



The Benefice of Harton

The Circular



Winter Edition 2021/2022

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
was sponsored by Brian Atkinson*

Dear Friends,



Detail from mosaic ceiling in Torcello Basilica, Venice

When the Saints go marching in....

The first of November is All Saints day and marks another of those changes in the year. The clocks will have already gone back and we look to a season of Remembrance and waiting as we journey towards Christmas. And as we journey through, our church life takes up the theme of saints – which always makes me feel slightly uncomfortable if I'm being honest.

In our hymns they always seem to be doing things I'm not quite sure about- whether it's resting from their labours, shining in glory, rising in bright array and streaming through pearly gates. It all smacks a little bit of being too heavenly minded to be of any earthly use en masse. Too often our hymns and popular culture might give us the distinct impression that on days like All Saints the church is only interested in looking back on its past glories with a large dose of nostalgia and distinctly rose-coloured stained glass windows. Those who we describe as saints often seem to be in some kind of sanctified retirement - All Saints' Day is about celebrating but it's not just about the past - it's about the present and the future of the people of God - and our place in that great company.

One of the saints I find most inspiring would be Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a German pastor and theologian who led the Church's opposition to Hitler, and was killed by the Nazis in a concentration camp in 1945. Among his writings is a remarkable book called 'The Cost of Discipleship'. In that book he celebrates the mundaneness of those called to be the community of saints which is the Church – a band of justified sinners. He writes:

'The community of saints is not the ideal church-community of the sinless and the perfect. It is not the church community of those without blemish, which no longer provides room for the sinner to repent. Rather it is the

church community that shows itself worthy of the gospel of forgiveness...It is the community of those who have truly experienced God's costly grace...'

So being a saint is not like passing a GCSE or A level in holiness – it's not something you do on your own. In Christian tradition the saints are part of the crowd that surround us within the Church and in what we call the Communion of Saints – living and (as the Salvation Army would say) promoted to glory. When we speak in our creed of the fellowship or communion of the saints we have the assurance that many stand alongside us in solidarity, both those who have gone before and those who live Christ's life throughout the world today.

As the church we are holy, we are saints. Being saints is what binds us to others in church – whether they are down the road in York or Middlesbrough or facing hardships in Middle East or Africa. The communion of saints is standing within a greater congregation - interacting, interceding, in solidarity with us in our struggles, our celebrations, our pains and our joys. Being part of that is about us all together striving to be Christ-like.

A Scottish hymn from the Iona community puts it like this

*In this crowd of common people,
Once unknown, whom we revere,
God calls us to share his purpose
Starting now and starting here.
So we celebrate his calling,
So we prize and praise his choice,
As we pray that through this company
God will act and raise his voice.*

Maybe as we journey towards Christmas, we too can recognise the saints who live in our communities of 'common people' - those who live out Christ's story of kindness, generosity and forgiveness.

And maybe... just maybe... by their example of being more Christ-like, we are called to be a saint as well.

Yours in Christ

Revd Chris Wingfield

Services for the Benefice of Harton

Please note all services may be subject to change depending on Covid 19 regulations prevailing at the time

November 2021

Tuesday 2nd November



All Souls

7.00

Festival of Lilies and Light

Crambe

Wednesday 3rd November

10.00

Holy Communion

Flaxton

Sunday 7th November

3rd before Advent

10.00

Holy Communion

Howsham

5.00

Evensong

Upper Helmsley

Wednesday 10th November

10.00

Morning Prayer

Sand Hutton

Sunday 14th November



Remembrance Sunday

10.30

Service of Remembrance

Bossall

12.00

*There will be a short service of remembrance
at the War memorial at Sand Hutton*

Wednesday 17th November

10.00

Holy Communion

Flaxton

Sunday 21st November

Christ the King

10.00

Holy Communion

Foston

5.00

Evensong

Bossall

Wednesday 24th November

10.00

Holy Communion

Crambe

Sunday 28th November



Advent 1

10.00

Advent Carols

Sand Hutton

December 2021

Wednesday 1st December

10.00

Holy Communion

Howsham

Sunday 5th December

Advent 2

9.00

BCP Holy Communion (said)

Sand Hutton

10.00

Santa Lucia

Gate Helmsley VH

Wednesday 8th December

10.00

Holy Communion

Crambe

6.30

Carol Service

Foston

Thursday 9th December

6.30

Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

Whitwell

Sunday 12th December

Advent 3

9.00

BCP Holy Communion (said)

Howsham

10.00

Holy Communion and Toy Service

Flaxton

6.30

Carol Service

Buttercrambe

Wednesday 15th December

10.00

Morning Prayer

Bossall

Friday 17th December

7.00

Carol Service
with The Flaxton Singers

Flaxton

Saturday 18th December

6.00	Celebration of Christmas by Candlelight <i>with the Women in Harmony Choir</i>	Crambe
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Sunday 19th December

