



iSingPOP came our way in the summer of 2025 when we were offered the opportunity to work with St Barnabas School alongside our own parish community at St Barnabas Church, with Kirsty coming to lead the programme. The impact of iSingPOP in the school has been remarkable. I have rarely seen children so enthusiastic about singing together, standing up, and dancing. There seems to be something about iSingPOP that gently disinhibits children, and grown-ups too. Somehow it gives all ages permission to participate with joy and confidence. One of the most encouraging things is that children are perfectly happy to sing the same songs again and again; the familiarity seems to deepen their confidence and sense of belonging. When we introduced iSingSUNDAYS once a month as a follow-on from the main event, the dozen or so families who came just raced to the front and claimed the church as their own from the first moment to the last.

After a year of preparing the ground with an after-school club, iSingPOP was a great way to broaden out the relationships we had been building to include the families of children from the school. The Blockbusters club uses Lego as a creative learning tool. One moment that particularly stayed with me involved a boy from Blockbusters who usually struggled to join in with others and often found the club overwhelming. In the days after the iSingPOP learning week in school, he stood in front of the screen during our club session and simply danced and sang along on his own, completely absorbed

in the song “Take Care of the World.” Afterwards he built a Lego model and proudly explained that it was his representation of the song. It was a beautiful example of how the music had given him a way to express himself creatively and emotionally.



*Taking care of the world!*

What has also been striking is how iSingPOP has begun to weave itself naturally into the wider life of the church and the community. We have used the songs at Scouts for Remembrance Sunday, during baptisms, and even at a wedding. One baptism came about through an iSingPOP family who had experienced loss and were looking for a safe and hopeful way to celebrate the birth of their new baby; the older sister from school was able to choose the iSingPOP songs used in the service. Another family who had come so regularly to iSingPOP events and school services told us that they could not imagine getting married anywhere else, and their wedding in February included a joyful moment when the whole congregation rocked out to “Together.” We had a wonderful school gathering as a new event in the last week before Christmas, which was called iSingCHRISTINGLE and to be in the darkened church lit only by the candles of the children’s oranges was very moving, very life-giving.



*Sarah introducing Christingles*

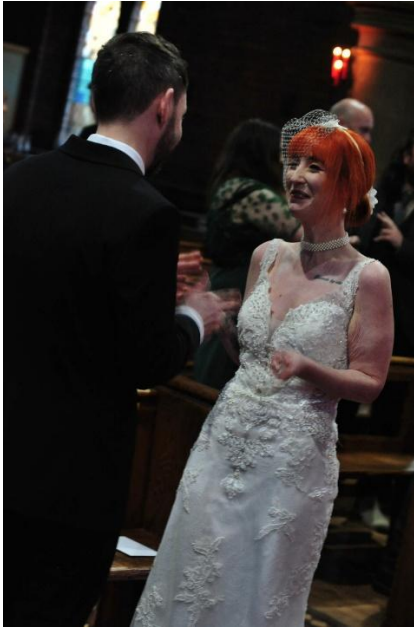


*My first Christingle*



*iSingCHRISTINGLE service packed with school families*

We now host regular iSingSUNDAY gatherings monthly on Sunday afternoons in church and have held seasonal specials for autumn, harvest, Candlemas, and spring, with an iSingEASTER planned for Good Friday. Families who first come through iSingPOP increasingly feel that the church is a place without boundaries, and many have begun joining us for other occasions such as open-air carol singing and Sunday services. There is a growing sense that we are discovering together what it means to belong to the same community.



"high five, down low ..."



*Bridesmaids and father of the bride dancing to 'Together'*



*Celebrating Christmas*



*Kirsty is ashed by Emmanuel, one of the worship leaders in the school's iSingLENT service*



*Key Stage 2 singing 'This is the Day' to prepare for their Lent Eucharist*