

## **St Peter's History 1977 – 1999**

**1977** Magazine costs 5p - photo of stained glass window on cover.

Rev R Brookstein Vicar : Rev A J Newman Curate

Churchwardens William Roberts & Howard Powell

Ray Atkins Organist, Mary Boote PCC Secretary, Ron Harrison Treasurer

Holy Week Project

March - 223 Communicants, £54.53 Collections £39 .05 free will offerings

August - Treasure Hunt in cars

September - bread strike - 50p loaf

Day Centre opens, during the year:- musical afternoon, game of Bingo, Fish & Chip lunch, outing -to Misterton Hall

October - Bishop of Birmingham - Laurence Brown retires

House Communion Set - a gift from the Shirley Family in memory of Laurie Shirley who died in 1975. The Paten is inscribed with the memorial.

New Year's Eve Party raised £70 for the C of E Children's Society

**1978** Lady Churchill destroys Graham Sutherland's portrait of her husband.

Market Value £50,000

During Lent this year – house groups led by Radio Birmingham

February - Daisy Sadler's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday - visited by Lord Mayor of Birmingham, Mrs Freda Cocks. Daisy was a longstanding admirer of Noel Gordon and received a telegram from the 'Crossroads' cast. The Cephas Youth Group form

February - Parish Conference at Alveston Leys

March - PCC discuss the amalgamation of the 9.30am & 11.00am Services

April – William Roberts & Wilfred Willis Churchwardens

June - experimenting with the Choir seating

Festival this year – Clowns, Wombles, Morris Dancers, Maypole Dancing, Donkeys, - £773.35

September - PCC discuss in an open meeting, the role of women serving in different functions of church life at St Peter's.

November - Churches in Birmingham to share in a mammoth bulb planting in the lawns surrounding the Cathedral, in the shape of a giant cross.

£540 from the Christmas Fayre on the whitest day of the year

450 people attended the Remembrance Day Service at St Peter's

Mrs Doris Fearn takes over from Connie Booth - 21 years as leader of the Women's Fellowship.

**1979** January - Heater unit replaced and organ rebuild

Petrol in short supply, bus timetables reduced, weather conditions semi-arctic, Church heating system fails. Services held in the Hall. New cast iron boiler fitted, present one only 14 years old.

Organ playing up - insufficient funds meant that at the time of installation, it had never been satisfactorily rebuilt after removal from the Catholic Apostolic Church in Spring Hill.

Mr Roy Massey, organist at Hereford Cathedral advised a rebuild rather than buy an electronic organ.

February - Bishop Hugh Montifore makes his first visit to St Peter's for Confirmation Service  
Lady Servers admitted for the first time at St Peter's.

4<sup>th</sup> biennial Pantomime - Mother Goose, previously, Aladdin, Cinderella, Dick Whittington.

Tickets 60p & 30p.

Churchwardens:- Wilfred Willis & Dennis Witcomb

May 6<sup>th</sup> St Peter's on Radio 4 - 45 minutes of our Choral Eucharist Service.

Bill Roberts made Warden Emeritus

June – Festival – theme:- 'History of Hall Green through the ages. Anne Ward was Festival Maid, a silver rose bowl was presented to her by Mr Reginald Eyre MP for Hall Green, who opened the Festival. There was a Model Train & a local artist seated at his easel in Church recalling the romance of trams along the Stratford Road, a working model of Sarehole Mill and the walk along the course of the River Cole. Victoriana Display in Lady Chapel, showing Paradise Farm, the blacksmith, cobbler and wheelwright. All the stalls sold out of their goods!!

Balloon Race- £5 won by Robin Huq – found in Cambrai France. Finder also received £5.

2<sup>nd</sup> found in Belgium, 9 in France, Kent, Surrey, Rochester, & Middlesex. Concert in evening by Chilcote School & Cantilera Singers. BBQ in vicarage garden.

On Sunday, young people's orchestra in Church to play the hymns. Songs of Praise in the evening.

June 5 - Rev Roy & Mary Brookstein's Silver Wedding – a surprise party was arranged for them – 170 friends from past & present. They were presented with a Dinner Service & a cheque for £150.

Tony Tortise & Julia Parker were married by Rev Roy that morning and stayed behind to present the 'Silver' couple with a bouquet of flowers.

Rosemary Dixon-Nuttall, our CMS Link from India, said that she had a 'real fear at the size of the supermarkets and extravagance of the purchases as she stood by the cash tills here.'

Maureen Northwood offered to be the wardrobe mistress for the choir robes, repairs and laundering. Toddlers Group set up.

Rev John Moss URC ceased to be Chairman of HGCC succeeded by Mr John Goodwin.

Ralph Ironmonger dies – he owned the shop on the railway bridge in Highfield Road 'to walk into his shop was like stepping back 50 years, yet he knew where everything was.'

August 4 - 1<sup>st</sup> time the new Series III Wedding Service was used – Andrew Bullock & Gillian Hickson

September - opening recital of the restored organ by Roy Massey, organist & choirmaster of Hereford Cathedral. (Organ built by Messrs Banfields & restored by Messrs Sheffields – thanks to the legacy from Robert & Ida Dowers.) Floodlights light East window – the concert ended with the Finale of Vierne's Symphonie no 1.

Ray Atkins plays the organ in Church to entertain the members of the Day Centre. They also enjoy Strawberry Teas at 'Hildercroft', the home of Mr & Mrs Jack Fardon. (corner of Highfield & Paradise Lane)

Shirley Witcomb takes over from Diane Shirley as editor of the magazine. cost 8p

November - WI morning market started - every Thursday at Friends' Meeting House, corner of Hamlet/Stratford Roads.

December – The Organ Fund reached £11960 started by Eva Roberts, it is now closed. 1<sup>st</sup> target of £500 was raised by the sale of old rags & woollens. 2<sup>nd</sup> target of £500 was achieved by 1966 & over £1500 was raised from coffee mornings & musical evenings, jam making, & Junior Choir sing-in.

Ray Atkins' organ box, into which were placed contributions from organists who practised on the instrument.

Vicar's Stall at Christmas Fayre raised £90 – people had bought home gifts from their holidays – an innovation this year.