Advent 4

10.00	Holy Communion	Foston
4.00	Christingle	Sand Hutton
6.00	Carol Service	Howsham

Wednesday 22nd December

10.00	Holy Communion	Sand Hutton
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Friday December 24th



Christmas Eve

3.30	Crib Service	Bossall
4.30	Crib Service	Foston
11.00 pm	Midnight Mass	Bossall

Saturday 25th December



Christmas Day

9.00	Family Service	Upper Helmsley
10.00	Christmas Holy Communion	Gate Helmsley
10.00	Family Service	Flaxton

Sunday 26th December

Boxing Day

10.00	Holy Communion	Sand Hutton
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January 2022

Sunday 2nd January

Second Sunday of Christmas

9.00 Zoom Service
10.00 Holy Communion Foston

Wednesday 5th January

Epiphany

10.00 Holy Communion Sand Hutton

Sunday 9th January

Baptism of Christ

10.00 Holy Communion Crambe

Wednesday 12th January

10.00 Holy Communion Flaxton

Sunday 16th January

Epiphany 2

10.00 Holy Communion Sand Hutton

Wednesday 19th January

10.00 Holy Communion Howsham

Sunday 23rd January

Epiphany 3

10.00 Holy Communion Howsham
4.00 All Age Worship Sand Hutton VH

Wednesday 26th January

10.00 Holy Communion Crambe

Sunday 30th January

Epiphany 4

10.00 Holy Communion Gate Helmsley



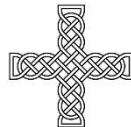
Congratulations to those who have recently married

7 th August	Thomas Smith and Eleanor Wostenholme	Bossall
14 th August	Digby Johnson and Emma Coverley	Sand Hutton
21 st August	Daniel Hay and Sarah Epton	Howsham
4 th September	Christopher Thurlow and Louise Burgess	Howsham
2 nd October	Colin Baker and Jane Lonsborough	Sand Hutton



Welcome to those newly baptised

11 th July	Penelope Jackson-Young	Sand Hutton
16 th July	Jasper Rickleton	Sand Hutton
1 st August	Toby Phillips	Sand Hutton
5 th September	Joseph Sykes	Flaxton
12 th September	Xander Wilson	Howsham
3 rd October	Cora Illingworth	Sand Hutton
10 th October	Rufus Knock	Flaxton



Our condolences to the family and friends of

10 th August	Freda Goodrick	Sand Hutton
3 rd September	Beryl Brownhill	Flaxton
6 th September	Jeremy Hammond	Gate Helmsley
9 th September	Leslie Barton	Gate Helmsley
2 nd October	Bill Wrigglesworth	Sand Hutton
8 th October	Wendy Dryland	Sand Hutton
10 th October	Ruth Power	Gate Helmsley and York

Remembrance Sunday November 14th A service of Remembrance will be held at Bossall Church at 10.30 am followed by a short service at the war memorial between Sand Hutton and Claxton at 12 noon



THE FINAL INSPECTION



The soldier stood and faced God,
which must always come to pass.
He hoped his shoes were shining,
just as brightly as his brass.

'Step forward now, you soldier,
How shall I deal with you?
Have you always turned the other
cheek?
To my church have you been true?'

The soldier squared his shoulders,
and said, 'No Lord, I guess I 'aint,
because those of us who carry guns,
can't always be a saint'

I've had to work most Sundays,
and at times my talk was tough,
and sometimes I've been violent
because the world is awfully rough.

But I never took a penny,
that wasn't mine to keep...
though I worked a lot of overtime,
when the bills just got too steep.

And I never passed a cry for help,
though at times I shook with fear,
and sometimes, God, forgive me
I've wept unmanly tears.

I know I don't deserve a place
among the people here,
they never wanted me around,
except to calm their fears.

If you've a place for me here, Lord,
it needn't be so grand,
I never expected or had too much,
but if you don't, I'll understand.

There was silence all around the
throne,
where the saints had often trod,
as the soldier waited quietly
for the judgment of his God.

'Step forward now, you soldier,
You've borne your burdens well.
Walk peacefully on Heaven's streets,
You've done your time in hell.'



Author unknown



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

MESSY HARVEST

On 9th October we were delighted to finally be able to hold a Village Hall Messy Harvest gathering. 25 children came along with their grownups, to join in with crafts, cards, collages, quizzes, scarecrow obstacle courses and lots more. We were ably assisted by some of our youth volunteers who helped run activities. It was so good to be together again to take part in fun activities, share a meal and worship together. Again, I must extend a massive 'Thank you' to the Messy team and the on the day helpers. It was busy but great fun.

We are already starting to think about a Christmas Messy event. It'll be here before you know it!



Superhero Summer Club

Holding a Superhero Summer Club was a new venture for us in the Harton Benefice. We were really pleased to be able to co-host the week-long event with Lisa Horton and her team of volunteers in our neighbouring Benefice, Rural East York. It was a very successful collaboration, offering the families great value child care for a week in August whilst at the same time providing the children lots of fun whilst reinforcing Christ's message in the guise of a superhero!

