

**BISHOP  
MIDDLEHAM  
and  
MAINSFORTH**

**WORLD WAR 1  
Commemoration  
2014**



DAVIDSON A.  
DIXON F.  
HUTCHINSON W.T.  
JOHNSON B.W.  
LAWRENCE T.  
LEE J.S.  
LEWIS J.T.

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St Michael's School 2014



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Bishop Middleham  
Bishop Middleham Calendar  
Parish Council Records  
The Story of Bishop Middleham

NEWTON HAILE  
NEWTON HAILE  
NEWTON HAILE  
MRS DORIS CHATT,  
MRS DOROTHY TURNER  
MRS JESSIE WILKINSON.

'Both Hands Before The Fire'  
Kelly's Directory

SPENCER WADE  
1914

North East War Memorials Project  
County Durham Records Office  
Durham Light Infantry Museum  
Armed Service Records  
Commonwealth War Graves Commission  
Beamish Museum  
Hartlepool, Now and Then  
And a variety of other internet sources.  
*'What a curious thing the internet is.'*  
Michael Thompson

**Any omissions, or mistakes** are unintentional.

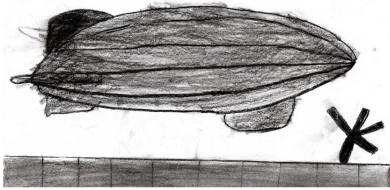
All proceeds from the sale of this book will be donated to;  
*St Michael's Church*  
*St Michael's C of E Primary School*  
*Bishop Middleham Village Hall*  
*North East War Memorial Project*

THE GREAT WAR

The brave soldier sits uncomfortably,  
Shuffle, Shuffle.  
The angry soldier stomps,  
Stomp, Stomp.  
The hungry soldier munches  
nervously,  
Chomp, Chomp.  
The fearsome soldier strides  
determinedly,  
Splash, Splash.  
The fierce soldier runs quickly,  
Boom, Boom.

The sleepy soldier strolls wearily . . . . .  
The tired soldier walks zombily. .  
The soldier has made it,  
Splash, Splash.  
The soldier is pulling out his gun,  
Bang, Bang.  
The mighty soldier is walking in the  
trench quietly,  
Sh, Sh.

By CHARLOTTE DEXTER



By AMELIA

WORLD WAR ONE

I felt my heart burn,  
As I realised I could not turn,  
Back to the place I belong.  
My fears grew strong,  
As I carried on,  
Through the dreadful trenches.

The excruciating gas,  
I could not let it pass,  
It was like fire in my face,  
War was such an awful place . . .

Quickly I hid my face,  
Then quickened my pace,  
I could feel the moist ground hit  
My fingertips as I tugged my mask  
On my face.

I went with my gut,  
And left my cut,  
Then my vision turned black,  
I had been shot in the back.  
That was the end of me.

By GEORGIA SMITH



By SOPHIE

THE BATTLEFIELD

The wind whispered through the trees  
As the poppies were pollinated by the  
bees.  
In the field of lush red and green,  
A battle was happening;  
So terrible, so mean.

Guns were shot like a lightning bolt,  
Pains were inflicted as bitter as salt. . .  
The sight of dead ones broke the heart,  
As they were carried away  
on a wooden cart.  
. . . . . Bang! Crash! Boom!  
The sounds of on-coming doom. . . . .

The soul-sucking mud;  
Envelopes your soul,  
In a pitch black hood,  
Killing your senses  
And demolishing your defences.

The end is coming soon,  
As ominous as a death typhoon.  
Trying to push back the front line,  
As the number of soldiers decline.

Finally the War is won, . . . . .  
Now the soldiers will have to remember,  
All the people who died in the final war  
In November.

By JOSHUA PAUL WILSON



By CHLOE

BATTLEFIELD

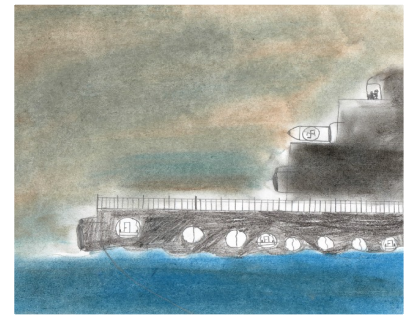
As I walk to the battlefield,  
With my crimson red shield,  
I can see and smell blood,  
In this dirty field full of dark dirty  
mud.

As I stand silently,  
I feel like the one and only.  
I hear no joyful cheer,  
Just terrified screams and cries of  
fear. .

All I wanted was to be brave,  
And keep my family safe.  
There is so much terror,  
In this horrid error. . . . .

I feel so afraid and alone,  
I hate the War. I want to go home.

By FAITH COLLINGWOOD



By GEORGIA

HORSE LIFE

Where are the people who loved and  
cared ?  
Why was I so not prepared ?  
All I can hear is the guns rattle,  
And the haunted hooves going into  
battle.

Where has the time gone ?  
Where are the memories I will al-  
ways long ?  
Where is the farm yard I lived and  
grew ?  
Where is the family I loved and  
knew ?

There by the river,  
Which sends down a shiver,  
I'm stuck in barbed wire,  
Oh my God, here comes a fire.

I miss my fresh hay, Where I once  
lay,  
Clippity clop, When will it stop ?

By LAURA PATTERSON

SENSES POEMS

I can hear bangs from guns, explosions from bombs.  
I can smell smoke and fire.  
I can see blood on thr mud, dead bodies.  
I can taste water and mud and smoke.  
I can touch water in the trenches.  
I feel sad because I miss my children.

By BEATRICE aged 6

I can hear bangs coming from the enemy.  
I can smell fire and guns coming from the enemy.  
I can see mud when I am crawling.  
I can taste mud when I am crawling.  
I can touch guns because I am ready to fight.  
I feel sad because I am frightened.

By JASMINE aged 6

I can hear guns.  
I can smell smoke.  
I can see fire bombs.  
I can taste blood.  
I can touch guns.  
I feel sad.

By LIZZY aged 5

# ASSASSIN KILLS HEIR TO AUSTRIAN THRONE AND WIFE IN STREET OF BOSNIAN CAPITAL

**ROYAL COUPLE**  
**AFTER THEY**  
**DEATH FR**

Eight Persons A  
as Archduke  
Deadly Missi



## Attention!

ALL MALES  
of 21 and 30  
must person  
ing place in  
in which they

**TUESDAY,**  
between the hours  
A.M. and 8 P.M. and

# Register

is accordance with the  
No FIGHT FOR EUROPE

**The Star** **LATE NIGHT**

### MILITARY AGE 18 TO 41

Premier: "World In Misery To Serve One Man's Senseless Ambition"

**GERMANS CLAIM BIG ADVANCE**

**Go Back Or We Fight"**



### DEFENCE OF THE REALM. MINISTRY OF FOOD.

#### BREACHES OF THE RATIONING ORDER

The undermentioned convictions have been recently obtained:-

Court	Date	Nature of Offence	Penalty
HENDON	29th Aug., 1918	Unlawfully obtaining and using ration books	3 Months imprisonment
WEST HAM	28th Aug., 1918	Being a retailer & failing to detach proper number of coupons	Fined £20
SMITHWICK	22nd July, 1918	Obtaining meat in excess quantities	Fined £10 & 24 sh. cost
OLD STREET	4th Sept., 1918	Being a retailer selling to unregistered customer	Fined £72 & 24 sh. cost
OLD STREET	4th Sept., 1918	Not detaching sufficient coupons for meat sold	Fined £25 & 42 sh. cost
CHESTERLE STREET	4th Sept., 1918	Being a retailer returning number of registered customers in excess of coupons lawfully deposited	Fined £50 & 42 sh. cost
HIGH WYCOMBE	7th Sept., 1918	Making false statement on application for and using Ration Books unlawfully	Fined £10 & 12 sh. cost

**BERKELEY DAILY GAZETTE**

### TERMS OF ARMISTICE HUNS SACRIFICED

SUBJUGATION OF ENEMY COMPLETE. TERMS DRASTIC

**JUSTICE. OFFICE ALL**

CROWN HEADS  
FLEE GERMANY.  
PEOPLE RULING

### TWO ZEPPELINS DESTROYED

#### FLAMING DESCENT CHEERED BY THOUSANDS

London, November 26, 11.20 a.m.

Two Zeppelins were brought down by the anti-aircraft forces of the Royal Air Force.

### BISHOP MIDDLEHAM WAR MEMORIAL.

Yesterday afternoon a memorial erected to twenty-one men belonging to Bishop Middleham district who fell in the war was unveiled by Lieut.-Col. Tomlinson, Seaton Carew, a director of Carlton Iron Co., owners of Mainstorth Colliery. The memorial, which has been erected near the entrance to the Parish Churchyard, is of polished grey granite, surmounted by a cross, and stands about twelve feet six inches high, including the base, and was designed and erected by Messrs. Ainsley and Collins, West Hartlepool. The cost is about £245, and has been raised under the auspices of the ex-Service men in the district.

Previous to the unveiling, service was held in the Parish Church, the memorial being dedicated by Archdeacon Derry, Sedgefield, Archdeacon of Auckland, who also preached from the words "Lest ye forget." There was a large attendance. A number of wreaths were laid on the memorial. After the dedication ceremony an address was given by Lieut.-Col. Tomlinson.

### THRILLING SPECTACLE FOR EYE-WITNESSES

#### PIERCE DUEL IN THE SKY

The destruction of the Northumberland raider yesterday afternoon was a thrilling spectacle for thousands of people who gathered in the streets, and they saw the searchlights focus on the bright glow in the sky descended into the sea. The mounds of smoke in the crowded streets, the people of the shipping shrieking triumphantly.

WHOLE COUNTRY GOES WILD WITH JOY

# WAR OVER

THE EVENING TELEGRAPH

# PEACE!

WORLD WAR ENDS: ARMISTICE SIGNED: KAISER IS OUT: GERMAN SURRENDER

ARMISTICE SIGNED AT MIDNIGHT TAKES EFFECT 6 A.M. TODAY; NEWS IS OFFICIAL

PEOPLE'S GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN POWER IN GERMANY; MONARCHY ABOLISHED

# BISHOP MIDDLEHAM and MAINSFORTH

## World War 1 Commemoration 2014

### INTRODUCTION

The War Memorial in St Michael's Churchyard commemorates those who died in both World Wars. When research for this book began it was decided to focus on the men who laid down their lives in World War 1, and to consider the experience for those left at home. There is much more to be discovered about those who lost their lives in World War 2.

The research for this book started with *the North East War Memorials Project*. (including the photograph on the front cover).

Entries from *Bishop Middleham School's Log* provided invaluable information.

The *1911 Census Records* recorded some details of the families and where they lived.

At *Durham County Records Office* we found a wealth of information about Bishop Middleham and numerous Church Magazine Newsletters of that

period, included in their entirety, providing a vivid snapshot of the impact of world events upon the Parish of Bishop Middleham and Mainsforth, including the momentous news of women finally getting the vote.

*Reproduced by permission of Bishop Middleham Parish and Durham County Record Office.*

The discovery of Spencer Wade's autobiography *Both Hands Before the Fire* was the jewel in the crown. Spencer Wade was the Vicar of Bishop Middleham during the latter part of World War 1 and he guided our village through those dark times.



