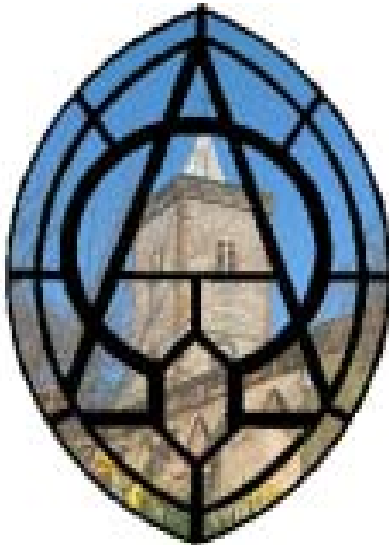


may 2016

50p

the
whitburn
window



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parish priest

Revd Ian Davies

Who can be contacted on

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

Email - reviand@manx.net

churchwardens

Mr. John Shield, Whitehouse Farm, Front Street, Tel. 529 3935
e-mail — ajshield1947@gmail.com

Mr Michael O'Brien
(as from May)

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

email: 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 may

	Date	Intercessor	Reader	Reading
1st	am	L Humphrey	C Allison G Blackburn	Acts 16. 9 - 15 Rev. 21 10. 22
	pm	CLERGY	M O'Brien D O'Brien	Zeph.3. 14 - 20 John 12. - 26
8th	am	CLERGY	L Lumsden - Taylor J Atkinson	Acts 16. 16 - 34 Rev. 22 12 - 14, 16 - 17, 20 - 21
	pm	L Hood	CLERGY	Isa. 44 1 - 8 Eph. 4. 7 - 16
15th	am	P Turner	M Osborne	Acts 2. 1 - 21
Whit Sunday	pm	CLERGY	L Osborne A England P Robinson	Rom. 8 14 - 17 Exod. 33. 7 - 20 2 Cor. 3. 4 - 18
22nd	am	CLERGY	M Small	Prov. 8. 1 - 4, 22 - 31
Trinity Sunday	pm	A Lillington	P Small CLERGY	Rom. 5 1 - 5 Exod. 3. 1 - 15 Matt. 28.16 - 20
29th	am	M Vallenge	C Alder	1 Kings 8. 22 - 23, 41 - 43
	pm	CLERGY	J Shield L Humphrey R Humphrey	Gal. 1. 1 - 12 Gen. 4. 1 - 16 Mark 3. 7 - 19

sidespersons for may

1st	Mr R Humphrey Mrs S Thompson	8th	Mr P Longville Mr P Small Mrs D O'Brien
15th	Mrs L Humphrey Mr R Ambrose	22nd	Mrs N Bolingbroke Mrs J Baxter



in the window this month.....

In this month's window please enjoy the opening article from Rev'd Ian Davies.

Please find a "Thank you" for the support you gave Wendy Bowman at her "Easter Fair" in aid of Marie Curie

Four Hundred years since William Shakespeare's death — Some facts about the "Bard" inside.

An invite after a suggestion is made by member of the congregation for you to send in pieces of work from the younger members of your family.

John Shield has pleasure in announcing the winners of the 100 Club — Was it you this time?

Find out who is serving coffee after the Sunday services this month.

The Flying Scotsman steamed back onto the tracks this year — Find out when and where inside.

We have to decide soon (June) whether to stay in EU or not — If you are still undecided please find details of an event you may wish to attend to help you!

Inside you will find possibly the "First Selfi!" - See for yourself.

Dotted around inside you will find some amusing sentences that have appeared in some church bulletins or were announced at some church services (Not here in Whitburn I hasten to say!) and kindly sent in by Pat Turner.

Many thanks to those who have contributed to this month's edition it is always much appreciated. Articles for May's Magazine by 29th May. Thank you. Editor

a view of registers for april...

Funerals

11th Alice Gray

26th Dorothy Betts

Elizabeth Eagling

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

John and Michael
Churchwardens

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sounds familiar?

Today I read this comment by Justin Brierley in Christianity Magazine, and it brought me up with a jolt, as it summed me up so well. Therefore and I pass it on to you for your consideration in case it rings alarm bells for you too.