We did crafts, singing, quizzes, keep fit, races outside, cake decorating as well as snack time and lunch. We loved Stockton-on-Forest as a venue, and feedback from this event was great. We will definitely be holding the Summer Club again next summer. We couldn't have done it all of course

without the huge contribution made by our amazing volunteer helpers who so generously gave of their time. We were also delighted to be supported by the young people of Dunnington 'Ignite' and Harton youth volunteers who put together a fantastic running drama covering all five days. Great work team!



As half term approaches and the first half of the Autumn term draws to a close, there must surely be a collective sigh of relief all round! Head teachers, teachers, and school staff have all worked so incredibly hard over the past 18 months and on behalf of the Benefice I would like to say a massive thank you for all they have achieved in keeping the schools operational in such unprecedented circumstances

I would also like to pay tribute to the families here as well who have juggled work, home life, and home schooling over the past five terms without the usual support systems of grandparents to lean on. It has been an endurance test. However we know how resilient our children are and how motivated they will be to shape the future in a positive and uplifting way whatever it looks like.

Messy Allotment

Looking back over my last article, I can't believe how much the allotment has grown and blossomed! It has been one of the highlights of this year for me and the Messy Church team, and we have been delighted to welcome families in for over fifteen sessions. Our secondary school age children (known as the youth volunteers) have worked incredibly hard behind the scenes, doing some of the 'labouring' work, and I would especially like to thank Daniel, Catherine, Sam, Esther, Fraser, Alfie, Beau, Mieszko, Ellie and Sam for their input in preparing the allotment for the open day on 18th July. We have lots of 'green' ideas and hope to keep meeting over the winter months. I am also delighted to welcome Katie to our team whose enthusiasm and knowledge of all things green is going to be indispensable!

Many thanks to those families who completed the questionnaire that went out with the June newsletter. There is still time to send them back if you haven't already done so. We'd be delighted to hear your feedback as we look at planning and shaping future activities for children and families.

Play and Pray

We are really delighted to get back to holding our Monday morning Play and Pray sessions at Sand Hutton church. As this goes to press we have held three sessions. We have welcomed back old friends as well as extending a warm welcome to new families.

Messy church has also returned in the shape of Messy Harvest and we are on with planning a Messy Christmas event so keep an eye on the monthly newsletter, the village notice boards and the Benefice FB page for news of this. Revd. Chris, myself and the Ministry team are experimenting with holding All Age Worship in different venues and at different times, so if you attended the September one at Gate Helmsley Village Hall, we'd love your feedback.

I really hope everyone has a relaxing and carefree half term break, enjoy catching up with family and friends. Stay safe

Rachael

A Prayer initiative by The Benefice of Harton for the parishes of

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



Weary, feeling alone, anxious.....

The Coronavirus and resultant changes have made life so much harder for many of us in many different ways.

However, we believe there is still hope and we'd like to support and encourage you in the best way we know how, through prayer.

Simply let us know what you would like us to pray for and we will include you in our prayers.

What do we need from you?

What you would like us to pray for.

Whether you would like us to contact you.

Visit our website:

www.sandhuttongroup.org.uk/resources.php
and complete a dedicated webform

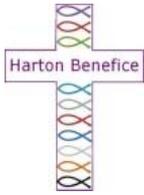
The QR code below takes you there

Email your request to ,
pray14mehartonbenefice@gmail.com

Post your request to:
The Team Coordinator
Pray One for Me



David Fletcher
The Old School House
Gate Helmsley
York YO41 1NL



Benefice PCC.....

The Benefice PCC met in person at St Mary's Sand Hutton on 24th September. The main discussion was the preparation of the Benefice for interregnum whenever Reverend Chris Wingfield retires. Minutes of the meeting are available from the honorary secretary, Wendy Holman.

The next meeting will be held at Woodhouse Thornton-le-Clay at 2.00 pm on Wednesday 17th November.

Delyth Harran

Vice-Chairman

AMEN



Christmas Shoebox Appeal 2021

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this year's shoebox appeal for Rumania.

Please note the deadline for donating a shoebox has been extended to 10th November.

Sandra Lemming is unable to join us at the service this year, but she sends her thanks and gratitude for the great support from the Benefice.

There is a short video about the shoebox appeal which you can view on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UqzuPar17Rg> The song by the children at the end is good

FORTHCOMING EVENTS AROUND THE BENEFICE.....

It is good to be able to publicise events again after the cancellation of so many over the last year. All the events listed will have been carefully planned to take account of whatever Covid 19 restrictions there may be in place at the time of the event. If you feel able, do come along, meet up with people you may not have seen for a long time, and lend your support to the good causes they support.....

If you have an event you would like to publicise within our Benefice community, please contact the Editor via email at churchmouse@crambehouse.co.uk : or Tel: 01653 619368 She will be able to devise a suitable advert for you, or you can submit one of your own design.

