

Dear Susan,

I thought you might like to know about the report that went into our Parish magazine this month. I hope you find it encouraging.

Love Jeannie...

5 Alive - Gospel Manna Community Choir

I wasn't feeling in the mood for anything lively on 30 March but I decided to go to 5 Alive anyway. I was pleased to see that there was a corner with toys and activities for children.

The choir are based in Watford and have only been together for a year. What impressed me was that there was such a peaceful demeanour about them. Susan, the choir leader, was so unhurried and at peace with what she was doing and that peace came across. As she led the choir she used beautiful hand gestures and when she sang a solo, her whole manner was reverent and her singing was exquisite. A lovely lady.

There were Bible readings and poems, which one lady (*Mavis*) in particular read with great conviction. We had a good balance of lively and quieter songs but everything was done with a gracious approach. They got us all up from our seats to learn a new song - 'Marching over to Jerusalem', with the men and women singing different parts. Everyone responded well and I thought it sounded good!

Afterwards people didn't seem to want to leave. We were all enjoying being sociable together. The choir were all lovely people and I just wanted to shake their hands and thank them.

Joan North