The Old School House, Bishop Middleham

*The Old School : David Waugh*



St Michael's Church, Bishop Middleham

*St Michael's Church: David Waugh*

EXTRACT from *Both Hands Before the Fire*  
SPENCER WADE:

**'In 1916 Sis and I took over the vicarage at Bishop Middleham. It was a large house, so there was plenty of room to store our furniture. There was an extensive garden, which thrilled Sis, who was a life long horticulturalist.**

**We both loved the small, transitional gothic church, dating from 1146 AD; and there was a Day School, destined to occupy much of my time.'**

MANY THANKS go to Mr Richard Hirst, Jill Ireland, David Waugh, Nathan Brimm, Paul Elliot, Colonel Chris Reed Rtd. Eric Potts, Michele MacCallam, Julie Hall, Greta Nelson and Fernie Boorman, and to Michael Thompson who led us to Tony Wade, who gave us permission to use his grandfather's work.

Also thanks to the Parish Council and the Village Hall for their support.

*Written and researched by L. Johnston and H. Boorman*

# THE PARISH

So what was the Parish of Bishop Middleham and Mainsforth like on the eve of the first World War? What had these brave young men left behind?

EXTRACT from *Both Hands Before the Fire*:

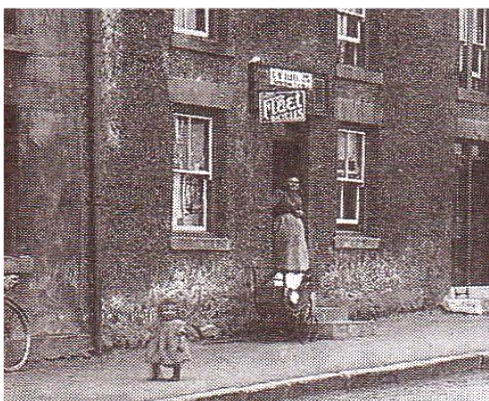
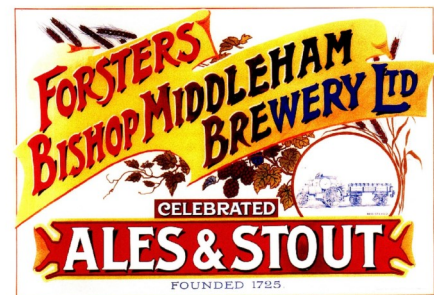
**‘The population consisted of miners, farmers and workers at the Sedgefield Asylum (as it was known in those days), some 3 miles away. Quite a number of my new flock were warders there.’**

In Bishop Middleham at this time there was no electricity and there were no telephones. Insula Cottages, The Green, Woodstock Terrace and Westfield Terrace did not exist, nor did Bishops Garth, Kiln Crescent or The Park, and estates like Stoneybeck and Broadoaks were a distant dream. Ivy Cottages were the original 17th century buildings and live stock could still be seen grazing on the village green. Thus, in 1914 there were just over 100 houses compared with nearly 600 today.



However, Kelly’s Directory of 1914 reveals a thriving community. Then, as now, there were Doves, Davisons, and Hirsts farming around the village. Probably these young men would have helped with the harvest at one time or another.

They would have had a choice of Public Houses in which to quench their thirst, be it with Thomas Icton, landlord of the Red Lion, or with Edith Legg at the Dun Cow, or at William Raine’s Cross Keys, or even the Fleece under the tenure of Mrs Ann Ross. The beer was unlikely to run dry with the Brewery of Matthew Forster being so close at hand in the village.



*Bicycle Shop on Front Street*

Had they wanted something to eat, they had a choice of butcher between John Gibson or John Tinkler. For groceries they could choose between Thomas Kirtley, William Parkin, David Preston or George Lee, who was also recorded as trading in patent medicine.

Some might have been lucky enough to have bought a bicycle from cycle dealer William Jones, or gone for repairs to George Lee Junior. They might have seen him repairing a rarely-seen motor car.

Those with more old-fashioned forms of transport would have known Henry Mason, joiner and cartwright, and Richard Crowther, the village blacksmith (next to George Lee's shop), who would make shoes for horses. Most, I suspect, relied on the cobbler to maintain their main means of transport.

Others may have been dragged reluctantly by girlfriends or sisters to the draper's shop of Mrs Kate Chapman or to see the delights offered by Miss Elizabeth Lee, the dressmaker.

This finery would have been bought for special occasions, such as Socials and Dances at the Church Institute, (long-demolished) on Front Street. Who knows if any of these young men might have stolen their first kisses at these events?

The Lee family, as well as providing groceries and cycle and motor repairs, also ran the Post Office.

Letters arrived from Ferryhill at 7.05 am and 4.40pm, and were dispatched at 10.40am and 5.45pm, weekdays only.

The nearest telegraph office was in Ferryhill. Who could have imagined the horrors that would be received there in the following years?

Those who attended the elementary school would have known Alfred Mossop Haile, the Schoolmaster. In 1913 the school register shows an average attendance of 152.

Many of them would have been baptised by Rev. Charles Ashforth Cartledge, Dean of Bishop Middleham, whose son (also Charles) is commemorated on the family gravestone in St Michael's Churchyard.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

**GEORGE LEE,**  
GROGGER, TEA DEALER,  
Flour and Provision Merchant,  
BRUSH AND TIN WAREHOUSE,  
Has always on hand a good Assortment of  
**GROCERIES.**

Teas from	1/6 to 3/- per pound
Flour from	11d per stone
Yeast (pure)	2d per quarter lb.
Granulated Bread Meal	4d 1/2 stone bag
Pollard	8d per stone
Indian Corn	9 1/2d per stone
Bran	7 1/2d per stone

A reduction to the above prices on taking a Sack.

Lump Sugar, 2d per lb.	Good Currants, 2 1/2d per lb.
Ground Nutmeg, 1d per Tin.	Matches, 1 1/2d per dozen
Sunlight Soap, 7 1/2d per box.	

Agent for Mandall's Licoridine; a sure cure for Coughs & Colds.  
Agent for the Liverpool and London Globe Insurance Company

**POST OFFICE, BISHOP MIDDLEHAM.**

Durham County Record Office EP/BM 141

The Church was the hub of the community. All would have known the Rev. Matthew Burra Parker MA, and as boys they would have watched his new Vicarage being built at Nutgarth in 1902, and in the same year witnessed the installation of the first oil street lamp in Church Street. And later they would have observed the completion of the Chapel in Front Street in 1913.

Some may have been chased out of the Churchyard by sexton George Raine. I trust none had to face the wrath of Thomas Kemp at the Police Station.

Indeed, the Rev. Spencer Wade recalled the detrimental effect the absence, of Constable Kemp and Schoolmaster A M Haile was having on the bigger lads.

EXTRACT from *Both Hands Before the Fire*:

**‘More and more of the young men were being called to the forces. Amongst them were the village policeman and the schoolmaster. I fought hard with the military authorities to retain these two important personages in the village life. In the end they had to go, and I was left to ‘hold the baby’.**

**Very soon the bigger lads began to get out of hand and I was forced to assume the role of policeman and schoolmaster. I saw there was nothing for it but to be firm and uncompromising. I did not know that I had it in me to be a dictator - for a dictator I became, to the gratitude of the mothers, left at home to make the best of things.’**

Some such 'out of hand behaviour' included damage to parish seats. This was discussed and recorded in the Parish Council Minutes. A proposal was made for a recreation area as 'the poor young people had nothing to do'. This had to be put on hold until after the war.

More pressing matters included a number of public meetings to promote national war efforts. In 1917 the issue of allotments predominated. Within two months 35 allotments had been established at the west end of the village.

As Newton Haile comments:

*"Truly War brings about rapid changes."*

The matter of allotments had been discussed for decades since the Parish Council had first been formed.

Even with allotments, food shortages would remain an issue. Two of the suggestions that were sent forward to the District Food Control Committee included:

1. The rations for prisoners of war to be reduced.
2. That a further tax on tobacco may increase consumption of food, it having the effect of diminishing the appetite.

By January 1918, food shortages meant that more allotments were needed and 28 villagers made requests. This time, negotiations for land ran less smoothly, but eventually, as the War ended, five acres at the north-east end of the village were secured.

Thus, the Bishop Middleham the men had left behind, some never to return, was a self-contained unit, commercially more active than now. All were doing their bit on the home front to support themselves, their families, their country, and their loved ones in the theatre of War. However, it would be wrong to imagine Bishop Middleham, at the time, as a rural idyll, as the June 1913 Church Magazine shows (see page 6).

In it, the Rev. M. B. Parker condemns landlords who rent out sub-standard property to the poor and suggests it as a contributory cause of infant mortality. The subject would have been close to his heart, as in the last two months alone he had officiated at the burials of three local children. Upon his return from Service as a War Padre in 1918, the Church Magazine newsletter of May and September announce the burials of three more children under four months old. The death toll abroad was also rising. The September issue also refers to the memorials planned within the Church in memory of Captain Percy Robinson, the Rev. Parker's son-in-law, to Lieutenant Crabbe, nephew of General and Mrs Surtees, and to John Sidney Lee, son of George Lee, the post-master. In November, 1918, the death of Private Bell was announced.



*The Church Institute  
Front Street*



*Front Street*



*St Michael's Church  
Photograph: Peter Robinson*

Life in Bishop Middleham was hard, made harder by wartime privations such as food and fuel shortages. Despite this, the spirit and the determination of its people remained indomitable.



JUNE 1913

NO. 217

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH



PARISH



MAGAZINE

*BISHOP MIDDLEHAM*

*OFFICIALS OF THE CHURCH:-*

Vicar :- Rev M. B. PARKER. MA

VICAR'S WARDEN :- Mr. T. BOVIL.      PEOPLE'S WARDEN :- Mr. W.M. STACEY.

SIDESMEN :- Messers. T. KIRTLEY, W. GLENDINNING,  
GEORGE RAINE, GEORGE LEE, T. GRAY, J. BROWN,  
C. LEGGE, A. SADLER, CHARLES WALKER, T.F.SMITH, R.H.HARPER,  
N. WILKINSON, THOMAS STACEY, WILLIAM GRAHAM and GEORGE LEE jnr.

ORGANIST :- Mr. RALPH HAILE.

HON. CHOIR MASTER :- Mr. D. W. FORSTER.

SEXTON :- Mr. G. RAINE.

*THE CHURCH HOURS OF SERVICE :*

*SUNDAY — Morning, 10.30 ; Evening, 6.*

*HOLY COMMUNION*

*FIRST SUNDAY at Mid-day ; THIRD SUNDAY at 8 o'clock am.*

*BAPTISMS AND CHURCHINGS*

*On the Sunday Afternoon at 3.*



PRICE ONE PENNY .

J. T. STOKELD & SONS PRINTERS. GUISBOROUGH

. Bishop Middleham Church Magazine 1913. DRO EP/BM 141

BISHOP MIDDLEHAM PARISH MAGAZINE  
JUNE 1913

My Dear Parishioners,

I hope we are all looking forward to the Bazaar to be held in the grounds of Mainsforth Hall, by the kind permission of Col. and Mrs Surtees. The date has not yet been fixed, but we intend to hold it D.V., sometime in July. I hope to announce definitely next month. It will be a two days Bazaar, and will, I trust, be on a somewhat large scale. I need hardly say that the object is to raise funds for the School repairs, which are going to cost about £900. Only £600 have been promised. The School has been much enlarged and improved. The class rooms now have a pleasing appearance. The Managers are exceedingly obliged to the farmers and others who have helped on the work so willingly.

On Friday evening, June 6th, the School will be re-opened by a Social, which those who have attended the sewing meetings are so vigorously getting up. The proceeds will also be given to the School fund.

The School Managers decided, on account of complaints, that in future 7/6 should be paid to me for the use of the School, and out of that, I should give 2/6 to the caretaker in order to see that all was properly prepared and made ready, and afterwards put in order for the Sunday School and Day School. Mrs Walker has been re-appointed caretaker.