The Churchmouse





BENEFICE OF HARTON

WE ARE DELIGHTED TO BE RE-STARTING OUR
Babies, Toddlers & Pre-schoolers

'Play & Pray'

Fortnightly from Monday 20th September

9.15 – 11.00

(1st, 15th 29th November, 13th December)

ST MARY'S CHURCH SAND HUTTON



For more info contact Rachael Harrison 07847 329015 rachaelyouthharton@gmail.com



St Michael's Church, Crambe

Festival of Lilies and Light
with The Benefice Choir

Tuesday November 2nd at 7.00 pm



An opportunity to celebrate and remember those who we have loved and lost

If you would like a name or names to be added to the roll that will be read out during the service, either complete one of the forms which can be found at the back of a church near you or contact Fiona

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

The church will be decorated with arrangements of lilies. If you would like to make a small donation towards the lilies it would be much appreciated.

You will be invited to light candle in memory of your loved ones.

If you are unable to attend the service, you can still add names to the roll.

Please let Fiona know by Sunday October 31st. The church will be open every day following the service so you can visit and light a candle at a time to suit you.



We are pleased to announce our return
the best place to source unusual, original and high quality presents !

GIFTS for CHRISTMAS

Saturday 6th November 2021

Sand Hutton Village Hall

9.30 am to 2.0 pm

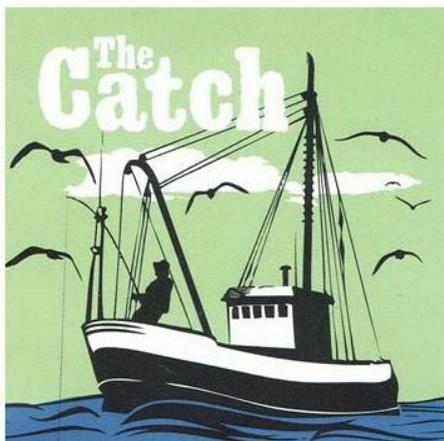
(please note new timing)

Stalls

Including Handbags/Scarves, Soaps, Pottery, Christmas decorations,
Gins, Jams and of course Sand Hutton Gifts !!
Light lunches..... Coffee and cake.....Raffle

Entry £1 children free

All monies raised are for St. Mary's Church Sand Hutton



Nick Darke's play 'The Catch'
concerns the fishing community.

In Padstow, Cornwall, two fishermen, suffering the effects of the EU quota system, are wondering how to supplement their income and naively decide to use their lobster pots to go in for a little extra-curricular drug smuggling. The dodgy local character with whom they are dealing is playing a double game with them, and also with the daughter of one of the fishermen.

Although the play is a comedy, topically post-Brexit it reflects the kinds of concerns and challenges faced by fishermen who feel that they have again been let down despite all the pre-Brexit talk of protecting them. It also raises issues about sustainability in the environment.

OLP

OTHER LIVES PRODUCTIONS

PRESENT

The Catch

Directed by Richard Avery

At

Sand Hutton Village Hall

On Saturday November 6th at 7.30 pm

Tickets £10

Contact

Caroline Hall

Email: hallcaroline993@gmail.com

Tel:01904 468376



Christmas Fayre

on line

Delicious mince pies, cakes, preserves, Christmas gifts, pots of bulbs, wreaths and table centres.

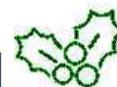
Look for order forms on the Benefice website

Order between 1 - 14 December for collection or delivery

01759 372215 / dandmharran@gmail.com



Proceeds in aid of St Mary's Church Gate Helmsley



Carols on the Green, Claxton

Come and join us on the village green

Monday December 20th

At 6.30 pm

For some Christmas Carols

Come and sing or just listen to our accompanied choir performing well known carols for all ages.

As usual, we shall be raising money for
Macmillan Cancer Support—York Branch
Your support will be very much appreciated

For further information please ring
Brian Atkinson Tel: 01904 468226



from Sister Margaret Ann CSPH

It has been my privilege to be involved in two or three Harvest Festivals in the Benefice recently, and what a joy that always is. Thanks to a lot of hard work from volunteers, our churches looked beautiful, full of flowers and greenery from our gardens, and fruit and vegetables. I love the smell of Harvest. One church decorated their ledges with Virginia Creeper and the red, yellow and orange colours against the grey stone was stunning. Then there is the feast afterwards, which we are in the Benefice of Harton, really good at and it's different everywhere you go! And what an opportunity to share our good fortune with others and enjoy the community spirit which it all generates.

Nearly always there is a loaf of bread in the display symbolic of God's gifts to us. Looking at the bread got me thinking. I went back to the sixties and seventies when places like Romania were going through political turmoil. I remember seeing pictures on the television of supermarkets with completely empty shelves and that made such an impression on me. I started to think about that basic food we all take for granted I guess! Have you ever thought about bread? In our supermarkets (most of the time) there are shelves and shelves of it and the variety is vast, white, brown, wholemeal, seeded. Large loaves and small, cut and uncut. Brown and white rolls, baps, bagels and finger rolls. There are fruit loaves not to mention naan bread, wraps, pitta bread and so on and so on. It is endless.

