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 Wishes all his customers a HAPPY CHRISTMAS
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↑
more likely 49.

Editor's Letter

Dear Readers

I have not yet received my first Christmas card but I am sure it will have arrived by the time this newsletter is in your homes.

When we think of Christmas we often remember the good friends we have. Even though it is not always possible to see our friends regularly, this time of goodwill bestows upon us the opportunity to exchange Christmas greetings.

These personal messages will once again be despatched, but even after the last words have been written, there will still be messages which have not been expressed.

This year I have been given a rare opportunity, courtesy of the Haydon News, to wish every reader a Very Enjoyable Christmas Holiday. I cannot let this opportunity pass without thanking all the many people who have given our family support during the time that we have been fostering mentally handicapped children. It has been a joy to us over the past years to experience the willingness of our neighbours and friends to accept these children as members of the community, and as part of our family while they are in our charge. Our children and their many friends have played with and given hours of help to these new members of our family. Thank you, everyone.

Maybe by the time this issue hits your hall carpets we will have completed the sale of our house and the purchase of 10, Radcliffe Road. This larger house will enable us to remain foster parents as we will have more living and bedroom space. We have spent 9 very happy years living on Alexandra Terrace. In a way we shall be sorry to leave. However it is a very exciting period, even though a little stressful at times.

Since I became Editor of this newsletter I have enjoyed seeing each issue printed and delivered to your homes. My enjoyment has been a little marred by the recent correspondence from a Hexham solicitor on behalf of Community Rural Aid Ltd. Many of you will have been puzzled by the apology I issued in the last Haydon News. A fuller explanation is made in this issue. However as costs to the tune of £175 have been paid by the Friends of Haydon Bridge, it is possible that our present financial position may force us, reluctantly, to make the next issue of the Haydon News our last.

So with this in mind I have decided not to issue a January edition, and hope that with you the readers' support we can find a way to raise enough money to continue printing in the future. If your Christmas Good Wishes could extend to giving us a small donation it will be gratefully accepted. The costs we incur are for materials only and these have increased many times this past year. All other practicalities, such as typing, printing and distributing, are done with good will by a band of helpers.

I have taken this opportunity to reprint a membership form for the "Friends of Haydon Bridge".

May I this Christmas hope that I will still be in a position to write a Christmas greeting in 1984. So, having mentioned the year one thousand nineteen hundred and eighty-four, please join with me in hoping that we will all enjoy good health, joy in our relationships with others, and peace in our personal lives coupled with a prayer for peace in our world.

Greeting and joy
Marion Howard

Parish Council Pickings

The Council met on 24 November. Nine councillors were present.

A member of the public asked for detailed information about the proposed Adventure Playground in Belmont Gardens. The Parish Council is not the prime mover in this matter, and at the moment the plans are in the hands of County Hall. No details have yet emerged and it is not certain that the Parish Council has to be consulted on the proposed plans. They will however almost certainly be shown to Tynedale District, and this should provide an opportunity for Parish Councillors who are members of the District Council to report back.

In Cllr Waite's absence, no new information was forthcoming about the library. Renovation work seems to be progressing only slowly, possibly because of shortage of materials, possibly illness of the foreman. The Council noted that branch libraries had been mentioned by the Leader of the County Council as likely victims of the County's need to save £6 million in 1984/5!!

The operator of the mobile freezer van which appears on Wednesdays has a valid hawker's licence. He is therefore entitled to trade within its terms, provided he causes no obstruction.

The County Council has undertaken to cleanse the bridge underpass, and Tynedale District will clear the grass growing in the old bridge guttering. This should enable the bridge to be kept in a cleaner state.

A complaint by tenants using the garages behind Greenwich Gardens was raised. Apparently large lorries park in the access road and make it difficult if not impossible to get in and out. Cllr Beniams will mention the problem to Tynedale District in their capacity as landlords of the garages.

The occasional near-blockage of Shaftoe Street by vehicles parked on both sides was raised. The Council would like to hear whether a proposal for unilateral parking would be welcomed.

Poppy Day raised £319. The Council agreed to repeat its annual donation of £75 to Age Concern.

Finally, the Parish Rate. On the face of it, the Council is committed to spending £3617 in 1984/5. However £1000 of this is the Parish's contribution to running the library, and it is far from certain that the whole of it will be required next year. So it was decided to hold the rate for 1984/5 at 2p in the £, to raise £3314 on sizeable values as they stood last year, probably a shade more this time.

Pat Sharp

The Committee of the Friends were sad to see Pat Sharp stand down from the Chairmanship at the end of the Annual General Meeting. He had given the Friends much of his time and energy during his four-year stint, and the Committee would like the village to know of the great contribution which he made to the maintenance of the Friends as a going concern.