On Wednesday, May 28th, the Lord Bishop of Jarrow held a Confirmation in the Church at 3.30. The candidates from this Parish numbered 18: 6 males and 12 females. There were Candidates also from Sedgfield, Holy Trinity, and the Parish Church, Stockton. The service was very reverent. Let us hope that in thus carrying out the Apostolic rite of "*laying on of hands*", that a great blessing was received by each Confirmer.

**Home Life in the County of Durham**

**II.**

***Overcrowding and its Consequences.***

**INFANT MORTALITY,**

There are conditions existing in Town and Mining Centre and Country Village where decent '*home life*' is impossible.

There seems to be need of a preliminary lesson forced home — that the first use of a house is to provide a **decent habitation for a family** and not an **investment**.

So many people look for house property as an investment, and are naturally anxious to make as much out of it as possible.

They buy it as an investment, and often grudge the money spent upon keeping it in good order. The people living in the house, their comfort and happiness are often a secondary matter.

Old property can not fetch a high price — it is bought at a low one and is let at a lower rent than newer and better ones, and the poorest crowd into these houses. But when a ship is too old for safely conveying passengers — it is condemned and broken up. Why should it be different with old houses? That is one of the reforms needed.

Patched and patched, year after year, they become more unfit for human habitations and yet they are continued as such.

There is room surely here for rich men with a sense of responsibility for their wealth and their neighbour's good, for doing something.

**To be continued.**

**CHURCHING**

May 11th — Mary Ellen Robson.

**BAPTISMS**

May 2nd — Florence Beatrice, daughter of Walter and Eleanor Nobbs, Bishop Middleham, privately.

**MARRIAGES**

May 10th — William Hodgson, Ferryhill, to Harriet Holdsworth, of this Parish.

May 31st — John Thomas Britton, of Ferryhill, to Sarah Jane Richardson, also of this Parish.

**BURIALS**

Feb 26th — Mary Craggs, Bishop Middleham, aged 93 years.

*She was a very old inhabitant of Bishop Middleham, an earnest Christian woman and deservedly respected by all. She endured poverty with calm resignation.*

April 6th — John Craggs, Bishop Middleham, aged 17 months.

May 4th — Robina Craggs, Bishop Middleham, aged 7 months.

May 7th — Florence Beatrice Nobbs, Bishop Middleham, aged 9 months.

May 18th — Thomas Ashton, Highland Farm, aged 74 years.

M. B. PARKER,  
Vicar

# THE WAR

## 1914



4th August     **The War begins.**

16th December     **SCHOOL LOG:**

*Children excited by the sound of bombardment of Hartlepool.*

### The Bombardment of Hartlepool

The War was only a few months old, when for the first time, British civilians were to come into the line of fire on British soil.

Hartlepool was considered to be a legitimate target by the Germans as it was a fortified town. In fact, its two coastal batteries comprised merely of three 6 inch guns. The unequal contest started out of a misty morning at 8.03 am and lasted for about 45 minutes.



*Artist : Nathan Brimm, aged 13*


During that time the German Warships fired 1,150 shells upon Hartlepool. The Heugh and the Lighthouse Batteries managed 123 rounds in reply.

The effect on the residents going about their daily business was devastating. The attack killed 83 civilians and injured 424. 7 soldiers were killed and 14 more wounded. Damage was inflicted upon the steelworks, gasworks, railway, 7 churches and 300 houses. The Germans lost 8 soldiers and 12 were wounded. Amongst the dead of Hartlepool was one of the first civilian fatalities and the first female to die on British soil: Hilda Horsley, a 17-year-old seamstress, who was on her way to work. The youngest to die in this attack was Eleanor Nesity, only 6 months old.



The first German shell killed Private Theo Jones of the 18th Battalion in the Durham Light Infantry. He was the first soldier to die on British soil in World War 1. An outraged British Press reported the deaths in one family of a father, mother and 6 children. In another case only one child out of a family of four escaped.

Further condemnation was reserved for the failure of the British Navy to prevent this raid. The three British destroyers on patrol were out of torpedo range and ineffective.

 *Private Theo Jones* In addition a light cruiser and a submarine that had been confined to harbour by the poor weather, promptly ran aground under fire and

failed to engage with the enemy. The German battleships continued down the coast bombarding Whitby and Scarborough, before returning to base. By the end of the day the total British fatalities, mostly civilians, stood at 137 with a further 592 injured.

Meanwhile, 15 miles inland in Bishop Middleham, unaware, as yet, of the dreadful consequences, the School Log records the children's excitement at hearing the gun fire.

# 1915



10th May

**Corporal Joseph Watson dies aged 21.**

29th September

The *Durham County Advertiser* reported that the morning service at Coxhoe Parish Church had included a parade of Boy Scout troops from Cornforth, Bishop Middleham, Coxhoe and Quarrington Hill, along with Girl Guides from Bowburn.



10th November

**Private Thomas Murray dies aged 21.**

Thomas Murray was born in Bishop Middleham and lived in West Cornforth, where he enlisted. He was awarded the 1914/15 Star Medal.



On the day of Thomas Murray's death, Lt. Colonel A. E. Collins of the 11th Battalion D.L.I. records in his intelligence summary:

*"Billets at Epinette shelled. 3 men killed: 7 wounded: 2 later died in hospital."*

It is known that Thomas died of wounds; he may well have been one of the men who died in hospital.

# 1916

10th May

**SCHOOL LOG:**

*War Savings established.*

*School Collection - £5 6s 1/2d.*

Savings clubs were organised and administered by many schools. From the earliest months of the War, school children had been encouraged by their teachers to provide 'comforts' for the troops. Gloves, balaclavas, cigarettes and jam were popular items and often found their way to locally raised units at the front.

Additionally, there were national campaigns to mobilise school children to help with the War effort. Queen Alexandra backed an initiative to collect eggs for the wounded. Children wrote their names on them before they were sent off to the troops. Children who donated money to the soldiers' and sailors' Christmas Fund received a letter of thanks from Princess Mary.

**1916**

24th May

**SCHOOL LOG:**

*Empire Day.*

Empire Day reminded children *"that they formed part of the British Empire . . . And that it's strength depended upon them and that they must never forget it."*



It was first celebrated in 1902 and became an annual event in 1916.

Each Empire Day millions of children across the far flung Empire would typically salute the flag and sing patriotic songs, such as 'Jerusalem' and 'God save the King'. They would also hear inspirational speeches about Heroes of the Empire, for example: Clive of India, Wolfe of Quebec and Gordon of Khartoum. Texts would be read, like Rudyard Kipling's 'Recessional' that emphasised the watchwords of the Empire movement:

Responsibility, Sympathy, Duty and Self-Sacrifice.

# BISHOP MIDDLEHAM PARISH MAGAZINE

## OCTOBER 1917

My Dear Parishioners,

After nearly two years of extremely happy service in your ancient parish, I find myself in the position of having to bid you goodbye. I do so with a genuine feeling of regret; and, when I say this, I know I am voicing the feelings of Mrs Wade, who has appreciated being here just as much as I have. For myself, though I have worked in several parishes, widely separated in atmosphere as in distance, in no place have my efforts being more readily made and more cordially welcomed. There has been, as far as I know, nothing in the nature of a 'hitch' between us. Everything has run smoothly, 'Give and take' has been the underlying principle of our mutual relationships; and whatever I may have given has been amply repaid by sacrifices on your part.

I have been privileged to be your spiritual advisor in your day of trouble. We have often laughed together; we have alas, more frequently had cause to weep. I have regarded it as my bounden duty, from the first day of my coming to your parish, to bring before you in church and out of church, the One and Only Consoler, Jesus Christ, "*The Man of sorrows.*" And what a Comforter He has been to us all: God grant that He may continue to be. It rests entirely with ourselves.

The war is not yet over, though I myself believe that the end will come suddenly, and perhaps soon. One thing is certain there must be no peace until Prussian militarism has been irrecoverably destroyed. This desirable consummation is not, believe me, very far off. We should even now be preparing ourselves for the 'days after the war'. God has been teaching us a lesson in a hard school. I trust we may have learnt it beyond the possibility of forgetting. At all events, during my stay amongst you, I have endeavoured to drive home the lesson that without God in Christ there can be no peace, either amongst the nations of the world or in the individual heart.

Now, I must not lose this opportunity of expressing my gratitude to you all for your many and unstinted kindnesses to my dear wife and myself. In a thousand ways you have shown an exceptionally friendly spirit to two people who, after all, were strangers to you. Robert Louis Stevenson somewhere says, that people get in this world pretty much the entertainment they give to others.

If, however, I were to measure my giving by yours, I should indeed have no regrets. But truth compels me to offer the prize in this respect to you.

Mrs Wade associates herself cordially with me in all these sentiments, and joins in prayer and hope that the parish of Bishop Middleham may be blest abundantly in the only things that really matter in the eyes of God,

*Your humble servant in Christ.*

SPENCER WADE

### CHURCH EXPENSES

Church debt over £10

Subscriptions -	£	S	D
Rev. M.B.Parker	1	0	0
Mrs Robinson	1	0	0
Mr Vicars		5	0
Mr Moore		5	0
Mr Moorhead		5	0
Brig. Gen. and Mrs Surtees	2	0	0
Mrs Lockey		10	0

#### DIOCESAN FUND

Quota £6/12/-	£	S	D
Offertories	4	11	3
Subscriptions:-			
Anon	1		
Mrs Lockey		5	0
Rev. M.B. Parker		5	0
Mr Davison (Farnless)		2	6
Mr Dearing		2	6
Mrs Lee		1	0
Miss Wright		1	0
	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3</b>

Full amount has been sent on.

#### BAPTISMS

September 19th — John Robert, son of William and Mary Ann Sillee.

#### MARRIAGES

Aug 11th — Harry Coates and Sarah Mabel Wilson.  
Aug 17th — Frederick George Ford and Olivia Carr.

#### BURIALS

Aug 23rd — Jane Wilson, aged 75 years.

## 1916

Less seriously, all the children would receive a certificate, and would be let out of school early to take part in marches, concerts and dances around the maypole.

Empire Day was celebrated for over 50 years on the 24th May. Its name was changed to British Commonwealth Day in 1958, later to Commonwealth Day, its importance in the calendar declining along with the British Empire.



7th July

**Captain Percy Douglas Robinson dies.**



Percy Robinson was the son-in-law of Reverend Matthew Parker. In the September 1918 Church Magazine the Vicar writes about the reredos, or panel his daughter and her mother-in-law plan to erect in the Church in memory of Percy.

The inscription reads:

*To the Glory of God and in loving memory of  
Captain Percy Douglas Robinson  
9th Battn Northumberland Fusiliers  
Killed in action at the Battle of the Somme  
July 7th 1916*

28th July

**SCHOOL LOG:**

*War Savings - £135 18s 11 1/2d.*



29th July

**Second Lieutenant Charles Cartledge dies aged 33.**

See page 29



4th August

**PARISH COUNCIL:**

A public meeting and demonstration was held to record: "*the determination of the villagers to continue the war to a victorious end.*" The Rev. Spencer Wade spoke at this meeting and as his diaries and his parish newsletter show, he was a galvanising force during those troubled times.

7th September

**PARISH COUNCIL:**

Following a request from Sedgfield Rural District Council concerning the formation of a War Savings Association affiliated to the National War Savings Association, and it was decided to call a General Meeting. It was agreed to act in co-operation with the Savings Association already existing at Bishop Middleham School.

Spencer Wade, the Vicar, was voted Treasurer. Mr T.F. Smith was elected Chairman, and Mrs Forster became the Secretary.



19th September

**Private Joseph Crake dies aged 39.**

Joseph Crake was born in Northallerton, but at the time he enlisted at Ferryhill he lived in Ivy Cottages, Bishop Middleham, with his wife Alice. His mother was called Ellen.



