## The staff and committee of the <u>Bishops Caundle Community Store</u> would like to wish all our customers and volunteers a very happy Christmas and New Year!

Our Christmas stock will soon be making its way onto the shelves and we would be happy to hear of any items you might like to request. Call in to see what we have on offer. You can order fresh fruit and vegetables and that we can take orders for fresh meat if a deposit is paid.

Catheryn has settled in as manager. No doubt, you will have noticed some changes in the lines we stock, many of these suggested by customers. The frozen meals from Olive's Kitchen are proving popular, as are some of the lines aimed at our youngest customers. Our 'Lucky Dip' sweet bags are an alternative to other pocket money sweets and a box of dried fruit is a great addition to packed lunches.

We welcome your comments in our suggestions book. Catheryn or a member of the staff or committee will, where appropriate, write a response in the book. If you require a personal response, please include your name and contact details.

We have welcomed some new volunteers in recent months but there are always spaces for more! We need extra help, not only behind the counter, but also with stocking shelves, pricing goods, dusting, cleaning... There is no need to offer on a regular weekly basis! The **Post Office** has decided that it cannot provide the same service as before. The

Committee has done all it can over the past 4 months to fight to maintain the current Post Office hours but is sorry to say that we have had to admit defeat. The Post Office has decided to reduce our status to a 'hosted' service. The Sub-Postmaster from Child Okeford will come to the shop for 2 hours a week on Friday mornings 10.30-12.30. It is impossible to persuade them to provide more time than this though, if there is sufficient demand, the provider of the service can ask for an increase in hours. We are hoping that as many of us as possible will continue to use the Post Office services once the new provider starts so it will be realised how much we value our Post Office. Please see the notice board for developments.

The Committee thanks the shop's loyal band of staff and volunteers and reminds them that there is a Christmas Dinner reserved at the White Hart on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December. The menu and price details are on the notice board behind the counter. We apologise that, due to unforeseen circumstances, we have had to change to this date. Please add your name (and that of your partner) to the list in the shop. Everyone who has helped in the shop in any way is very welcome to attend.

We have some exciting plans for the shop in 2016!

Happy Christmas!