

january  
2016  
50p

the  
whitburn  
window



time to look through the window and time to reach out,  
to the heart of the parish, that's what we're all about

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## parish priest

### Revd Ian Davies

Who can be contacted on

Tel: 0191 514 3055 / 07972866341

If the answer machine is on, please leave a message, and he will ring you back.

Email - [reviand@manx.net](mailto:reviand@manx.net)

## churchwardens

Mrs Lorraine Hood, 68, Wellands Lane, Tel. 529 2628

e-mail — [Lorraine.Hood@talktalk.net](mailto:Lorraine.Hood@talktalk.net)

Mr. John Shield, Whitehouse Farm, Front Street, Tel. 529 3935

e-mail — [ajshield1947@gmail.com](mailto:ajshield1947@gmail.com)

## church services

### sunday

the parish eucharist 10.00. a.m.

except first Sunday in month. Family Service 10.00 a.m.

first Sunday Holy Communion (said) 8.30 a.m.

evensong 6.30. p.m.

### weekdays

Monday, Holy Communion (BCP) 9.30. a.m.

## services other than at the Parish Church

Last Friday of the month — Lindsay Court 10.00am

Croftside House 11.00am

**[www.whitburnparishchurch.co.uk](http://www.whitburnparishchurch.co.uk)**

**email: [whitburnparishchurch@btconnect.com](mailto:whitburnparishchurch@btconnect.com)**

## weddings

Please contact Rev'd Ian Davies

## baptisms

Contact Rev'd Ian Davies to find out the time of the next Baptism Preparation Group Meeting. Baptisms normally take place on the fourth Sunday of the month.



## readers and intercessors for january

| Date              | Intercessor  | Reader                  | Reading                                |
|-------------------|--------------|-------------------------|--|
| 3rd am            | CLERGY       | L Osborne               | Isa. 60. 1 - 6                         |
| Epiphany          |              | M Osborne               | Ephesians 3. 1 - 12                    |
| pm                | L Humphrey   | CLERGY                  | 1 Sam. 1 2 - 20<br>1 John 4. 7 - 16    |
| 10th am           | P Turner     | J Shield                | Isa. 43 1 - 7                          |
| Baptism of Christ |              | C Alder                 | Acts 8. 14 - 17                        |
| pm                | CLERGY       | P Robinson<br>A England | Isa. 55 1 - 11<br>Rom. 6 1 -11         |
| 17th am           | CLERGY       | J Lonsdale              | Isa. 62. 1 - 5                         |
|                   |              | G Blackburn             | 1 Cor. 12 1 - 11                       |
| pm                | A Lillington | CLERGY                  | 1 Sam. 3 1 - 20<br>Eph. 4. 1 - 16      |
| 24th am           | M Vallence   | J Baxter                | Neh. 8. 1 - 3,<br>5 - 6, 8 - 10        |
| Septuagesima      |              | L Hood                  | 1 Cor. 12. 12 - 31                     |
| pm                | CLERGY       | J Baker<br>M Smith      | Num.9 15 - 23<br>1 Cor.7.17 - 24       |
| 31st am           | CLERGY       | J Atkinson              | Ezek.43 27 - 44.4                      |
| Sexagesima        |              | L Lumsden-Taylor        | 1 Cor. ch 13                           |
| pm                | S Thompson   | CLERGY                  | 1 Chron. 29. 6 - 19<br>Acts 7. 44 - 50 |

## sidespersons for january

|      |                |      |                   |              |
|------|----------------|------|-------------------|--------------|
| 3rd  | Mrs M Johnson  | 10th | Mrs B Etherington |              |
|      | Mrs P Robinson |      | Mrs J Lonsdale    |              |
|      | Mr A England   |      | Mr A Lonsdale     | 31st         |
|      |                |      |                   | Mrs J Ward   |
|      |                |      |                   | Mr I Ward    |
| 17th | Mrs J Orton    | 24th | Mrs J Osborne     | Mrs M Brooks |
|      | Mrs J Nixon    |      | Mr M Osborne      |              |

Many thanks to all who read and lead the prayers and those who welcome the worshippers to services week by week. Thank you for your time and expertise.  
Lorraine and John



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## in the window this month.....

In this first window of the year we open with an article from Rev'd Ian Davies — “thoughts for the coming year.”

