

Learner Shepherd was left in charge of flock



These angelic little girls are Amie Benoit, Hannah Wood and Rebecca Lund



Innkeeper Richard Cook

Pupils at Butterknowle School told a traditional nativity story with a contemporary slant as their festive entertainment.

David The Little Shepherd, played by Kirsty Lowther, was a learner left in charge of the flocks while experienced shepherds John Davis, Luke Edwards, Andrew Cook, Christopher Wright and Shaun Grey made their way to the manger after a message from angel Emma Docherty.

The tale merged into the age old story as the contemporary shepherds met traditional ones Niall Dodsworth, Joseph Back, Megan Middleton, along with villager Emma Hayman and innkeeper Richard Cook.

Also involved in the magical tale were people from different continents, including Chinaman Gary Close and Indian Kimberley Howe, who saw the star on Christmas Eve.



Angel Emma Docherty



Katy Harris and Lauren Kirby as Doris the camel



Kimberley Howe and Gary Close



Jennifer Bentley and Andrew Race as Mary and Joseph with kings Nathan Magnall & James Smith

Mabel and Flo open up their own special show



Cowboys Adam Kicks, Jake Brown, Sophie Leask and Gregory Ruchet

The scene was set at Montalto School by Robert Morrell and Christopher Hooper giving up-front performances in Mabel and Flo's Christmas Show as they reminisced about Christmas entertainment.

They looked at photograph albums with grandchildren Chloe Hooper and Jonathan Blackburn before switching on the television.

TV entertainment was provided by the entire school who sang and acted out Christmas songs and sketches as Mabel and Flo looked on.

Katherine Coppack was a fir tree who took part in a nativity with angels Leah Kicks, Leanne Kettlewell and Rebekah Armstrong, innkeepers Nicholas Wilkinson and Matthew Metcalfe and trees Connie Hirst and Rebecca Morrell. Mary and Joseph were played by Heather Stanwick and Helen Oates. Narrators were Samantha Latcham, Danielle Scarr and Eloise Rose. Santa and his reindeer were played by Matthew Allison, Neil Stanwick and Alex Brown.

In another programme cowboys were Adam Kicks, Jake Brown, Sophie Leask and Gregory Ruchet. Toys who came to life were Nicole Craik, Daniel Brown, Adam Goodfellow and Peter Hartley.

A Dickens story saw Andrew Scarr as Scrooge with William Bibby as his nephew. The pair drew lots of hisses and boos as they picked on Jonathan Kent as Tiny Tim. John Latcham, Isaac Rose and Natalie Wilkinson were the ghosts of Christmas past, present and future.

There were angels in the shape of Amie Benoit, Hannah Wood and Rebecca Lund, kings Nathan Magnall and James Smith, and a tap dancing camel called Doris in the guise of Katy Harris and Lauren Kirkby, before the action cen-

tered on the stable with Mary and Joseph, Jennifer Bentley and Andrew Race.

Songs included Learner Shepherd, Star of the Night and Boy Child. Kirsty Lowther was praised for her rendition of two solos.



Little shepherd Kirsty Lowther, third from the left, with John Davis, Luke Edwards, Andrew Cook, Christopher Wright, Shaun Grey, Niall Dodsworth, Joseph Back, Megan Middleton and Emma Hayman



John Latcham, Isaac Rose and Natalie Wilkinson as the ghosts of Christmas past, present and future



Nicole Craik, Daniel Brown, Adam Goodfellow and Peter Hartley are toys coming to life



Not looking forward to Christmas Day are turkeys James Butlin, Tony Leask and Liam Coates



Christopher Hooper and Robert Morrell with grandchildren Chloe Hooper and Jonathan Blackburn



These tasty looking puddings are Amanda Leask, Andrew Race and Marc Swinbank

Fir tree Catherine Coppack watches over Heather Stanwick & Helen Oates as Mary & Joseph. They are surrounded by angels Leah Kicks, Leanne Kettlewell & Rebekah Armstrong, innkeepers Nicholas Wilkinson & Matthew Metcalfe, trees Connie Flint & Rebecca Morrell & narrators Samantha Latcham, Danielle Scarr & Eloise Rose

In a Christmas dinner song puddings were played by Amanda Leask, Andrew Race and Marc Swinbank. Turkeys, sporting marigold gloves as combs and claws, were James Butlin, Tony Leask and Liam Coates. Breathing fumes on each other were pickled onions Victoria Ashworth, Ashleigh Kettlewell, Cameron Lawson and Rebecca Worley.

Lots of TV chefs were in action in Ready Steady Cook. Presenter Fern Britten was played by Anna Flint. James Williams and Ian Thompson were over the top chefs Gary Rhodes and Ainsley Harriott. Lauren Howe was dependable Delia Smith while Rosalind Thomson tasted just a hint of old socks and mildewed carpet as wine buff Jilly Gooden.

Charlie Butlin, Thomas Whittaker and Timothy Williams appeared as elves.



Scrooge Andrew Scarr, right, and his nephew William Bibby pick on Jonathan Kent as Tiny Tim

Dancers, striking Spice Girl poses, included Bethel Nutter, Amberley Elliott, Chantelle Pritchard, Karl Minchin, Shaunee Swinbank, Sarah Oates and Becky-Lee Proffitt.

In a programme called A Christmas Stocking, Holly Alderson played the stocking. She was joined in the sketch by Victoria Gibson, Lauren Blackett, Sophie Metcalfe, The Lorna White, Lauren Dean, Hope Jevons, Charlotte Hammond, Rebecca Steen, Laura Oates, Charlotte Gibson and Katie Shum.

Daniel Tuck was an impressive Frosty the Snowman built by Andrew Minchin. Other pupils were involved in designing and making costumes and scenery. Every child was dressed up.

Class 3 organised a gift sale after the performance as part of a business venture. The Friends of the School provided coffee and cakes and ran a successful raffle.

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