

When we came to the Island, in 1969, there was a men's choir, the Pilgrims, conducted by Fred Hollis - the Greenen brothers were members, of course.

Bethany had a ladies' choir, led by Muriel Thorn. Mary invited me to join them , which I was very happy to do as I loved singing in parts.

I didn't realise it at the time, but Muriel had been wanting to pass the baton to someone else, and in time it fell to me - no-one else wanted to take it on.

For a time both choirs continued independently, but I had been a "fan" of the London Emmanuel Choir and loved their Carol concerts and annual Christmas cantatas.

So in 1971 I suggested that the 2 choirs join forces (just for Christmas) and learn " Night of Miracles" by John Peterson.

It was a new experience for me as well as everyone else, but with the Lord's help, it gelled, and we all had a great time. So much so, the singers all decided after Christmas that they would like to continue as a choir called the Bethany Gospel Singers (because we met at Bethany.) Prayer was always an important part of our practices.

That was the beginning of something wonderful which continued for me until 1983.

Margaret Dawson