

Axbridge Community Civic Award

2013

Citation

This award is given to **Martin Latham** for his outstanding contribution to the community of Axbridge.

Martin was first involved with the musical life of Axbridge when he was invited to sing in a Songs of Praise service held in the square in 1966. He moved into digs at the George House in 1967, becoming the church organist in January 1968. His leadership of the benefice choir and as our organist provides music to our lives.

Martin has for many years been involved in managing the fabric of the church building, taking responsibility as a serving member of the PCC, as a Churchwarden, and as a member of the Friends of Axbridge Church. This has involved him in fundraising and managing many restoration projects, more recently the project management of the re-wiring and lighting of our church. He has also overseen the installation of the new glass doors, the new winding mechanism of the church clock and the installation of both the old and the new boiler. Prior to this recent upgrade, Martin had to manually switch on the old boiler very early each day, to have any chance of heat at the later church services.

He has for many years helped to run the Church fête, usually manning the bookstall, and even once dressed in drag serving tea and coffee!

His musical involvement in the Town's activities has included three of the Axbridge Pageant productions, and numerous events in the Church. He has encouraged young people in the town by involving them in special services and helping them with all aspects of music, including a production of Joseph and his Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat involving the staff and the top year of Axbridge first school.

Martin is supported by his wife Christine and together they run one of the regular Advent and Lent courses, and offer their garden as part of the Open Gardens Weekend. For the last 21 years they have invited local Teddy Bears to a picnic in their garden, accompanied by their owners.