

Some Memories of St Mary's Church Choir, Pilton



Firstly, I'm sorry to hear that the Choir is no longer in existence. I joined it in the days of Eric Ashton who had a real passion for music and, as James West was, was inspirational to me in growing to love church music. Where John Piper was concerned, I spent lots of time in his, and Monica's, company. They made particularly good coffee. They were so kind and again musically inspirational to me.

The church I have now is Congregational and it loves the 'From Darkness to Light' service John instigated at Pilton for Advent Sunday. In 2012 we had about 150 attenders as word is spreading about it.

One of my other favourite memories concerns William Isaac, who restored the organ. He was a fellow West Buckland School pupil. One evening, just after the organ had been restored, I went in and heard him play Widor's Tocatta in F. I have never heard it played as well as I did that night and my own church organist is absolutely brilliant. Each time he plays it I still think back to William playing it.

I am very impressed with the rest of the information on the website and they stir lots of memories, particularly when I see faces I remember. I particularly remember the Pilton Festival that Rev. Anthony Geering instigated (I worked with him at Crediton when he moved there). On the video, I saw Miss Dennis and a host of memories came alive about her and Miss Harrison (daughter of Rev. John Harrison), who also lived at Bradiford House.

Richard Westacott, February 2013

Editor's Note: The ['From Darkness to Light'](#) Service in St Mary's Church last took place in 2008. Follow the link above to see an image from it. Richard Westacott has been the Leader of Kingswood Congregational Church in Bristol since 2010.