We have the pleasure of two articles from Mary Stephenson —

Please find inside Bishop Paul's Christmas message to us all.

“The Lord's Prayer” as an advert — will it offend? More inside.

New Years Eve Party - Details of dates inside.

John Shield has pleasure in announcing the latest 100 Club draw double winners.

A couple of weekly events happening in the village — Details inside of how you can get involved.

Find out inside who will be serving you “Coffee and Biscuits” with a smile each Sunday morning during this month.

An opportunity to hear about Bishop Paul's latest visit to Lesotho — Find out when inside.

*Many thanks to those who continue to contribute to each edition.*

*It is always very much appreciated. Thank you Sue (Editor)*

*Articles for February Magazine by 31st January.*

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## a view of registers for november

### Baptisms

29th Caleb Joseph and Willow Mae son and daughter of

Mark and Sophie Carter

Lucas and Pippa son and daughter of David and Michelle Triplow

Alfie James son of James Wright and Kirsty Young

### Funerals

11th Gladys Barron

14th Jim Cunningham

19th Gladys Winter

## december

### Baptisms

20th Alice Ellen daughter of David and Hayley Beckinsale

### Funerals

14th Norman Tyson

21st Val Wilson

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appointment.

# thoughts on the new year

A Happy New Year. Have you made promises to yourself that in 2016 things will change? This year our family had agreed to cut down on the presents we bought for Christmas, and to make time to be together more frequently throughout the year. This will be cost us time, and we will need to consider each other more than we have, but it is an exciting prospect. The question is, will we keep it up. Good intentions quickly evaporate in the busyness of everyday life, and then we realise that another year has passed once more. This year, as a family we have succeeded for four days, so only 362 to go!

A friend of mine was talking about the time when his parents had died.

"After my father died," he said, "I had the job of clearing their house, and as I emptied the drawers I found a bundle of envelopes with my handwriting. I had worked abroad for fifteen years, and these were the letters I had written home, and which my mother had kept. I sat down and read them with increasing dismay.

Each one said roughly the same

thing:- 'Sorry I haven't time to write, am very busy, will write again soon.' Fifteen years of writing, and I never said more than that I was too busy to write. The hard thing to take in" he said, "was that my mother had kept each one." He went on to say that the experience had shocked him, as he had always intended to write fully, but had never got round to it.

It brought me up sharply, and I began to reflect on ways in which I could make time in the busyness of life for the things that really matter, and have realised that it's not so easy as it sounds. Like my friend, I manage to spot the important things only as they pass me by.

This does not just apply to family either. At the moment I am trying to take a few minutes at the start of each day to ask God to show me the things that really matter for just that day. It has surprised me how often I come to realise that something, which had been crowded out by what was urgent, was really important.

Like my friend, none of us can change the past, but we can do something about today, and thus about the future.

An old man looking back on life wrote these words:

*(continued on page 8)* 7





## thoughts on the new year *continued . . .*

“If I had my life to live over again, I would allow myself more mistakes.

- I would relax and be sillier than on this trip.
- I know of very few things that I would take more seriously.
- I would watch more sunsets.
- I would have time for people, just because they are there.
- I would travel lighter.
- I would ride on more merry-go-rounds.
- I would pick more daisies.”

My New Year wish is that each of us will be able to treat ourselves and others to a bit more quality time in the year ahead.

Wishing you a Happy New Year.

Ian Davies

## 100 Club

John Shield has pleasure in announcing the winners of the double 100 Club Double Draw for December are as follows:

|     |     |                  |     |
|-----|-----|------------------|-----|
| 1st | No. | Bunny Brown      | £50 |
| 2nd | No. | Elizabeth Wilson | £30 |
| 3rd | No. | S Davison-White  | £20 |

If you are interested in joining then please speak to John who will happily answer any questions.

## wee burns supper and dance

Whitburn Parish Church Hall

on

Friday 22nd January

at 7.30pm

Entertainment Raffle Tickets £12

Bring your own liquid refreshment

Tickets available from Jean Atkinson





## coffee rota

Every Sunday at 11am after the morning service in the parish church we invite you to join us for a chat and make new friends while enjoying some refreshments — Coffee and Biscuits — served with a welcoming smile from our volunteers. Please see below who will be serving you during January. Thank you



3rd January P Robinson / A England  
10th January M Mason / S Thompson  
17th January G Glenwright / S Davison-White  
24th January M Johnston / J Atkinson  
31st January C Vallance / C Levy

Pat Robinson

## the rallying spirit

Spare a thought and prayer for those folk in Cumbria in the North West and recently Yorkshire and Lancashire who have had to endure a miserable Christmas due to the unusually wet weather that has battered the country in such a short period of time. (Or is this going to be the norm!!)