The Altar in the Lady Chapel is a gift from Gladys Kendall.

Badminton Group set up in Church Hall.

**1980** New Year's Day – 45 on Family Ramble

January - Renewal of Christian Stewardship – 30 new promises, 150 pledges with 36 covenants – bringing in an income of £8,500.

Anchor Housing Trust outline a proposed scheme for housing the elderly (Brookmeadow Court)

March - Scouts celebrate 21 years of Scouting at St Peter's - started by Rev Adlam & Eric Marsden. Eric Marsden dies.

April - Passion Play followed by Lighting of the Paschal Candle Service.

Extract from the Parish Magazine:- **A PASSION PLAY** 'At the first murmurings of a Passion Play, I must confess to severe misgivings as to the wisdom of allowing this to happen, especially as several people involved had already committed themselves to the task of assisting with the Children's Holy Week Project. My alarm grew as the Church took on the appearance of an adventure playground, complete with climbing towers and do-it-yourself electrocution apparatus in the space in which children were to move freely during the week.

A second confession now! I crept into a dress-rehearsal, which I found so moving that it completely changed my views. Like the blinding light Paul experienced on the Road to Damascus, the lights of that play did something for me! I felt that it deserved to be seen by as many people as possible. It seemed such a pity that so much hard work and enthusiasm was all just for one night. Walter Walker's production deserved more than one performance.

On **the** night, we found the Church transformed, with the choir stalls removed, the beautiful octagonal shape of the building revealed some of its unexpected potential. Without being constrained by straight rails, the chairs were able to be arranged in pleasing curves. I was suddenly made aware of how in our conventional arrangement of the furniture, perhaps we fight the shape, instead of surrendering to it.

Our sincere thanks are due to Walter, who had worked wonders with a largely inexperienced cast, and with the aid of inspired lighting effects and superb costumes, created such a wonderful atmosphere for this Play.

There are times when audible applause would be an intrusion. At the end, the entire cast stood, with their backs to the audience, facing Christ, who stood in a pool of light facing us all. The distinction between audience and cast became blurred and we were all part of the Story, until the lights were

turned down, and we were left with the narrator stepping out of the Story to bring us back to today's world. Our applause was a silent prayer of thanks for such a moving experience.

*Sue Williams*

**After the passion** To every member of the cast who, in the perilously short space of some 5 weeks, gave unstinting support and endless patience to create a beautiful story . . . to every member of the production team who never failed to find what was wanted and saw things through 'on the night', albeit with heart in mouth! . . . to all those who honestly wished them well and at the end were moved by what they did, my humble and grateful thanks. *Wally Walker*.

Churchwardens Don Cameron (also a Lay Reader) & Dennis Witcomb

June – the magazine increases its pages to 12 and costs 10p.

Index cards of congregation to show services attended with a view to shepherding groups.

Festival of Flowers depicting seasons in the Church's Calendar. Village Fayre - Balloon Man, Maypole & Country Dancing, Steel Band, Children's Fancy Dress Parade, Scout Band, Pony Rides, Concert in Church - Hall Green Junior School Choir & Orchestra & BBQ in the vicarage garden in the evening. Church open all day weekend to view Festival of Flowers (*many photos of these arrangements in Parish*) which complemented the Craft & Hobbies Exhibition - weaver, spinner, artist, needlewoman, model making. Children's carpet of flowers in Lady Chapel, depicting the insignia of St Peter. Barry Pearsall drove the Brownies around the Parish in an open lorry, to publicise the Festival.

The Alternative Services Book for the altar, was donated in memory of Gladys Kendall.

Rev Roy Brookstein is made Chairman of Hall Green Council of Churches.

The New Prayer Book to be used by the congregation in 1980 - it will cost £1350.

Special appeal for bicycles for the clergy of Uganda

Andrew Spurr is accepted for ordination.

Extract from the June 1980 magazine:- **Who are your neighbours?** Last July I began working as a Health Visitor in Sparkbrook and quickly realised that though it may be only 4 miles away in distance, it could be 4000 miles away in culture.

Sparkbrook is now mainly an Asian Community, with many Muslims living there. Many women are still in 'Purdah' which means that they are not allowed outside their homes, apart from such things as appointments at a hospital or the doctors. Even then, a man must accompany them. This is an important part of their culture, and one which we must respect, even if we find it difficult to understand. Very few Asian women speak English and this obviously presents great problems to me as a large proportion of my work involves advising families in their homes. So I decided to find out how other workers coped with this and what schemes were being run to overcome such problems as their language barrier. Thus I met June Challis, the wife of the Vicar of Christ Church, Sparkbrook, who had been involved in running an Asian Women's Group since she arrived in 1976. The Group has a scheme where women are visited in their homes, either by a student from Crowther Hall (the Church Missionary Society College) or a voluntary helper. This is how June describes her work – 'Why do we visit them? Well, first of all, as Christians, we are called to love our neighbours and our neighbours in Sparkbrook are these women. Not all of the women are Muslims, there are Sikhs and Hindus too, who are able to go out more freely. Most of the visitors find that they become friends with the lady they visit. Secondly, as we now live in a multi-cultural and multi-racial Britain, we, as Christians, feel it right to practise good community relations. The visitors say that they have gained far more than they have ever given. I have learnt from my own Muslim friend. For example, I have had a glimpse of the peaceful satisfaction she has in doing the menial domestic duties and especially, her deep obedient trust in God. Since 1975 a termly tea-party has taken place. Last term we had more than 30 women, plus children, plus visitors. We all bring some food (English or Asian) and have a table of plenty. Once a month we have talks on such things as fire prevention and cookery.' For this group to grow, more committed women volunteers will be needed, who are prepared to spend one or more hours a week regularly visiting an Asian lady in her home. We can provide the name of a lady who would like a visitor – can you provide your name to be that visitor? *Sylvia Fry*

Choir Football Match

New polisher for Church "it runs away with you".

June 14 Jubilee Festival Day - 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Diocese of Birmingham – a day on the Cathedral Green – St Peter's provided Maypole Dancing in wellies & macks, in the pouring rain. Archbishop of Canterbury was present. Hilary Newman opened the 'Everyman' play with the St Alphege Players. Peter Jackson painted St Peter's jigsaw piece – put in place with all other Churches' pieces, by abseilers.

