



My name is Rachael Harrison and I am the Children & Family Worker for the Harton Benefice group of churches - a role I feel very proud and privileged to be involved with.

I am delighted to be welcoming you to this page of the website and to tell you about all the activities we are able to offer children and young people.

Messy Church: We currently run three Messy Church sessions each year. These usually take place at Easter, Harvest and Christmas and are held in village halls or other community bases. They are family events for everyone to join in with and enjoy. The Messy team work hard to provide themed craft and fun activities to help engage the youngsters in Christ's message in a more informal and child-friendly way. They last 2 hours and include a shared meal and some short worship/prayers. Look out on your local village noticeboards/WhatsApp groups and Facebook pages for notice of when these are taking place - or keep an eye on this website for up-to-date information. If you haven't been before, do come along and see what you think.

All Age Family Worship: We aim to hold at least three Family Services a year at various churches in the Benefice. Like Messy Church these are more accessible for families and are structured to be engaging for that age group whilst also catering for the existing worshippers. We use crafts and creative activities to reinforce a message and encourage the children to be fully involved in the service - for example reading the bible passages and writing and reading prayers.

The Aubergine Operations/Upper Helmsley Allotment: The Upper Helmsley church allotment evolved during Covid, when the restrictions prevented us from meeting with families indoors for events such as Messy Church. The creative Upper Helmsley PCC turned a piece of unused churchyard into a space to grow vegetables, with some raised beds and a lot of support from the community in terms of donated items. We now run a youth group there twice a month for children from year 7 upwards. They called themselves the Aubergine Operations! As well as tending to the seasonal requirements of the allotment they have an interest in all things 'eco' and love taking part in anything that builds community. We meet all year around on a Saturday and always welcome new members.

Publicity: For those of you who live in the villages served by our Benefice or have a child at Sand Hutton or Foston school, I send out a quarterly newsletter to all the households. This highlights any events that are taking place for children & families organised by the Benefice; also any other services, courses or fundraisers that we think might be of interest to parents. The newsletters are all on this website too. You can also see a summary of what I have been up to by looking in the Circular which is delivered through your door every quarter.

How to get in touch

If you are a family within the Benefice, have carer responsibilities for children and live within the Benefice (e.g. grandparents, guardians, close relatives) or have children at Sand Hutton or Foston schools and would like to join the Facebook page the link is....

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/HartonBenefice>

✉: rachaelyouthharton@gmail.com

☎: 07847 329015

Want to get involved or contribute?

If you have a few hours to spare and are interested in volunteering for any of the activities we are running, please contact me. You will find it a very rewarding experience and you will be well supported. We will provide DBS checks where appropriate.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any ideas you would like to contribute.

And finally....

With a bit of time, teamwork and creativity, there is a vast scope of potential for what we can support our young people to do and be in these challenging times. I really enjoy this role and developing what we can provide for our young people within the Benefice and make more links with the wider community.

I would like to extend a huge 'Thank you' to all the volunteers and supporters who are part of the Messy Church and Aubergine teams. Everyone is so positive about developing activities for Children and Young people, but there are challenges, especially given the large geographical area that we cover. Let's keep it all going, so please support our events.