

# Mini-orchestra leads inspirational worship

ST John's Church in Locks Heath is well known for its creative and inspirational music making. Now it has a mini-orchestra to lead worship several times a year.

Over the years, a number of music groups have led worship there, including its regular choir and its contemporary band of instrumentalists and singers.

This culminated in an 80-strong community orchestra that played at major festivals in the 2000s and 2010s.

The latest transformation is a mini-orchestra, featuring around a dozen church musicians, usually playing on the fifth Sunday of the month, four times a year.

While this mini orchestra is now led by other members of the church family, John Curtis, the previous organiser and conductor of the larger community orchestra, still uses his musical talents to arrange and orchestrate music as and when requested.

Paul and Kalina Smith are father and daughter members of the church choir. They were also trombone players in the previous community orchestra and are now playing in the present mini-orchestra. They have sung and played at St John's for 10 years.

Paul and Kalina said: "It's great to



Above: the mini-orchestra; far left: Paul and Kalina Smith; left: the Yeomans family



opportunity of doing things together as a family and for our two boys to see us playing with a variety of different groups.

be part of a church which enables members to use their musical skills in a variety of different ways. We love singing and the trombones make a rich sound together, contributing to the mini-orchestra and making a joyful sound."

And Adelaide and Dom Yeomans have attended St John's with their boys Oscar and Bertie for two years. Adelaide and Dom play flute and percussion respectively with the contemporary band, but they have just started playing with the mini orchestra as well.

They said: "It's lovely having the

"We hope that in years to come, St

John's will provide them with different outlets for their own burgeoning musical interests, keeping them involved in a wide variety of church activities."

The Rev Luiz Lima, vicar of St John's, said: "We are enriched by people's musical talent and participation. This speaks of a gathering where all can contribute in the offering of worship to God, however humble or proficient our offering may be.

"May we all know we are blessed when we try to bless others by using our talents to God's glory."