Maurice Smart retires from Sunday School Superintendent after 25 years.

July to Oberammergau. *Church Times 20 August 1880* £15 to Oberammergau & back 2<sup>nd</sup> class. October 294<sup>th</sup> Brownies 25 years old, started by Miss V Hunter & Betty Driver

Highfield Players formed by Walter Walker - 1<sup>st</sup> play 'The Farmer's Wife' by Eden Phillpotts - Walter was in hospital at the time of the performances so only heard the recordings made.

November - cuts in bus services, so Chris Nicholas organises a voluntary transport service offering lifts to churchgoers.

Mums & Toddlers - now over a dozen Mums & 20 children

November - Apportionment to Diocese 1980 = £3837

December - after 9 years, Ray Atkins resigns as Organist – he also played for pantos and shows.

Multi-faith bus tour – Synagogue, Sikh Temple, Hindu Temple, St Paul's Balsall Heath, Muslim Mosque, understanding others in 'One world Week'. World military arms expenditure is now running at almost 1,000,000 dollars a minute – the equivalent of 100 dollars a year for every person on earth.

**1981** January - Rev Peter Heselton becomes church organist.

February - Weekend away at Alveston Leys, near Stratford - theme 'Health & Wholeness' led by Rev Dr Peter Bellamy, Chaplain to QE Hospital.

March - Holy Week Project for children 'Communication' Chaplain to the Deaf visit. Chris Nicholas talked about work with the Post Office & we saw Peter Best's radio car. We inscribed on wax tablets & produced a newspaper as at the time of Jesus.

Barry Pearsall organised a train trip to York.

PCC has agreed that the payment of our Easter Offering to the Incumbent should cease as these are now deducted from the stipends by the Diocese.

April - Chairs altered to follow the lines of the octagonal building for a Brownie Service on Patterns. Comments were invited from the congregation. 'Did you like the chairs arranged to follow the lines of the building?' The usual rectangular arrangement of the chairs in an octagonal building is reminiscent of the proverbial square peg in round holes.

Brixton Black Community Versus Police, mentioned in Vicar's letter.

Churchwardens Don Cameron & Alan Greathead.

May - Birmingham Cathedral restored. St Peter's donated a seat & at least 3 seats donated by Birmingham Bell Ringers in loving memory of Doris Fearn's husband, George.

Stewardship increased by 48% from £8507.40 to £12,615.60 plus income tax refund on the covenanted income, £2,500.

Katherine Carey thanked for all the years she arranged and looked after the flowers in Church. A new 'Fellowship in Flowers' to be formed by Edna Hopkins & Nancy Williams.

For the past 2 years on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in every month Family Service led by Youth Organisations.

July - Royal Wedding Day Prince Charles to Lady Diana Spencer – ending with an informal social in Vicarage garden.

August - Choir sing Evensong in Birmingham Cathedral.

Great Britain = 787 people per doctor, Ethiopia 73,314 people per doctor.

2 altar cloths blessed for use – 1 from the family of Gladys Aylward and 1 from Will Tucker & Family in loving memory of Renee.

October - Choir sing Evensong in Norwich Cathedral.

1981–1990 is International Drinking Water supply & Sanitation Decade. Half the world's population, some 2000 million are without reasonable access to a safe & adequate water supply.

1981 is the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Missions to Seamen

November - opinions invited re giving of the peace at the morning Service.

Bishop Hugh Montefiore in Parish for Visitation. 24 hours – including visiting local schools, community centres, library – visit ended with attendance at a PCC Meeting.

Highfield Players' 'Search by Night' by Victor Lucas.

Magazine to cost 12p - in new year - 1982 daily papers to cost about 18p

Forms to be filled in by congregation at all Services in November to help in the assessment of weekly attendance figures to be used as the basis of the calculation of the 1982 apportionment.

New Year's Eve Party tickets £1.50

**1982** January - Bishop's permission for Geoffrey Page & Andrew Bullock to assist with the administration at Holy Communion.

Dr Elizabeth Williams to talk about The Medical Effects of Nuclear Weapons. 'For the millions who do without 2 meals a day, the only form in which God dare appear is food. *Mahatma Gandhi*.

Tony Mullins was the first person in the City to be presented with a Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award – 24 years ago. His daughter, Karen, received her Silver Award in February.

Lent Courses at a different Church in the HGCC, each week.

Sir George Thalben -Ball's next lunchtime recital at the organ of Birmingham's Town Hall will be his 895<sup>th</sup>.

Apportionment £13,127.

March - Gang Show to celebrate 75 yrs of Scouting, produced by Josie Crane – Kay Nunney at the piano. 60 boys performing.

April - Highfield Players 'Watch at the World's End' - a dramatic Meditation contained in a short Service.

A mass lobby on Disarmament – 'Disarm for Development' the slogan under which thousands of concerned people lobby their MPs in Westminster.

Pat Rickard and Barry Pearsall become Servers.

Communicants – 299 cash collections £109.14 stewardship £341.65 on 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday

May - 21<sup>st</sup> birthday of 294<sup>th</sup> Guide Company started by Betty Driver.

May - Pope John Paul II lands in Coventry by helicopter.

Alan Greathead voted onto the Diocesan Synod.

June - Choir sing the weekend Services in Coventry Cathedral. They follow the 2 rows of pennies set in the floor to keep the procession straight.

Festival – theme:- 'The Organisations of the Church'

August - Choir to sing weekend Services at St Asaph Cathedral N Wales.

Team of Liturgical Dancers at 9.30am & 11.00am Services

September – Experiment – the 9.30am Service will start at 9.15am, to give a longer interval between the 9.30am & 11.00am Services.

HGCC train trip to Lincoln – act of united worship in Cathedral there.

Sunday School outing to Drayton Manor Park (41 children)

October - Birmingham Youth Force funded by the Manpower Services arrive to decorate the Hall. Highfield Players 'Fool's Paradise' by Peter Coke 80p tickets.

Audree Hay wins HGCC Competition for Christmas card design.

Temple Balsall Family Day Away

November – Boys Brigade celebrates centenary.