As his successor, I thank him for handing over the organisation in a healthy and vigorous condition: it will be my endeavour to keep it that way in the future.

John Richardson

* * *

HAYDON BRIDGE GIRL GUIDES "New Year - New Look"


The first meeting of the Haydon Bridge Girl Guides will be Thursday 12th January 1984.

SHOP WINDOW ON CHRISTMAS

LECK AND TELFORD

To all our customers Best Wishes for Christmas
and the New Year

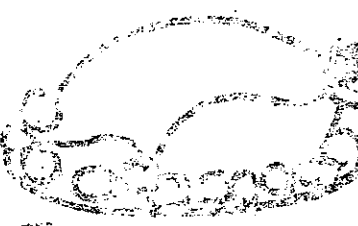
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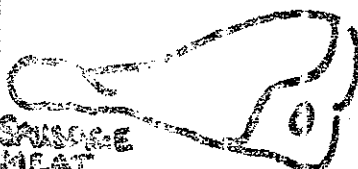
HOME BAKED CAKES

Allypatterson



FRESH TURKEY

Allypatterson



SPICED
MEAT.

ENGLISH HAM / PORK

Allypatterson




HOME COOKED MEAT

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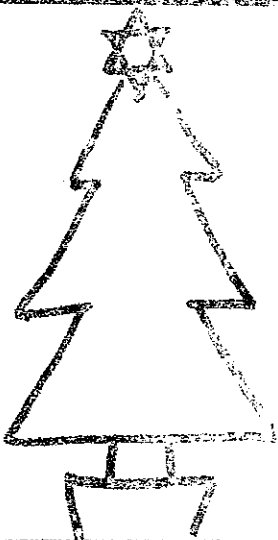


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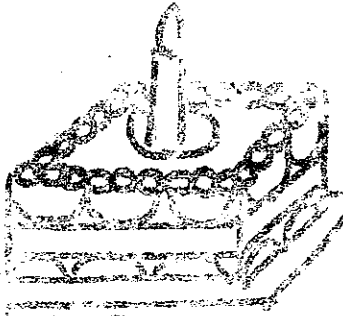
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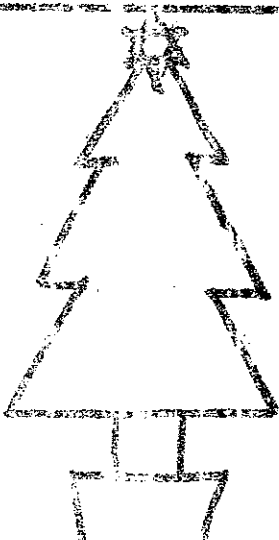
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FANCY ICE CREAM

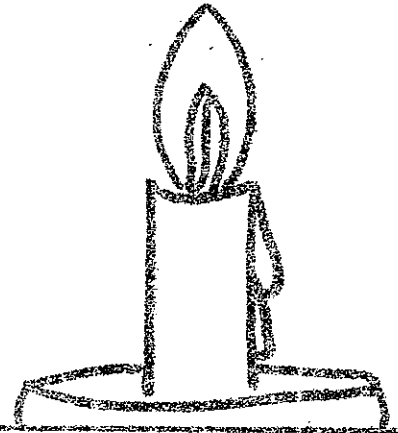
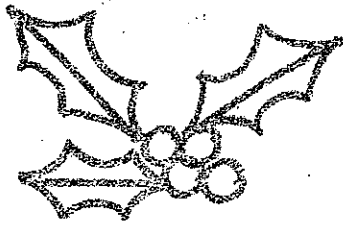
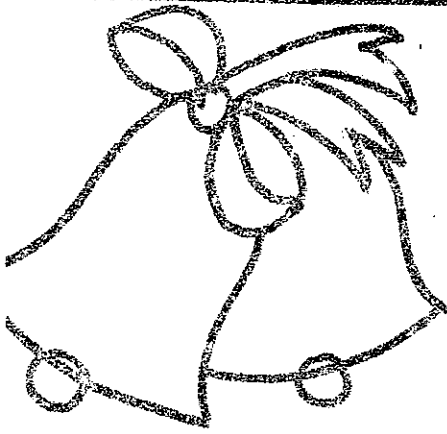


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CHRISTMAS
CAKES TO
ORDER.



