

ADDED
COMMUNITY VALUES



Example of good practise

Buksnes kirkekor

A mixed church choir in
Buksnes parish, Lofoten

Norway 2023



Social inclusion and diversity
Democratic values and practices
Environmental sustainability

TOOL SUMMARY

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| Name | Buksnes kirkekor |
| Summary description of idea and activities | A mixed choir for adult men and women. It is a church choir that performs at church services and concerts |
| Country observed | Norway |
| Year observed | 2023 |
| Programme area (Social inclusion/ Active Citizenship/Environmental sustainability) | Social inclusion and diversity Democratic values and practices Environmental sustainability |
| Specific topic | Attract persons who like to sing church music together, and also let them take part in the added value that comes with it |
| Beneficiaries of the activities | Persons who like to sing together |
| Can these activities be applied to other beneficiaries: yes/no | Yes |
| What type of beneficiaries: ALL, or specific ones? | All |
| If specific ones, which? | |

Full description

About:

Buksnes kirkekor is a mixed choir for adult men and women. It is a church choir that performs at church services and concerts.

Good practice examples of added values:

The choir has a leader who welcomes all interested parties as new members, regardless of nationality and knowledge of Norwegian, church membership, gender, age, health, etc. (The choir's value system is based on the Norwegian Church's value system and interest in music performance and social gathering.)

The choir director is the choir's musical director. The conductor organizes regular choir rehearsals according to the timetable and rehearsals before church services, and conducts all rehearsals. He informs the choir about upcoming participation in church services, selects repertoire for any event. Both decisions about participation in church services or other events and about repertoire are made through joint equal discussions with choir members. The choir has some originally foreign members (e.g. German), who speak Norwegian at a good level, and are able to help new choir members from the same country to fit into the choir. In recent months, they have helped a new choir member recently arrived from Germany to take part in the choir's activities. The choir's leader and the choir's conductor transport some choir members to rehearsals and events regularly. New members from everywhere are welcome and get help regards language and transport. Decisions about participation and repertoire are made through equal discussions..

The choir's annual meeting is an event where accounts for the previous year are approved and decisions are made about the choir's budgeting for the next year. The annual meeting offers each choir member room for open discussion, own budget proposals, criticism of any expenses, etc. Decisions are made based on the consent of the majority. Active citizenship in the choir is strengthened by the choir's annual participation in financial support of church premises: The parish house in Leknes, and the prayer houses in Gravdal and Opdøl. The sum of such support is discussed during annual meetings and assessed according to the choir's current possibilities and any other needs. Democratic decisions are taken at the annual meeting. Active citizenship is strengthened by annual participation in financial support of church premises.

All the choir members are concerned with the ecological problem, and each one is doing his part. Certain decisions were made during mid-term meetings. E.g. the choir has cancelled the practice of having coffee breaks during choir rehearsals due to the large consumption of disposable crockery. At events where the choir is responsible for the delivery of food, drink and serving, they have deliberately started using reusable crockery. Since the choir uses a relatively large amount of paper (sheet music), choir members are aware that it is important to keep sheet music well organized (sorted) – then there is less need for copying songs from previous repertoire, which the choir begins to practice for new events. A large consumption of disposable crockery is replaced by reusable crockery. The choir members are aware to keep sheet music, so there is less need for copying songs, as practiced earlier.

For more resources and information

Contact person



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