"I'll admit it. I'm an addict. Not of any narcotic, foodstuff or dodgy activity. I'm addicted to my smartphone. It answers all my questions and allows me to answer anyone else's, whatever the time of day or night. It informs me, entertains me and tells me when I'm late for my next appointment. I can constantly keep abreast of news, culture and silly videos on Facebook. The little device accompanies me everywhere I go, lies beside my bed at night and if I'm separated from it I feel oddly nervous. If I'm out of 4G signal for any length of time I begin to wonder, 'What if someone needs me?' Even this very page you are reading was written on the two-by-five-inch piece of technology that consumes so much of my time and attention. Perhaps a more accurate description of the situation would be that I'm a slave to my smartphone. While the technological revolution and

constant connectedness has huge benefits, it should also cause us to question whether we own our smartphones or they own us. Some Twitter users deliberately fasted from social media over Lent and reported on their experiences.

Victoria ended up abandoning Facebook entirely. 'God showed me that I needed to look up from a screen and see what was happening around me,' she said. Meanwhile, Steph explained: 'I'm happy to be back on social media, but I know that I need to make sure it's not controlling me.'

Dave spoke of how it changed his interactions with his children: 'Notably Harrison (five) told me that I was "listening more with my eyes now".'

It's not that technology is bad, of course. In fact, I'm convinced it's one of the greatest gifts God has given us. The way we are connected to everyone else today has the potential to change our world for good. But as we know so well, every good gift from God has the potential to be abused and used for self-absorbed ends.

So today I challenge myself, and I challenge you, to consider the question: do you own your

(continued on page 8) 7



easter thoughts *continued . . .*

smartphone or does your smartphone own you? If the answer isn't the one it should be, what are you prepared to do about it? "

May God help us to use all his gifts in moderation.

Ian Davies

100 club

John Shield has pleasure in announcing the 100 club winners for April are as follows:-

1st	No.	Malcolm Osborne	£25
2nd	No.	Linda Lumsdon-Taylor	£15
3rd	No.	Pam Bell	£10

If you are not yet a member and would like to join then please see John who will be happy to answer any queries. Thank you

ladies with computers

Please find dotted about the "Window" some amusing sentences that have appeared in church bulletins or been announced at church services — I hasten to add not at Whitburn! — Kindly sent in by Pat Turner and starting with . . .

"The minister would appreciate it if the ladies of the congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday ."

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 — with an added bonus of cake and wine on Sunday 15th May (don't miss out hope to see you then) and served with a welcoming smile from our volunteers.

Please see below who will be serving you during May.

Thank you



1st May C Valance / C Levy

8th May L Cowen / M Taggart

15th May P Turner / J Lowdon

22nd May M Mason / S Thompson

29th May P Robinson / A England

Pat Robinson



hidden gems

You will have read (I hope) in last month's "Whitburn Window" the writing of Catherine Levy's Great Grandson a piece of work he had written for school — A list of items he would put in his "Magic Box". Since then over the last few weeks several people have come up to me and said how moved and impressed they were with the article and from their comments a suggestion has been made by one of the congregation that wouldn't it be interesting to invite you, our readers to have a look to see if you have any pieces of work composed by younger members of your family that you have kept and wouldn't mind sharing them with others.



If you have any pieces of work and are happy to share them then please let me know either send them to me via email or hand them to me on a Sunday morning.

We hope you will want to participate and look forward to receiving some more interesting pieces composed by our young people.

Thank you. My email address is suet:whitburnparishchurch.co.uk

Sue (Editor)

reliable local handymen

Retired police officers in the North East are pioneers in an ambitious national network of highly vetted handymen launched by 'Blue Local Handymen'.

Helping to combat the ongoing problem of cowboy builders and dodgy tradespeople, local retired police officers with a passion for home maintenance are taking up tools to provide peace of mind to the residents and businesses of South Shields and surrounding areas.

Typically police officers retire after 30 years service and a huge number are still eager to continue playing an active and productive role in their communities. All handymen prove themselves capable and experienced in home maintenance works before joining the network and carry recent CRB Checks.

More information can be found on website www.trustinblue.com and bookings can be made either by calling telephone 0800 2550 255 or emailing helpdesk@trustinblue.com



eu — better in or out

On June 23rd the country faces on of the biggest decisions we have had to make for a long time.

