



# Rainbow of Hope



# Rainbow of Hope -a song by St. Andrew's Junior Choir

This must be one of the positive and good things to have come out of the Covid 19 pandemic and the lockdown. Please follow the link to hear the song and see the photo gallery -

[www.justgiving.com/fundraising/TheStAndrewsJpplepenYouthChoir](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/TheStAndrewsJpplepenYouthChoir)

They reached their initial target - £1000 plus £192.50 of gift aid for Rowcroft Hospice was raised after just eight days "We are going to keep going and hope that we can maybe raise another £500 or even reach £2000."

Dr. Tom Morris, who facilitated the recording commented: "It's always a joy to give a group of talented children a little spark and discover what ignites. My greatest achievement with this project was to be able to incorporate all of the singers in the recording mix (some found singing to a backing track with headphones on quite a challenge - enormous gratitude to the parents for their encouragement) and the icing on the cake was to have flutes & tenor horn, which took a bit of patient learning of Garageband software and a couple of late nights."

The choir members had this to say:

*Lauren: "I enjoyed making the song and it has been a good break from school work. I enjoyed editing the video and seeing all the lovely rainbows around the village. Lockdown has been an interesting experience."*

*Charlotte: "Thinking of words for the song was enjoyable but recording it was frustrating because of technology problems."*

*Theo: "The song was good and we did help the company" (he means the charity)*

*Theo also said about lockdown: "Excellent, I don't have to go to school. It's absolutely perfect." though he misses his friends. He like the Zoom meeting chat with the rest of the choir and is looking forward to recording another song.*

*Emily: "It was a challenge to learn the tune without being able to meet as a Choir to practise it. We enjoyed the chance to be creative and we are pleased with the outcome. It was good to learn something new on the flute too."*

*Isabelle: "I enjoy listening to it now we've finished it, even though recording it was quite hard. It's really good to be supporting Rowcroft."*

*Katie: "It's great that we have hit our target and it's for such a good cause."*

*Rose & Paige's mum Carina: "Rose & Paige really enjoyed the Zoom chat – it gave them a boost after an otherwise pretty dull day. They are very excited about all of the new songs."*

The finished song is amazing, so poignant. "We feel really proud of them all and very grateful to everyone who has supported our fundraising for Rowcroft" commented one of the mums. We can only reiterate that comment. They made us all feel so good and proud.

Editor



# Rainbow of Hope

Composed by St Andrew's Ipplepen Youth Choir - 27/4/2020

These are strange times,  
We can pull together.  
There's a rainbow of hope  
Arching over us all.

The birds sound so clear (what must they think);  
No traffic to drown out their call.  
Neighbours emerge to clap and to cheer,  
Share stories, sing songs, give thanks to all.

"Wash hands! Stay safe!"  
"Social isolation!"  
We're contained in our space,  
The sanctuary of home.

The scent of sweet blossom that hangs in clean air;  
A sky filled with nothing but blue;  
Earth bursts with Spring flowers, buzzing bees in the trees,  
Let's care for each other and our Natural World too.

These are strange times,  
We can pull together.  
There's a rainbow of hope  
Arching over us all.  
Oh, such strange times,  
Yet we will succeed,  
With our rainbow above  
Arching over us all.

# Rainbow of Hope – background by Dr. Tom

**Lockdown:** at the start of this year, 2020, who could have predicted a situation where so much of the world's population has been confined to their home (whatever that home may be) and told not to move unless absolutely necessary; where pollution levels have been so suddenly and dramatically reduced (people in Punjab able to see the Himalayan Mountains for the first time in 30 years), no aeroplane flights, empty motorways and less marine traffic both small (on our rivers & waterways, like Venice), and massive (on our seas - cruise liners, Diamond Princess)? The effect of the Covid-19 virus infection is devastating and many families are suffering through fear, loneliness, illness & loss. There is a serious economic toll and some peoples' jobs won't recover. There are, however, so many aspects of this situation which give us hope for our future together and that of our Natural World - the "silver lining" to the Covid "Black cloud".

The St. Andrew's Ipplepen Youth Choir was formed in September 2019 and its members, currently 8, range from 7 - 12 years old.

In just 6 weeks the choir has composed and recorded the many and various experiences through Lockdown in a song. It is all the more remarkable to appreciate that this was achieved "Remotely".

We wanted to bring together those observations made during this time of continued Lockdown, which has coincided with extraordinarily good weather and through the most beautiful period of Spring.