So just for a minute or two let us think about bread.

B It is **BASIC**, everyone, wherever, whoever, whatever you are need it and in this country the variety is overwhelming and on the whole readily available.

R We all **RECEIVE** it as part of our everyday and I guess with very little thought, as if it is our right. As Jesus once said 'I am the bread of life, anyone who comes to me will never go hungry and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. So it feeds not only our bodies but also our souls if we allow it to.

E We **EAT** it, enjoy it and are energised by it enabling us to renew our strength to carry on our work whatever that might be.

A Here in Britain it is for us **ALL** unlike the third world countries, where so often food is scarce and men, women and sadly children know what it feels like to be starving. I wonder if as you sit down to your meals you think beyond your table to those less fortunate than ourselves and give thanks to God for all his bounty to us? As part of harvest festival thanksgivings food gifts and collections are given to charities to further their work and are used where there is a need. Sharing what we all have here, an abundance of everything.

D And finally bread for us is **DAILY** and as the Lord's prayer reminds us – 'Give us this day our daily bread' Everything we have comes from God our heavenly Father.

So the next time you reach for the bread, whatever sort you choose, remember the many across the world today that don't have that luxury. Jesus once said 'It is better to give than to receive' so as you sit down to your next meal remember to say whether quickly in your heart, or out loud, a 'thank you' to the God of Life for the food we enjoy daily, and remember these words from the well known Harvest hymn:



'He only is the maker
of all things near and far
He paints the wayside flower
and lights the evening star
The winds and waves obey him
by him the birds are fed
Much more to us his children
he gives us daily bread.

*Margaret Ann
+ CSP4*

BOSSALL

HELP! If there is anyone in the parish who would be willing to help distribute the Circular magazine we would love to hear from you. It is not too onerous a task and just involves dropping one off at each house in the parish of Bossall every three months.

It would be even easier if it could be a shared task between two or more people. Please contact Chris and Belinda Fordy if you can help.

Email: christopherfordy@fordymarshall.com Tel: 01904 468682

BUTTERCRAMBE

It has been lovely to open the church again and welcome not just our regular and loyal church goers but also visitors including many cyclists who find Buttercrambe a perfect break on their journey. Anne Archer's memorial bench regularly has someone sitting on it. Comments in the visitor's book always say how lovely it is to see a church open for people to freely visit.

The village very sadly lost Will Farnell in September. Originally a farmer from Acklam, he has lived with his wife Sue at Birks Farm for the last fifteen years. He was a gentle, kind, hardworking and resourceful man. He worked on the Estate for the last 20 years, resolving many building and drainage issues. He helped with securing the St John's Church bells and regularly did roof and gutter maintenance, so it was fitting that the service was held at Buttercrambe. It was a glorious late summer day and the congregation spilled outside into the sunshine. Afterwards everyone enjoyed a wonderful wake at Aldby Park, sharing stories of Will and celebrating his life. He will be greatly missed by everyone who knew him.

Our carol service is being held on Sunday 12th December at 6.30 pm with refreshments in the church afterwards. This is usually very well supported by the village and everyone is welcome.

CRAMBE

Autumn is here at last; the nights are getting longer and the days cooler and the leaves are beginning their wonderful golden autumn display.

We have had three services here in Crambe in the last quarter and it has been lovely to be able to share in coffee, biscuits and chat afterwards once again.



Our Harvest festival service was a very joyous occasion. The church was beautifully decked out with plenty of vegetables, fruit and flowers and very well attended. It was good to hear everyone in good voice as we sang the traditional harvest hymns accompanied by Michael Harran on the organ. Following the service we tucked into an array of delicious apple pies with cheese and wine, and Linda Walker's highly popular 'Rocky road! A huge thank you to everyone who came and decorated the church and donated so much. All the produce was taken to 'Next Steps' a mental health charity in Norton who run a drop in centre for activities, a café, and

provide help for those who are struggling.

We now look forward to the **Lily Festival on November 2nd** at 7.0 pm to which everyone is invited. A special service at which loved ones will be remembered. In the event that you are unable to attend, or perhaps uneasy about being in a large gathering, the church is always open during the day so you can drop by at your own convenience, enjoy the peace of our lovely church surrounded by the displays of lilies and also light a candle if you wish.

December 18th sees the return of our much-loved Celebration of Christmas in carols, prose and poems by candlelight. This year we will be supported by our talented community choir 'Women in Harmony' and the service will be followed by mulled wine and refreshments. We hope that this year, once again, everyone will be able to enjoy a very Happy Christmas with family and friends.

FLAXTON

It is good to be getting back to some normality in church life and we hope that life for your family and friends is getting better too.

We as a PCC are aware that some people are still vulnerable and anxious despite having their double vaccines, and we respect and encourage

people's wishes to maintain social distancing and wearing of masks whilst in church if they so wish. Some churches across the Benefice are now back to opening on a daily basis. At present Flaxton is not open but we are working towards this happening in the near future.