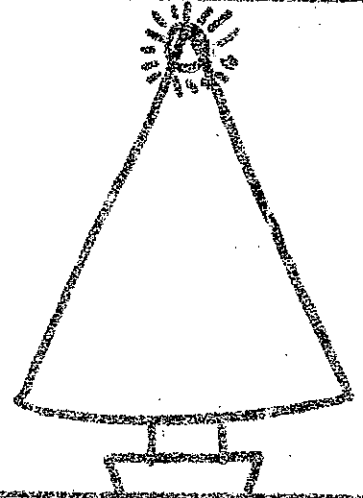


JOHN & MAUREN CLARKE

Best Wishes for Christmas
and the

New Year

To all our Customers

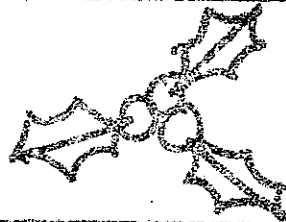
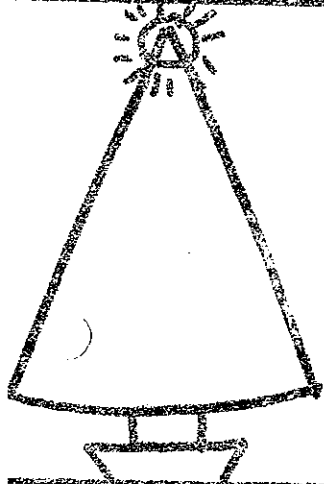


W & M MARSH

Seasons Greetings

to all our

Customers



THE PORTEOUS FAMILY

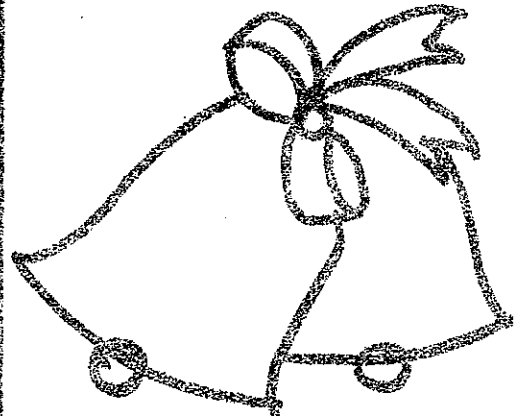
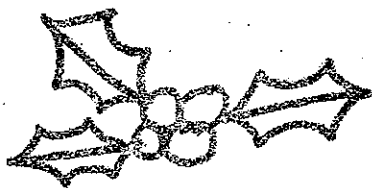
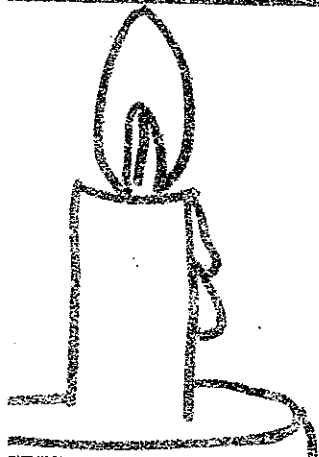
wish all their customers

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HAPPY CHRISTMAS and

Best Wishes for the

NEW YEAR



From the start of this New Year onwards the meetings will take place in the Shaftoe Trust First School Hall.

The new Guide Guider will be Mrs M. Howard, known already to most of you as the editor of this magazine. Some of you will realise that for many years I was assistant Guide Guider when Mrs M. Hutchinson was Guider.

Mrs M. Boyd has agreed to help as my assistant, a task which she has done very successfully in the past year.

Once again the message is:

Thursday 12th January 1984
Shaftoe Trust First School
at 6.00 pm

Mrs. M. Howard
Mrs. M. Boyd

* * *

West Tynedale Round Table

Tuesday 20th December 1983.

The Christmas Tree Lights will be turned on to brighten our Christmas Holiday.

Once again we will be holding a Carol Concert outside St. Cuthberts Church. The Silver Band will support our efforts, so come and join us.

* * *

A Christmas Bird "The Robin"

Christmas Character

The Victorian postmen wore frock coats of scarlet and were nick-named "robins". As a result of this the robin was soon portrayed on many cards delivered before Christmas by the "robins".

Robin Folklore

Harm a robin and your hand will start to shake, or your fingers will grow crooked. In pagan times it was held sacred as the bird of Thor, the Viking thunder god. The explanations for its red breast are many. One story tells how the robin plucked a thorn from Jesus' crown at the crucifixion. Another tells how he singed his breast when quenching the flames of the burning wren who had returned from Hell with fire for mankind.

He is also said to have braved the fires of Purgatory to take drops of water to the souls of the dead.

For those who enjoy pantomime, it was the robins who covered the Babes in the Wood with leaves.

Keeping "Abreast" of the records

The cat is the robin's number one enemy. Cats take forty times more robins than any of the birds of prey.

The Pilgrim Fathers failed to find a robin in America, so they gave its name to a larger thrush which sported a red breast.

