

APCM 2024

Report for Uplyme Gospel Singers

2023 ended with a glorious Christmas concert in Uplyme Church, supported by many from our congregation but also from the community and beyond. It was a particularly poignant concert for us this year, because Chloe Collins, our leader, was pregnant and wanted to take a year's maternity leave. We were overjoyed for her and as usual, Chloe had put so much energy into the choir that we all were able to give of our best.

Watching in the audience was our future leader, Pete Linett. We have continued the choir with him for a term, now, and although we miss Chloe very much, we are also thoroughly enjoying the change of style. The breathing and singing exercises at the start of each session are a source of amusement and enjoyment, but at the same time, we improve our breathing and singing through them. We have loved the songs he has introduced to us.

Three of us sang at a very poignant funeral in Lyme for a young teenage girl, joining on with Lyme Bay Chorale. At this time of writing, we are now about to enjoy a free session given by Anna Gregory, who was so delighted that we had come along to support the music she was leading for the funeral that she wanted to give us something back in return.

We are unsure at the moment whether or not Chloe will return in 2025, so it is difficult to know what the future holds for us, but at the moment we are pleased to enjoy each session given to us with Pete.

Jo Cursley

.....

Report for our link with Mrs Ethelston's Primary School

This year has been quite a dramatic one. The excellent head teacher, Katie Lyons, took maternity leave to have her baby. The school was then ably led by Debs Jory Kellaway and Sarah Elliott. We also had two Governors leave: Elaine King, who has moved to Sidford, and Kate Newman. Elaine was a Foundation Governor – Foundation Governors are those with a Christian faith, and preferably with a link to a Church; while Kate was a Parent Governor. Katy is now back and operating on a full day week, the school continuing to thrive under her excellent leadership.

The school is in a period of transition because the Acorn Academy of which it is a part, is linking up with The First Federation, which has a number of schools under it, all from the South Coast. The reason for this merger is that the Government is insisting on each academy having a large number of pupils, which is higher than the total number in the Acorn Academy, which mainly consists of small schools, with Axminster being the

largest, followed by Mrs Ethelston's. The merger may mean a difference in the Governing Board, as the First Federation does not operate in the same way as the Acorn Academy. For the moment, though, at least, we will be continuing as we are, and we are led to believe that if we are able to continue in this way we will be allowed the status quo. We could, therefore, really do with another Foundation Governor, so do contact me if you are interested as this system has worked very well for us, so as the saying goes. *if it ain't broke, why fix it...?*

The school is a very successful one, of which we should be very proud. We recently achieved 'Good' in the inspection with outstanding in the area of Personal Development was graded outstanding. Katy was given one day's notice for the two-day inspection. The school is always in a state of readiness so there was no rushing around to sort things out beforehand. Katy and the staff are to be recommended highly, as are our excellent team of Governors who also had to go through the OFSTED procedure and did so successfully.

Nicky Davies, our vicar, makes constant contact and links with the school, taking services with them and helping out wherever she can. She recently attended a coffee morning held by the Year 6 in the Church and was there for all parents to talk to if they wished. Year Six were amazingly courteous and competent.

The recent Easter Concert Service was a great success and held in the village hall. It was led by Eunice and Bruce Roberts who gave up so much time to it, and run in conjunction with the school. Members of our church congregation sang in the choir behind the children, and Bruce played the keyboard, while Eunice conducted. It was an inspiring afternoon. It was yet another example of the excellent church links with the school.

Jo Cursley