18th October

**Private Albert Davison dies.**

Albert Davison, son of Edward and Mary Jane Davison, was born in Bishop Middleham. In 1911 the family were living in High Street. Edward was a farmer, assisted by John, his middle son. The eldest son Fred was a Limestone Quarryman.

Albert, then aged 14, was a farm labourer and the youngest child, a daughter called Mary, was aged 12 and attending school. Albert enlisted at Ferryhill.

1916



2nd November **Private Joseph Maddison dies aged 22.**

Joseph Maddison was the son of Robert and the late Isabella Maddison who lived at 2, Kirtley Terrace, Bishop Middleham.

28th November **SCHOOL LOG:**

*Destruction of a German Airship in full view.*

## The German Airship



Artist : Nathan Brimm, aged 13

Nearly two years on from the bombardment, Hartlepool was under attack once more. It was to be another historic first, but this time in Britain's favour. Close to midnight, Zeppelin L34 commanded by Kpt Max Dietrich was shot down inflames by 2nd Lt. Pyott of 34 squadron who was based at Seaton Carew.

It was the first success of the Royal Flying Corps against the zeppelins. Ian Vernon Pyott was acknowledged a hero, being mentioned in dispatches and awarded the DSO, the Distinguished Service Order.



Lt. I V Pyott

This time the Press Association reported around the world that the raid had caused "*very slight casualties and damage.*"

Also of note, is the change in public opinion. Gone is the anti-German outrage of the bombardment. The Heugh lifeboat crew rowed out in an attempt to rescue any survivors from the airship. All had perished. Then on January 11th 1917 the two-zeppelin crew, whose bodies had

washed ashore, were buried with full military honours in Seaton Carew. Subsequently three more crew members were retrieved from the sea and buried with their comrades. On 29th November headlines reported "*Thrilling Spectacle for Eye Witnesses.*"

In Bishop Middleham the School Log records the airship's destruction "*in full view*". Imagine amazed Middleham children gazing to the East through their bedroom windows at "*the great, bright glow*" descending slowly into the sea.

EXTRACT from *Both Hands Before the Fire*:

**'All during my time at Bishop Middleham the village was pestered night after night by Zeppelin raids, from the North Sea.**

**Tom Palmer was one of the air-wardens and very meticulous he was about his duties, particularly that no light should be shown when the German marauders were about.**

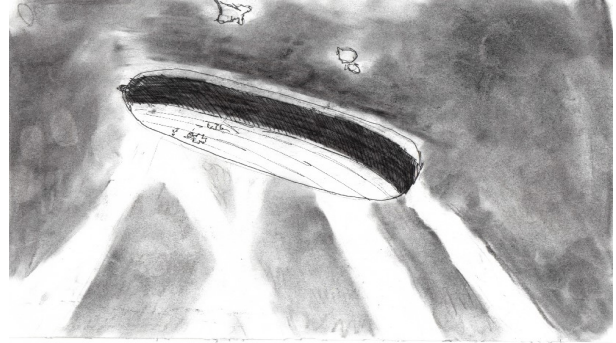
**The villagers would at times behave stupidly, just to annoy Tom, and strike matches in the darkness, with the sole intention of setting Tom running hither and thither to correct them. It was very naughty of them, but it did reveal the spirit of our people in the face of danger. In the end I myself took them in hand, and got them to see that Tom was only doing his duty and that it was up to them not to play the fool in times of grave danger for us all.**

**The seriousness of the situation was brought home to them when a Zeppelin appeared one night over the coast of Hartlepool. Searchlights were scouring the sky, the long white beams**

## 1916

crossing and re-crossing each other. At last one steely finger caught the huge ship, which seemed to be a silver cigar suspended in the heavens. Then began the barrage! Shells burst all round the big balloon, some far from the target, some nearer. At last one hit its mark. It was as if Orion had lit his cigar. From the nose the flames spread along the side. A number of us were gathered in the vicarage garden and gazed in awe-struck silence at the doomed monster. The gondola, in which the crew were suspended, was severed from the main body and fell a flaming mass into the sea.

“Thank God!” someone called out, and in the next breath added: “Poor Devils!” That voice expressed the sentiments of us all. We English are not as sadistic as we are sometimes, by our fellow-countrymen, made out to be.’



Artist : Nathan Brimm, aged 13

## 1917



6th February     **Private J Walker dies.**

J Walker was born in Bishop Middleham.

16th February     **PARISH COUNCIL:**

Having received 35 requests for allotments, an Allotment Association was formed. Spencer Wade was voted Secretary.

5th April     **PARISH COUNCIL:**

A letter had been received from the National Service Recruiting Committee asking the Parish Council to organise a house to house canvas in the village for volunteers. It was agreed not to do this:

*“in view of the fact that nearly every man left in Bishop Middleham is engaged in essential work, in quarries, mines and agriculture, the Parish Council did not consider any useful purpose would be served by such a canvas.”*

19th April     **SCHOOL LOG:**

*His Majesty’s Inspector of Schools spoke on the importance of the War Loan and asked for economies. Food rationing was to be introduced. HMI also checked the School garden.*

## Food Rationing

For the first half of the War, after initial panic-buying, food shortages were not a problem. But in 1917 the Germans adopted the tactic of unrestricted Submarine Warfare in which all ships supplying Britain were targeted.

The effect was devastating. By April, 1917, Britain was 6 weeks away from running out of wheat. A voluntary rationing system led by the King and Queen was introduced.





## 1917

The more wealthy were encouraged not to buy basic foods, such as bread, upon which the poor relied. Queuing, rising prices and Black Marketing led to growing frustrations and resentment. Thus, by January 1918, the Government felt obliged to introduce a fairer and more formal rationing system. Every citizen was issued with a ration card. Sugar was rationed first. Then meat, bacon and butter or margarine were added to the restricted list. It should be noted that during this time civilian populations in Germany, Russia, Turkey and Austria-Hungary suffered from even greater food shortages.

The reason that Britain fared better was two-fold. Coupled with rationing came increased production. The 1917 wheat harvest was the best ever. Also, Victory Gardens, sometimes called War Gardens or Food Gardens of Defence, were encouraged. Parks, private gardens and new allotments were given over to the growing of vegetables, fruit and herbs. Gardeners were also made to feel empowered by doing their bit for the war effort. In the absence of men, the war introduced a generation of women to gardening. Conversely, some soldiers created trench gardens, full of flowers, bringing life, colour, scent and humanity to the mud, death and squalor of the front.

EXTRACT from *Both Hands Before the Fire*:

**‘To meet the decreasing food stocks in the country it was necessary that every town and village should pull its weight. I consulted with one of the farmers whose land lay just behind the vicarage garden, and arranged with him to let us have the use of three acres of his land for garden allotments, at a nominal rent, and soon every inch of that ground was growing food. It was refreshing to see miners, after a hard day’s work, toiling on their respective plots.**

**I asked a personal friend of mine, an agricultural and horticultural expert, to deliver to us a series of lectures on the best methods of food production, and Sis and I were determined to set an example by making our own garden a show-piece. Country folk are slow to learn, even from experts, and they set about their new job according to their own customary ideas. Sis and I put the expert’s theories into practice, with astounding results.**

**I invited the allotment holders to come to see for themselves. They were dumfounded, particularly at our potato crop, grown on sea-weed manure, and began to copy our methods, with similar results.**

**Those allotments brought the parson and his people very much closer together.’**



23rd April

**Corporal Robert Barton dies aged 23.**

Robert Barton was born in Easington, the son of James and Jane Ann Barton. During the War they lived in North Terrace, Ferryhill, where Robert enlisted.

Robert is also commemorated in Ferryhill Cemetery.



27th April

**Lance Corporal John Sidney Lee dies aged 20.**

John Lee was the son of George and Sarah Lee of Church Street.

The 1911 Census shows he has an elder brother, George Cecil (17) and a younger sister Mary Grace (8), while John Sidney (14) was still at School. His brother George, already described as a motor engineer, was to return from the War and in February 1920 set up the first Bus Service in Bishop Middleham, running from Ferryhill to Fishburn .



## 1917

What might John Sidney Lee (known as Sidney) have done had he survived? Before going to War he was a Sunday School teacher, chorister at St Michael's Church, and assistant Scout Master. His potential is acknowledged in Rev. Spencer Wade's Memoir.

EXTRACT from *Both Hands Before the Fire*:

**'I was keen on the Boy Scouts movement, having founded the first troop in the City of Manchester, in my undergraduate days. I found a troop in Bishop Middleham. The Scoutmaster, Walter Holmes, a married man, had the heart of a boy and a marked gift for leadership. Among the boys, a fine set, was Sydney Lee, the son of the postmaster. He was the first youth in the village to volunteer for the forces. He was a lovable and much beloved lad, and we were all proud of him. He had been in France but a few weeks when word came that he had been killed in action. The village was stunned, and we were all deeply grieved for his loss to us and his parents.'**

**'Sydney was the first from the village to offer his services to the crown and the first to lay down his life for his country.'**

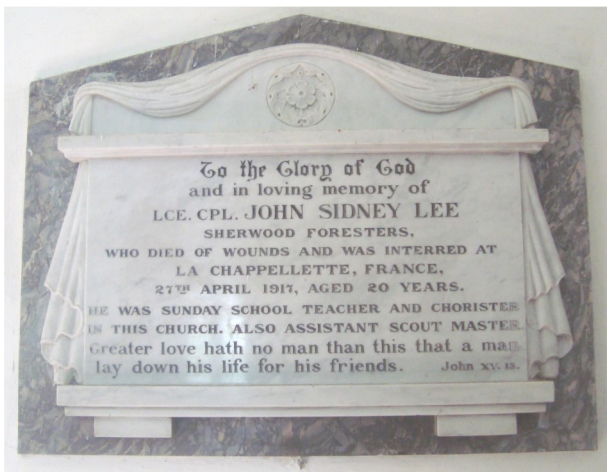
This was not strictly accurate. Rev. Spencer Wade came to Bishop Middleham in 1916, replacing the Rev. Matthew. B Parker MA, who had also joined up.

John Sidney is therefore the first youthful recruit he knew personally, and the first to die.

This 'lovable' and 'much beloved lad' had joined the Sherwood Foresters (the Nottingham and Derbyshire Regiment). Why he enlisted in Richmond, Surrey and ended up in the Sherwood Foresters is not clear. Sometimes recruits were moved from their local regiment to make up for a shortfall elsewhere. Maybe lessons had been learnt from the devastation of the Pal's regiments in 1916.

The date of his death and the location of his internment suggest John was a casualty of the Arras Offensive, a plan to end the War in 48 hours. After 6 weeks it was abandoned.

A marble plaque remembering John is on a wall inside St Michael's Church reads:



*To the Glory of God  
And in loving memory of  
Lce. Cpl John Sidney Lee  
Sherwood Foresters  
Who died of wounds and was interred at  
La Chappellette, France  
27th April 1917, aged 20 years  
He was Sunday School Teacher and choristee  
In this Church, also Assistant Scout Master.  
Greater love no man than this that a man  
Lay down his life for his friends. John XV 13*

15th May

**SCHOOL LOG:**

*Food economy stressed again.*



12th June

**Robert Johnson goes missing in action.**

Robert was born in Bishop Middleham and enlisted in Ferryhill.

26th June

A quick fire postcard, a multiple choice pre-printed card offering simple messages home, is received from R Palmer to a Miss A Palmer. This is likely to be Tom Palmer's daughter Annie, described by Spencer Wade as "A beautiful 17 year old girl."

