



EXTRA

**A VERY MERRY
CHRISTMAS
and Happy New Year!**

The Magic of Christmas

That Christmas holds a particular magic for many of us is not in doubt though for some, it is also a challenging time.

In a spirit of openness, I must confess to an enduring character flaw (not a surprise to those who know me!). I suffer from a persistent tendency to optimism, often in the face of objective evidence to the contrary(!) Whilst I make a conscious effort to try to remain objective, I do harbour a fundamental and persistent belief that there are few situations that do not contain a small piece of Magic somewhere for those who are prepared to reach out and find them.

Having had an incredible year chatting to many folk and seeing the world from many different perspectives, I find myself thinking about the magic of Christmas and how we all seem to see it in different ways. This is very exciting, in that there is clearly something for everyone! (.....there I go again!)

For many, the magic of Christmas lies in its spiritual origin, noting that this magic may take different forms depending on personal beliefs. For some, the magic lies in company and the gathering of family and friends. In some cases, the Magic lies in giving and receiving of gifts (even here there is a value spectrum which includes thought, price and artistic merit!)

For many businesses, the magic of Christmas lies in its contribution to annual revenue, whilst for many the excitements of markets, fairs, pantomimes and outdoor events are what stick in our minds.

At a personal level, for some, Christmas brings memories, and the Magic is often tinged with sadness or loneliness.

Of course, the true Magic of Christmas for each of us will be a personal blend of many of these factors, and more that I haven't mentioned, but I firmly believe that whatever our personal blend, a little time spent thinking about its makeup may help us find new pieces of magic and bottle them for the future whilst enabling us to close any gaps caused by the present.

As we manage the challenges of 2020 and look 2021 squarely in the eye, these little pieces of Magic may just make the difference.

Whatever your personal blend, I hope you have a Magical Christmas and move into 2021 with a stout heart and renewed direction!

Tom Fairfax
High Sheriff of Northumberland.



**Geoff & Carol
FISH & CHIPS**
The van visits on Wednesdays.
~~NOT 30th DECEMBER.~~

Please note times are approximate.

Etal (Black Bull)	4.45 to 5.25
Ford (Village)	5.30 to 6.00
Lowick	6.30 to 8.30

Geoff Allan Catering,
28 South Road, Wooler. NE71 6SN.
Carol 07786954664/01668 282262 and Geoff 07876506837,
geoffallancatering@tiscali.co.uk



Etal Post Office & Shop

Tel: 01890 820761
lavendertearooms@btinternet.com
www.lavendertearooms.org.uk

December Hours:
Mon ~ Thurs 9am – 1pm
Sat 10am ~ 1pm / Closed Friday & Sunday
Post Office Mon – Thurs 9am – 1pm

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We have a shop full of Fresh  
Fruit & Veg, Bread, Flour, Milk, Eggs,  
Cakes, Biscuits, Jams, and lots more.

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Call in to see our range of Christmas
gift lines. We can also wrap,
pack and dispatch to your family &
friends to anywhere in the UK.

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Winter Fuel in stock,  
Logs, Coal, Kindling & Fire Lighters

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Merry Christmas & Happy New Year
Thank you very much for all your support
during this difficult year that we have all had.

Our Winter Holiday
Closed 24th Dec until [REDACTED] 

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Stay Safe & Shop Local

**HOLIDAY CHANGE.**

**WE WILL NOW BE AVAILABLE ON  
WEDNESDAY 30<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER**

**HOLIDAY CHANGE**

**WE WILL NOW REOPEN ON  
MONDAY 4<sup>th</sup> JANUARY**

**The Parish of Ford and Etal**

**Both Etal and Ford church are currently closed.**

Details of services during December, Christmas and January were not available when the FOURUM went to print.

For the latest details visit the website "[www.achurchnearyou](http://www.achurchnearyou)"  
or contact our Secretary : Heather Pentland 01890 820201 [heather@hjpentland.plus.com](mailto:heather@hjpentland.plus.com)

For details of our on-line services via zoom, contact Revd. Dr. Canon R Kelsey  
Tel. 01289 382325 e-mail [robert.josephkelsey@live.com](mailto:robert.josephkelsey@live.com)

**THERE WILL BE A SERVICE AT FORD CHURCH ON CHRISTMAS DAY.  
AT 10 AM. LED BY REVD. CANON ALAN HUGHES MBE TD.  
THERE WILL ALSO BE HOLY COMMUNION SERVICES AT FORD ON  
SUNDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> OF JANUARY AT 10 AM  
LED BY ALAN.**