Remembrance - cessation of Falklands hostilities. One very hot summer evening at a PCC Meeting, a very handsome young man bravely interrupted proceedings and said that he had just returned from HMS Hermes and had come to thank us for our prayers for him and his colleagues' safe return.

December - Christingle Service for the first time at St Peter's.

Eddie Else & son, Stewart become Servers.

December 31 Medieval Banquet £2.90 & £1.90. Evening began as bondmen & women, we supped our broth & home baked bread in a refectory served by monks, supposedly in silence! By the next 'reserve', we'd been promoted to lords & ladies. We were entertained with the singing of Madrigals & Ballads and minstrel accompaniment. Verily, 'ye top of ye medieval pops'. Proceeds = £151 to the C of E Children's Society.

Christmas 1982 - all-time record sales on presents & gifts in the shops in towns.

**1983** January - apportionment £14,700.

March - Concert of sacred & secular music with Shirley Brass Band & St Peter's & St Agnes' Moseley Choirs. £1 & 60p including refreshments.

No Holy Week Project this year because the schools break up too late.

HGCC Ecumenical Lent Course 'Cross Examination'  
 April - Vicar's Cortina car stolen. First time he had been without a car for 20 years. He ended up in a police station in his cassock. A parishioner kindly lent him a car.  
 Wardens - Mr A T Great head & Dr D J Andrews  
 Open Discussion Meeting – 'Church Commissioners'  
 May - HGCC trip to Walsingham.  
 Maureen Northwood commissioned to make vestments for Whalley Abbey.  
 'The Church and the Bomb'- Day conference at All Saints, Kings Heath.  
 Choir sing Evensong at Gloucester Cathedral.  
 Choir sing Evensong at York Minster.  
 Harold Greenway who attended the Day Centre for many years, made a cross in light oak at the Handicapped Welfare Centre in Bordesley Green where he attends for 'stroke' therapy. The cross has been blessed for use in the Sunday School.  
 Weekend conference at Wadderton, Blackwell, Bromsgrove, £14 - 'Catching Fire'  
 June - Karen Mullins - Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award.  
 July – Choir sing Evensong at Birmingham Cathedral.  
 Special party to celebrate Bill & Eva Robert's 80<sup>th</sup> birthdays, & 30yrs active service to the Church, they were presented with a cheque for £118.  
 N Ireland Holiday Project - 26 youngsters aged 13-15 years together with 4 helpers.  
 Toddlers Group raised £350 towards Body Scanner for the Children's Hospital, with their sponsored toddle. One child circulated the Church no less than 27 times!  
 Mr Dowsett & pupils at Yardley Wood School, are thanked for the hymn book case matching the rest of the Church furnishings.  
 The boundary fence & iron guard fixed between Church car park & our neighbours.  
 Ventures completed the 5 mile raft race on the River Severn from Arley to Bewdley  
 August – Choir sing Evensong at Worcester Cathedral.  
 Deputy Warden Vernon Aldridge - Birmingham City Council Football Association made him Referee from 1944-1960 and Chairman of the Disciplinary Committee from 1970-1982.  
 Michael Fry chosen to play for the under 16s Worcester County Rugby Team.  
 Highfield Players donate £114 to Church Funds being half of the profits from the pantomime.  
 Mr Ripley's legacy of £100 to the Church Organ Fund – he sang in the Church Choir for many years. Mr Andrew Spurr has the Bishop's permission to administer at Holy Communion.  
 Don Cameron dies. For over 30 years he was a devoted member of St Peter's, he assisted in Sunday School & BB, was a member of the drama group, played the accordion, was a devoted Churchwarden, holding the Office for 2 periods. His name is inscribed on the foundation stone. He sang tenor in the choir and was a Lay Reader.  
 September - HGCC train trip to Cambridge, which included a 20 minute united Service in Great St Mary's Church.  
 New cover for magazine, an etching of St Peter's Church replaces the East Window. Price 15p  
 October – Highfield Players - 'The Happiest Days of your life' by John Dighton  
 Miss Frances Weir is our new Link Missionary.  
 1<sup>st</sup> car boot sale at St Peter's, in aid of N Ireland Holiday Project.  
 St Peter's men's group formed.  
 To London to swell the National Demonstration CND. – a weapons freeze – their objective.  
 HGCC - Joe Baggott, a Roman Catholic, is Chairman .  
 Magazine Sales campaign.  
 Nov - Family Day – 'The Bible' at The Saracen's Head, Kings Norton, £1 & children free.  
 HGCC visit to a synagogue.  
 Lucy Linday starts the St Peter's Church Visiting Group.  
 3.7% increase in Pensions. For £5 Pensioners will soon be able to buy half price rail fares in Europe. Andrew Crane at 17 years, is one of the youngest ever to gain the Queen's Scout Award.  
 Isolde Andrews & Simon Archer are new Servers.  
 Gill Nash, Ray Billingsley & Andrew Bullock are training to be Lay Readers.  
 Choir Concert in aid of purchasing new choir robes.  
 'American Soaps like 'Dynasty' have failed to attract the same size audience as 'Songs of Praise' which recently entered its 21<sup>st</sup> year of transmission.'  
 December – experiment:- 8 weeks off for Sunday school teachers to relieve the huge commitment.

The Chrismon Tree Service (Christ Monogram).

**1984** January - brown stains noticed in ceiling above sanctuary – the building is only 20 years old. Stains are coming from space between copper dome and ceiling. Rusting of reinforcing bars are causing this, which means that water is penetrating these inner cavities. Cracks are appearing in the concrete settings of the stained glass windows.

Rev Alfred Newman due to retire later this year so we must think about having a full-time curate, this would mean purchasing a house.

Villa Park 30/6 – 7/7 1984 'Mission England' – Billy Graham. 5 buses booked for Hall Green. Meetings at St Peter's on 2 Saturdays - 'Is my Church worth joining?' to prepare ourselves for accepting new Christians referred to us from the Billy Graham Meetings.

Orbital mixer purchased from money donated in memory of our Lay Reader Don Cameron.

Geoffrey Page dies.

Action Aid to Kenya - we sponsor a 10 year old boy, Isika Mwisya and correspond with him via the Sunday School.

Choir Concert – towards new choir robes.