1917

17th July

**SCHOOL LOG:**

*War Savings stressed again.*

23rd July

**PARISH COUNCIL:**

A letter was received from the Central Committee of the National Patriotic Association suggesting a Public Meeting on 4th August, the third Anniversary of the start of the War. An open-air meeting was agreed and it was decided to invite General Surtees, from Mainsforth, to speak.

Also a payment was authorised to the Rev. M B Parker of 10 shillings for lighting the schoolroom during the year 1916. So Spencer Wade's time at Bishop Middleham was over, and Rev. Parker had returned to the New Vicarage on Nutgarth.



6th August

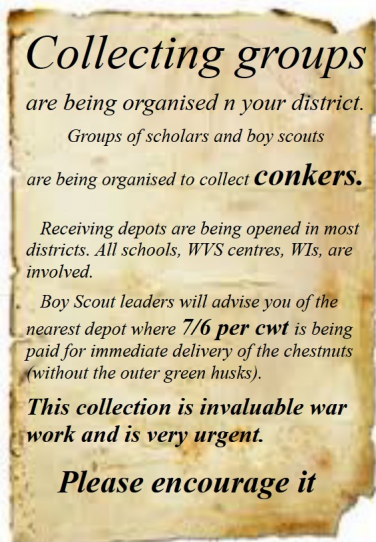
**Sergeant Thomas Legge dies aged 18.**

Thomas Legge was born in Ferryhill. He was the son of Thomas W and Mary A Legge, who lived at 8, Chilton Cottages, Ferryhill. He lived at Acomb in Yorkshire.

1st October

**SCHOOL LOG:**

*Children bring chestnuts to School.*



**Conkers**

A shortage of acetone, a component required in the making of smokeless bullets, led to an unusual request from the War Office. Schoolchildren were offered 7/6d (37.5p) per hundred weight (50.8kg).

The response was so massive and the supply trains so few, that while 3,000 tonnes did reach their destination (the Cordite Factory in King's Lynn), the remainder were to be seen rotting in piles at railway stations throughout the land.



30th November

**Lance Corporal Thomas Laverick dies aged 24.**

Thomas Laverick, the son of William Andrew and Margaret Jane Laverick who were living in Bishop Middleham by 1911, was born in Darlington. In the Census of 1911, Thomas, (18), is still living at home in Church Street, working as a joiner's apprentice. His father is a night attendant, and his brother Horace (16) a cleaner, probably both at Winterton Hospital. Maud (14) and William (6) were still attending school.

Thomas is also commemorated on the family grave stone in St Michael's Church Yard.



The inscription reads:

*Also their eldest son  
Thomas Joseph  
Died of wounds Nov 30th 1917  
Aged 24 years  
Interred Rocquigny British Cemetery, France.*

BISHOP MIDDLEHAM PARISH MAGAZINE  
FEBRUARY 1918

My Dear Parishioners,

We are approaching Lent; Ash Wednesday the first day is on February 13th. If I can arrange for special preachers I shall certainly do so as in the past, but at the present time it is difficult to arrange for anything. I hope it will be a real Lent with us all. The War should make it more real. I think this year we can not do better than give more time to the services of God and the Church, and this should be backed up by our private prayers at home. I am glad to say that on January 6th, the day appointed by the king as a day of Intercession and Thanksgiving, our congregations were good both morning and evening. In the morning we had a parade of the V. T. C's. One felt that the Church was just as it should be every Sunday morning. It was certainly a loss to anyone who did not enter into the spirit of that important day.

We have a nice and reverent little service on each Wednesday evening. We mention and pray for all those serving in the War from this Parish. We should like to see all parents and relations present. It is their duty. The social for the Sunday School prizes was well attended and well conducted as usual, and a most enjoyable evening was spent. It will pay for the prizes for last year, but this year's prizes will have to be purchased on credit. We expect to give them on Sunday, February 3rd. I should like to give a prize to each child, but this we cannot do. I need hardly say, we are guided entirely by the register marks. When speaking of the children that I always take the greatest interest in and I am glad to help whenever I have an opportunity, I am sorry to hear complaints of a certain roughness on the part of some and I specially call the notice of parents to this fact. It is not anything I have seen myself, but what I have been told by others viz. girls shouted at in going through the village, and children knocking at doors and then running away.

On Thursday evening a Lantern Lecture will be given in the school room in connection with the War Savings Association. Although this would have taken place when the magazine will be in the hands of the readers, I hope the meeting will be well attended. I am glad to hear how well Bishop Middleham has done and especially the school. It is a splendid work in every way. It is not only good for the individual, but tends to solidify the country and it will be a balancing power when the War is over, because each one will have an interest at stake. I am sorry to say that the War outlook is not very bright yet, but there are some symptoms of a desire for peace, both by Germany and Austria. What we have got to do is to hold on til we have the full effect of the American Army.

In a short time we shall be rationed in food. We may say that this is almost taking place now on account of the shortage of supply. But compulsory rationing will to a great extent equalize things. The complaint has been that some have voluntarily rationed themselves and others have not. It is sometimes stated that the wealthier class has not, but from my experience this statement is not correct. There should be as far as possible, which is no doubt difficult to carry out, just proportion between work, mentally or physically, and food. More work, more food, less work, less food. This is not only good for the health but the country. May God be with us in all we do.

I have been appointed Secretary and Treasurer of the Parcel Committee. These parcels are very acceptable. I hope the work will go on as usual.

CHURCHING

1917  
Dec. 23rd — Margaret Nicholson, Bishop Middleham  
30th — Eliza Jane Legg, Ferryhill.

1918  
Jan 9th — Amy Lizzy Harrison, Bishop Middleham.  
13th — Margaret Eleanor Denton, Bishop Middleham.  
— Ada Fishwick, Bishop Middleham.

BAPTISMS

1917  
Dec 30th — Dorothy Gwendoline, daughter of Robert and Eliza Jane Legg.

1918  
Jan 9th — Freda, daughter of Frederick and Amy Lizzie Harrison.  
13th — Gwendoline, daughter of Joseph and Margaret Eleanor Denton.  
— Mary Elizabeth, daughter of Arthur Ernest and Ada Fishwick.

MARRIAGES

Jan 3rd — Bernard Terens Gerard Arbuckle Ryan O'dwyer  
Di-mond of Crowborough to Dulcie Mary Carlisle Parker.

BURIALS

Jan 16th — Christiana Springall, aged 43 years.  
Jan 23rd — Thomas Crowther, Bishop Middleham,  
aged 65 years.

M. B. PARKER,  
Vicar

1917

3rd December Lance Sergeant George Duffield dies.

George Duffield was born in Fishburn and enlisted at Ferryhill.

1918

6th February PARISH COUNCIL:

The Council agreed that children should be allowed to work in the allotments, but only when under supervision.

5th March SCHOOL LOG:  
Distribution of Meat Ration Cards.



13th March Corporal Ronald Bulman dies aged 21.

Ronald Bulman was the son of William and Agnes Bulman, who lived on High Street, Bishop Middleham. William was a Parish Councillor.

The 1911 census shows that Ronald, aged 15, worked as a miner mechanic.

Before the War he became a limestone quarryman.

He enlisted in Sunderland on 28th November 1914 and was discharged on 12th April 1917 due to Neurasthenia brought on by shell-shock. He died at home 11 months later.



28th March Private Fred Hirst dies aged 21.



Jack (John). Lily, Richard, John,  
Fred, Annie and Joe. Walter, Charlie.

The 1911 Census tells us that Fred Hirst was 14 and already working. His father John, originally from Goole in Yorkshire, was a farmer, but having married Annie, a Trimdon girl, had settled here. Fred's sister Lily and his eldest brother Richard were born in Trimdon but Fred and his four other brothers were born in Fishburn. By 1911, the family was living at Holdforth Farm, Bishop Middleham. Lily had married and was living with her husband Herbert Danby and their 3 year old son George, at the family home.

We don't know when Fred joined up, but as he was 18 in 1915 and we believe he served in the D.L.I. 18th Battalion, the 'Durham Pals', we can surmise he was with them when they arrived in France in March 1916. That being so, he would have survived the baptism of fire they endured on 1st July 1916 at the Somme. On that day alone, half the 'Pals' were killed or wounded.

In 1917 his Battalion encountered the horrors of the mud of Passchendale.

In late March, 1918, Fred Hirst's Durhams were deployed to rebuff the Germans' Spring Offensive. A shell-shocked Brigade Major, in error, ordered them to withdraw from good defensive positions in Moyenneville. In an attempt to recapture the positions, B company found themselves trapped and exposed, unable to attack or withdraw. Over a hundred men were killed or wounded. (Continued on page 23.)

## BISHOP MIDDLEHAM PARISH MAGAZINE MAY 1918

My Dear Parishioners,

We are passing through in our Church season what is known as the Great Forty days: that is, the season between Easter Sunday and Ascension day. During this period our Lord was constantly appearing to his disciples, comforting and instructing them in things pertaining to His Church. His last command was "*Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.*" Then He ascended. We shall, I hope, think of this on the 9th of this month, i.e. Ascension Day. The period between Ascension Day and Whitsunday is known as the ten days of Expectation. Why is it so called? The disciples were expecting and praying for the great power and gift of the Holy Ghost which he had promised to send. This was fulfilled on the Day of Pentecost.

On Whit-Sunday we shall have a celebration of the Holy Communion at 8am and also at mid-day. I am glad to say the Bishop of Jarrow has promised to preach in the evening, when I hope we shall have our church crowded. The collections on that day will be given to meet our quota for the Diocesan Financial Board. There were only about three parishes in the Diocese last year who failed to meet the demand made upon them. Fortunately Bishop Middleham was not one of the three, so I hope we shall do as well this year.

On Easter-Tuesday the charities were distributed between Cornforth and this parish, after which we held our annual Vestry Meeting. The Church Accounts were presented by the People's Churchwarden, Mr William Stacey, and were considered satisfactory, as certain repairs done to the Church had to be met.

I intend (D.V.) next month to give a few details in the Magazine. Mr Thomas Bovill was re-elected the Vicar's Warden and Mr William Stacey as People's Warden. All the Sidesmen were re-appointed.

On Wednesday, April 17th, we had our Parochial Church Missionary Meeting in the School. The Rev. F. Mellows, the Diocesan Secretary, gave the lecture on China. What he said was interesting and instructive. I was sorry there were not more to hear it. These are the things which tell. Our social gatherings are good in a way, but these are far more important, they have to do with the life and soul of the nation. It is rather strange that in a year when there have been so many calls upon the people in connection with the war, the Church missionary Society has had a record year. How thankful we ought to be. I am glad to say four missionary boxes were given out to four collectors.

Mrs Surtees has kindly given £1/ 10 /0 towards the Children's Christmas Prizes. I am sorry to say Mrs Houson's brother, of Mainsforth is missing, but it is thought he may be a prisoner of war. Let us hope she may hear from him soon.

### CHURCHING

April 7th — Isabella Maddison, Bishop Middleham.

### BURIALS

April 1st — Elizabeth Nicholson, aged 4 months,  
Bishop Middleham.

M. B. PARKER,  
Vicar

**BISHOP MIDDLEHAM PARISH MAGAZINE**  
**JUNE 1918**

My Dear Parishioners,

I am placed in a difficulty with regard to the Monthly Magazine; the S.P.C.K. depot have reduced the numbers 20%. In this parish we distributed a little more than one hundred so that in the future we shall only receive about eighty.

Had it been at the beginning of the year I should have given up the Magazine. But the difficulty is the story is continued and people naturally like to read it through. I think the best plan will be for the distributors to draw lots each month, as to those who only receive a cover. I have decided that the cover to the end of the year will be given without any charge. But whatever is done there will be no favouritism shewn. I should like those who receive each month to lend to those who do not.

