

“... A Watchnight Service in the Chapel was conducted... and from that service a new influence spread amongst the fishermen and people of Port Isaac. Instead of their usual swearing, quarrelling and drunkenness, the fishermen turned to hymns as they hauled their nets. This Watchnight Service continued for many years, the Chapel gallery filling up quickly for this midnight service in the early moments of the New Year, to be continued by the worshippers singing on the Platt after the benediction...”

From the Pentus wall:

“... the seagulls are crying and wheeling, the flowery cliffs take the evening sun, the silvery slates of the old town turn pale gold. Above the lap of the harbour water, the wail of the gulls and thunder of the sea beyond the headlands, comes the final hymn from the Methodist Chapel across the green and gently rolling harbour flood.”

John Betjeman, 1984



1920s/30s Port Isaac School Choir with three trophies they had won

Front row, left to right: Betty Platt, Gladys Collins, unknown, Ernie Clee (School teacher and pianist), Mr Edwards (school teacher), unknown, Joy Grills, unknown

Middle row, left to right: Unknown, Eileen Williams, unknown, unknown, Lil Chadband, Dorothy Williams, unknown, Nancy Sleeman, Joyce Collins

Back row, left to right: Unknown, Harold Donnithorne, unknown, Jack Honey, Kenneth Sweet, Gaggy Hoskin



St Peter's Church Choir, August 1951

Back row, left to right: Leonard Pluckrose, Roger Keat, David Short, Michael Bate, Michael Vaggas, Gerald Cheshire

Middle row, left to right: Franic Thomas, Sid Pluckrose, raymond Gale

Front row, left to right: Vivienne Donnithorne, Janet Sweet, Norah Keat, Ann Thomas, Janet May



The Carn Awn Singers, July 2006

Back, left to right: Barbara Richards, Pauline Stephens, Velma Knight, Christine Hawkey, Maureen Wakeham (accompanist)

Front, left to right: Jenny Coltart, Shirley Gladwin, Elizabeth Hoskin, Mary Hooper (conductor), Jane Sadler, Jenny Lean



They're just singers in a Rock'n'Roll band!

Left to right: Jeremy Brown, John MacDonnell, Chris Scott, the late great Alan Appleby, Bill Hawkins, Steve Appleby, Marion Andrews, Maggi Appleby and Liz Brown at a fundraiser in the 90s

A Port Isaac Christmas

In 2015 community CD was made to keep alive, for future generations, the Port Isaac carols and music, along with some new songs, that are traditionally sung in the village at Christmas ... **there's always been a tradition of singing in Port Isaac ...** and the late 1960s saw the formation of the Port Isaac Singers - a ladies choir first put together to sing at a carol service in the Wesley Methodist Chapel in the village (not to be confused with Roscarrock Methodist Chapel - it's hard to believe that once there were two Chapels and a Church in Port Isaac). The highly successful Port Isaac Singers sang together for 23 years and reunited especially for this recording. From them grew the Port Isaac Chorale, the Fisherman's Friends and Gulls.

In days gone by, a Candlelit Carol Service would be held in Port Isaac's Roscarrock Methodist Church at Christmas. During the service several carols and Christmas hymns would be sung that were special, and in some cases unique, to Port Isaac. Several of these carols are included on this CD. The words may be familiar but Port Isaac often had specially composed tunes. As everyone left the Chapel, the men would gather on the Platt to sing, in their own special way, 'Hark the Herald Angels' and other carols.

About 12 years ago the Candlelit Carol evening was revived by the Port Isaac History Group and the Chorale in order to ensure that these traditional carols were not forgotten. It was held in the old Roscarrock Chapel and conducted in the traditional way with men on one side of the Gallery and ladies on the other side so that the parts could be sung in the choral tradition.