

Our Hill Chapel Memories

Here are some of the memories of Hill Chapel that you shared with us on our Open Day and since we have returned to worship here at Hill Chapel.

One special memory is being here at church at my husbands funeral , celebrating his life. The flowers were absolutely beautiful and I can still picture them now, *Marie Wilkinson*

We were brought up in Fulwood and went to mass there. I still do not know why but every Good Friday we came up to Hill Chapel for the Good Friday service once a year. *John Waddingham*

I got married to Frank at Hill Chapel 40 years ago by Father McMahon and a Polish priest. It was a cloudy day – but the sun has been shining on us ever since. *Margaret Ashton*

In 1976 I married John here at Hill Chapel. We were both so nervous. Father Davies and Father McNally were already on the altar. As we reached the altar, Father Mac started to laugh which set us off laughing too. *Liz Woods*

I used to be an altar boy and remember Father McNally giving you either an apple or an orange every time you served on the altar. *Paul Coupe*

I remember when my son moved to St Francis school and how the school and parish were so welcoming we have continued to worship and be a part of this community. *Andrew Dickinson*

I remember Father Pat saying the Vigil Christmas mass. The only lights lit were the Christmas Tree lights and the candles on the altar.. The church was always full and we sang the millenium prayer in the semi-darkness. It was beautiful. *Angela Gornall*

I remember my husband Tom serving on the altar. You wouldn't call him an altar boy as this was when we were married. *Dorothy Eastham*

I remember standing at the altar at the re-dedication Mass and just looking at a sea of people. People were stood at the back with not an inch to spare. The choir loft was ram packed with children sitting on the floor. Everyone was there to celebrate the re-opening of our church. *Mary Doran*

I did the whole works here in this church: Baptism, Confession, First Holy Communion, Confirmation and Marriage. *John Woods*

Our children came to school here and we came to mass here too. I remember our Keith being an altar server. *John and Betty Slater.*

I remember coming here as a newcomer twelve years ago with my wife Jean. We used to come to the 8.30 mass every Sunday morning. *Peter Mawson*

I was so pleased to find out that my Great grandparents lived in the cottage next to the presbytery – he was the groundskeeper. My grandmother was born in the cottage. I was baptised here by my Mum's cousin. *Julie Davis*

When there was a funeral coffins had to be carried all the way from the school yard and the path was lined with flowering currants, *Mrs Rogerson*

My favourite Hill Chapel memory was when my Auntie and Uncle came to their wedding here on a tractor. *Harris*

The chapel in St Lukes at Whittingham Hospital was part of the parish until the hospital's closure in 1995 and mass was said there every Sunday. It was within convenient walking distance for us so we attended regularly. Unfortunately there were sometimes interruptions to the service from patients. One of the more pleasant interruptions was a patient who suddenly decided to stand and sing a hymn, very nicely it must be said. Fr Pat waited for her to finish then thanked her for her contribution and continued with the mass. *George and Kate Ashton*

I remember being an altar server for the Bishop at the re-dedication mass. There were lots of things to remember but he was so kind and I think I managed to get most of it right. *Jacob*

I remember my First Holy Communion and all standing around the altar with Father Sony in the middle. *Lainey*

I remember when I was in the Nativity which was in church. I was the Angel Gabriel. Standing on the altar with everyone watching – I felt like I was a celebrity. *Daisy*

If you have a memory of our church that you would like to share - please just see Bernadette or Mary. We are hoping to make a Hill Chapel Memory booklet to keep and remember all these special memories.