I wish to give this month a few statistics.

On Whitsunday we had collections for the Diocesan Financial Board, which is for the extensions and increase of Church work. The Right Reverend The Lord Bishop of Jarrow was the preacher in the evening. The result was £3:6:11. We have to raise as our quota £5:16:0. So that we have £3:9:1 still owing.

I now give the results of the Social held to pay off the debt for the school blinds. The receipts were £7:0:9. The expenses £4:14:9; leaving a balance of £2:6:0. The debt owing to Mr Wade was £2:11:0. I paid the 5/6 deficit myself in order that this account should be done with.

**The Church Institute Social**

The receipts £8:1:6, expenses £4:1:6; leaving a balance of £4. Payments due from the Secretary, £2:7:6; leaving a final balance for further expenses of £1:12:6.

I promised last week to give a balance sheet of the Church Accounts up to last Easter for the year, which are as follows:

**Bishop Middleham Church Accounts.**  
**Easter, 1917 - 1918.**

RECEIPTS.	£	S	D
Interest of Clerk's Close	3	0	6
Offertories:- Morning	27	11	11
Evening	49	12	10
	81	7	1
Nalance due to the Churchwardens	3	6	11
	£84	14	0

EXPENDITURE			
	£	S	D
Debit Balance for 1917	4	13	6
Organist's Salary	12	10	0
Sexton's Salary	14	19	0
Church Cleaning	8	0	0
Organ Blower	1	5	0
Archidiaconal Visitation	1	2	0
Insurance	3	1	9
Insurance (Aircraft)	1	10	0
Organ Tuning	3	10	0
Coke	6	16	8
Carting and Housing Coke	1	0	0
Water Rate		16	0
Printing	2	2	2
Sacrament Wine	1	4	0
Mr Lee's A/c	3	13	5
Messers. Caldeleugh's A/c.	2	5	0
Messers. Holmes' A/c.		3	4
Church Cleaning (extra)	1	10	0
N.E.Railway A/c. (Carriage)		4	0
Mr Scriven's A/c. (Blinds,&c)	2	9	0
Cask of Oil	3	7	5
Mascal's A/c. (Church Roof)	8	13	8
	£84	14	0
Subscriptions -	£	S	D
Mrs Parker	1	0	0
Mrs Lockey		10	0
Rev. M.B.Parker		5	0
Mr T. Davison (Farnless)		10	0
Mr A. Crowther		5	0
Mr G. Lee		5	0
Mr Dearing		2	6
Mr W. Stacey		2	6
	£3	0	0
Expenditure			
Mr E. Scrivens for keeping Churchyard in order	3	0	0

**CHURCHING.**

May 22nd — Elizabeth Charlton, Bishop Middleham.

June 2nd — Elizabeth Robson, Bishop Middleham.

**BAPTISMS**

May 22nd — Jennie, daughter of James and Elizabeth Charlton.

June 2nd — Elsie, daughter of John Robert and Elizabeth Robson

**MARRIAGES**

May 18th — Ralph Watson to Eveline Hutchinson, both of Camp Whin Cottage.  
M. B. PARKER. Vicar.

## BISHOP MIDDLEHAM PARISH MAGAZINE AUGUST 1918

My Dear Parishioners,

I am writing this Parish matter after the 4th Sunday in August, so that the magazines will be rather late in getting into the hands of the distributors. The reason is that I had to leave the parish for a short time on account of a sudden attack of Rheumatism. I went where every one should go with the same complaint, i.e. Harrogate. When I was there the number drinking the sulphur water was twelve hundred. Sunday, August the 4th, has been a great day, in fact a "Red Letter Day", when our good King and Queen, the House of Lords and Commons went to St. Margaret's to ask for divine aid for the War. It does shew some improvement in the statesmen of our country, that they are beginning to realise the source of all strength. Although other days of National intercession and prayer have been held, this in some respects was different. It was a recognition by the leaders of our country that "the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth". As I said on Sunday, Christianity is the real strength of the man and Christianity is the real strength of the nation.

While I am writing I am thankful to say the news from the seat of war is certainly more cheering. There is already much to thank God for. We all wish the war finished, yet at the present we need perseverance and hope. Sunday was a day of Remembrance. There is much to remember. There are those noble young men who have gone forth from this parish, who will not return. We shall not forget them. They have made the greatest sacrifice that can be made. Christ says of himself which also applies to others, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends". I hope we shall have some permanent memorial of this noble Army of Martyrs. There are many things in connexion with this war we shall not be likely to forget.

We had our Choir and Sunday School Teachers' Excursion to Seaton Carew. About 40 went to have a day at the sea-side. The weather on the whole was favourable. I believe a very pleasant day was spent.

I am rather more surprised that more do not join the Durham County Volunteer Regiment. The drill and discipline is bound to be good and it is a link in connexion with the Army. I hope their services will never be required, but at the same time it is well to be prepared. It is pleasant at the present time to see men in khaki.

The "Spanish Flu" made its appearance in the Parish. Although some families suffered severely, yet on the whole we escaped wonderfully well.

We are passing through the holiday period of our school. I hope that our teachers, who have had an anxious time, will get a well earned rest.

### CHURCHINGS

July 17th — Eveline Duff, Bishop Middleham.  
21st — Elizabeth Agnes Honeyball, 29, Morrison Terrace.

### BURIALS

July 23rd — Eveline Fanny Nobbs, Bishop Middleham, aged 27 years.

M. B. PARKER,  
Vicar



BISHOP MIDDLEHAM PARISH MAGAZINE  
SEPTEMBER 1918

My Dear Parishioners,

At the time of writing I am glad to say there is a great improvement in the war news. We appear to be 'getting on'. As the Allies advance there is one cheering thing to look forward to, they will gradually increase and grow stronger; on the other hand the Germans will decrease and grow weaker. America has to a great extent saved the situation. The principal fighting in the past week has been chiefly on the English front. But all have fought well. One cannot but wish those Pacifists or Defeatists would sit still and say nothing. They do a great deal of harm and play into the enemy's hands. One is most surprised, that a man like Lord Landsdowne taking this line. Probably his age has something to do with it. If things go as we expect they will, there is no doubt that the Anglo-Saxon race will in the future exercise a great influence in the world. Let us hope that this will be the last war, but future wars for generations will depend upon England and America. That is something to look forward to if we win the war and by God's help we shall.

It is an 'ill wind that blows no-one good'. Some sad events will lead to an improvement in our Church. My daughter and Mrs Robinson, of St Margaret's, Newcastle, are going to erect a reredos to the memory of Captain Robinson better known as 'Mr Percy Robinson', husband of one and son of the other. It is the one thing needed in our Church and it will be a great addition.

Messrs Hicks, of Newcastle, will do the work. Mr Hicks is well known as one who loves his work for the sake of God. Our Squire, Brig. Gen. Surtees and Mrs Surtees are going to erect a Stained Window on the North side of the Chancel to the memory of their nephew, the Late Lt. Crabbe, RAF. This will help to beautify the Chancel, and Mr and Mrs Lee are also going to erect a tablet to the memory of their dear son, Sidney (who made the noble and great sacrifice), on the South wall of the Church. I hope in the future some permanent memorial will be raised to all who have so bravely laid down their lives for their King and Country.

I am at present trying to arrange for a preacher for our Harvest Thanksgiving. While I am writing the corn is not all gathered in, but there is every prospect it will soon. We must all acknowledge it has been a plentiful year. The crops of corn are remarkable, and it is the one thing this year, as far as earthly things are concerned needful, so I hope we shall have a crowded Church and an enthusiastic service. We shall come together with thankful hearts to praise the giver of all.

I am sorry to be informed that for a few Sunday evenings that there has been talking and misbehaviour on the part of some grown up boys at the West end of the Church, boys who ought to know better as they belong to respectable parents. The names of 4 or 5 have been given to me. I shall speak privately to their parents. If this has no effect I intend to print their names in the Magazine. We want no-one in the Church who is not capable of decent behaviour. I pray God to give them a better spirit. I wish to deal with them in all kindness, but at the same time it must stop. It is not the first time these names have been given to me. They were also given to me in connection with the Scouts.

BURIALS

Aug 6th — George and William Lake, of 5, Morrison Terrace, twin brothers, aged respectively Eighteen hours, and two days.

27th — Lambeth Bailey, aged 43 years, Bishop Middleham.

M. B. PARKER,  
Vicar

BISHOP MIDDLEHAM PARISH MAGAZINE  
OCTOBER 1918

My Dear Parishioners,

There is much to be thankful for in the way the War is going. The tide has evidently turned and there seems a general advance all round. The Turkish Army in Palestine has been annihilated. This is one of the greatest victories of the War. One naturally traces God's Providence more in Palestine than anywhere else—a land which was trodden by the Son of God. Let us hope it will never be occupied by the Turks again.

There has been a wonderful change since the nation asked for 'divine aid'. I think it is a clear sign that God has heard our Nation's prayers. Let us hope that the time is fast approaching when we shall have to thank God for final victory and the prospects of a final peace.

We are looking forward to our Harvest Thanksgiving. The weather this year has been rather uncertain, so the farmers have had an anxious time. A good deal has been gathered in, but a good deal is still out. This year is no doubt a very remarkable one for produce. Many of the crops have not been so good for years. Probably never before has there been so much produced in one year in England. Every corner and nook has been cultivated. It is likely to become true what the Prime Minister said, that England can maintain herself. The allotments have added considerably to the nation's supply of food.

The Rev. Dr. Short, Vicar of St Helen's, West Auckland, has promised to preach for us at our Harvest Festival. We intend immediately afterwards to have a 'Harvest Home' in the School in order to raise funds for the Sunday School's prizes. This will take the form of a Social.

The Newcastle Breweries, Ltd. have kindly promised £3 per annum to the School. Up to recently we have had no income worth speaking of, but have been chiefly dependent upon payments from Socials.

We have to pay for every time the School is used; for the Sunday School on account of fire and cleaning. There are again continual repairs needed.

I have recommenced the Scouts Corps. I hope this time it will be a success.

An appeal has been made to the Clergy to bring before the parishioners the duty of saving coal. The following is the contents of a leaflet which has been sent to me.

**COAL - URGENT**

The controller of Coal Mines writes:-

"The country is faced with a serious coal shortage . . . . Coal is the key industry of Great Britain and the Allies, and the out look today is very much more serious than is generally realised. The causes of the shortage are:-

1. The call to the Colours of 75,000 miners to meet the peril of the German offensive in March; and
2. The almost complete stoppage of the mines in Northern France as a direct result of the German advance in the West."

**"Coal is the key to Victory"**

*Marshal Foch*

"British Coal supports the War in France. It is the great source of power. It is wanted for moving trains. It is wanted for driving ships. It is wanted for high explosives. It is wanted for making munitions. It is wanted to exchange for food and wood and ships.

All the Allies want British Coal and must have it. The Germans have seized French coal fields. Italy has none. America's coal is too far away. It is Britain's part to supply them all.

All the coal you save is used for WAR - to bring Victory nearer."

.....

"England today is short of 36,000,000 tons of coal. By the system of household rationing we hope to save 9,000,000 tons of coal.

Twenty seven million tons, therefore, remain still to be found. This deficit can be reduced - not made good - only if the miners get more coal, and if the householders use less than their ration . . . . .

The miners leaders have promised to do their utmost to induce the men to increase the output, and the public are being asked to do their part in reducing the consumption of coal, coke, gas, and electricity to a minimum.

Every consumer should try to manage on 3/4 of his ration. The quarter saved will help to keep our brave soldiers warm."

**How to save coal.**

"Mix coke with it; a third of coke will have no bad effect upon the fire.

