



The Middleham Herald

4th April 2023

Message from the Mayor

Following the celebrations for the Platinum Jubilee of HM Queen Elizabeth 11 last June Middleham Town Council are planning a special celebration to mark the Coronation of HM King Charles 111 on Sunday May 7th of the Coronation Bank Holiday weekend. Hoping for good weather, we are planning a Family Day on Middleham Sports Field there will be play equipment for the children and a bar for adults. Rugs and chairs are recommended and bring your own picnic food! Hopefully you will also need sunscreen but in the event of inclement weather we can always move the festivities into the Key Centre. Looking forward to seeing everyone there.

**Councillor Sue Fairhurst
Mayor**

Middleham Key Centre - Update

As you know, we undertook a full review of the Middleham Key Centre during last year. For various reasons the Key centre has always struggled to cover its costs, despite the valiant efforts and hard work of groups of volunteers and trustees over the decades since it was built. The Council are now investigating

potential future uses of the building that will make it affordable and sustainable, whilst maintaining a community centre and facilities to meet the needs of the community of Middleham both now and in the future. We asked you to give us your ideas and suggestions as to how we could achieve this and how you thought the building could be used in future. We are currently investigating potential proposals in detail to ensure that any proposals we bring to the community are both feasible and realistic. Whatever potential plans we are able to develop, the views of the community will be sought before any decisions are made.

**Councillor Sue Fairhurst, Mayor
Councillor Honor Byford, Chair of Trustees
Middleham Key Centre Charity**



St Mary's & St Alkelda's Church, Middleham
Holy Week and Easter – services and events

Maundy Thursday, 6th April

Service of Holy Communion at 7pm at St Alkelda's, Middleham

Good Friday, 7th April for Middleham – Stables Open Day

10am – 1pm Open Church at St Alkelda's, Hot cross buns, tea and coffee. Everyone welcome.

Hour at the Cross at St John the Evangelist, East Witton 2pm – 3pm An hour of reflection on the crucifixion of Jesus.

Sunday 9th April (Easter Day)

6am Pilgrimage from Middleham Castle to Pinkers Pond.

Meet at 6am for pilgrimage to Pinkers Pond Sunrise service at 6.30am

6.30am Sunrise Service at Pinkers Pond, followed by tea/ coffee and hot cross buns.

Easter Communions

9.30am Easter Communion at St Oswald's, Thornton Steward

9.30am Easter Communion at St Alkelda's, Middleham

11am Easter Communion at St Botolph's, Horsehouse

11am Easter Communion at St John the Evangelist, East Witton

Open Pantry

We keep some food stocks in our parish 'Open Pantry' which are available so if you find yourself in need of food in an emergency.

Please text 07796988302. This is a discreet service.

Collecting for local foodbank

We have been alerted to the growing need that foodbanks are experiencing and so have put a collection point in Middleham Church. It's a big plastic box at the back of church. Any food that is not distributed locally will be transported to the Store House Food bank in Richmond.

Service to celebrate the coronation of His Majesty King Charles III

Save the date – the service will be at St Mary and St Alkelda's at 9.30am on Sunday 7th May.

Volunteers needed to join team to keep the church open...

St Alkelda's church, Middleham, is open every day between 9am and late afternoon, and we would love to keep it that way.

Our insurers require us to lock the church at dusk, so we are building a small team of people who are willing to lock the church in the evenings.

This could be by committing to one night a week, or offering to cover when someone goes on holiday.

Could you help with this? If you would like to find out more, please contact the churchwarden, Margaret Brabban on 01969 624388.



Rev Liz Moody

Good Friday Middleham Stables Open Day

The Stables Open Day will take place this Good Friday, 7th April, raising funds for Racing Welfare charity. We will have yards open within Middleham and at Brecongill and Spigot. A shuttle bus service will run between the various yards and also between the car park at Tennants Auction House and Middleham. Cars can be parked on the Busks and the Low Moor. Parking for those with a blue badge is available at the Key Centre car park. There will be a Market on the Market Place from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. so please would you ensure all cars have been removed from the Market Place and other taped off areas by 0600hrs Good Friday morning at the very latest.

Our Household Cavalry horse, Trooper Middleham will be here, based at Neil Mechie's Dante Yard and around the town.

There will be activities on the Low Moor from 11.30 through to 4p.m.

11.30 – 1.30 Retrained Racehorses demonstration events

1.30 – 2.00p.m. Retrained Racehorses Western riding event

2.00 – 2.15pm Trooper Middleham, our Household Cavalry Horse will be on display in the ring

2.15 – 3.15 pm, Inter-Yard Challenge! Tug of War, Relay Race and Bale Push.

3.15 to 4.15 Fun Dog Show! Looking for the Waggiest Tail, Best Young Handler, Most Handsome Chap and Loveliest Lady. Enter

online now or with Racing Welfare on the day.

Entry £2 per class

Thanks to everyone for your cooperation and support for this busy annual day.

Gail Burton-Pye, Racing Welfare

Middleham Feast Committee Childrens Sports Day and Fancy Dress

Bank Holiday Monday 29th May

12pm Middleham Playing Fields

Races, Bouncy Castle, Inflatable Slide, All Day Bar, Gallones Ice Cream, Fancy Dress, Evening BBQ and DJ Wilko

Races Start at 12pm

Fancy Dress parade will start at 6pm from the School.

If you would like to donate cakes or biscuits for the Sports day afternoon, please bring them with you on the day. Thank you.

Lizzie Blythe



Letter from the Rectory

Dust and Glory!

Recently Liz and I visited someone who kindly offered us a cup of tea. When they poured the milk from the jug it went everywhere. The jug was a bad pourer. I had enormous sympathy with our host because this is the sort of thing that annoys me intensely. I think a design company has been paid a fortune to design this jug and they can't even get it to pour properly! Didn't they test it, subject it to quality control? I think we can put people on the moon but we can't even make a milk jug that pours properly. Don't get me started on teapots! My motto there is the older the better.

It is this sort of frustration that I have found help with through the Dust & Glory Lent course that we have been doing. The early readings were from Genesis and one of them struck me. When Adam & Eve disobeyed God in the Garden of Eden, God said to Adam, 'Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it...by the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground.' Genesis 3:17-19. I get frustrated when computers go slow, I'm vacuuming round and the lead gets caught in things. These little things that delay and irritate because they seem unnecessary. It struck me from these verses that our work is flawed because it is fallen. Therefore, we should expect work to be difficult, frustrating and to go wrong. Then we

can rejoice when it goes smoothly. A default position of difficulty rather than of smoothness. This reading has helped me see these frustrations in a new light, seeing them from the opposite angle.

The Dust & Glory course has been about trying to see our failures in a new light, they are not the end of our story, we learn from them, they might be a stepping stone to something better, they don't define us. As we approach Easter this serves as a reminder that on the first Good Friday the cross was a massive failure by God, apparently. Yet Jesus was raised to new life on the first Easter Sunday turning the failure of the cross into the biggest success for humanity, the forgiveness of our sins and opening for us new intimacy and peace with God. Hallelujah!

Rev Jeff Payne