With rain fall records being broken, flood defences breached and local rivers bursting their banks as the water levels rise quickly and travel along with some force, enveloping villages and towns, as fields and roads disappear under the water, property invaded and livelihoods destroyed as drains can't cope with the volume of water. The only way to move is either by dingy as people are rescued from their property or emergency vehicles.

Desperately items are moved to higher ground (upstairs) as there is a mad dash to try and save as much as possible before it is ruined by the water.

Rivers have changed their course as landslides have occurred further up valleys and hillsides and changed the landscape.

Despite all the heartache and worry of what is happening we still see and hear of people rallying around, helping where they can, encouraging those effected to carry on. With messages from various clergy throughout the land praising communities for coming together with a "sense of giving".

Are these natural disasters sending a painful but powerful message concerning climate change. What has taken place over a few days will take months to sort out. Please spare a thought.



## spare a thought for those in need!

MORE than 500 churches, church halls, mosques, and synagogues opened their doors to offer shelter for the night for homeless people last winter, welcoming in more than 2000, and a similar number or more are already opening their doors this winter, a new report says.

The Church and Community Night Shelter Network Impact Report, published annually by the charity Housing Justice, says that most of the night shelters open over the winter months, from November to March.

In the year to March councils in the UK helped 205,100 households facing homelessness — up from 140,900 in 2009 — indicating a rise of almost 46 per cent — with volunteers gave up an estimated 231,000 hours to run the shelters — which, in monetary terms, would be worth more than £3 million.

Posted in Church Times



It turned out that John and Ian had a different understanding of the annual boiler service

## pudding and prayer with bishop



What better way to catch up with how the visit to Lesotho went than to meet over pudding?

Bishop Paul and members of the group who will be in Lesotho this month would



love to have the chance to share with you their experiences, insights and reflections on their visit.

They will have lots of stories to tell and photos to show so do please accept this invitation for

Wednesday 20th January  
from 7pm to 9pm  
in St George's Church,  
Fatfield, Washington NE38 9AH.

It is easy to find from the motorway and there is plenty of car parking space. If you would like to bring a pudding to share at the start of the evening that would be great but not essential!

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## local events — get involved

Please find below details of just two local weekly activities taking place over the next couple of months — Why not pop along and get involved. They are Run by Cultural Spring part of the The Customs House Trust

### Recycling Textiles

Whitburn Parish Church Hall



On Thursday

14th, 21st, 28th January, 25th February, 3rd March

1.30pm to 3.30pm



With two masterclass sessions on:-  
Saturday 30th January and Saturday 5th March  
10am to 2pm

This is a chance to join textile artist Kath Price to make gifts or decorative items for the home using recycled fabrics such as blankets, sheets, clothing, old worn linen and doilies.

Over the five two-hour sessions, you could make a doormat, table mats, cushion covers, bags, brooches or wall hangings.

These are just some of the possibilities using any of the following techniques:

clippy, hooky and braided mat making, crazy patchwork, simple hand sewing and embroidery and weaving without a loom.

Each participant will develop a project (or more) and work on them over the sessions as well as try out any of the other techniques on offer.

Some of the suggested projects will have a Springtime/new beginnings theme but you are invited to bring your own ideas as well as recycled fabric to share, if you have anything. Otherwise, all materials and equipment are provided.

You may wish to bring an apron.

A donation of £2 for every session you attend would be appreciated.



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## local events — get involved



### Music in the Minster

The Barnes Institute

On Tuesdays between  
5th January – 15th March  
(off for half term 16 February)  
7.15pm to 8.45pm

This is a fun and friendly singing group for people who love to sing, or want to find out whether they love to sing.

Participants will sing a range of different material including pop, soul and gospel, in a lively and welcoming environment.

All ages and abilities are welcome and participants won't need to be able to read music; the emphasis is on fun, lifting spirits and singing together. Participants are welcome to join us at any point in the block of sessions, and will work towards an informal performance at the end of term.

