

Happy Christmas from Helen

Congratulations! You are currently reading my first ever Christmas newsletter as a full time CMM member of staff.

It has been a wonderful year of hard work and a lot of fun, both on the administrative and ministry side of CMM.

My main task has been organising the tour of Rock, Roger's latest musical. He is still writing it, so everything is being done in faith. It's not too bad for us at CMM, but when I'm speaking to someone in say, Tunbridge Wells, who is about to lay down a large deposit on a concert hall, the stakes are raised somewhat!



Deb and I on the St. Cuthbert's Way

As well as organising the tour, I have also administrated several events in Birmingham, such as musicals from scratch in a day, and a singing workshop. The next event is a Marilyn Baker concert in January, which I am looking forward to.

One of the joys of working for CMM is that I also get to use my music. I have been able to sing and play my flute, trumpet and guitar in a huge number of places from Ottawa to Ipswich and from Lochinver to St. Ives. I have also had a wonderful time training choirs at some of the holiday weeks we lead around the country every year.

Another of my musical highlights has been recording and performing the part of Mary for Roger's new Christmas musical, The Inn Crowd.



While working for CMM, I have been living at an Anglican convent in Alum Rock in Birmingham. I share the building with eight sisters, two 'alongsiders' and two kittens, and it is a real delight to be there. The sisters specialise in a ministry of hospitality, opening their doors to anyone who needs some time of quiet and reflection.

Outside of my work, things have been busy as usual. Back in April with my boyfriend James I helped to organise the bible studies for the 15-30s sessions at the last ever Easter People in Blackpool. It has been a real privilege to be involved in that event over the years. In July I enjoyed a family holiday in Scotland. Then in September I returned to Scotland with my sister Deb and walked most of the St. Cuthbert's way from Melrose to Holy Island in aid of CORD, a charity that works with people in areas of violent conflict. We walked 18 miles a day for four days, and then on the fifth day with Holy Island nearly in sight, my ankle decided to give up. It was incredibly frustrating not to finish, but we managed to raise over £1700, so it was worth it. I have also been training as a Methodist Local preacher. I am about two thirds of the way through the course, but it is incredibly demanding. I love the preaching part, but I'm not so sure about the preparing, and the writing of essays...

God bless, and have a fantastic year to come.