## Observation & inspiration:

- *Morning Choruses, heard so clearly without background engine noise from traffic, trains and planes.*
- *Thursday evening's routine of standing outside our homes to show appreciation for NHS, Carers and Emergency Service Workers.*
- *The Government's strong recommendation to "Wash hands", "Stay Home", keep "Social Distancing" and "Isolate" if feeling ill. Terms we are currently hearing all the time.*
- *"Contained" - although we may be "contained in our space" this is, at present, the only and the best way that we can defeat the virus. By "containing" Covid-19 so that it has no human access, it can't survive!*
- *"Earth bursts with Spring flowers" - Isaiah 16 v 11. Spring unfurled so spectacularly sending out strong scents from the blossoms into the clean, unpolluted air. The lovely sight of a completely clear blue sky, unspoilt by vapour-trails.*
- *The joy of appreciating how good this situation continues to be for our wildlife, which is thriving as a result of reduced human interference.*
- *"Buzzing bees" is a reference to the Ipplepen community project for Primary school aged children to sow wild flower seeds to "Keep Ipplepen Buzzing".*



# Rainbow of Hope – continued

- *On the 5th April, Her Majesty, the Queen, addressed the nation. Her Majesty's closing comment was that, "We will succeed, and that success will belong to every one of us ....better days will come" - comforting and inspiring words.*
- *Hope is symbolised in all of the beautiful rainbow pictures drawn by children and displayed in windows, on houses and pavements all over the country.*

We hope that you enjoy our song and share our appreciation for all of the good that is being done and our hope for a better, brighter future.

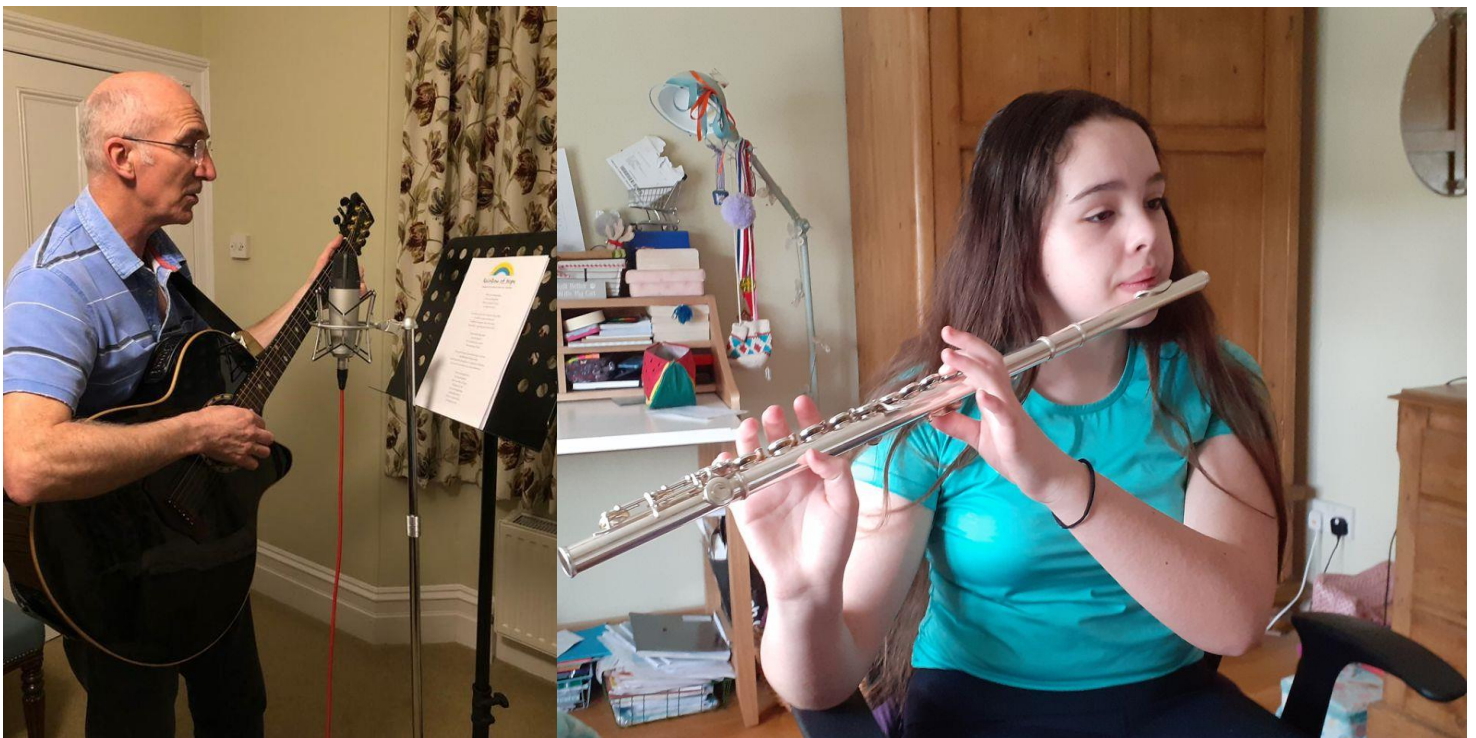
St Andrew's Youth Choir, Ipplepen: as you listen to the recording: "Virtually L to R" Rose 12, Paige 11, Lauren 11, Isabelle 11, Theo 7, Emily 12, Charlotte 9, Katie 12. Flutes: Emily & Katie, Tenor Horn: Theo, Guitar & vocal: Tom