Three of our stalwart church Circular distributors have decided it is time to stand down. Each has served over 25 years in this role. Thank you to you all for your dedication and energy over the years. We are looking for help to replace these people as it is too big a task for 2-3 people to cover the whole of the village. If you think you can help please get in touch with Ida on 01347 878432 as soon as possible.

A number of people have asked if we were holding a harvest lunch this year. We usually have between 35-50 people at this event and as social distancing etc. was still very much to the fore, we decided to err on the side of caution and not hold the lunch. Here's to 2022!

We are very pleased to welcome back to church in early December the staff and children of Flaxton's Little Green Rascals Nursery when they will hold their Nativity service for their families and carers.

Toy Service: There will be a Holy Communion Service on **12th December at 10.00am** at which a collection of new toys and other gifts suitable for ages 0-18 years will be gratefully received on behalf of the Salvation Army Christmas Appeal. Monetary donations also gratefully received. Every year the numbers of families increase and your support for this Appeal is very much appreciated by the Salvation Army and Social Services.

As things begin to open up more we will do our best to keep you informed of what is happening over the next few months. Information is on the website but we are aware not everyone has access to that facility, and so we will keep in touch via word of mouth, notice boards and flyers.

FOSTON

We had a very productive evening packing Christmas boxes for the Romanian appeal. We were very pleased to fill 40 boxes with many lovely gifts for families. They are sent with love from our little church. X



GATE HELMSLEY

The cooling weather and shortening daylight hours remind us of the ending of summer and the beginning of winter. Let's hope that this winter brings better things than the last one.

This time last year, we managed to deliver "harvest in a bag" to all our parishioners. This year we were able to celebrate harvest thanksgiving in person in Gate Helmsley village hall. Chris Wingfield led a harvest Evensong service after which we shared a different kind of harvest supper. Thank you to Chris and to everyone who helped with this event. We were fortunate to have extra helpers this year, both from the village and from St Peter's Upper Helmsley. Thank you all for your hard work.

In order to keep everyone safe, we served the supper in a cardboard box and paper bag. This proved ideally suited to the menu: a variety of sandwiches and home-made delicatessen, with cake, fruit, cheese and biscuits. There were several other benefits – absolutely no food waste, a ready-made "doggie bag" to take home next day's lunch, easily recycled packaging and minimum washing-up – only the coffee cups and saucers.

Because of Covid, the harvest festival was one of only two fund-raising events we were able to host over the last eighteen months. Over the evening we raised £730 for church funds, a welcome contribution to the depleting church coffers.

Because of St Mary's shortage of both human and financial resources, we organised a public meeting in mid-August with the title "Save it or Close it". A good number – though only a relatively small proportion of the village population – attended the meeting and we also received encouraging messages from others who were unable to be there. There was unanimous support to keep the church open.

This may well be possible with additional help from parishioners. Some have already put their support into action, committing to making a regular financial contribution to the church. Practical help is also being given with fund-raising and with churchyard maintenance. We are very grateful. Notes of the meeting are now available on the Harton Benefice website www.sandhuttongroup.org.uk. (Go to Our Churches/Gate Helmsley)

If you would like to make a regular financial gift to the church, please contact the PCC Honorary Treasurer, David Fletcher on 01759 371513 for the relevant forms. This is one of the best ways you can help because it

enables the treasurer to budget efficiently rather than having to manage “hand to mouth”.

The Christmas season will soon be upon us. Local events for December can be found elsewhere in this edition of the Circular – a Festival of Light for Santa Lucia, village carols and a Christmas morning service. We will hold the annual church Christmas Fayre on-line again this year. We hope that we may have an equally good response this time – see separate advert.

The village hall library is now back in action, 10.00 am to 12.00 noon on the second Saturday in each month. Do come along for a chat and a cuppa, not to mention the vast number of books and jigsaws that are available to borrow. Our continuing thanks to Christine Bickerdike for running the library.

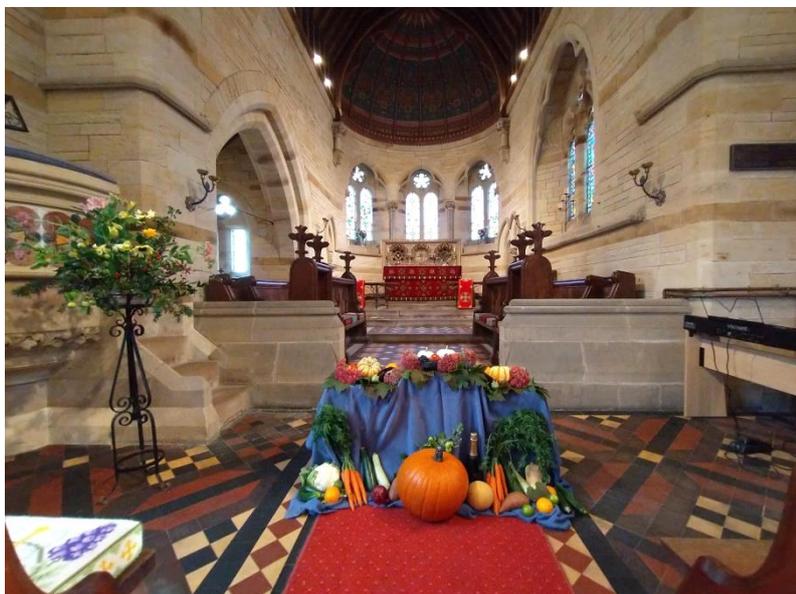
Sadly the Bickerdike family are grieving the loss of Ruth Power, nee Bickerdike. Ruth was born in the village, growing up here with her siblings Anne, George and Noel. She and her husband, Anthony, had a home at Gabriel Cottage. We extend our deepest sympathy to Anthony and all Ruth’s family in their loss.