Sessions are led by Lindsay Hannon from Music in the Minster.

Fee: Voluntary contribution of £2 per session to cover tuition costs.

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## christmas story

The Christmas Story must surely be the most lasting story ever told. After two thousand years it is still told in the same venerable manner as that with which it began.

The tale of the Christ child is shared the world over and each December on the 25<sup>th</sup> day homage and prayer is paid to the baby boy whose influence has proved to be everlasting and good to follow, in the pattern of a Holy lifestyle.

May your days be filled with peace and contentment.

Merry Christmas  
Mary Stephenson

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## lord's prayer advert banned!

You may have heard recently on the news about an advert featuring the Lord's Prayer "banned" from being shown at cinemas. You may be saying to yourselves — What does it actually mean? Who decides which adverts are shown? or Who sets the rules and who is obliged to follow them?



## the great north run

*Please find below an article from Mary Stephenson as she reflects on the past as she watches an event happening across land, she reminds us, that was once used for very different and important activity . . .*

I bent over and switched on the T.V. and was immediately greeted by a sea of smiling faces of the "Great North Run." What joy, I see in the distance the outline of the hills which were my playground in the far distant past long before the Coast Road was built. Incidentally it was opened in 1930, prior to that the land which is now known as The Leas was all under agriculture and only the Marsden Rattler covered the distance between Marsden and South Shields.

Pedestrians at that time had to walk at the side of the railway track over a cinder path. Three farmers tended the land beside the railway, Mr. Snowdon, Mr. Whittles and Mr. Helmsley and the only buildings to be seen in this vast area were the three farms, two cottages, Salmonds Hall, Frenchmans Bay, Marsden Grotto and the Homes Cut. The Homes Cut now known as Redwell Lane Bank was where the coastguard lived and had his office, a very quiet area, very few people ventured to walk this remote space alone. It really has quite a history.

I remember well Mr. Lowries cottage situated at the bottom of the hills, once a year it was lime washed to preserve it's stone work, it was occupied by my grandmother's best friend and was named Marsden Cottage Halt. The train stopped at the small station close by, said to be the smallest station in the world. The ancient cottage garden was in an old round stone wall formerly a sheep fold.

I remember one day standing mesmerised by seeing an artist seated before an easel painting a view of the farm stackyard and yes he did invite me in and showed me how to paint a matchstick man.

I still paint to this day. But I remember him mostly for the chastisement he gave me for riding my small bicycle down the hill and spilling the milk I had collected from the farm at the hilltop for my grandmother.

Harton Village was just over the hills, a very old village and my fascination of it was because it still had it's blacksmiths shop.

Almost anytime of the day you could see a horse being shod and

*(continue on page 15)*

## bishop paul's christmas message



*We hope you will enjoy and find of interest the Bishop of Durham's Christmas message he delivered at Durham Cathedral. . .*

Tim Peake has quite a view of the world this Christmas, as he and his fellow astronauts look down on earth from the International Space Station. Like many who have gone before him he has been struck by the wonder both of beholding the earth from space, and looking into the vast blackness of the universe beyond. He looks at the world through different eyes.

*I wonder how you see the world.*

Personally there are times when I am simply awestruck by the beauty and wonder of nature. I don't have to go far as the view from our house in Bishop Auckland across Weardale right up to Stanhope Top is stunning. I can get the same sense of wonder as I walk across Westminster Bridge looking at the City of London, or outside this stunning cathedral. I get this too when I see teachers teaching well, nurses and health care assistants caring brilliantly, engineers producing great products and foodbank volunteers serving with skill. The natural and built environment can promote wonder that leads to thanksgiving and praise. People's work and care can inspire greatly. All of these paint a picture of a world of beauty and light.

Yet the same can also lead me to tears. The pain of seeing people's homes flooded out in Cumbria, or wrecked by an earthquake.

The horror of the squalor of slums in Manila, Mumbai or Sao Paulo lead to inner anguish. Even more the inhumanity we perpetrate on one another through terror and war in Syria, rising conflict in

*(continue on page 16)*

## great north run *continued . . .*

watch as the sparks were made to fly from the white hot metal as it was fastened to the horses hooves. Horses in those days were the quickest mode of travel and farms were kept very busy.

Mr. Helmsley also kept a bull and his barn was one to stay clear of as every bull had a ring in it's nose, one more of the blacksmiths jobs.

