



July 2016

Primary school sings for community

iSing Pop is an inspiring and lively project for primary schools run by Innervation Trust. It is already widely acclaimed as a highlight in many Gloucester schools. Samantha Saville, head of Ashton Keynes C of E Primary School, has now brought it over the border to Wiltshire.

Rob Holman and Miz Porter from Innervation spent a week in May with the children, teaching the seven new songs based around the school's values of trust, perseverance, friendship and creativity. At the end of an inspirational week they made a CD and put on two concerts for the community.

this way. From the very young to the very old, many people were up and dancing. One older member will celebrate 70 years in the church choir next year and she really enjoyed hearing the children singing and seeing them perform. A representative of Bristol Diocese was at the church and was tweeting

enthusiastically about the concert.



Photo: Ashton Keynes School

Sam reflected afterwards: 'I am really proud of our school and want our community to be as proud. It was the first time we had done something quite like this and people loved it. It was so uplifting. Our school motto is "shine brightly and reach for the stars", and the children shone really brightly.'

In the evening they had a packed church with lots of parents and friends of the school joining in enthusiastically. Even the less confident children across the age range of 4-11 found themselves singing with verve, dancing and waving their hands in the air.

School governors, in school that week, even ventured into the hall to join in the singing and dancing. Sam was radiant as she recalled so many smiling faces – and everyone is still smiling. Having encountered iSing Pop when she worked in Gloucestershire, Sam was confident that the project would receive a warm reception from the school and community of Ashton Keynes. There was a brilliant turnout for the 2pm concert on the Wednesday.

A small delegation of original members of Holy Cross Church had been along for a cup of tea and a preview. Many others did not really know what to expect but they came along and really enjoyed the concert. Sam was happy the community united in

The church and the school each now have a copy of the CD. Reverend Dr Shirley Danby will introduce the songs to messy church and family services and Sam will use them in daily worship in the school, so they will all be singing from the same – CD!

There was a special extra iSing pop concert in June at the school where the Bishop of Swindon, along with head teachers, staff and governors from other local schools were invited to experience this wonderful project first hand. Ashton Keynes is a school that sing with a strong voice. Now they have an additional repertoire of actions and vitality, which is highly infectious.

Angie Austin

