If you wish to talk or share with someone, please don't hesitate to contact one of the Ministry team...there will always be someone to help and support you.

Dick Tagg died on April 24th, aged 92

We offer our belated condolences to Barbara Tagg, Andrew and David and their families.

In Barbara's words: "He was a great family man and lived in Sand Hutton for 48 years. He was well known by many during his working life. Dick was recognised for his engineering work with Shepherd's Construction and consequently was invited to Buckingham Palace and No. 10 Downing Street. He passionately loved two things - his family and his work. He is missed by us all."

Anne Atkinson who died on October 20th

It was with great sadness that we heard from Brian that Anne died following a sudden illness. Anne was a very much loved neighbour to us all in Claxton and beyond. Her gentle presence will be greatly missed both in the village and the wider church family. We offer our deepest sympathy to both Brian and their daughter Jane and all her family.

UPPER HELMSLEY

Things have generally been quiet in our little parish and villagers have been keeping in touch by our WhatsApp group or over the garden fence. Plenty of autumn leaves and conkers around signalling the changing temperatures.



We have had one lovely event in the church on 24th September. Rachael and Michael Harrison celebrated their Silver wedding anniversary with a little ceremony where Chris blessed their new wedding rings and they shared some vows. Ellie and Catherine read some prayers. It was really lovely and we were able to have a very small gathering in the churchyard afterwards in the sunshine and we were all able to chat briefly at a safe distance.

We are now preparing for the gathering of the AMEN Shoe Boxes. Chris will bless them in St Peter's church and they will be collected to be transported to Romania some time in November with many other boxes donated from quite a large region. Thank you to all who

are providing boxes or goodies to be packed. It is so appreciated.

NEWS FROM OUR SCHOOLS.....

SAND HUTTON C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL



We hope that everyone is keeping well as we head into autumn. I am excited to be back at school now after my unexpected start to the school year.

It is wonderful to see how the team here at school have worked together to bring the school back in all its glory and welcome our many new Reception children. Having walked around the school this morning I can see learning with excitement and enthusiasm in every corner of the site, inside and out.

We are finding new ways to be together, using technology to deliver collective worship across our federation and planning to use technology to celebrate Harvest this year. We will miss the opportunity to spend time in

church and share face to face with families and the local community but hope that this hiatus is brief and we will be able to return to this method in the near future.

We are using our wonderful environment here at school to enrich our learning and despite the temperatures falling, the outside areas continue to provide our pupils with spaces to learn whether it is to appreciate nature or simply take that 'desktop' learning to a new level.

We send all our best wishes for the times ahead and hope to be able to share some of our fun with photos in the future. Never before have we been so grateful for the many ways in which we are able to communicate.

*Beverley Pawson Headteacher
Sand Hutton and Warthill Federated Schools*

FOSTON C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL



A great first half term has been had at Foston and Terrington Federation.

While things are a little strange at the moment it has not stopped us enjoying school to the full.

The children enjoyed a lovely Harvest Festival celebration and raised much needed funds for Hoping Street Kitchen. Hoping Street Kitchen is an amazing local charity that provides meals and other resources to the homeless community in York.

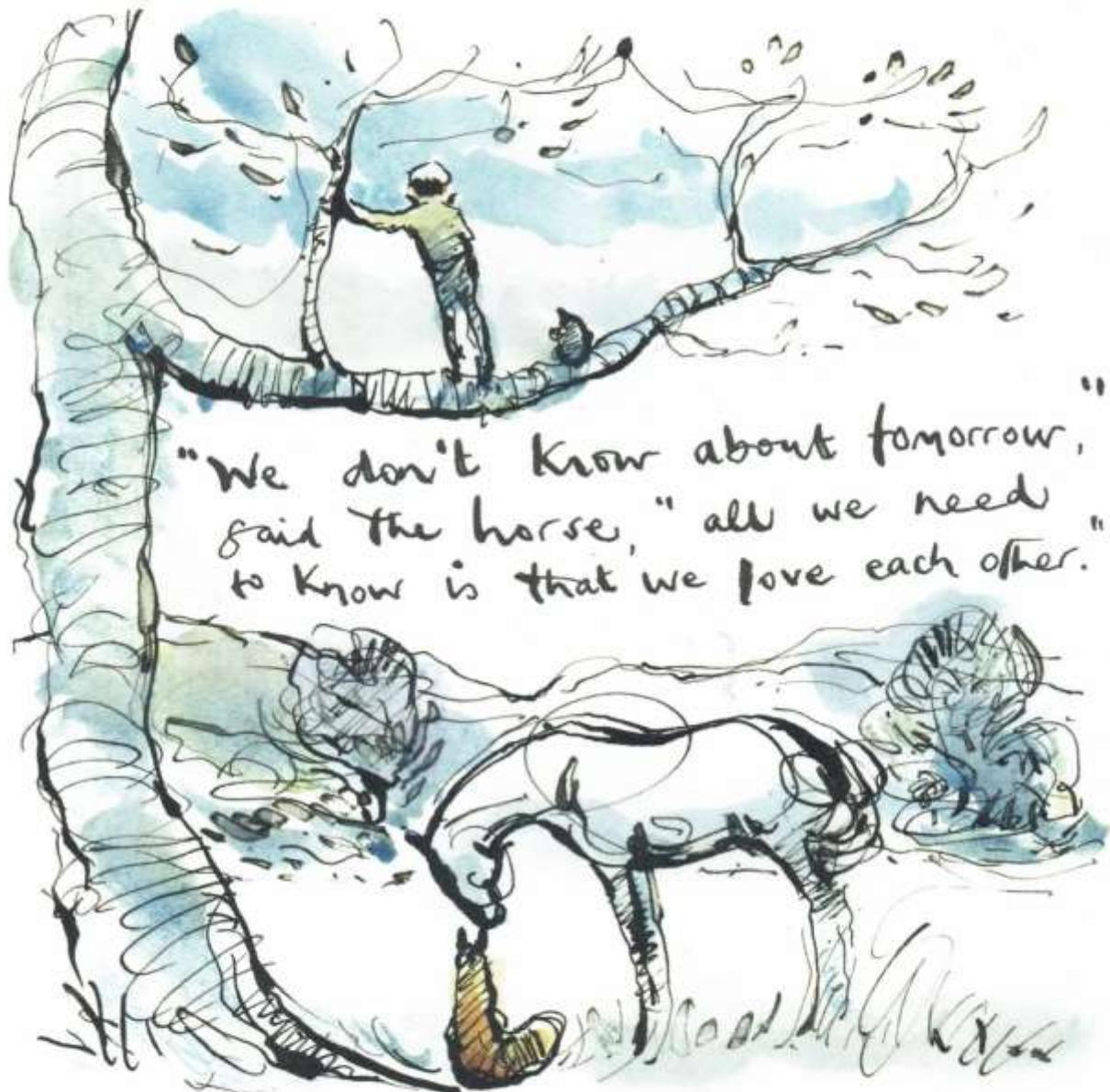
Thank you to Reverend Wingfield for leading both services for us. We have also enjoyed our termly sports enhancement day and whilst unable to join together for this the day was planned for the individual schools to undertake the same activities with visiting sports coaches.