The choir wishes to support Rowcroft Hospice (Registered Charity No: 282723). Our local hospice stands to lose the majority of its income as fundraising events are cancelled. If you have enjoyed this song, please help the choir to reach its target by using the JustGiving link:

[www.justgiving.com/fundraising/TheStAndrewsIpplepenYouthChoir](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/TheStAndrewsIpplepenYouthChoir)

## *Jo Innes Lumsden writes:*

I am immensely proud of the youth choir. Although I personally did not have anything to do with the wonderful song they have produced and the subsequent amazing total they have achieved for Rowcroft hospice, I am thrilled that Tom Morris has fired the enthusiasm of the choir to produce the music, albeit from the comfort of their own homes, a feat in itself. The choir seem keen to continue during this time and Tom and I have sent them songs to learn which they may record later. Thank you to all who have donated and given your support.







Amazing!





## A “Rainbow of Hope”

So sing the St. Andrew’s Youth Choir in their remarkable video which has already raised over £1000 for Rowcroft Hospice.

But it feels strange to be listening to church services on YouTube or services from kitchens and clergy homes on the radio or television screens. No familiar faces. No obvious sign of our common life, our community. Of course, that doesn’t mean they don’t exist. Things are just different at the moment.

Many worshippers used to going to church have experienced a sense of loss in recent weeks, and sometimes even anger. Why are the churches closed, just at the time we need them most? Has the church abandoned the faithful? No, of course the church is still here – the fact you are listening to the Youth choir or reading this is witness to that. And the church is the people. Yes, our buildings matter – that is why not being allowed to gather in them hurts. But like all other enclosed public spaces, we will be allowed back, in time.

When things go wrong in our lives, it’s natural to feel abandoned - by other people, by the church, or the government, or God. Centuries ago, after a terrible flood wiped out the people’s known world, and the story of Noah was told, people needed the reassurance that God was on their side – that all was now well. A lot could be said about the account of the flood and the reasons for it. But the story of Noah and his ark is in the end a story of deliverance, and of a promise – a covenant between God and the people of God. Those who survived had been through so much, but now, whenever a rainbow was seen in the sky, it would serve as a reminder of God’s promise to his people: he would not abandon them.

Here in our villages, one of the ways that children have been marking their support for key workers in the National Health Service, the NHS, has been to put pictures of rainbows in

the windows of their houses. You may well pass them as you take your daily exercise. These rainbows are a sign of our communities’ commitment, and promise of support, to those working day and night to fight the pandemic. In the light of the Genesis story, if we believe that we are made in the image of God, do we also see in these symbols a reflection – or perhaps even a re-refraction – of God’s promise to us? The rainbow reminds God’s people that God is with them. Even when we are broken, and once again God is broken with us - re-refracted - love is poured out; and glorious light is dispersed in the gloom.

Some of us, in our current crisis, will be impatient for things to get back to normal. Others will be worried about that happening too quickly, before the danger is past. Some will feel very lucky, because we have remained virus free, or because we have been relatively unaffected, in the great scheme of things. Others, though, will know the acute pain of the loss of loved ones and perhaps be experiencing a sense that things can never be normal again. Once again today we remember those who are suffering grievously. As one friend of mine said this week, ‘nothing will ever be the same again, and there is so much sadness to work through’ – but there are things to look forward to, including being reunited with friends and loved ones, and we can make sure the future is a better place.

But there is hope, if we watch for the signs. Outside, despite all, our countryside views are stunning and gardens are blooming, and a rainbow of colours reminds us once again of God’s promise and our hope in it. Spring and Summer do follow the winter, and in time, if we are patient, we will come to know the worst is past, and we will find that we are back close to where we want to be. But for now, we must keep looking out for rainbows. They may be for us the sign we need that God is here now, as He always has been and always will be; and that His Spirit is with us.

*Michael Price - Editor*