On record, the oldest wild robin is held by an Irish robin which lived 11 years. However the average lifespan is little more than a year.

In 1961, after a spate of letters to "The Times", the robin was elected National Bird.

A Robin's Christmas Feast

Small insects, beetles, flies, spiders, earthworms and snails form the bulk of a robin's diet. In autumn they supplement their diet with a menu of berries and fruits from bushes. Sometimes they will take minnows and tadpoles. On the bird table in winter robins love fatty foods such as cheese and it is said they can tell Stork from Butter. Seeds, nuts and oats are much appreciated, but if you feel like spoiling a robin, offer him some mealworms.

The Robin

"Art thou the bird who man loves best; the pious bird with scarlet breast, out little English robin?" (William Wordsworth).

* * *

Christmas Thought

This year my poem is rather sad, for round the world things are so bad: Fighting, spiteing, grief and woe almost everywhere we go. So dear friends, on Christmas Day, let us all in our own special way Pray for love in all mankind, then peace and joy we may truly find.

Merry Christmas to all.

May I also add a very special thank you and Merry Christmas to Marion, our editor, and all her helpers.

J.E.S.

* * *

Ice Breakers

By the time this month's News comes out, Haydon Bridge Breakers will have presented a cheque for £165 to Hexham General Hospital, towards a special incubator for the maternity unit. The money was raised by a 24-hour sponsored modulation, which meant talking about anything and everything from midday on the Saturday until midday on the Sunday. Congratulations are due to all those who took part, especially to those who braved the cold in the tent on a very exposed hilltop which became known as "Ice Station Zebra" as the night wore on. It must have seemed like the longest 24 hours of your lives, but I'm sure everyone thought it was worth it in the end. In addition to the club's £165, another £50 has been donated by the emergency monitoring organisation, REACT.

The Christmas party will take place on 17th December in Newbrough Town Hall. The ticket price of £1.50 includes a disco and buffet-style food. Tickets are available from committee members.

The treasure hunt was won by Taxmar, who successfully worked out the most clues. There were some complaints about the fact that entrants were asked to bring back an acorn, among other items, but several acorns did turn up at the finishing post, which goes to show that those who said acorns were out of season just didn't look hard enough! For those who are still puzzling over the anagram, the answer was HOLLY LEAF.

We hope to hold similar events in the New Year, when we've all recovered from the festivities, and the weather has improved a bit. I think we've done very well this year, for a new club. Some events have been better attended than others, but none has been a complete flop. I'd like to add my personal vote of thanks to the committee, who have worked very hard behind the scenes to make the club a success. Let's hope it's still as successful this time next year.

It just remains for me to wish everyone a very merry Christmas, and all the best for the New Year. 10-10 for now.

Jean Genie.

Red Cross Society

The annual subscriptions to the Haydon Bridge branch of the British Red Cross Society amounted to £160.70. Mrs. Nicholl would like to thank all those who subscribed so generously to the Fund.

M.J. Nicholl

* * *

Arthritis and Rheumatism Council for Research

Many readers may not be aware that there is a local branch of the ARC in Haydon Bridge. The secretary is Mrs D. Beniams and the treasurer myself. It is said that one person in fifty will not suffer from arthritis within their lifetime. You may be one of the lucky ones to escape this painful and crippling condition; clearly many do not. So far a cure has baffled research. Research requires money. Individual donations to this cause will be welcome at all times. Each year our local branch organises efforts and makes a modest contribution.

One outstanding gift of £250 came this year from Miss Susan Beer as a result of sponsorship in the Great North Run. She has of course been thanked for this but I also think that this fine effort is worthy of public recognition.

C. Coombes

* * *

For Sale

4 dining room chairs	£40 ono
1 fireside chair	£25 ono
1 chair commode	£40 ono
small square table	£10 ono

Mrs V. Renney, 20 Strother Close, Haydon Bridge.

* * *

Christmas Turkeys

Dressed Turkeys - oven-ready - including delivery - 95p per lb.

Jack A. Hindle, Woodhall Mill Farm, Haydon Bridge. (Tel. HB. 524)

* * *

Haydon Bridge Poppy Appeal 1983

Thanks to the hard work of all the poppy collectors and the kindness of those who allowed poppies to be sold on their premises, a grand total of £319.89. This marvellous total included the collection from the combined churches Remembrance service and the purchase of poppy wreathes.

On behalf of the Royal British Legion 1983 Poppy I should like to thank most sincerely all those who worked so hard and everyone who donated so generously.

Margaret S. Bradley
Hon. Organiser.

Haydon Bridge Concert

In the subdued lighting associated with romantic occasions, an attentive and appreciative audience in Haydon Bridge Methodist Church listened to a concert given by Anna McCready (flute & viola), Katrine Heath (flute & voice) and Paul Croft (guitar & flute) in aid of the Third World charity, Tear Fund.