Use fire bricks to reduce the size of the grate, or have a false bottom fitted.

Use the small coal to damp down the large.

Keep your pans and kettles clean outside as well as inside.

Dirt and soot absorb and waste heat.

Never use gas for cooking when the kitchen fire is alight.

Do not light the kitchen fire for cooking when you can use gas instead.

Put in smaller electric light bulbs and smaller gas burners where less light will serve.

Never mend a fire late at night. Take the coal off when you go to bed. Save the cinders.

Burn all your rubbish. Remember the dustbin often contains a supply of fuel of sorts. The kitchen fire will burn all sorts of fuel.

You CAN Save Coal - Will You Fail?"

M. B. PARKER,  
Vicar

## 1918

The next day, March 28th 1918, which was to be Fred Hirst's last, all four companies of the 18th Battalion engaged to repel German attacks. Having done so, they dug in but "the enemy shell fire continued and there were many casualties." One of them was Fred Hirst, who in turn was one of 320 men of the 18th reported killed, wounded or missing near Moyenneville in the last days of March, 1918.



### **Alfred Smith dies.**

There has been some confusion regarding Alfred Smith's War record. However, his family have provided personal memories of 'Uncle Alfie'. The family lived in Hawthorn Terrace where they owned several houses. Alfie attended Bishop Middleham School and his big brother Percy used to give Alfie a piggy-back to school. The son of John and Sarah Smith, Alfie was one of 8 brothers and sisters, including Percy, Phoebe, Sarah, Hilda and Gordon. The family story goes that Alfie falsified his age to fight for his country and died the day before Armistice Day. He was never forgotten.

### 11th November **The War ends.**

#### **SCHOOL LOG:**

News received of Armistice at 11:00 hrs.

Patriotic songs sung. Suitable remarks made by Headmaster. National Anthem sung.



### 9th December **Private J Burney dies a month after Armistice Day.**

J Burney is also commemorated at Ferryhill Cemetery.

#### *THE AFTERMATH*

While all were delighted with the end of the War, there were differing opinions as to its meaning. With over three quarters of a million dead, the nation had been left massively bereaved. Thus, returning veterans felt it inappropriate to over celebrate victory and their survival. Many were deeply affected by their own experiences and many were angry about the futility of the conflict, but the presumed needs of bereaved parents and wives meant there was a strong social taboo against saying so.

After the War many young men and women did return to the village, and life went on. Sidney Lee's brother George returned and started the first bus service through the village.

The following names of survivors are taken from N. Haile's 'BISHOP MIDDLEHAM':

Bainbridge E.	Bulman J. A.	Duff G.E.	Forster W.S.	Harper E.
Bainbridge T.	Bulmer R.	Duffield W.	Foster E.	Harper R.H.
Barton M.	Chapman R.	Elliott J.	Garbutt T.	Harper S.
Bell H.	Craggs J.K.	Elsley J.	Gittins Florence L.	Harrison W.
Blunden P. S.	Craggs W.	Fishwick A.	Gittins R.C.	Hodgson T.
Brown F. C.	Crowther G.L.	Fishwick F.	Gittins W.A.	Holmes W.R.
Brown J.	Curbeson A.	Ford F.	Glendenning J.	Hufford A.
Brown R.	Curbeson W.	Forster Dora B.	Glendenning N.	Hufford G.
Brown W.	Dearing F.	Forster P.A.	Godley H.	Jobling J.
Bulman A.	Duff G.	Forster W.	Haile A.M.	Kemp T.

BISHOP MIDDLEHAM PARISH MAGAZINE  
NOVEMBER 1918

My Dear Parishioners,

As I am rather late in writing the Parish Magazine matter I am thankful to say that I am writing at a time when the news is glorious at the seat of war. Both Turkey and Austria have surrendered, and although Germany is asking for an armistice, yet everyone is wishing rather for a surrender too. One of the things many of us wish to see enforced most of all is reparation. It does not come in as one of President Wilson's fourteen points, but it does not touch America to the same degree as Belgium, France, and England, yet at the same time she has not escaped Germany's atrocities. Personally I should like to see every man dealt with who has been guilty of cruelty to those within his power. This to my mind is more important than anything else. It should be carried out from the highest to the lowest, which should make it, amongst other things, a warning for the future. I think this to a great extent, will be done. It is a time, therefore, for mouths to be filled with praise and thanksgiving. St James tells us what a high use the tongue can be made of, and what a low use. It can bless God, it can curse men. It can be used in praise and thanksgiving, it can be used to slander innocent people. It is a mark of the character of an individual, the way he or she uses the tongue. The same fountain cannot bring out, as St James says, at the same time sweet water and bitter.

We have made a new beginning with the Scouts, and so far things have gone well. I hope the parents will help me, because it can only be carried on by regularity and strict discipline. I want to see the boys grow up smart boys and well mannered.

In many Parishes meetings are being held for women on account of the coming election, when they will be privileged to exercise their vote. We intend to have one in this Parish about the end of next week, when some invited speaker will give us an address. At these meetings no distinction is made; it is for non-conformists as well as the Church of England. No politics are introduced, or denominational religion. It is intended to be for the good of the Empire and England. If religion is introduced, which probably can hardly be excluded, it will be in general terms and have nothing to do with any denomination. We should like to see at it non-conformist speakers. At present time we are all looking forward to a great reunion of Christendom.

The War Office has conferred upon me the privilege of 'Honorary Chaplain', so that I am responsible for duty wherever soldiers are near, and to wear khaki with the letter 'R,' i.e. Retired.

Unfortunately, I have to refer to another soldier who has given his life for his country, i.e. Private Bell. I understand he was a fine young man. He is another of the 'Noble Army of Martyrs'. We have all had great sympathy for his family.

Our Harvest Thanksgiving Services were well attended. I have never seen the Church so full as it was on the Sunday evening. The Wednesday evening collection was for the School. The amount was £2 / 6 / 0. The 'Harvest Home' held for the Sunday School prizes produced £3 net.

It was with deep sympathy and sorrow that we heard of the death of Mrs Legge, at Acomb, York. She was better known in this Parish as 'Miss Harriet Walker'. She was always in close touch with our Church life and ever helpful. I have never known anyone bear the heavy cross that was laid upon her so patiently. To add to her own bodily suffering she lost a dear husband in the war. I have reason to believe she was perfected through her sufferings. She had taken up her cross to follow Jesus. May God comfort her family.

#### CHURCHING

Sept 8th — Elizabeth Ann Wheatley, Bishop Middleham.

Oct 6th — Charlotte Elizabeth Milburn,  
Bishop Middleham.

Oct 27th — Elizabeth Ross, Bishop Middleham.  
— Mary Elizabeth Smith, Bishop Middleham.

#### BAPTISMS

Sept 8th — Francis Alice, daughter of Thomas and  
Elizabeth Ann Wheatley.

Oct 6th — Eric George Martin, son of George and  
Charlotte Elizabeth Milburn.

Oct 27th — Fred Reed, son of George and Elizabeth Ross.  
— Nora, daughter of James Walter and Mary  
Elizabeth Smith.

#### MARRIAGES

Oct 28th — Ernest Forster, 2 Conyers Terrace, The  
Broom, Ferryhill, to Elizabeth Annie  
Wearmouth, North Terrace, Mainsforth.

M. B. PARKER,  
Vicar

Kirby C.	Mayman W.	Palmer R.	Rutter J.	Springhall C.	Watson Jas.
Lambert J.B.	Mc.Cormack J.	Parker M.B.	Rutter W.H.	Surtees H.C.	Wilkinson E.
Laverick H.	Mc.Cormack P.	Plummer G.H.	Sadler T.	Tinkler G.	Wilkinson N.
Lee G.C.	Metcalfe J.	Prior G.	Siddle W.	Turnbull J.	Willis T.
Legg C.	Milburn J.	Raine W.	Smare A.	Turnbull N.	Wills J.
Legg F.	Milburn W.	Rippon G.	Smare W.	Turney J.	Wilson E.
Legg H.	Mills E.	Robinson A.	Smith A.W.	Walker C.	Wilson S.
Legg J.	Moffat R.	Ross A.	Smith H.	Walker Hy.	
Mallam W.	Nobbs Evelyn	Ross H.	Smith H.W.	Walker Herbert	
Mayman R.	Nobbs Mary L.	Ross J.	Smith J.H.	Wardle J.	



Newton Haile also records that **A. Mills** lost his life in the War, although his name does not appear on the War Memorial. No details are known about A Mills.

## 1919

### 30th April PARISH COUNCIL

A Public General Meeting was called to consider the question of a War Memorial.

## 1921

### 9th October The War Memorial Dedication Service takes place.

The War Memorial Committee who organised the memorial comprised of disabled soldiers and sailors. Money was raised by public subscription. It cost £245 and the sculptor was recorded as Francis Jones from Ainsley and Collins of West Hartlepool.

The War Memorial was unveiled in St Michael's Churchyard on Saturday 9th October 1921  
by Lt Col. Tomlinson of Seaton Carew.

The Dedication was given by Archdeacon Derry.

#### The Inscription reads:

*To the glory of God  
And in loving memory of  
The men of  
Bishop Middleham  
and Mainsforth  
Who laid down their lives  
In the Great War 1914 - 1918  
Greater love hath no man than this,  
That a man lay down his life for his friends.*

After World War 2 a stone book was added.

#### The Inscription reads:

*Also the following  
who died on active service  
during the World War  
1935 - 1945*



In 2013, time and weather had eroded some of the names recorded on the War Memorial and the foundations had subsided so repairs were carried out.

**The RE-DEDICATION SERVICE  
took place on 10th July 2014,  
presided by the Bishop of Jarrow.**

# THE MEN

## DURHAM LIGHT INFANTRY



Many of the men from the Bishop Middleham area joined the D.L.I.

In World War One the Durham Light Infantry suffered huge losses.

In September, 1914, the 2nd Battalion lost as many men in one day as the entire regiment lost during the Boer War.

In Spring 1915, the Territorials lost a third of their strength in a few weeks. Worse was to follow:- on the 1st of July 1916 at the Somme, the 'Durham Pals' (18th Battalion D.L.I.) lost half their men, either killed or wounded.

The D.L.I. fought in every major battle of the Great War. Members of the regiment were awarded six Victoria crosses, but the cost was horrific, with nearly 13,000 dead and many more thousands gassed or wounded.

Despite this, in the 1920s and 1930s, the regiment had few problems in recruitment such as the high level of unemployment in County Durham.