Do we stay in or do we leave the European Union! It's a decision that will shape the future of the country for many generations and yet it seems we are struggling to hear the facts amongst all of the high profile arguments constantly in the news.

have organised an evening to help facilitate some of those discussions and hear from politicians and academics, on both sides of the debate, about whether the UK would be better in or out of Europe. There will be opportunities for discussion and questions.

EU Referendum — Better In or Better Out?

This eve conversation to help us think about the EU Referendum from a Christian perspective.

The Chair is Canon Sheila Bamber with Contributions from Dr. Mary McHugh; Dr. Mark Hayes; Prof. Robert Song; Mr. Paul Brannen M.E.P. and Mrs. Anne-Marie Trevelyan M.P.

Friday 13th May between 6pm – 9pm
Sunderland Minster

6.00pm Arrival and Registration (£3 donation is requested) plus Food.

6.30pm Start

Location is a 5 mins walk from the metro or the multi storey car park nearby.

If you are interested in going along and would like further details or to book a place please contact Dorothy, 07929648593 or email dorothymuckles@yahoo.co.uk

Still unsure how to vote in June then maybe this event may help

*"The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on the Water.'
The sermon tonight : 'Searching for Jesus.'"*

"Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands."





bishops in mission

“Talking Jesus”

Thursday 2nd March 2017 - Sunday 5th March 2017

It may seem a long way off but the build up to this event has already started as the plan is for 20 Bishops from across the Northern Province of the Church of England to come to the Diocese with their mission teams to speak to people to help engage in dialogue about Jesus.

Here in Whitburn we will be part of this as churches from across the Diocese will be encouraged to put on events during the weekend which will then be supported by the Bishops and their teams. With the central theme of talking about Jesus and engaging with the wider community.

If you have any suggestions of what activities we could possibly do here in Whitburn to invite folk to come along to then please speak to Rev'd Ian Davies or either of our churchwardens John Shield or Michael O'Brien. Watch this space for more details nearer the time. Thank you.



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thank you for support

Please find below a "Thank you" from Wendy Bowman to all who were able to attend the Easter Fair organised in aid of Marie Curie. Through all the hard work of Wendy and her friends and your attendance and parting with your money this wonderful amount was raised for this worthy cause. Well done and hope to see you next year!



"Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered."

!Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on 24th October in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their schooldays."



traidcraft

Just a reminder that at the back of church there is the latest Traidcraft catalogue for you to have a look at. If you would like to order any items then please speak to Brenda Clark or Lorraine Hood and they will be happy to help you.



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“The Fasting and Prayer conference includes a meal.”

“Don’t let worry kill you off — let the church help.”



**“The new
Sistine
Chapel
ceiling:
Adam
takes the
first selfie”**



the bard four hundred years on

It is four hundred years since the death of William Shakespeare
Was he born and did he die on the same date?

Our famous English poet, playwright and actor was regarded as the greatest writer in the English language and is also known as the “Bard”. His many works continue to be studied, discussed and written about by all ages from pupils at school to students at University and beyond. As we continue to try and understand his works of love, tragedy, mystery, sadness and humour as he wrote about the frailties of humankind.

Some interesting facts about Shakespeare as we commemorate 400 years since the death of this wonderful playwright.

Apparently it has been shown that William Shakespeare was baptised on 26th April 1564, and as was the tradition of the day this would have been carried out when he was three days old. Which indicates that Shakespeare was born on 23rd April (stay with me !!) The same date as his death!

However, concerning his death, although his burial is documented as happening on 25th April 1616 and in keeping with tradition of the time it's likely he would have been buried two days after his death this would mean that Shakespeare was likely to have died on 23rd April 1616. His 52nd birthday.

To complicate things - as he was born under the old Julian calendar, what was the 23rd April in Shakespeare's life would actually be 3rd May according to today's Gregorian calendar. (*Find out more about the different calendars in the item found on page 21*) — confused?

Some interesting facts ...

- There are over 80 variations recorded of the spelling of Shakespeare's name and in the few original signatures that have survived he apparently spelt his name “Wilm Shaksp”, “William Shakepe”, “Wm Shakspe”, “William Shakspere,” “Wilm Shakspere,” However, there are no records of him ever having spelt it “William Shakespeare” as we know him today.
- During his life Shakespeare performed before Queen Elizabeth I and later before James I an enthusiastic patron of his work.