The concert consisted of music from the 17th and 19th centuries commencing with Jean Baptiste Loeillet's Trio Sonata in G major for two flutes and guitar. This piece set the scene beautifully for the whole evening with the smooth harmony of the flutes pointed up by the delicate interweaving of the guitar part.

Three movements from James Dook's Trio for Three Flutes followed and the artistry of the three flautists contrasting yet complementary held the audience enthralled.

A change of scene with lute songs from the early 17th century by John Dowland brought from the audience appreciation of these pop songs from another era and these were followed by two skilful interpretations of the Sonata in D major by Locatelli and the Grand Sonata, Opus 45, by Giuliani, both for flute and guitar.

In the final piece the guitar of Paul Croft and the flute of Katrine Heath were joined by Anna McCready's viola for a fine finale, a trio by Molino.

It was an evening of rare entertainment and enjoyment played by three musicians whose feast of music was well supported by the feast of food which followed. £45 was raised for Tear Fund.

* * *

Haydon Bridge Scouts and Cubs

May I take this opportunity, on behalf of Haydon Bridge Scouts and Cubs, to thank everyone who contributed to making the Christmas Bazaar such a great success. Thanks to the parents and friends who helped on the day, the people who gave so generously and everyone who supported by attending the bazaar.

The Scouts and Cubs need the support of the village to continue and it is most pleasing to report that a grand total of £300.80 was made.

Lastly I must congratulate the Scouts and Cubs who worked extremely hard both leading up to and on the bazaar day. It is most encouraging that they are so keen to raise funds for themselves.

Joyce Brown

* * *

Thanks to All Concerned

The results of the efforts on 18th and 19th November in the Methodist Church were as follows:

Traidcraft Evening -
Goods sold £155.29.
Instrumental concert and supper in aid of Tear Fund £45.50.

Thank you, everyone, whatever your contribution, and to Mr. Paul Croft and Friends who shared their musical talents free of charge.

* * *

- 3 -

Haydon Bridge Methodist Church

You are cordially invited to the following services and meetings:

- | | | | |
|-----|----|------------------|--|
| Dec | 11 | 10.45 am
6 pm | Family Toy Service - Rev. A. Wignall
Mr. J. W. Johnson |
| | 18 | 10.45 am
6 pm | Mr. P. Eavis - Sunday School Carol Singing around the village (weather permitting)
United Carol Service with Haydon Bridge Silver Band. |
| Dec | 21 | 2.30 | Women's Own - Carol Service |
| | 24 | 4 pm
11.30 pm | Candle-lit Nativity Service with Sunday School Children
Christmas Eve Holy Communion |
| | 25 | 9.30 am | Christmas Morning Service - Rev. A. Wignall.
(No evening service) |
| Jan | 7 | 7 pm | "Stargazers" Epiphany Music and Drama |
| | 8 | 10.45 am | "Stargazers" |

* * *

St. John's Catholic Church, North Bank, Haydon Bridge

The Editor kindly asked me to write a message for Christmas. I am very pleased to do so, particularly to have this opportunity to wish all of you a very happy, holy and peaceful Christmas.

To think of Christmas is for many of us, to remember our childhood days. Days when the world seemed a very cosy place. The world was very good and our homes were very warm in every sense of the word. Bright red fires, presents and wrappings galore, lots of food: Mum in the kitchen and the lovely smell of the Christmas dinner, etc, etc. Life was so happy and secure. What days they were, and now, sadly over.

Now we have grown up. The cosy world has vanished; gone is our picture of a peaceful land or world; gone too for many of us the bright red roaring fires. Security and simplicity have gone and instead, we live in a world of fear. The Polish Government is in fear. The warring factions of the Middle East are full of fear. The dictator regimes of South America live in fear. Nations are so steeped in fear that they stockpile nuclear warheads and spend vast sums of money on defence while millions are dying of hunger. Nearer home we see our own society is almost suffocated by fear, in so many different ways.

Is Christmas then only a childhood dream? Is the feeling of joy and peace only an illusion? Has the harsh experience of the world shattered the happiness and holiness of Christmas?

The answer to these questions lies in a cradle 2000 years ago. Let us go back to that night so long ago. The town, a few miles outside Jerusalem, is packed with visitors returning to their ancestral home for the census of the people that was being taken. In the midst of this bustle and turmoil a baby was born. Mary gives birth to Jesus, in a stable. Down from the highest heaven, from the glory and majesty of the Almighty Father, Jesus the Son of God is born. Angels appear in the sky and tell the shepherds "Do not be afraid. I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you".

