

ALL KINDS OF EVERYTHING

BY DAVID HALL

A 50-strong children's choir delighted former Eurovision winner Dana with a re-run of her winning song, All Kinds of Everything - but with different lyrics.

The new version highlighted various items at the two-day Christian Resources Exhibition which Dana then opened at EventCity, Manchester, on March 13th with the children from St Leonard's Church of England Primary School, Padiham, Lancashire, forming the choir.

"You sang brilliantly, and you managed to remember so many unusual words," Dana told the children who had sung about chasuble (an item of clerical clothing) and thurible (an incense burner) among the many items available at the exhibition.

The children were then entertained to a puppet show by Ian Jones, of One Way UK, challenged in a walk-through slum seeing how two young people live in Uganda and Ethiopia in a display from Compassion UK, toured the Embassy Bus, a repurposed luxury tour bus once used by Coldplay, but now serving as sleeping accommodation for the homeless in Salford.

They were also allowed to sit in a full-size two-seater aircraft on the stand of Mission Aviation Fellowship UK and sat in a flight simulator to attempt to land an aircraft on an isolated airstrip directed by a pilot from the mission which lands in some of the most isolated airstrips in the world as it serves missions and aid agencies. It was, in fact the mission which flew journalist Michael Buerk into the Ethiopian highlands in October 1984 which highlighted the enormous cost to life of the famine.

The children were also formed a 'factory line' to help put together, seal and box, packets of dried rice, soya and lentils along with

micronutrients, to be shipped to the kitchens of schools, villages and communities in some of the poorest parts of the world for the mission Hand to Hand. Each pack is sufficient to provide six meals.

"It was a wonderful day and worth all the hard work of learning the opening song," said the head, Beverly Holmes.

"The children were also thrilled to learn more about the lives lived by young people in other countries and taking part in the other activities."

She explained "the Compassion experience is unique journey into the lives of two children who lived in poverty. Each child's life was highlighted in a series of small rooms and, wearing headsets which explained each facet of the particular child's life, the Padiham pupils were able to see the journey from poverty to hope made by Shamin and Sameson from Uganda and Ethiopia.

"It was an opportunity to experience another world without leaving their own," said Mrs Holmes.

On their return to the school by double-decker bus, the children wrote down something of their experiences.

One ten-year-old relived the event by writing a poem:

*Riding on a moving bus,
Never ending loud fuss,
Meeting Dana,
It was rather,
Fun and exciting,
With all the lighting,
Singing to a hundred people,
We were very likeable,
All of us watched a show,
Using puppets all aglow,
Then to the Compassion bus,
Where we heard about
children in a rush,
The simulated flight
made us all jumpy,
Then we went home
tired and grumpy,
We wrote a poem,
Thank goodness it wasn't snowing!!* 