(continued on page 16)



st george's day

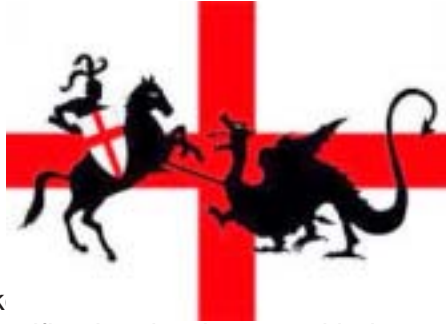
We celebrate St George's Day on 23rd April around the country with social events but not as a national bank holiday.

The date is the anniversary of his death and according to legend he was a soldier in the Roman army who killed a dragon and saved a princess. Hence the depiction associated with St George when we see pictures of him standing over a dragon with a sword in his hand.

St George was said to have been born around the year 280AD in what is now Turkey. A soldier who rose through the ranks of the army to eventually become a personal guard to Emperor Diocletian and who was executed for being a Christian on 23rd April 303.

So we set the scene -

St George is most widely known for slaying a dragon and according to legend, this occurred in the town of Silene when the only well in the town was guarded by a dragon. In order to get water, the inhabitants of the town had to make a daily human offering who was sacrificed to the dragon, with the next person chosen by lots.



One day while St George happened to be visiting this town a princess had been chosen to be sacrificed on that day. However, as we all know all good knights will endeavour to save a damsel in distress!! so that's what he did, he killed the dragon and saved the princess!

Thus returning access to the water for the people of the town of Silene. In gratitude the town converted to Christianity. It is thought that the dragon represents a certain type of pagan belief that included human sacrifice. St George's Day was once widely celebrated but this waned by the 18th Century.

There is a well recognise symbol associated with St George's Day which is the St George's cross. A red cross on a white background and while being displayed and representing our English flag it also makes up part of our union flag of United Kingdom.



the bard four hundred years on

- Shakespeare married Anne Hathaway in 1582 when he was 18. She was 26 and three months pregnant when they married. His first child was a daughter called Susanna.
- Shakespeare's original grave marker showed him holding a bag of grain. Later the people of Stratford replaced the bag with a quill in 1747.
- Shakespeare was a member of the company called "Lord Chamberlain's Men" who in 1598 built a new theatre called the "Globe" – open to the sky with a flag raised and flown to show a play was about to begin which was at 2pm in the afternoon.
- The design of the Globe allowed some people to stand in front of the stage with others having seats while rich men paid 12 pennies (one shilling) to sit on the stage.
- Shakespeare's shortest play is "The Comedy of Errors" with just 1,770 lines long.
- Shakespeare's longest play is "Hamlet" which takes four hours to perform.
- Two of Shakespeare's plays are written in verse – They are "Richard II" and "King John."
- The Royal Shakespeare Company sells more than half a million tickets a year for Shakespeare productions at their theatres in Stratford-on-Avon, London and Newcastle and thus introducing an estimated 50,000 people to a live Shakespeare performance for the first time each year.
- "William Shakespeare" is an anagram of "I am a weakish speller."
- Shakespeare's Globe Theatre came to a premature end on the 29th June in 1613 after a canon shot set fire to the thatched roof during a performance of Henry VIII. The theatre was burnt to the ground within two hours and was rebuilt the following year.
- Shakespeare wrote long poems, lots of short poems (sonnets) as well as plays which were spoken in poetry by the performers.
- Some think there was a possible birthday message to the "Bard"

(continued on page 17)



the bard four hundred years on

on his 46th birthday when the King James Bible was published - as the 46th word of Psalm 46 is "shake" and the 46th word from the end of the Psalm is "spear."

What follows are just some of the many everyday phrases coined by William Shakespeare. How many of them have you "used" and "do you use" in your everyday conversations. . .!!

"All our yesterdays " - Macbeth

"As merry as the day is long" - Much Ado About Nothing

"Neither a borrower nor a lender be" - Hamlet

"Bated breath" - The Merchant of Venice

"As good luck would have it" - The Merry Wives of Windsor

"Brave New World" - The Tempest

"Refuse to budge an inch" - Measure for Measure

"Break the Ice" - The Taming of the Shrew

"Conscience does make cowards of us all" - Hamlet

(continued on page 19)



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flying scotsman returns

Originally built in Doncaster 1923 it was on 1st May 1928 when it became the first train to complete a non-stop train journey from London to Edinburgh, which at the time was the longest non-stop train journey ever to have been achieved.