And this is the answer to all our questions. In the midst of fear, sorrow, disillusion and pain, Christ is born for us. "A Saviour is given to us". And the radiance of His light shines through our darkness. Every baby born brings love. And the baby born on Christmas Day brings the love of God. This baby is the Son of God and He is a sign and reminder that we also are children of God. We are not simply friends or acquaintances: we are children of God.

Many doors were closed in Bethlehem when Jesus was born and so those people never heard the angel's song. Many hearts were closed when Jesus came and so they never heard His words. For them Christmas was a night of darkness and unrest.

For us too, the Christmas message can mean absolutely nothing, unless we open the doors of our hearts and allow Him in. God's peace and love is offered to each one of us this Christmas, if only we attend to the message of Christmas. To help us to hear the message anew all churches in the area will have Christmas Services. Many of you will be attending your own particular church. I extend a very warm welcome to all of you to come along to our midnight Service. On Christmas Eve at about 11.30 pm carols will be sung as a preparation for our midnight Mass. We will be very pleased to have you with us.

With my renewed good wishes for a very happy Christmas,

Yours sincerely in Christ
Thomas Power.

* * *

From the Methodist Minister, Rev. A.R. Wignall:

Greetings and best wishes to all.

Birthdays are always remembered when we are children - often forgotten when we grow up. Christmas is a forgotten birthday. Oh yes, we celebrate but we forget what we should remember. "God was in Christ reconciling" (II Cor. 5).

What do I mean? "Be reconciled one to another". Christmas should be a time for putting our relationships right. It is so easy. All it needs is a card or a present. The one who receives will warm towards you at once. The ill feelings are forgotten. Joy returns. We are at-one-ment.

"Be reconciled to God". So easy too. Just go back to church. Slip in for the carol service or the midnight mass and keep coming in 1984.

And God will bless you.

* * *

St. Cuthbert's Parish Church - Christmas Services

Christmas Eve :	11.30 pm	Midnight Mass
Christmas Day :	10 am	Family Service and Communion
New Year's Day :	10 am	Parish Communion
	6 pm	United Carol Service

You will see by the times of our Christmas services that we are reintroducing the traditional Christmas Eve "Midnight Mass" after an absence of ten years. The Church Council has thought that it is right to give parishioners the opportunity to come together to observe the real Festival of Christmas in an act of worship and communion unique to the Christian Church. This is not a "watch-night" service (as some churches observe on New Year's Eve) but a sharing in the experience of the shepherds who found the Son of God in the lowliness of a stable - the Christ in the humility of the resting place of the beasts - because there was no room for Him anywhere else!

Christmas gives us each year the chance to rescue the Birth of Jesus from the obscurity and forgetfulness of a world which thinks more of prosperity than Providence; more of pleasure than Penitence; more about power than the Peace of God which passes our understanding. Perhaps we can find time for God this Christmas and room for Jesus Christ in our hearts and homes.

If you are able to come to any of our services I am sure you will find the experience rewarding - not only for the Festival but for the rest of your life. If you can find the time, God will make it worth your while. You may even want to share that other experience of the shepherds after they had visited the stable in Bethlehem and make known the Good News of the Saviour to the waiting world. "And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen ..."

So you can find the real meaning of Christmas in the Christian Church - whichever one you attend - and you can expect to find Jesus in the worship and communion - whenever you come. The reason why Christmas is a family festival is because the Son of God was born into a human family and lived like any one of us - we are reminded of the words of the carol "Once in royal David's city":

"He came down to earth from heaven
Who is God and Lord of all;
And his shelter was a stable,
And his cradle was a stall:
With the poor and mean and lowly
Lived on earth our Saviour holy."

We hope you will come and join us in our Christmas services and enjoy the festival more because you came. You will be welcomed by us - and by God - and the present you receive will be better than any money can buy: God's gift of His Son, the Saviour of all mankind - and that means all of us!

Sincerely yours,
Alec Beniams, Vicar.

* * *

Extracts from the Chairman's Statement at the AGM, 1983 November.

The production of the Haydon News is still the most important thing done by the Friends of Haydon Bridge and a considerable effort goes into its production and distribution by a team of dedicated people, most of whom live busy lives already. I would like to thank all the people who buy advertising space and thus keep it in funds. I want to make special mention of one or two people who do a particular amount of work. Mrs Howard who took over the Editorship in February from Mr Scudamore, Miss Beadle and Miss Mitchell who do the typing, Mrs Hawley who duplicates as well as staples together the News and Mr. and Mrs Heslop who count and distribute the bundles of the News to the people who do the door to door deliveries.