Well the Northern runners have reached the winning post set today exactly where Mr Helmsley's prize pasture was. I wonder what he would have thought of that. How times change!

Mary Stephenson



# bishop paul's christmas message

*continued . . .*

Burundi, oppressive rule in Brunei that bans Christmas celebrations and domestic violence in our own land. These paint a picture of a world of cruelty and darkness.

Both pictures are true. Our world is wonderful, glorious, beautiful, and we as human beings are part of it. But our world is also violent, degraded, ugly, and likewise we as human beings are part of it. We carry responsibility for both pictures.

## ***Christmas Reality***

In telling the amazing story of Jesus' birth, in all its wonder, glory and beauty, Luke sets it firmly in the real world. 'A decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered.' This is the world's super power flexing its muscles. This is the world of international politics in which the strong dictate to the weak; making statements of power and control. Enforcing people to travel and have their simple lives disrupted.

Luke tells us of a small community, Bethlehem, crowded out with its visitors. It is a world of work with full inns, and shepherds out in the fields. This is no fairy story picture. The birth of Jesus is set in the stark realities of life.

Joseph and Mary have been forced to travel at a time when surely they would not have chosen to do so; Mary is heavily pregnant. Nazareth, 3-4 days journey back in Galilee, is where they would have wanted to be with their family and community. But the political decisions of the powerful force the ordinary lowly person into an unwanted journey. Some things do not change.

Matthew gives us a different angle on this real world picture with Herod, King of the Jews, later forcing the new family to flee as refugees into Egypt. They flee terror, violence and persecution finding themselves in a strange land. Some things do not change.

The story of Jesus' birth is full of wonder, beauty and glory; it has angels singing, shepherds rejoicing and the birth of the Saviour. But it is also full of unwholesome power, degradation and ugliness; the very reasons why the Saviour is needed.

So this true story keeps speaking into our world and day.

It points us to the reality that ultimate power does not actually lie

*(continue on page 17)*



*(continued from page 16)*

with the superpowers, the rulers and the tyrants. The power is God's. But God exercises his power in humility. He expresses it in unexpected places, through ordinary people and their lives. Yes God's presence is everywhere; without it our whole existence would simply fall apart. But his intimate presence is found in an infant lying in a manger in an obscure village, not in a royal palace with the Caesar on the throne. It reminds us that we are more likely to discover God's intimate presence this Christmas in a displaced persons camp in Lebanon, Calais' 'Jungle' or a night shelter in Darlington than in a Presidential residence or a Hilton Hotel. It tells us that God is actively at work in our world bringing in his just rule, bringing peace on earth, even if the headline news appears to tell us a different tale. It tells us that even in enforced journeys and the harsh lives of refugees God is present and can be found. It reminds us that in welcoming a stranger, as someone in Bethlehem welcomed the heavily pregnant Mary, we might find we are welcoming the Lord himself. The shepherds' part in the story reminds us afresh that God speaks into our world of work. They were simply getting on with their daily

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Tuesday - Friday 8.30am-5.30pm

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Sunday 9am-5pm



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## bishop paul's christmas message

job when God met them, and transformed their lives forever. I think we can assume that they remained shepherds for the rest of their lives; but their lives were changed forever by this night and the birth of this child. So easily we can think that we are plain, simple, ordinary working folk.

Why should God bother with us?

Why would he be interested in our lives?

The shepherds' story tells us that he is bothered and interested. Working life is blessed by the angels song and finding the babe wrapped in swaddling cloths lying in a manger. Joseph himself was a working man, a carpenter. He is the one God chooses and calls to be the human father of his own Son. God blesses the working man and woman. It may not be the first thought that enters our head about the first Christmas day but on reflection it is here.

The Saviour comes to the world of work and working people. He reveals himself here. He still does if we have eyes to see.

### **Conclusion**

We live in a wonderful, beautiful world in which great joy and love are found. We live in a sad, ugly world in which great suffering and hatred are found. Both are the realities of life. Jesus' birth in Bethlehem is into the reality of this world and its life. It is the true story of hardship, difficulty and pain. It is the true story of wonder, great joy and the very deepest love.

Jesus' birth tells us of our God being present and active in a world of stark political realities and power. It tells us of God being with us in refugees, persecution, poverty and work; in all aspects of life. It tells us of his love being so great that He comes as Saviour to bring forgiveness and hope.

