



An Intern's Christmas Newsletter



I have never had to write something like this before, so this is all a bit new to me.

My name is Gemma Collins, and I am CMM's Intern this year! I have known Roger and the CMM team since I was about 3 years old. I started with *Away in a Manger*, and through the years, I believe I have performed all of Roger's musicals at least 2 or 3 times each! They have all helped me throughout the years grow in confidence when playing my instruments and in myself as well. The first CMM Event at which I played flute was *Angel Voices*, and ever since then I just haven't stopped playing.

CMM Work.

I graduated from the University of Huddersfield in July this year with a 2:1 classification, which was amazing. I wanted to take a gap year after University to grow and gain more experience and was invited to work for CMM for the year as their intern. Alison and Clive (good friends from CMM music weeks) are providing my accommodation. They are amazing people, I couldn't have done it without them.

Since being here CMM have kept me busy in the office creating arrangements and music videos, publicity and much more. As well as this I have been assisting with the two CMM choirs: conducting and taking full rehearsals and teaching individual soloists. I have also been writing a monthly blog for CMM, you can read it at christianmusicministries.blogspot.com. Additionally, I have also been playing/singing at CMM events in many different places: Cricklade, Welshpool, Dunstable, Weston Super-Mare and around the Birmingham area. The pictures below are from some of the things I've been involved in.



Voluntary School work

In the future I want to teach in primary schools as well as be a peripatetic instrumental teacher. Therefore, during my 3 months here, I have been doing some voluntary work for schools with different age groups and subjects. So far, I have been working with reception and years 1 & 2 - the teachers there made me feel welcome and the children are just great. I quickly began to realise that I want to teach Key Stage 1 (infants) as I feel so comfortable teaching them in groups and hearing them read. They are often very funny.

I am in the process of applying for Teacher training posts. The application process has given me an idea of what I want from a course. I have also managed to get some Peripatetic teaching, which is fantastic. It is great to be able to teach and watch my students progress. It really does give me so much pleasure to see the joy on their faces when they learn something new and they understand it.

Personal life

Whilst here at CMM I have joined Life Group once a week, where Christians my age sit, eat together, and discuss a topic from the bible. They are a fantastic bunch of people who have made me feel so welcome.

I have also joined The People's Orchestra alongside Annie. I am playing Flute 1 and Piccolo (so no pressure!?) and they are so welcoming, fun and genuinely lovely. The music is very difficult, but it gives me something to do in my spare time, although practising piccolo is something you don't want to do with others in the house...



I have been going to Lickey Parish Church with Clive and Alison as much as I can and have been playing Flute and Clarinet in the services. I was also given the chance to do some Sunday School teaching earlier in November, and it was such pleasure teaching the children.

I feel that I have grown with God and laid my trust in him much more. He has amazing plans for me this year.

For I know the plans I have for you, "declares the Lord," plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Jeremiah 29:11

God Bless you all, Gemma xx