The duplicating machine gave trouble during the late summer and eventually had to be serviced and cleaned. This was done free of charge by Mr Keith Lees who was once Editor and now lives in Hexham. This saved us a great deal of money.

In June we held a produce sale and raised £70 for the Community Association.

In October the Editor received a letter from a Hexham solicitor who was acting on behalf of Community Rural Aid Ltd. They claimed that a letter published in Sept/Oct issue was defamatory of their client, and a claim was also made against her for legal expenses of £175. The committee had to hold several emergency meetings to deal with the matter.

We soon discovered that "defamation" was a legal minefield, and after taking legal advice it was conceivable that they would press the action, which would be a High Court action. This action would need legal expenses of several thousands of pounds,

and that their claim if taken to the county court might well be successful. A decision was made to print apologies.

The decision by the Committee to pay the legal expenses was not quite unanimous and was taken with great reluctance. The overriding considerations were firstly to take the pressure off the Editor by bringing the matter to a conclusion and secondly to avoid the possibility of further expenses. We told the organisation who issued the original letter that we were a voluntary group with small funds carrying out a community activity and that we held a neutral view about the subject of the letter. We hoped that they might waive their legal expenses but our appeal was in vain and so this sad affair puts the future of the Haydon News in doubt.

I would like to say that the committee in no way holds the Editor responsible for printing the letter which she did in all good faith.

In conclusion I would like to thank the Secretary and Treasurer and the Committee for their work during the year.

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Haydon Bridge Fish & Chip Shop

Christmas Arrangements:

CLOSED Saturday 24th December at 1.30 pm until
Wednesday 28th December, lunchtime 11.30 am.

* * *

Christmas in Finland

Christmas in Finland (as in England) falls at the darkest time of the year. Still, it is called the celebration of peace and light. The happy message that comes to us all on the day that Christ was born will light up the corners of the world. In Finland countless candles are lit inside and out to symbolise this light of life. But long before the big day preparations have started. The cleaning up of homes will take weeks, since everything from ceiling to floor will have to be scrubbed and polished, not forgetting cupboards and drawers. Around the same time, the first gingerbread biscuits are baked. You'll need a couple of big jars of them in every household. Evenings are still often spent making your own Christmas presents. "Own work" is still greatly valued. Before Christmas there are lots of so-called Little Christmas parties especially for children. These are just a smaller version of the big day itself, including singing, dancing, playing and even little presents to all. The main celebrations happen in the Christmas Eve. Mother will cook a huge leg of pork in the oven either the previous night or early on Christmas Eve morning. The tree that has probably been bought or chopped from the woods a couple of days before and left outside to wait, will now get brought in and be decorated, as will be the whole house. Natural spruce tree is the commonest Christmas tree. There is no shortage of them in Finland. Lots of people also still prefer natural white candles in their trees. For safety reasons though, electric lights are becoming more popular but they are still shaped as candles and always white (candles of other colours will be spread around on tables. Other decorations will include a lot made of straw, for example a straw chandelier). People with gardens often light up a fir tree out there with candles. And the ones without suitable trees will still have candles or a torch burning in the snow.

Now a Christmas without snow just would not be a Christmas at all. White Christmas is taken for granted. Christmas Eve is the longest day in any child's life. One break will come in the afternoon when everybody will sauna. After that most people will visit a graveyard, leaving a candle on a relative's grave. By this time it has gone dark and the hundreds of lit up candles flickering in the snow will look beautiful. The feeling of peace is overwhelming.

At home it's time to have that Christmas dinner. The main dish is pork, often accompanied with a Karelian Casserole, which consists of bits of different meats all cooked together over a long period of time. This is eaten with boiled potatoes and yet other casseroles, the swede one being the most "Christmassy". A herring salad with its beetroot colour will spice up the rest. The drink is often home-made beer. For pudding most people still like a traditional rice porridge. While cooking it, a couple of peeled almonds are thrown in and at the table the ones to get the almond to their mouth can make a wish. After the meal everybody will sit down to wait! If you are quiet enough you might hear reindeer bells. And soon there is that heart-stopping knock on the door. The deep voice will ask if there are any good children in this house and trembling voices will shout their "yes". Father Christmas himself will walk in with a big walking stick and sacks brimming with presents. He is often dressed in a grey heavy coat or furs and big felt boots. A seat will be offered and he may ask a child to sing. He will tell about his long journey from Korvatunturi-fell in Lapland, his reindeer sleighride down here and how busy he's been with his little helpers to make all those toys. (Incidentally, these little helpers have also been secretly watching how children behave before Christmas, peeping through the windows and reporting back to Father Christmas.) They have also picked the letters from the snow, left for Father Christmas.

