

It was a delight to read Katherine and James' reminiscences of their RSCM course at Kingswood School, Bath. (YouthView September 2009)

As a son of a Methodist manse, I was sent to KS, as it was known, in 1950 and stayed until 1957. It was there that my love of music was encouraged and developed, learning the violin, playing in the school orchestra and singing daily in the chapel choir. My late father, the Reverend Lionel Brayton, always regarded himself as a 'High Methodist' and spent his entire ministry working to reunite the Anglican and Methodist churches.

When John Wesley opened KS in Kingswood (Bristol) in 1748, the boys followed the same punishing schedule which Wesley himself followed. They rose at 5am and spent an hour in private contemplation. 7am was singing practice, which largely meant learning by heart the words of the hymns Charles Wesley tried out on them; *Love Divine, all loves excelling, Christ whose glory fills the skies, Soldiers of Christ arise, O for a thousand tongues to sing, Christ the Lord is risen today.*

While at teacher training college, I wrote to my father, and asked what he thought of my becoming an Anglican. He replied, 'Howard, I'm only pleased you're still going to church!' Not only am I still going to church, I am steeped in church music, and the tradition that the RSCM wonderfully upholds.

Howard Brayton

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