

Notes from the Oboe

- Rachel's Christmas News



For those of you who haven't yet read my blog, this academic year (2017/18), I am doing an internship with CMM—a 'Year in Industry' which forms the third year of my music degree at the University of Leeds. I will direct you to the aforementioned blog if you wish to read about my experiences with CMM (www.christianmusicministries.blogspot.co.uk), but I thought I'd take the time here to write about things I do when I'm not with CMM, in the hope that some of you may find this vaguely interesting.



As I am able to spend part of my week at home in Hinckley, I am enjoying being able to be a part of my home church (Trinity Community Church), and helping with our toddler group Tiddlywinks. It is an exciting time for the church as we are in the process of returning the former Wesleyan Chapel in Hinckley to its church roots, after its second life as a photography studio. This will mean that we can move out of the school that we meet in and have a space which is ours all the time in order to further mission and outreach.



I am grateful to the oboe teacher I had while at school for taking me back on as a pupil to help ensure that I stay in shape for returning to university next September. I also play with my old school's orchestra, for a bit of fun, but also to support a younger oboist. I have now been playing on reeds that I have made myself for almost a full year, which has been both exciting and stressful - two words which basically sum up everything about playing the oboe.

I spend one day a week at the Dixie Grammar Junior School in Wellsborough - this is the seventh academic year I have been volunteering there. Over the years I have been able to hone my photocopying and laminating skills - skills which have been transferable into the CMM office. I am also rather proud of my ability to use a staple remover to take down displays, and there tends to be an intense couple of days at the end of the summer term during which I spend most of my time stripping multiple classrooms of their artwork. So far this academic year I have been working primarily with the Nursery and Reception classes which means that I regularly return home coated in PVA glue and/or paint.



In an uncharacteristic attempt to become more active, I have starting attending my local parkrun event (a weekly, free, timed 5k) with a group of friends from church, who have even managed to persuade me to run my first 10k on my birthday next April - well you've got to do something wild for your 21st I guess! I have also started cycling around to various places at home (I am now the proud owner of a pink fluorescent jacket), and I've even managed to play some squash which has been great fun.

I have had a great time working for CMM thus far, and I look forward to what the New Year brings. I hope you all have a lovely Christmas.

Rachel

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