When the presents have been given everybody will sing and dance and give Father Christmas some refreshments before he leaves. The "job of Father Christmas" is done by a dressed-up friend or relative, but in need you can always ring up a Father Christmas service for a small amount of money. The evening is spent singing Christmas songs and having coffee with cakes and gingerbread and a hot plum tart. On the following day, the Christmas day, all who can will go to the Christmas church service. This is often quite early in the morning and to many will mean a long walk in the snow if no car is available (all public transport is stopped for the day). Still, on that day the churches are full and those who don't make it there will watch the services on the TV. The rest of the day is spent doing very little, perhaps having a dinner in a relative's house. The children will want to try out their new skis and skates.

Come Boxing Day and the activity will start again. Weather permitting, most people will want to take part in some winter sport. And even the not so sporty-minded will feel like a brisk walk outdoors by now, to melt the over-eaten dinners. The lucky ones will have horse sleigh rides. In the old days they used to have races in sleighs. In the evening all the amusement places are now open; a lot of people like to try a dance hall or a restaurant for a Boxing Day dance to meet with friends again. It is the last fling of Christmas.

Merry Christmas to you all (Hyvaa joulua Kaikille).

Marje-Liise.

* * *

THE DAWN OF THE FIREFAWN

(suitable for 7 year olds and upwards)

Wednesday 28th December 1983

7.30 pm

HAYDON BRIDGE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Tickets available from J. Clarke's Newsagents and on the door.

(Somewhere, deep in the hills of ancient Northumbria, the gold, frankincense and myrrh lie hidden. Can they be retrieved? Can King Arthur save the land from the evil raven of battle, the Badb Catha?)

Only the Firefawn, a child of innocence and faith, can hope to help him. But will she be able to do it? She certainly tries, and the Northumberland Theatre Company will be there to plot her progress with its Christmas offering to the county, "The Dawn of the Firefawn". The first part of a three-year struggle to recover the gifts of the Magi, which were given to the Christ-child on Christmas Day, "The Dawn of the Firefawn" is the story of the quest to find the gold. On the way she travels through strange and magical places: the Bridge of Whispers, with its dreaded guardian, Cuscus the Crab Giant; the mysterious Island of Apples, with its petrifying geysers; and the frightening domain of the many-headed fire-breathing Hippocamp.

Written by Shaun Prendergast, the production has been directed by Ian Forrest, whose past work for the company includes the highly successful "The Laidley Worm of Bamburgh" two years ago. Designed once again by Judy Platt, who was showered with critical acclaim for her work on the company's Autumn production, "Twelfth Night", this show is colourful, exciting, and totally enthralling. The acting company are all veterans of "Twelfth Night", although the longest-serving member, Beccy Wright, joined the NTC last Christmas and has appeared in every production since then. Kenneth Gardiner, who plays the wicked Badb Catha, was the jester, Feste, in "Twelfth Night", while Jo Phillips Lane (Saltcrone) played Olivia, Suzette Llewellyn (Firefawn) was Viola, and Geoff Oldham (King Arthur) was Sir Andrew Aguecheek.

The production will be touring schools as well as village and town halls from Tuesday 6th December for two months. Don't miss the opportunity to travel with the Firefawn on her epic journey - it will be history in the making!

* * *

SEA COALLERS of NORTHUMBRIA LAND
an exhibition at THE OTHER PLACE
2b Tanners Yard
Gilesgate Hexham

The exhibition is a set of linocuts by Ken Ferguson about the traditional activity of sea coal gathering on the Northumbrian coastline. The exhibition opens on Tuesday 6th Dec & runs until Friday 16th Dec Tuesday to Friday 10am-4.30pm. Sat 10am-2pm. Admission is FREE and refreshments are available.

Mrs Taylor of Poplars Caravan Park
East Lands End
Maydon Bridge. Tel : Maydon Bridge 427

Supplier of CALOR GAS ***** Delivery if required

End-peace

As from 10th December 1983, my new address will be:

10, Radcliffe Road
Haydon Bridge

Tel. Haydon Bridge 535.

There will be ^{no} January issue, but every attempt will be made to have February's issue in your homes by February 3rd 1984. Please let me have all your literary contributions or notices by Monday 23rd January 1984.

Marion Howard.

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The following people have agreed to place collection boxes in their shops:

MR. J.M. CLARKE

MR. JOHN PORTEOUS at the V.G.

MR. W. NAGEL at Marshes.

The boxes will be labelled "HAYDON NEWS DONATIONS"

Friends of Haydon Bridge

Name

Address

I enclose my subscription/donation of £.....

MERRY CHRISTMAS

MERRY CHRISTMAS

MERRY CHRISTMAS

and

PEACE, JOY and HAPPINESS IN THE NEW YEAR.