*Artist : Nathan Brimm, aged 13*



### ROBERT BARTON

REGIMENT: **DLI 1/5th Bn.**  
 RANK: **CORPORAL**  
 SERVICE NUMBER: **200530**  
 DUTY LOCATION: **France and Flanders**  
 DATE of DEATH: **23/04/1917**  
 AGE at DEATH: **23**  
 FATE: **Killed in action**  
 CEMETERY: **ARRAS MEMORIAL**  
**Bay 8**  
**Roclincourt,**  
**Pas de Calais, France.**



### P BELL

RANK: PRIVATE *See page 24*



### RONALD BULMAN

REGIMENT: **Alexandra, Princess of Wales's Own (Yorkshire) 9thBn.**  
 RANK: **CORPORAL**  
 SERVICE NUMBER: **17692**  
 DATE of DEATH: **13/03/1918**  
 AGE at DEATH: **21**  
 FATE: **Died at home**  
 CEMETERY: **HENDON CEMETERY**  
**and CREMATORIUM**  
**D.9.23878**



### J BURNEY

REGIMENT: **Grenadier Guards**  
 RANK: **PRIVATE**  
 SERVICE NUMBER: **31497**  
 DATE of DEATH: **09/12/1918**



### A CAMPAN

*No Details are known about A Campan.*



### JOSEPH CRAKE

REGIMENT: **DLI 1/5th Bn.**  
 RANK: **PRIVATE**  
 SERVICE NUMBER: **4017**  
 DATE of DEATH: **19/09/1916**  
 AGE at DEATH: **39**  
 CEMETERY: **PUCHEVILLERS**  
**BRITISH iv.D.14**  
**Department de la Somme,**  
**Picardie, France.**



### ALBERT DAVISON

REGIMENT: **DLI 10th Bn.**  
 RANK: **PRIVATE**  
 SERVICE NUMBER: **28088**  
 DUTY LOCATION: **France and Flanders**  
 DATE of DEATH: **18/10/1916**  
 AGE at DEATH: **23**  
 FATE: **Died of wounds**  
 CEMETERY: **St SEVER CEMETERY**  
**B.13.46**  
**Rouen,**  
**Seine-Maritime, France.**



### GEORGE DUFFIELD

REGIMENT: **DLI 14th Bn.**  
 RANK: **CORPORAL / LANCE SERGEANT**  
 SERVICE NUMBER: **28430**  
 DUTY LOCATION: **France and Flanders**  
 DATE of DEATH: **13/12/1917**  
 AGE at DEATH: **23**  
 FATE: **Killed in action**  
 CEMETERY: **MARCOING BRITISH CEMETERY**  
**II.C.21**  
**Nord, France.**



### FRED HIRST

REGIMENT: **DLI 18th Bn.**  
 RANK: **PRIVATE**  
 SERVICE NUMBER: **28134**  
 DUTY LOCATION: **France and Flanders**  
 DATE of DEATH: **28/03/1918**  
 AGE at DEATH: **21**  
 FATE: **Killed in action**  
 CEMETERY: **MOYENNEVILLE**  
**(TWO TREES) CEMETERY**  
**A.24**  
**Pas de Calais, France.**



### W T HUTCHINSON

*No Details are known about W Hutchinson.*



### ROBERT JOHNSON

REGIMENT: **DLI 13th Bn.**  
 SERVICE NUMBER: **33264**  
 DATE of DEATH: 12/06/1917  
 FATE: Missing  
 CEMETERY: YPRES (MENIN GATE)  
 MEMORIAL  
**Panel 36 and 38**  
 West Flanders,  
 Belgium.



### THOMAS JOSEPH LAVERICK

REGIMENT: **Worcestershire 4th Bn**  
 RANK: LANCE CORPORAL  
 SERVICE NUMBER: **26241**  
 DUTY LOCATION: France and Flanders  
 DATE of DEATH: 30/11/1917  
 AGE at DEATH: **24**  
 FATE: Died of wounds  
 CEMETERY: ROCQUIGNY-  
 EQUANCOURT ROAD  
 BRITISH CEMETERY,  
 MANANCOURT, France.  
**III.C.16**



### JOHN SIDNEY LEE

REGIMENT: **SHERWOOD  
 FORESTERS 2nd/7th Bn**  
 RANK: LANCE CORPORAL  
 SERVICE NUMBER: **267271**  
 DUTY LOCATION: France and Flanders  
 DATE of DEATH: 27/04/1917  
 AGE at DEATH: **20**  
 FATE: Died of wounds  
 CEMETERY: La CHAPELETTE  
 BRITISH and INDIAN  
 CEMETERY,  
 PERONNE  
**II.A.12**  
 Somme, France.



### THOMAS TINKLER LEGGE

REGIMENT: **King's Royal Rifle Corps**  
 RANK: SERGEANT  
 SERVICE NUMBER: **C/12187**  
 DUTY LOCATION: France and Flanders  
 DATE of DEATH: 06/08/1917  
 AGE at DEATH: **18**  
 FATE: Died  
 CEMETERY: JANVAL CEMETERY  
**I.I.3**  
 Dieppe,  
 Seine-Maritime,  
 France.



### JOSEPH MADDISON

REGIMENT: **York and Lancs 9th Bn**  
 RANK: PRIVATE  
 SERVICE NUMBER: **34517**  
 DATE of DEATH: 02/10/1916  
 AGE at DEATH: **22**  
 FATE: Killed in action  
 CEMETERY: THEIPVAL MEMORIAL  
**Pier and Face**  
**14A and 14B**  
 Somme, France.



### THOMAS MURRAY

REGIMENT: **DLI 11th Bn.**  
 RANK: PRIVATE  
 SERVICE NUMBER: **25228**  
 DUTY LOCATION: France and Flanders  
 DATE of DEATH: 10/11/1915  
 AGE at DEATH: **21**  
 FATE: Died of wounds  
 CEMETERY: SAILLY-SUR-La-DYS  
 CANADIAN CEMETERY  
**III.A.12**  
 Somme, France.



### PERCY DOUGLAS ROBINSON

REGIMENT: **Northumberland  
 Fusiliers 9th Bn**  
 RANK: CAPTAIN  
 DUTY LOCATION: France and Flanders  
 DATE of DEATH: 07/07/1916







ALFRED SMITH

Many men called Alfred Smith were killed in WW1.  
It is unclear which of them was our Alfie Smith.  
See page 23.



G S TAYLOR

No Details are known about G Taylor.



J WALKER

REGIMENT: **Cheshire**  
RANK: PRIVATE  
SERVICE NUMBER: **28170**  
DATE of DEATH: 16/02/1917  
CEMETERY: St HILAIRE CEMETERY,  
FREVENT  
II.A.2  
Pas de Calais,  
France.



JOSEPH MATTHEW WATSON

REGIMENT: **DLI 1st/7th Bn**  
RANK: CORPORAL  
SERVICE NUMBER: **1983**  
DATE of DEATH: 10/05/1915  
AGE at DEATH: **21**

**ALSO**

**Commemorated on a family grave stone  
in St Michael's Churchyard:**



CHARLES ASHFORTH CARTLEDGE

REGIMENT: **Northamptonshire**  
RANK: SECOND LIEUTENANT  
DUTY LOCATION: France and Flanders  
DATE of DEATH: 29/07/1916  
AGE at DEATH: **33**  
FATE: Killed in action

CHARLES  
ASHFORTH  
CARTLEDGE

continued



2nd Lt. Charles Cartledge.

CEMETERY:  
AVELUY COMMUNAL  
CEMETERY EXTENSION  
F.64  
Somme, France.

Charles Ashforth Cartledge was less typical of the men who were commemorated on the War Memorial. He was in his thirties when he joined up as an officer in the Northamptonshire Regiment.

However, like many of the men, he was born in Bishop Middleham. His father, also called Charles Ashforth Cartledge, was the Dean of Bishop Middleham from 1875 to 1892.

We know that the family had strong associations with the Church.

The announcement of the wedding of Charles' parents, in the Harrogate Advertiser on the 20th June 1874, states the following:

*"On June 17th, at the Holy Trinity Church, Ripon, by the Venerable Edward Prest MA, Archdeacon of Durham, brother of the Bride, and the Rev. W. A. Cartledge MA, Vicar of Bilton, Harrogate, Charles Ashforth Cartledge BA, Curate of Bilton, to Harriet Anne Prest."*

Thus, Charles' father, grandfather and uncle were all clergymen. It is possible the uncle, being Archdeacon of Durham, helped secure his father the living of Bishop Middleham.

The 1891 Census reveals that Charles, aged 7, has two elder sisters: Charlotte (14), Agnes (12), and a brother William (11), all of whom were born in Bishop Middleham.

The family also had three living-in servants. Hannah Kirk, the youngest, was only 14. What contrasting lives the two 14-year-old girls must have led while both living in the Vicarage - the Old Vicarage on Church Street.



*The Old Vicarage in the bottom left corner, and the Hall in the distance.*

The Rev. C. A. Cartledge is buried in St Michael's graveyard, close to the Church. Harriet's body returned to Bishop Middleham to be interred with him.

The inscription includes the words :

*"This cross is erected by his friends and parishioners."*

Later still, an inscription was added to the family gravestone, to commemorate Charles, their son, when he fell at the Somme in 1916.



*The inscription for Charles Cartledge.*

However, the 1901 Census finds Charles alive and well, and living in Harrogate with two unmarried sisters. (Charlotte married a surgeon, John Prest Wightman, later that year).

His widowed mother's occupation is described as *"living on her own means"*. They no longer have household servants but as Charles is being educated at Gigglesworth School and his sisters have not been required to find work, circumstances can't have been that desperate.

After leaving school, Charles went to university but in a break from the family clerical tradition he studied to become a civil engineer. The 1911 Census shows Charles, now 27, as lodging with a family in Withernsea in the East Riding of Yorkshire. He is described as a civil engineer working as a general contractor. He must have been a successful one, as upon his death, he left £3,500. This would have been a considerable sum at the time and was more than ten times the amount that was left by his mother.










In 1914, he was living in the Parish of Tottenham, North London, where on the 21st June he married Ethel Cooper Snowden, of Headingley, Leeds. Within 6 weeks Britain was at war with Germany.

In February 1915 Charles joined the 5th Battalion of the Northamptonshire Regiment as a pioneer. Pioneers, as well as fighting, were used for the massive construction projects that were required on the Western Front, including trench building and railway construction. Charles' civil engineering skills would have been invaluable.

From his medal index card we know Charles entered the Theatre of War on May 30th, 1915. He served for over a year but a month into the Battle of the Somme, he was killed in action, aged 33. He was buried in the Aveluy Cemetery in France.

In January 1919 his grieving widow Ethel applied for the 1914 – 15 Star on his behalf. By then she was living in Cheltenham. They had no children.

## WORLD WAR 2

	<p><b>Herbert DODSWORTH</b> was the husband of Vera Mary Dodsworth of Bishop Middleham. He was a Private in the Army Catering Corps and then the Royal Engineers. He died on 15/10/1944 aged 36 years, and is buried at BEIRUT WAR CEMETERY, 4.B.4, <i>Lebanon</i>.</p>	
	<p><b>Philip Bellerby HAILE</b> was the son of Alfred. M. and Amy C. Haile of Bishop Middleham. He was a Flight Sergeant in the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, 99th Sqn. He died on 21/01/1945, aged 22 years, and is buried at MAYNAMATI WAR, CEMETERY, Coll. Grave 3.D.19, <i>Bangladesh</i>.</p>	
	<p><b>L HEWIT:</b> No details are known about L. Hewit.</p>	
	<p><b>Henry HODGSON</b> was the son of William and Harriet Hodgson of Bishop Middleham. He was an Able Seaman in the Royal Navy and served on SS Harpangar. He died on 20/05/1941, aged 24 years, and is commemorated on CHATHAM NAVAL MEMORIAL, 43.1, <i>Kent, England</i>.</p>	
	<p><b>Isabella JONES</b> was the daughter of Samuel and Johanna Jones of Bishop Middleham. She was a Private in the Auxiliary Territorial Service. She died on 26/11/1945, aged 20 years, and is buried at St MICHAEL'S CHURCHYARD, <i>Bishop Middleham</i>. Isabella is the only woman remembered on the Memorial who lost her life serving her country.</p>	
	<p><b>W. MORALEE:</b> No details are known about W. Moralee.</p>	
	<p><b>H ROBSON:</b> No details are known about H. Robson</p>	
	<p><b>Bernard SAYERS</b> was the son of Robert and Martha Ann Sayers, of Bishop Middleham. He was an Able Seaman in the Royal Navy Patrol Service, and served on HMS Southern Flower. He died on 03/03/1945, aged 25 years, when his ship was sunk by a U-Boat. He is commemorated on LOWESTOFT NAVAL MEMORIAL, <i>England</i>.</p>	

