



# Happy Christmas from Your Parish News



Picture: Rachel Jones (Nee Winn)



## Village Store and Post Office Christmas Opening

### Store

- \* Christmas Eve - 6.15am -1pm
- \* Christmas Day - Closed
- \* Boxing Day - 9 - 10am
- \* Fri 27<sup>th</sup> - Mon 30<sup>th</sup> Normal Hours
- \* New Year's Eve - 6.15 am -1pm then 2-4pm
- \* New Year's Day - 9-11am

### Post Office

- \* 9am-1pm
- \* Closed
- \* Closed
- \* Normal Hours
- \* 9am-1pm then 2-4pm
- \* Closed



- \* All other week days as normal Store 6.15am - 1pm then 2-8pm & Post office 9am-1pm then 2-5.30pm

### A very Merry Christmas to all our customers

Last dates for posting: 1<sup>st</sup> class is Fri 20<sup>th</sup> Dec and 2<sup>nd</sup> class is Wed 18<sup>th</sup> Dec

Remember we sell those lucky Christmas Lottery scratch cards to hide under the Christmas day dinner plates.

We also sell Christmas Yankee candles, wrapping paper, cards, sweets, chilled beer, wine and soft drinks.

### All the fun of the Christmas Fayre

Please support our local shop and pub this Christmas and remember that you can also treat yourself to some Venison or Bison from Farnless Farm in Bishop Middleham who also have a cottage to rent if you're out of space for friends or relatives staying: Details available on 0191 3771428

Drinking and driving don't mix, so give Travel 6 a ring 01740 655644. Carole and Tony will be happy to offer taxi services to your Christmas events so that you can fully enjoy the Christmas cheer!

There's lots for you to get involved in during the year: watch for details on the notice boards and [www.facebook.com/bishopmiddleham](http://www.facebook.com/bishopmiddleham) E-mail: [Bishopmiddlehamnewsletter@outlook.com](mailto:Bishopmiddlehamnewsletter@outlook.com)



## Chairman's Christmas Chatter:



When people come together to organise and enjoy events, a group of houses becomes a community and judging, once again, from everything that has been going on across the Parish this year, we clearly live in a wonderful, vibrant community. As ever, big thanks to everyone who organises and comes along to support those events. Still fresh in my memory is the Fireworks which was once again spectacular and feels like it's now a regular in our calendar.

It's also been St Michael's Church Year of the Sheep which has been a great success with sheep related activities throughout the year involving many Parish societies - folk both young and old. Sheep have travelled worldwide and have also been kindly handcrafted and donated since the spring. Each one will be given to a participating family who are hosting the wooden Nativity set for a night during Advent.



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also been kindly handcrafted and donated since the spring. Each one will be given to a participating family who are hosting the wooden Nativity set for a night during Advent. So much to get involved with and enjoy: the Ceilidh, Songs of Praise, Heritage Open day, St Michael's School 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and friends of the school murder mystery night, the Horticultural & Craft show, History Society talks, coffee & cake at the Post Office, summer fête, gin tasting, Castle Lake open day, Village Quiz and many more.

The highlight of the year for me were the archaeological digs at the Castle and Quarry. The finds were amazing, with the fascinating talk at the Village Hall reminding us that there's been a thriving community here for millennia.



Big thanks go to Paul Gray who is retiring after more years than he cares to remember as our Parish Clerk. Paul has made a significant contribution to our community for which we're so very grateful. We look forward to seeing him at future events and wish him a very happy retirement (we always need volunteers Paul!).

### Xmas dates for your diary

Date	Event
Nov 29 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Fayre Supporting St Michael's Church Village Hall 6pm
Dec 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Christmas Menu begins at the Cross Keys. 3 courses for £19.95 Call 01740 651231 to book
5 <sup>th</sup>	Food Bank Collection (For Ferryhill Foodbank) with music and refreshments Village Hall 7—9pm
Date TBC	Foliage Wreath making workshop Village Hall  NB: Booking is essential watch out for details on the noticeboards and Facebook page
8 <sup>th</sup>	Carols around the Christmas Tree with Ferryhill Town Band at the Brewery Field 4pm followed by mince pies & mulled wine in the Cross Keys.
17 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Quiz 9pm, Cross Keys.
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Parish Carol Service St Michael's 6.30pm followed by seasonal refreshments
24 <sup>th</sup>	Crib Service St Michaels 4pm
24 <sup>th</sup>	Midnight Mass Service St Michaels 11.30pm

Finally, as always, I call on everyone to be extra good neighbours through the winter. Please check on the elderly and infirm, help clear snow and offer company to the lonely. These small acts of kindness make a huge difference. See you all on the 8<sup>th</sup> at 4pm for carols around the Christmas tree and mulled wine after in the Keys.

**Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!**  
from your Parish Council team