It was the first express passenger locomotive to be constructed by the newly formed London and North Eastern railway and was the first steam engine to achieve a speed of 100mph hitting this mark between Leeds and London in 1934.

Later on the Flying Scotsman engine also travelled overseas – confused? Well the engine was transported and spent some time on other continents spending time in USA (1969 – 72) where it pulled tourist trains on the west coast of the United States. Then in Australia (1988 – 89) and during her time there in 1989 set a steam world record by travelling 422 miles non-stop. Some 66 years after construction.

Before this recent refit the Flying Scotsman had previously undergone some major work in 1947 and 1959 to improve its steaming capabilities.

Of course advancements are made and the romantic effect of travelling by steam was replaced with electric trains subsequently this famous and imposing engine was condemned to lying in pieces in Southall in London in 1995.

It was bought by the National Railway Museum in York in 2004 with help of funds donated by the public with the restoration work starting in 2006, and has taken 10 years. The museum director stated that the Flying Scotsman was a reminder that “railways have been making this country run properly for nearly 200 year”. He described the project as a “long old journey” but was incredibly satisfied to see the locomotive returned to service.

So we arrive in the present day when earlier this year and at quite a cost, the much anticipated return of the locomotive The Flying Scotsman had arrived following this lengthy refit. Meticulous preparations for the journey were in place for the Flying Scotsman to return to the tracks.

However, this was briefly halted by an unforeseen obstacle -

(continued on page 20)



the bard four hundred years on

"A dish fit for the gods" - Julius Caesar

"Eaten me out of house and home" - Henry IV part II

"Fainted hearted" - Henry VI part 1

"Fancy – free" - A Midsummer Night's Dream

"The game is afoot" - Henry IV part 1"

Cry havoc and let slip the dogs of war" - Julius Caesar

"Jealousy is the green-eyed monster" - Othello

"Forever and a day" - As You Like It

"Hoist with his own petard" - Hamlet

"In my heart of hearts" - Hamlet

"Knock, knock! Who's there? - Macbeth

"Laughing stock" - The Merry Wives of Windsor

"Milk of human kindness" - Macbeth

(continued on page 22)



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flying scotsman returns *continued . . .*

overexcited fans!

The planned route this famous locomotive was to travel was from London to York but early on in journey this was interrupted by dozens of steam enthusiasts standing on the line ready to take that photograph of the steam engine and trying to capture the wonderful sight of the steam billowing into the sky as it chugged along the tracks to its destination. However, it was suddenly brought to a shuddering stop as those people who had managed to get onto the line were walking towards the train holding cameras!!



Flying Scotsman leaves London

Maybe not fully realising their dangerous actions of trespassing!! (which is indeed what they were doing) were tackled by the British Transport police who issued warnings of the potential consequences of “trespassing on the line” while acknowledging that “people are excited about the Flying Scotsman’s return”.

Thankfully there were no instances involving people and train colliding and ten minutes later the locomotive resumed its journey at a reduced speed and eventually chugged into York station to an ecstatic reception from the crowds (who this time were in the correct place) on the platform!

This welcome mirrored those seen at London Kings Cross the departure point, where people had arrived very early to get a good vantage point to see the train move off that morning at 7.40am.

The excited passengers on this trip were a mix of VIPS, fundraisers, competition winners and members of the public.

Among them was an 83 year old who was beaming with delight as the locomotive pulled into the station as he had driven the Flying Scotsman from 1956 to 1963, after first working at York Station as a cleaner almost 70 years ago.

A fellow passenger said: “This is such a totally different experience. Electric trains are all the same!”

(continued on page 26)



calendar change why and when!

The Julian calendar preceded the Gregorian Calendar (Western/Christian) when 11 days were dropped and countries began changing in 1582 but took over 300 hundred years before all countries have converted with the last being Turkey in 1927.

- A tropical year - Actual time it takes the earth to circle around the sun.
- It takes approximately 365 days, 5 hours, 48 minutes, 45 seconds to circle the sun.
- It is measured from March Equinox (and that's a different story!)