HOWSHAM

We had a marvellous churchyard clean-up on August Bank Holiday Monday. It was very well attended and an amazing amount of work was done. A great BBQ was enjoyed in the evening.

Harvest Festival, led by Sister Margaret Ann, was another lovely occasion.

There was a good turn-out followed by supper and wine and the famous Auction. The ruthless auctioneer managed to persuade everyone to shell out a grand total of £468 on fruit, veg, jams and baking. The proceeds were divided between Ryedale Special Families and a charity helping Afghan Refugees in Scarborough.



The phone box restoration has been completed thanks to Mike Shaw. We still need more photos, memorabilia etc about the Church, the Mill and Howsham Hall.

We are hoping to have our usual Cake Stall and Raffle at the York Auction Centre Fatstock Show on Monday 6th December from 9.30am.

Our Carol Service will be at 6pm on Sunday 19th December followed by refreshments

SAND HUTTON and CLAXTON

Many of us have been enjoying the relaxation of Covid restrictions giving us the opportunity to spend time with family and friends.

A big thank you to Jez and Adrian for hosting 'Afternoon tea'

early in September at Sand Hutton Church. We were blessed with warm weather so enjoyed tea and cake outside. A big welcome was given to seventeen members of the police force who were working in the area and with whom we enjoyed sharing our tea. A local produce stall from the young people's allotment was well supported.

Thank you to all who supported and helped to make this a true community event.



Sitting in the sunshine and yes, lots of cake for tea!



Malton Food Bank Closed

We are no longer able to send our contributions to Malton but hope to start collecting again during November once we have located a local collection point, so keep an eye open for the return of the collection box in Claxton.

Now that St. Mary's Church is open each day, you are invited to DIY refreshments whilst you sit and reflect. There is also the opportunity to leave prayer requests and take booklets etc. that you may find helpful. If you wish to chat confidentially, please make contact with a member of the ministry team (contact numbers on the back page)

We were sad to say goodbye to dear **Freda Goodrick** who died peacefully on August 10th. Many of us have lasting memories of her life well lived in this community. Freda was a faithful member of the Methodist Chapel in Claxton, working alongside Sheila Jackson until the Chapel closed. In later years she would be seen hopping over the Church fence to join us in worship at St Mary's. She will be remembered by many for her brilliant sense of humour, her cheeky smile and her endless hard work in the garden. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be for Freda's family.

Congratulations to Digby and Emma and Colin and Jane who celebrated their weddings with very few Covid restrictions! Wishing you every happiness as you journey together.



Digby and Emma



Colin and Jane

“Welcome back!” celebration service

On Sunday 5th September, St Mary’s, Sand Hutton was delighted to host a special celebration service of worship and music. This service marked an end to many of the restrictions which had been necessary over the past 18 months and a return to sung worship. It was wonderful to have the Benefice choir who sang an introit and an anthem, and led the congregation in the singing of the hymns and settings. Our thanks go out to them and their musical director Peter Stott and to all those who contributed with readings, prayers and refreshments following the service.

Bill Wrigglesworth (14/07/39 – 02/10/21) Bill lived in Sand Hutton (next to the school) for many years then, more recently, in Gate Helmsley. He had been in poor health for a little while and passed away in his sleep on 2nd October. Bill had a great interest in tractors, machinery, steam engines of all kinds and he enjoyed visiting various shows. He also enjoyed gardening and visiting and chatting with local friends and neighbours. Bill worked for more than twenty years for Bob Fawcett of Kissthorn Farm and then at BATA prior to his retirement.

He was a loving husband, father, brother, grandfather and friend to many. Our best wishes and condolences go to those who loved and knew him.

Downton revisited

On the evening of 15th October, Allen Warren gave a presentation at the village hall, taking us on a tour of a number of North Yorkshire country houses around the First World War. He explored and introduced us to the history and lives of the families who lived in those houses – educational and enlightening. The talk was followed by refreshments and an opportunity to socialise. The event was well supported and raised £360 for church funds. Our thanks go to Allen and to all those who attended and helped in any way.

Fund Raising

November 6th ..Gifts for Christmas in Sand Hutton Village Hall. Details in the events section of this Circular.

March 18th 2022...Mills family quiz night. Keep the date for a fun evening. Full details will be in the next issue of the Circular.