May we know his saving presence in our homes, our work, our communities and our lives this Christmas and always.

Bishop Paul  
Christmas Day  
Durham Cathedral

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### “Christian values”

As we celebrate the birth of God's only son, Jesus Christ - the Prince of Peace. his birth represents: peace, mercy, goodwill, and above all, hope.”



## ugly duckling performance

*The week before Christmas Day we had the pleasure of welcoming back NTC (Northumberland Theatre Company) to the Parish Church Hall to perform "The Ugly Duckling" — Please find below an article from Denise a visitor to Whitburn as she writes. . .*

Last night in a little parish hall in Whitburn a bit of magic happened! Three ducklings were born. Two beauties - yellow and fluffy with impressive quacks (this is important, a duckling needs a good quack!). The other not so yellow. Not so fluffy, and not such a beauty, with no quack at all. She was given a beautiful name in the hope that she would grow into it. Desdemona Duckling.

Her brother and sister and the other farm fowl were beautiful to look at and they made fun of Desdemona. They didn't want to be seen with her. They thought she was a Turkey. But Desdemona was beautiful inside and she does indeed grow into her name.

Now obviously they were not real ducklings. They were actors with the Northumberland Theatre Company. A small touring company,



they take their shows out on the road to places that don't have easy access to theatre. They stage plays in village halls and community centres, transforming a room into a theatre for a night (and creating that bit of magic I mentioned earlier).

The tale of The Ugly Duckling is charming and funny - laugh out loud funny. It's billed as a pantomime and it does have some of the key traits of panto, eggcellent bad

jokes, baddies, magical moments and audience participation. but it is a much gentler, subtler production - not so in your face as a traditional panto.

Just five actors play all the parts, with nifty costume changes they are transformed from roosters to foxes to ravens, from ducklings to hens to frogs. . . *and so the entertainment continues.*

This charming adaptation of the Hans Christian Andersen's tale is a story with a moral and strong message about nature beauty, friendship, courage and selfworth but also told in good humour and not a hint of preachiness.

*(continue on page 23)* 19



## proud auntie

We hear of parents being proud of their children as they reach achievements during their lives. Then there are the grandparents who are equally proud of the achievements reached by their grandchildren. (and quite right I hear you cry)

Well I have to say personally this feeling of proudness (sorry I don't think that is a word) also reaches to auntie — now as an auntie of both a nephew and niece I am of course equally proud of all they both achieve during their lives but I wish to share one such instance that concerns my nephew, Hal. (*In the picture*)

It all began several years earlier when he and a couple of friends at junior school set up a band with rock influences — having listened to his dad's music. Over time they have played a few gigs at the local school. They also played at street parties as well as other occasions.

I guess one of his mum's proudest moments will be when he sang on her birthday in front of family and friends — it was a very happy and emotional surprise for her.

The band have been involved in the Music Space Project a unique course based in London which helps young musicians with rehearsal space, recording time and gigging opportunities — rehearsing, writing original material and working closely with experienced music tutors with one tutor being quoted as saying "The opportunity to perform at the Royal Albert Hall was reward for their hard work and development whilst on project."

They had performed at a festival in Birmingham earlier in the year and been selected by the judges to go along and perform at the "Music for Youth Proms" which would run over three nights in November — Their band would be performing on the first night.

Now here I was sitting proudly watching my nephew perform with his band "Red Kyte." — An excellent evening and so glad I went.

I had travelled down on the Grand Central arriving in plenty of time to meet up with others before travelling into the City centre. We had a bite to eat, as it would be late when the concert was over, and



**On stage at  
Royal Albert Hall**

(*continue on page 21*)



*(continued from page 20)*

finally arrived at the Royal Albert Hall admittedly a little later than we had hoped but we wouldn't disturb anyone getting to our seats as we had the advantage of having a box, although when we found the right floor we did find that the door to the box was locked and had to go and find a member of staff who let us in!!

We were a group of eight and included proud parents and grandparents! We got comfortable and I had a good look around this wonderful, impressive hall. (This was my first time)

Our view was excellent with the height just right and level with the stage and area set out for the young performers to watch the other acts.