Leap day years are added to keep the modern day Gregorian calendar in alignment with the earth's revolutions around the sun. The Gregorian calendar only has 365 days so if didn't add a leap day on every 4 years then we would lose almost 6 hours off our calendar and after only 100 years the calendar would be off by 24 days. The leap day is added to the shortest month. There are three criteria for a leap year:-

- Year can be evenly divided by 4
- If year can be evenly divided by 100, it is NOT a leap year unless
- The year is also evenly divisible by 400.
Then it is a leap year.
Eg 2000, 2400 are leap years while
1900, 2100, 2200 are not leap years.

One of reasons for changing from Julian to Gregorian Calendar was that Julian had too many leap years as it had only one rule in deciding what year was a leap year and that was

- Divide by 4

Not every country changed at the same time with France, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Spain being the first in 1582 – when they dropped 10 days.

The UK switched in 1752 when it dropped 11 days.

However, even though the Gregorian is more accurate than Julian calendar it is not perfect!

Compared to the Tropical year - remember that would be the actual time it takes the earth to circle once around the sun. It is off by one day every 3236 years! – not in our life time then!



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the bard four hundred years on

"In my mind's eye" - Hamlet

"Give the devil his due" - Henry IV part 1

"Hear my heart upon my sleeve" - Othello

"Wild- goose chase" - Romeo and Juliet

"Heart of God" - Henry V

"Set my teeth on edge" - Henry IV part 1

"One fell swoop" - Macbeth

"Love is blind" - The Merchant of Venice"

"Play fast and loose" - King John

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flying scotsman returns *continued . . .*

The engine had been given a fresh repaint in the traditional early 1960's British Rail green with staff wearing matching uniforms while the passengers enjoyed sitting on plush burgundy-red velvet seats eating porridge (remember their journey had started at 7.40am), sipped tea and drank champagne.

An enjoyable time was had by all who had made the journey and a wonderful elcome sight of a good old steam engine once again steaming it's way along the track as it whistled to everyone around.

Anon



people to contact

P.C.C. Sec. Linda Cowan 529 3927
Treasurer: Chris Allison 529 2511
Weekly Envelope Scheme Ian Ward

Musical Director Christine Alder, 16 Huntcliffe Avenue 529 3215
Organist Steven W. Hood 659 6597
Electoral Roll Peter Small, 3 Eastfields 529 2275
Verger Lorraine Hood, 68 Wellands Lane 529 2628
Hall Sec. Jean Atkinson, 34 Cornthwaite Drive 529 3574
Church Flowers Pat Turner,
 The Bungalow, Wellands Lane 529 3706

Mums and Tots group:

Elaine Welsh, 59 Lilly Crescent 529 2459

Durham Family Welfare Contact

Jean Atkinson, 34 Cornthwaite Drive. 529 3574

'100' Club: John Shield, Whitehouse Farm. 529 3935

Brownies Debbie Rice 454 4423
 whitburnbrownies@hotmail.co.uk

choir practices (in church)

juniors Monday 6.00pm to 7.15pm Thursday 6.30pm to 8.00pm.

adults Thursday 7.15pm to 8.30pm.

whitburn bridge club Tuesday 6.30pm to 9.30pm.

David Galloway 5292014

brownies Wednesday — 6.00pm till 8.00pm.

mums and tots group

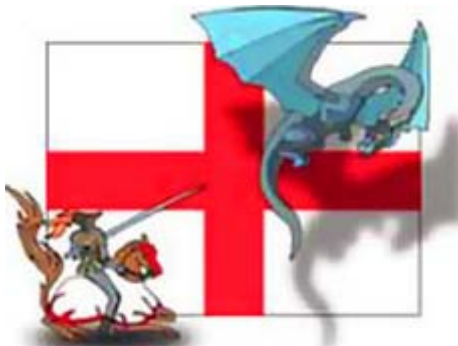
Monday Tuesday 9.30am to 11.30am

lunch club Thursday 12.00 to 1.30pm — Methodist Church



a glance through the whitburn window.....

England's patron Saint celebrated but not as a national holiday — Learn more inside



Still learning about The “Bard” 400 after his death — More inside

“Hidden Gems” — Find out more inside



A “Thank you” for your support inside

Flying Scotsman steams back onto the track after 10 years — Find out more inside