Our schools both have thriving dedicated early years provision and we take children from 3 years old. This offers an amazing transition into full time schooling for our children.

If you would like to come and have a look what we have to offer and to meet the teams at either school please email either:

Terringtonoffice@foston.n-yorks.sch.uk

or fostonoffice@foston.n-yorks.sch.uk.



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Michael Harran email: dandmharran@gmail.com Tel: 01759 372215

Peter Stott email: petermstott@yahoo.co.uk Tel: 01904 468404

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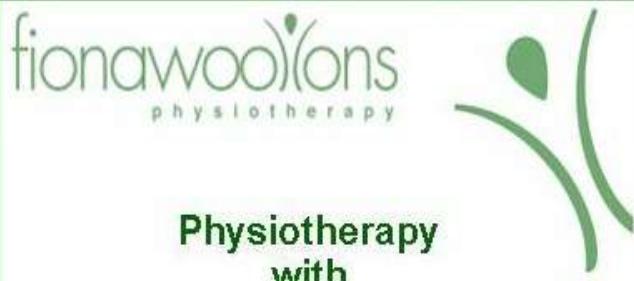
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Buttercrambe, St John the Evangelist

Acting Churchwarden: Sara Winn Darley

YO41 1AT

Email: sara@winndarley.net
Tel: 01759 371398

Crambe, St Michael

Churchwarden: Dorothy Martin

YO60 7JR

Email: None
Tel: 01653 619133

Flaxton, St Lawrence

Churchwardens: Ida Terry

YO60 7NT

Email: idmt@hotmail.co.uk
Tel: 01347 878432
Email: wendy_e_holman@hotmail.com
Tel: 01653 618886

Foston, All Saints

Churchwardens: Karen Armitstead
Linda Fothergill

YO60 7QG

Email: karen_armitstead@hotmail.com
Tel: 01653 619964
Email: lindafothergill1963@hotmail.com
Tel: 01904 468760

Gate Helmsley, St Mary

Churchwardens: Delyth Harran
Sue Hanson

YO41 1NE

Email: dandmharran@gmail.com
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Howsham, St John

Churchwardens: Gill Littlejohn
Judy Stephenson

YO60 7PH

Email: simoncklittlejohn@msn.com
Tel: 01653 618846
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Tel: 01653 618673

Sand Hutton, St Mary

Churchwardens: Graham Baker
Ian Lyall

YO41 1LB

Email: gnrfastline@btinternet.com
Tel: 01904 468809
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Tel: 01904 468209
Email: ellenstott@yahoo.co.uk
Tel: 01904 468404

Deputy Warden: Ellen Stott

YO41 1JY

Churchwarden: Mari Richards
Tel: 01759 372757

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

Churchwarden: Janie Bell
Email: janie.bell@me.com
Tel: 01653 618270

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

Rector of the Benefice of Harton

Revd. Chris Wingfield 01904 468418

Email: chris.wingfield@btinternet.com

Members of the Ministry Team

Lay Reader	Ian Lyall	01904 468209
Lay Pastor	Rachel Baker	01904 468809
P14Me Coordinator	David Fletcher	07900 998378
Youth and Children's Coordinator Rachael Harrison		07847 329015

For occasional offices please contact:

Funerals	Revd. Chris Wingfield	01904 468418
Marriages	Rachel Baker	01904 468809
Baptisms	Delyth Harran	01759 372215

Lay Vice Chairman of the Joint PCC

Delyth Harran 01759 372215

Editor

Fiona Le Masurier

Crambe House, Crambe, York YO60 7JR Tel: 01653 619368

Email: churchmouse@crambehouse.co.uk

Circular Printing Group members

Rachel Baker 01904 468809

Michael Harran 01759 372215

Peter Stott 01904 468404

Fiona Le Masurier 01653 619368



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