

Wishing you a Christmas of Joy and Peace

My initiation into the life of CMM was at the Spirit Works launch event in February this year, so I already had a taste of what to expect when I started work in March. I received a very warm welcome to CMM from Trustees and attendees at the Spirit Works launch, and from others via email. Thank you so much for your welcome! I enjoy being part of the CMM family and the team in the office.



Helen left a very useful folder on the PC entitled "Handover" and this was to prove my main reference for several weeks. I also asked lots of questions so Nicky and Tim, Roger and Annie supplied the answers to any gaps in my knowledge. It's lovely to be greeted at the door by Poppy's wet nose and wagging tail, though this is perhaps not everyone's cup of tea. Poppy and Teddy were quick to learn that I can give cuddles and – in Teddy's case – that my bag usually contains a packed lunch. He also hides very quietly under my desk when Tim is looking to take him home!

My initial focus was to support and develop CMM's online presence. As a result, you might have noticed that items in our online shop all have links to play the music so that buyers can listen before they buy. We give away a song of the month and have a new website section for Schools, helping teachers understand how CMM products can help with music, drama and modelling Christian values in schools.



The CMM Blog, Facebook and Twitter are updated regularly with pictures, stories, slideshows and details of events. The blog lists all our events, as does the Events section on Facebook. Churches or venues hosting an event can then share the information locally using their own social media. Since September I have encouraged Rachel Haddon, our first CMM Intern, to tell her story in the Blog each month. Her video of the *Barnabas* Tour in September is well worth watching!



Artwork is always needed, and I am producing full colour programmes for all the musicals. In 2018 we will publish Bible Studies, written by Annie Routley and Peter H Lawrence, for the musical *Snakes and Ladders*. CMM has entered the world of e-books so Kindle editions of all the CMM books, some Roger Jones Collections and vocal scores are now available via Amazon. Recent developments include the availability of sheet music in PDF format for individual pieces from the Roger Jones Collections.

Away from work, I play croquet, am a trustee of a homelessness project in Bromsgrove and a steward at Catshill Methodist Church, where I'm involved in lots of things. As part of our anniversary year, we are hosting a Crib Festival in December and gathering contributions from schools and groups in the village, so we hope to encourage people who might not otherwise come into a church building to see what Christmas is about.

Together with my husband Martin, I will be returning 'home' to Yorkshire this Christmas, to join family and celebrate at the Anglican church in which I grew up.

I wish you a blessed Christmas, wherever you are spending it.

Lindsay (Peniston)

"I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

You can find me on Facebook and LinkedIn. Tel: 01527 576440 or email events@cmm.org.uk.