February - Karen Mullins received Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award.

Highfield Players - 'formed to further the purpose of the Church in shared fellowship'.

'A right royal pack of nonsense' Panto - Highfield Players.

'Journeys' is the theme for the Holy Week Project – from Abraham to the astronauts!

PCC to pay the balance for the new choir robes.

March – Concert -Ian Little, organist of Coventry Cathedral

Parish Conference at Wadderton.

April - Choir sings Evensong at Lichfield Cathedral.

Easter Monday – the choir sing Evensong at St George's Chapel Windsor Castle. – refreshments in the dungeons!

May - Choir sing Evensong at Hereford Cathedral. Coach for the congregation to join us £2.50 & £1.50

Rev Roy Brookstein becomes Chaplain to the new High Sheriff of the West Midlands – Derek Lea. PCC donations to charities in 1983 £4781 - 6 'Church Overseas' 11 'Church Societies' 19 'Others'.

June - Summer Festival - Clog Dancing, Pony Rides, Hot Potatoes, Worzel Gummage look alikes competition, Horn Pipe Dancing, Semaphore Display, Display Hi-Bris School of Dance, Stalls, Sponsored Absieiling, Concert by Children of Hall Green Junior School.

At Temple Balsall - Quiet Day for Moseley Deanery.

Michael Smith obtains Queen Scout Award.

Rachel Marsden donated 10 of her Easter eggs as prizes to Radio Lollipop the BRMB Service to children in hospital.

Bishop of Durham – Virgin birth controversy – mentioned in Vicar's letter.

July - Birmingham Cathedral choir sing Evensong.

6 junior choir members enjoy a day at Addington Palace, Croydon, the Headquarters of the RSCM. Nurture groups formed at St Peter's to welcome people who come as a result of Mission England .

St Peter's is responsible for hosting the outing to the Black Country Museum for the young people from N Ireland. This is the first N Ireland Holiday.

August – after 10 years at St Peter's Rev Alf & Hilary Newman retire to live in Suffolk. Rev Alf was one of the first non-stipendiary priests in the Birmingham Diocese.

'Live, Learn & Share' learning materials recommended by Bishop of Birmingham.

Alan Allsopp writes re changes of words in prayer books. "Thou art the same Lord whose **property** is always to have mercy - series III has **nature** and he explains the differences between these words. 'God the Maker of all that is **seen and unseen** – what has happened to **visible and invisible** - who is trying to demystify religion?

Alan Allsopp agrees to be 'Link man for us with the parish of Malawi.

September - Beer & Skittles evening.

Holy Land Pilgrimage led by Bishop of Birmingham 11days £499 per person.

October - Choir sings Evensong at Wells Cathedral.

Open Discussion Meeting "Patterns for Ministry".

Rev Chris Aldridge is Chairman of HGCC

Roof vents ordered to help solve problem of condensation.

Explanation of how covenanting your offering increases £1 to £1.43 - income tax refund.

Small ads in magazine cost 50p per item.  
 Stuart Northwood passes his City & Guilds 'Ham Radio' exams.  
 Elizabeth Allsopp accepted for Sheffield Medical School.  
 Karen Mullins accepted for Liverpool Medical School.  
 Rev Roy Brookstein invited, along with 22 other clergymen from all parts of the Country to try and think of the Church & Society in the year 2000, which is only 16 years away.  
 Christine Hitchon & Ray Billingsley become Servers.  
 November - Highfield Players 'The Noble Spaniard' by W Somerset Maugham.  
 December - Don Pointon retires as Group Scout Leader after 10yrs.  
 Joanna Crane presented with Top Award in Guiding, the Service Baden Powell Trefoil.  
 Stewardship Campaign to focus on £3000 - £3500 needed per annum to cover costs of buying a house and everyday expenses for a curate.  
 Stewardship Committee decide to issue individual quarterly statements to members of the scheme. HGCC train trip to Bath Abbey united Service in Abbey £4 & £2  
 Thank you badge to Doris Fearn, a rare honour, she has been an active member of the Guiding Association since 1929.  
 25 more magazine subscribers following the campaign.  
 December - Rev Roy installed as a Canon of Birmingham Cathedral.  
 Day Away at Wadderton - theme:- 'Spirituality – our prayer life'. £8 for the day.  
 'Friends of St Peter's formed for the preservation of the fabric of the Church buildings.  
 Rev David Mann, Minister of Hall Green Methodist Church Baptised Gareth Williams at St Peter's Church at the Evening Service.  
 Mums & Toddlers donate a turkey for the Christmas Dinner of the Day Centre.  
 Philip Montgomery receives Scout Medal of Merit in acknowledgement of 17 years as Treasurer.  
 Wedding of Rev Peter Heselton & Anne Holloway.  
 New Year's Eve Party 'Out of this World' - blue cauliflower, red potatoes, green Yorkshire pudding. £4. Flagship USS Whatasurprise – the meal started with 2 tablets! (Smarties)  
 Profits to buy a Phillips Dishwasher for St Christopher's Children's Home, Olton, in memory of Geoff Page, who always supported the Society.

**1985** is designated International Youth Year.  
 PCC allocated £3700 to charities.  
 March – Choir sing 'Olivet to Calvary' J H Maunder.  
 Bishop's Lent Appeal – give up your Friday lunch for garden hoes for Uganda, they cost £6 each plus the shipping charge. Bicycles cost £88.50 plus £33 shipping charge.  
 Holy Week Children's Project 'Breaking new ground'  
 Bishop's Lent Appeal raised £224.  
 April - Churchwardens:- Dr D J Andrews & Mr V Aldridge.  
 June - 'Off the rails' by John Waterhouse Highfield Players.  
 Rev Bob, Kate, Daniel & Benjamin Gleeson arrive – our new curate & family.  
 July - Festival 'Hymns' is the theme for the flower ladies. Shirley Kestrel Majorettes, Punch & Judy Choir & Silver Band Concert.  
 Rev Peter Heselton has been our organist & choirmaster for 4 years and has now been appointed to be Chaplain of a large school in Newcastle-upon-Tyne he will be leaving at the end of July.  
 People move into Brookmeadow Court - 90 flats for the elderly – directly opposite to the Church Drive in Paradise Lane.  
 17 rose bushes donated by various people for the Church grounds, planted by our volunteer gardener, Fred Carter.  
 35 children in Sunday School each week.  
 Strike by journalists of the BBC – advertised programmes replaced by recorded music – mentioned in the Vicar's letter.  
 15 young people come from N Ireland to Hall Green for a peaceful Holiday, arranged by HGCC.  
 Stewardship Campaign resulted in an increase of nearly £7000 to our planned giving. Including Covenant Tax refunds, it will produce £30,864 during 1985/6 compared with £23,961 for 1984/5.  
 August - Choir sing weekend Services at Durham Cathedral. £30 per person for anyone who wishes to go from the congregation.

