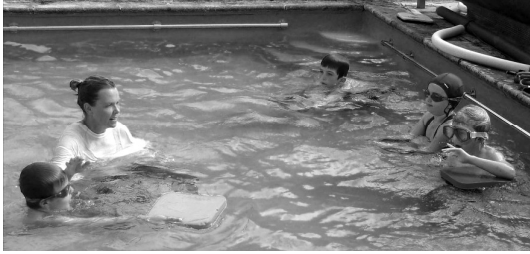


Wychwood C. of E. School News

This year we decided to hold a special service at St Mary's Church, Shipton for our Year 6 children who are moving on to their secondary schools.



Union and presented by members of our churches and the Mothers' Union who were delighted to take part in this important

ceremony. We sang *The World in Union* at the end of the service, which everyone enjoyed, before walking back to school in the sunshine.

Moving On Service

The emphasis was definitely on 'Moving on', seen as a positive and natural next step in their lives. The whole school was present for the service which was led by Reverend Anne Hartley and members of the churches in our Benefice. For once the children could sit back and enjoy the worship, with Year 6 taking pride of place in the front pews. Edwin Wilson kindly played the organ.

We sang hymns and songs, chosen by the children, and listened to a reading from the Bible - from St Paul's letter to the Church in Philippi. He urged the children to rejoice in the Lord, always, not to worry but to pray for what they needed. They were to keep on doing the things they had learned and received and heard and then the peace of God would be with them.

Those children who are moving on have learned so much in their time at Wychwood, academically, socially and morally, and we sincerely hope that they will make this important next step with confidence in themselves and in God. During the service each child was presented with a copy of the Good News Bible, with a personal inscription. The bibles were donated by the Shipton, Milton, Fifield and Idbury Mothers'

Keeping Our Swimming Pool Going

Swimming pools in primary schools are becoming scarce because of high running costs and changes in Health and Safety regulations. We are determined to keep ours going and are looking at new ways to raise funds and make more use of our pool.

A new venture this summer was to provide intensive swimming lessons. Children attended for a half-hour lesson each day for a week.

The comments from parents and children were so positive:

"The regular lessons for a week improved my child's confidence greatly". "The instructor was brilliant and taught the children individually within the group to improve their individual weaknesses".

And from one child *"I can swim without a float and put my face in the water!"* One child booked on the second week as she had enjoyed the first week so much. We aim to repeat these lessons next year. Our thanks go to Patsy Moore who took the lessons, Alesha Barrington-Cramp who organised the sessions with support from Sally Elderfield and Tom Etherington, and the parents who helped as lifesavers.

Julie Hemming