What followed was a very enjoyable and spectacular array of talented youth. They had come from all over the country and varied in ages and group sizes and involved singing, dancing and the playing of a variety of musical instruments to a very high and impressive standard. (for their ages)

As each group were introduced and performed it was great to see the other young people in the area in front of the stage watching their peers perform, and even when they had finished their bit they all came back out to watch the others, giving them their support and encouragement. Drinks were ordered for the interval — as you do During which Hal managed to find his way up to us, where we could wish him luck and ask how the rehearsal had gone as he had been at the Royal Albert Hall all day. Of course all he wanted to do was get back to the rest of band ready for their turn.

Throughout the evening the changes from one act to the next by the props people was effortlessly done with little noise or fuss as they set up the next performance, whether it be setting out chairs or taking chairs away or moving musical stands or instruments onto the stage area came the next act who in the dark got into position before the lights were switched to them and they would perform.

Brilliantly done and kept the evening running smoothly.

In fact Hal's band were the last to perform before the final musical piece by all the artists. There he stood with his three friends initially in darkness as the lights switched to them and with a drum and guitar into they began.

What can I say - a proud auntie watched with pride and enjoyment and showed her appreciation with much clapping. Sue Thompson



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## ugly duckling performance

The audience were all local Whitburn people and we were obviously incomers but were made to feel perfectly welcome and included in the evening. All in all a lovely experience. Denise Sparrowhawk

Denise adds — *I just wanted to say thank you to everyone involved in the Ugly Duckling event. It was a lovely evening and Mike, Emma and I were made to feel very welcome - such a friendly, relaxed and fun atmosphere.*

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Watch this space!! for the next performance in Whitburn from the NTC — Excellent entertainment and highly recommended. Why not come along and see for yourselves just how good they really are — Thank you

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# people to contact

|                                      |  |          |
|--------------------------------------|--|----------|
| <b>P.C.C. Sec.</b>                   | Linda Cowan  | 529 3927 |
| <b>Treasurer:</b>                    | Chris Allison  | 529 2511 |
| <b>Weekly Envelope Scheme</b>        | Ian Ward.  |          |
| <b>Musical Director:</b>             | Christine Alder, 16 Huntcliffe Ave.                  | 529 3215 |
| <b>Organist</b>                      | Steven W. Hood                                       | 659 6597 |
| <b>Electoral Roll :</b>              | Peter Small, 3 Eastfields                            | 529 2275 |
| <b>Verger</b>                        | Lorraine Hood. 68 Wellands Lane                      | 529 2628 |
| <b>Hall Sec.</b>                     | Jean Atkinson, 34, Cornthwaite Dr.                   | 529 3574 |
| <b>Church Flowers:</b>               | Pat Turner,<br>The Bungalow, Wellands Lane           | 529 3706 |
| <b>Sunday School:</b>                | Lynne Humphrey,<br>Thornecliffe, Sandy Chare.        | 529 2760 |
| <b>Mums and Tots group:</b>          | Elaine Welsh, 59 Lilly Cres.                         | 529 2459 |
| <b>Durham Family Welfare Contact</b> | Jean Atkinson 34, Cornthwaite Drive.                 | 529 3574 |
| <b>'100' Club:</b>                   | John Shield Whitehouse Farm.                         | 529 3935 |
| <b>Brownies</b>                      | Debbie Rice<br>whitburnbrownies@hotmail.co.uk        | 454 4423 |
| <b>choir practices</b> (in church)   |  |          |
| juniors                              | Monday 6.00pm. - 7.15pm Thursday 6.30pm.- 8.00pm.    |          |
| adults                               | Thursday 7.15pm. to 8.30pm.                          |          |
| <b>whitburn bridge club</b>          | Tuesday 6.30pm. to 9.30pm.<br>David Galloway 5292014 |          |
| <b>brownies</b>                      | Wednesday - 6.00pm. till 8.00pm.                     |          |
| <b>mums and tots group</b>           | Monday Tuesday 9.30am — 11.30am                      |          |
| <b>lunch club</b>                    | Thursday 12.00 - 1.30.p.m.- Methodist Church         |          |



## a glance through the whitburn window.....



Mary Stephenson reflects on past while watching the present



Local activities to get involved with — Full details inside



Proud Auntie watches nephew perform at Royal Albert Hall — Find out more inside



Bishop Paul's Christmas message



Pantomime comes to Whitburn — Read about it inside