September - Welcome to Andrew Fletcher as organist & choirmaster.  
 October - HGCC rail trip to Chester £4.50 & £2.50.  
 C of E Children's' Society house to house collection - £708.71 organised by Bill & Eva Roberts.  
 Auction  
 Open Meeting to discuss 'Worship'.  
 'One World Week' celebrating 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Nations.  
 Compose a song or hymn for Canterbury cash prize £60 to be used on pilgrimage in June 1986.  
 November - Gill Nash, Andrew Bullock & Ray Billingsley become Lay Readers.  
 Mums & Toddlers donate £152.74 to Cystic Fibrosis Research Fund, & £31 towards the Day Centre Christmas lunch & party.  
 Women's Fellowship - £400 given towards repair of stained glass window.  
 All Invited to write to MPs re Sunday Trading.  
 PCC allocate £3930 to various charities.  
 Christmas Day cash collections £504.60 shared between Save the Children Fund & C of E Children's Society.

**1986** January – New Year's Day - Graham Shirley leads ramble around Packwood.  
 February - Panto 'Dick Whittington'  
 Hazel Massey hands over leadership of the Sunday School to Audree Hay - 40 children & 6 teachers. March - Ecumenical Lent Course 'To the world with love' - a different Church to host in Hall Green each week.  
 Choir to sing Evensong at Birmingham Cathedral.  
 April - Day Away at Wadderton £8.  
 Churchwardens Dr D J Andrews & Mr R Hill.  
 May - Vernon & Joan Aldridge retire to Shipston-on-Stour after more than 30 years active service at St Peter's.  
 Mums & Toddlers Charity Trekkers raise £300 for Cystic Fibrosis, in the rain, 30 children walked around the outside of the Church  
 294<sup>th</sup> Guides at St Peter's - Silver Jubilee Celebration.  
 June 'The Full Treatment' - Highfield Players.  
 Moseley Deanery Quiet Day at The Old Hall, Temple Balsall, £1  
 £116.70 to Mission to Seamen organised by Mrs C Carey.  
 Diocesan Pilgrimage to Canterbury.  
 Choir to sing Evensong at Hereford Cathedral.  
 July - Friends coach trip to Llanfair Railway, Powys Castle £6 & £4.  
 Andrew Smith receives the Chief Scout Award, his 3 brothers have also won this award.  
 Festival 'Celebrations' is to be the theme of the floral displays in Church. Concert by St Peter's Choir. Organ Recital by Andrew Fletcher £1.50 & £1. Auction Stall, Victorian Oven, The Shirley Band, White Eagle American Dancers.  
 Magazine to cost 20p.  
 St Peter's is to host the outing to Stratford for the N Ireland Holiday folk. HGCC raised £2300 towards the cost of this holiday.  
 Total Stewardship 1.4.85 – 31.3.86 = £21,794.55. Tax refund on covenanted giving £7267.66.  
 1986/7 - £30750 net increase of over £3100 in the 85/86 - around 9%.  
 Wadderton Day Conference 'People of other Faiths'  
 A new amplifier/speaker system installed in Lady Chapel so that Services may be relayed into there. Christian Aid Collection £479 plus donations of £121  
 August - 'Mission Hall Green' - Family picnic at Sarehole Mill.  
 House to House collections C of E Children's Society £721.43  
 September - Kay Nunney receives her degree at Swansea.  
 October - Antiques Road show 50p entry & 50p each item valued.  
 'Faith in the City' discussion led by Fr Salter from St Cuthbert's Church, Castle Vale – we visited their Flower Festival – 'Parting of the Red Sea' on font – Fr Salter was to baptise a baby in the 'parting' on the Sunday.  
 A Prayer Book has been placed at the back of Church by the Lay Readers for requests for prayers. Bishop Hugh Montefiore is to retire. He has been described as 'being 6'4" & having a mind that travels at 100mph.'

November - Mark Nicholas becomes a Server.  
Kate Gleeson starts trading with Traidcraft.  
Rev Brookstein & Rev Gleeson become Chaplains at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and are responsible for 2 wards.  
Eric Northwood donates his 50<sup>th</sup> pint of blood.

**1987** February - 'Once in a blue moon' Panto written & Directed by Viv Wilkes.  
PCC donate £4564 to charities.  
Choir to sing Evensong at Gloucester Cathedral.  
Mr & Mrs Look have replaced the Day Centre tablecloths to celebrate their Golden Anniversary.  
April - Day Conference at Wadderton - 29 from St Peter's, 4 from St Cuthbert's Castle Vale. - 'Sick & you took care of me, in prison and you visited me.' Chaplain to the QE & Chaplain to Winson Green Prison led the day.  
Churchwardens Mr R Hill & Mr C Nicholas  
10 years since the Day Centre started.  
Cash collections -£68.09 & stewardship -£726.55 on 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday  
May - Choir sing at Birmingham Cathedral.  
Andrew Bullock & Ray Billingsley are recommended for training for the Ministry.  
HGCC rail trip to Windsor  
For 13 years, Mary Boote has been PCC Secretary, a member of St Peter's for 40 years, 27 years on the PCC, on the Deanery Synod for 17 years. She is now retiring.  
June – Festival - The Sogetsu School of Ikebana to depict 'Colour'. A Polish Dance Group & Choir in the Festival this year.  
July - Highfield Players 'Outside Edge' by Richard Harris. £2.  
Graffiti on walls of Church & railway bridge in Robin Hood Lane.  
Janet Page is the new leader of the Flower Team.  
August - New sound system – gift of Bill & Eva Roberts in memory of Eva's sister Winnie.  
Phil Montgomery gives new altar cloths in memory of his wife, Winnie. Maureen Northwood is embroidering a set of Eucharistic vestments as part of this gift.  
Adverts in the magazine - 1/8 = £12 per annum. ¼ page = £24 per annum. ½ page = £48 per annum plus a once only Stamp Fee of £8.  
September - Festival visit to St Cuthbert's Castle Vale with whom we have been 'twinned' since 'Faith in the City'. Our joint choirs to sing Evensong there.  
Liz Allsopp is helping & learning in hospitals in Bangladesh.  
30 large print hymn books purchased by PCC.  
October - Choir Concert  
Rt Rev Mark Santer becomes the 7<sup>th</sup> Bishop of Birmingham.  
Eric Northwood has refurbished the front doors of the Church.  
The Magazine Campaign results:– 72 readers gave their opinion on keeping 'The Sign' insert - 22 want to retain it & 50 would prefer more local news.  
November - We now have a branch of the Mothers' Union at St Peter's. Betty Brookstein is the enrolling member..