May we take this opportunity to wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas!

WHITWELL



We had a lovely family gathering afternoon in the churchyard on 16th August with a kick-start to funds in aid of a defibrillator for Whitwell Village. Simon Bolli won the box of fruit, pictured here with his son Frankie, and also with Maria Needham. With extremely generous donations, we raised £1142.50 (plus gift aid) and the remainder has been completed by Whitwell PPC who, subject to permission from BT, is hoping for the defibrillator to be placed near the telephone box.

Everyone is welcome to come to our candlelit Carol Service on 9th December, at 6.30. 'Generation Groove' will be the musicians at the service. Mince pies and mulled wine will be served!



**NEWS FROM OUR
SCHOOLS.....**

Sand Hutton C of E Primary School

We are very pleased to be back at school for the Autumn term which is already in full swing.

Both our schools are working closely together again which is a real blessing. We are busy planning Harvest in church for October 20th and it will be a time to celebrate more than just our gratitude for our wonderful Harvest this year.

We would like to welcome our new starters. They are settling in well and we know that very soon it will be as though they have always been here.

We hope that everyone in our local community is beginning to enjoy seeing family and friends again. We know that we have missed that very much and while we have been very grateful for the technology which has kept us in touch, there is no real substitute for a real smile in the room!

Our children are smiling. We have already welcomed a skate park which brought fun and laughter. We were lucky with the weather and it looked like it was a great experience for even the more reluctant of our children. Perseverance has been the theme of our half term and we saw this in action that day!

Finally, we would like to let you know that we are putting together Christmas shoeboxes before we finish for half term. This is our chance to spread a little love.

Mrs Pawson and everyone at Sand Hutton C of E Primary

Kind regards,

Beverley Pawson



Foston School C of E Primary School

It has been lovely to welcome the children back to school. Our new reception and nursery children have settled well and are enjoying our provision.

Mr. Webb has begun to share his musical expertise in weekly sessions with KS1 and 2. They will be learning to play the ukelele and drums.

This term the KS2 topic is looking at Islamic history and the KS1 children will be learning about London.

Our play based early years provision, whilst led by children's interests will also focus on the theme of woodlands, and the children will be learning about animals and hibernation.

Exciting news at Foston with the completion of our new classroom. With our growing numbers we now have four classes. Mr. Carlisle teaches our

year 5/6 children, Miss Stringer and Mrs Allon teach year 3/4, Miss Allwood teaches year 1/2, and Miss Midwood nursery and reception.

If you would like to come and visit us to see what our school and nursery has to offer please contact us on fostonoffice@foston.n-yorks.sch.uk.

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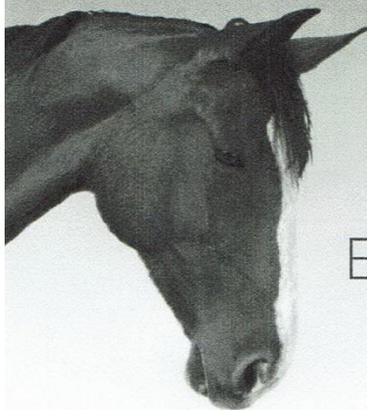
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Whitwell on the Hill, St John the Evangelist YO60 7JJ

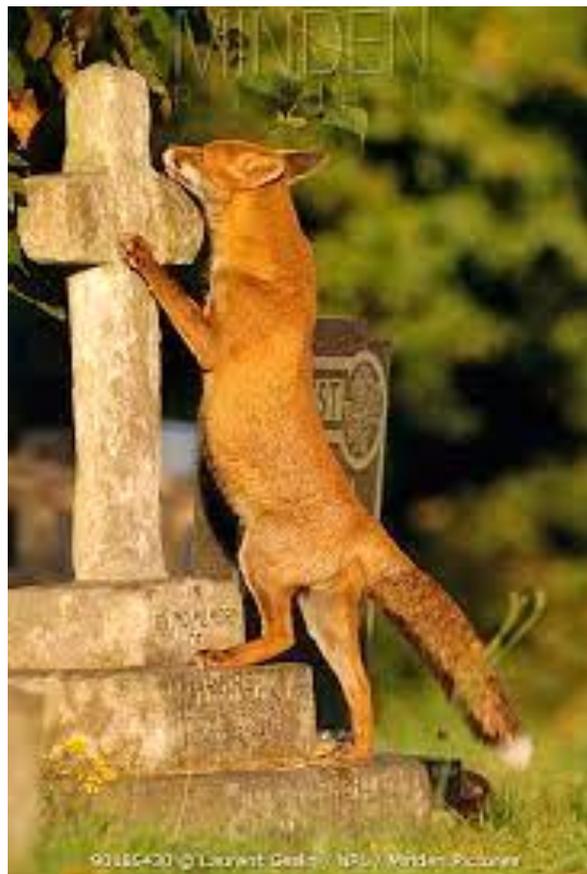
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The Circular

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**Happy Christmas
from the
Printing Team**