**1988** January - The National Health Service is 40 years old.  
The magazine will cost 21p  
February - Panto 'Cinderella' written by Viv Wilkes.  
Rod Fox - gift of photocopier.  
Eric Northwood takes over as Sacristan from Will Tucker – after 15 years.  
Red Nose Day – comic Relief – George Nash collected £313 plus.  
March 30<sup>th</sup> - Ada Shakeshaft is 100 years old.  
April - Dinner Dance in aid of N Ireland Holiday - £400.72 profit  
Day Away at Preston Pastures this side of Stratford.  
At the AGM it was decided that there would be two trial periods of 3 months each for the time and form of the Baptism Service - 1) the choir would attend the 11.00am Baptism Service  
2) would be a joint Baptism/Eucharist at 10.00am.  
May - HGCC rail trip to York.  
Gill Nunney takes over from Kate Gleeson with Traidcraft. £900 raised in 1988.  
June 'Flowers & Fruit of the Bible' theme for Festival. (opened by Andrew Hargreaves MP.)  
Chilcote Junior & Infant Schools' Concert

Highfield Players - 'Play on' by Rick Abbot £2.  
 July - Rev George & Linda, and sons, Mark & Paul Hodkinson – curate & family arrive.  
 August – Friends' coach trip to Bewdley & Steam Train to Bridgnorth £8 & £5  
 The Church Urban Fund – Bishop of Birmingham says that the Diocese will raise £750,000 - St Peter's share will be £10,500.  
 September - 50 people to Arthur & Hazel Massey's home to lunch, to launch the Church Urban Fund. Nearly £300 raised.  
 Open Discussion Meeting 'Children in the Way' - Churches look at their work with all young people 2-13 years.  
 3 new Servers – Margaret Parlett, Richard Styles & John Barney.  
 22nd Rev Roy Brookstein celebrates 25 years of his ordination to priesthood.  
 Children's Society £863.90 raised in street collection organised by Bill & Eva Roberts.  
 Michael Dowsett & his son, Gary build teak shelves & compartments to house the music in the choir vestry. – their fee they donated to the Church Urban Fund.  
 October - Grand Auction by 'Friends of St Peter's'.  
 November - HGCC purchased 40 more books for the 'Faith in Print' scheme and has presented them to Hall Green Library.  
 £7702 was raised for the Leprosy Mission by the collection of used stamps. Miss Margaret Williams organised this.  
 New Year's Eve Party - 60s evening.

**1989** January - new price for magazine 25p - new cover showing the Church Tower.  
 Dave Willetts 'Phantom of the Opera' star to Mums & Toddlers to accept £1500 cheque raised for the Children's Hospital.  
 Action in the City – Church Urban Fund to help meet the needs of the disadvantaged to bring new life & hope to the poor, to address directly the social conditions of today and to celebrate the 100 years of the City.  
 February - 'The Amazing & Astronomical space Oddity' – Panto.  
 March - Youth of St Peter's raised £388 for N Ireland Holiday.  
 CUF - £9200 of our target of £10500 has been raised - we launched it 2 years ago.  
 There are now 44 Girls in the newly formed GB 80<sup>th</sup> Birmingham Company.  
 Bill Roberts received the Royal Maundy money in the red & white purses at Birmingham Cathedral. Mary Brookstein accompanied him as Eva was ill. A fortnight later Eva Roberts dies. £500 collected at her funeral for Children's Society which she supported all her life.  
 April - Churchwardens Roger Hill & Chris Nicholas  
 Birmingham City-wide Christian Celebration led by Archbishop Desmond Tutu.  
 Kevin Gill & Andrew Fletcher - 4 hands 4 courses dinner recital -tickets £6.50 each. £420 raised for the Church Urban Fund.  
 May - Andrew Fletcher organ recital in aid of CUF - raised £234  
 September - Highfield Players 'The Hobbit' JRR Tolkien at Sarehole Mill, adapted for performance by Viv Wilkes for the Birmingham Centenary Celebrations. Profit of £1585 to local charities.  
 Visit to Les Miserables in London.  
 Alison Thompson receives rare award of the Star of Merit awarded by the Guide Movement for outstanding courage in overcoming particular difficulties.  
 October - HGCC Rail trip to Salisbury  
 November - BB celebrates 21<sup>st</sup> Birthday at St Peter's.  
 Richard Northwood illuminates the stained glass windows from the outside for Advent Sunday. 'The brilliance of the glass contrasted with the darkened interior of the Church and the reflected patterns on the ceiling made a valuable contribution to the evening's material for meditation.'  
 The bulk of May Small's estate was left to 2 hospitals. The General in Birmingham & Warwick Hospital, where her husband, Walter died after suffering a heart attack at Warwick Castle. Warwick used the legacy to build a Chapel.  
 Isolde Andrews, Brian Greaney & John Marsden have the Bishop's permission to administer the chalice at Holy Communion.

**1990** A new cover, drawn by Audree Hay for the magazine. 25p  
 February - Panto 'Humpty Dumpty' by the Highfield Players

March - Mrs S Chipperfield dies in Bristol 'Chippie' to her friends, she was 100 years old. In the 30s she raised funds for St Cadoc's. She was one of the first women graduates of Manchester University.

April - Joanne Crane presented with Queen's Scout Award  
Churchwardens Mr C Nicholas & Mr Peter Davies

May - Prebendary John Jackson Golden Jubilee as a priest.

June – Festival – theme:- 'Silver' because it is St Peter's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Festival was opened by Councillor Michael Wilkes. Skittles, Pony Rides, Auction, Miniature Railway, Battle of Waterloo in Miniature, Majestic Brass, Arts & Crafts in Church.

July Arthur Massey dies. £1025 collected at funeral for Cancer Relief.

N Ireland Holiday

Open Discussion 'The Way Forward' led by Canon Tom Walker of St John's Harborne.

Tribute to Betty Driver in the form of 'This is your life' John Crane was Michael Aspel. Betty is moving to S Wales.

£10,500 was St Peter's target for CUF, which was reached and exceeded by £300 in the 2 years allowed. CUF tablecloth for people who contributed, were asked to sign their names and then the names were embroidered.

Ron Harrison organised the street collection for Christian Aid Week over £1000 raised.

Sheila Parkes becomes a member of MENSA.

People from St P's attend St Cuthbert's Castle Vale for the Feast of Corpus Christi.

August – Coach Tour to Derbyshire National Train Museum at Crick, Matlock Bath, Heights of Abraham £11 & £8

Marjorie & Ron Harrison hold a 'Sausage Sizzle' in their garden, which raised £180 in aid of 'The Friends' of St Peter's.'

Friends' outing to Ironbridge Museums by coach £10 & £6

Roy Tufft becomes a Server.

1990 is the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the foundation of the Highfield Players.

September - Organ Recital by Andrew Fletcher at St Cuthbert's as part of their Patronal Festival. Parish Conference 'What are the particular strengths of St Peter's? & weaknesses? What should we be putting our efforts into in the future? Should we maintain or expand existing activities? Should we move into new ventures?

1990-2000 is the Decade of Evangelism.

October - Mums & Toddlers 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their foundation. £6000 donated to various charities. November - 'Ladies in retirement' by Edward Percy & Reginald Denham - Highfield Players.

Festival of Remembrance at Birmingham Town Hall. The Falklands Band of the Parachute Regiment, Canoldir Male Voice Choir & The Choir of St Peter's - Organist Andrew Fletcher  
Choir sing Evensong at Birmingham Cathedral

The Christmas Fair raised £1784.22

PCC allocation to charities - £5850.

Gilbert & Sullithon - Phil & Kath Lovell organised this event for 'Children in Need' - well over £10,000 was raised in this sing-in.

Car rota formed to bring residents of Ashdale Nursing Home, Cole Bank Road to Evensong at St Peter's.

Harold Townsend dies. He was a Server, Sunday School Teacher, BB Officer, member of the Highfield Players - 'he will be missed, not least for that ready wit and great sense of humour with which he laced life with laughter.'

**1991**– The magazine will cost 28p

Maureen Northwood has been invited to maintain & repair the Cathedral vestments.

February - Highfield Players Panto 'A Taste of the Orient' written by Viv Wilkes.

Several break-ins to parishioners' houses.

Betty Marsden retires from delivering magazines which she has done for 40 years.

Outreach – for several years a group of volunteer singers from St Peter's congregation, once a month go round the wards of Moseley Hall Hospital to sing Services. Rev Bob Gleeson, the Chaplain there, takes the Services.

A pay-phone is installed in the Church Lounge

Local Covenant signed by all leaders of the mainstream faiths in Hall Green to move forward to unity. March - Farewell to Rev George & Linda Hodkinson

April - appeal for petrol coupons & Green Shield Stamps to be exchanged for prizes for the Summer Festival. Appeal for 5p pieces that you failed to get rid of before they ceased to be legal tender to buy prizes for raffles & tombola.

Churchwardens Mr Peter Davies & Mr Colin Dunbar.

Eric & Maureen Northwood decorate the Vicar's vestry & put up new shelves in the choir vestry.

June – Festival theme:- 'Music' – profit = £1765

Ian Crockford licensed by the Bishop as an administrator of the chalice during Holy Communion.

Mary Marsden leaves leadership of Mums & Toddlers after 11 years and takes over The Day Centre. Jeanette Rawlinson takes over Mums & Toddlers.

£1281 collected for Christian Aid door to door in the parish.

Silver Jubilee of the Wednesday Ladies.

July – 30 children from N Ireland -HGCC to raise £3000 to add to grants from other sources. St Peter's is hosting the visit to Alton Towers.

Hugh McCormick takes over from Eric Northwood as Sacristan. Hugh is the longest serving Server.

Ada Shakeshaft dies 103 years old.

Welcome home to Christopher Ansell of Hall Green, who served on HMS Gloucester in the Gulf War. Wednesday Ladies formed 25 years ago as 'Young Mums'

In the 1950s gold & silver was collected by the congregation. £150 was charged for forming it into a salver for the collection plate – it is now worth £2000 plus.

New cover for magazine and a bigger & better National Inset.

Open Discussion Meeting - decision on the ordination of women.

Rev Mervyn Roberts Sue, & Victoria & Luke arrive. Rev Mervyn is our new curate.

Rev Andrew Bullock (our former Lay Reader) is to serve his title at Erdington Parish Church.

Malawi Jubilee 25 years - Birmingham Diocese is linked with Malawi. Their financial support in 1990 was £30,351.

Highfield Players - 'Lucky for some' by John Dole £3

July 22 – Aug 3 Mystery Plays at Birmingham Cathedral £4.50 & £4 - £8 for both plays The Passion & The Crucifixion. Cast drawn from all the churches in Birmingham.

August - Friends' coach tour to Gloucester £11 & £9.50

Tent Event in Trittifford Park by Hall Green Christian Fellowship.

September - Lady Chapel window restored. The Friends have pledged £5000 towards the cost. Patrick Holloway succeeds Katherine Carey - Mission to Seamen.

PCC voted in favour of the ordination of women 23 votes for 1 against.

Diocese embarked on 2 new ventures 1) Ministry Development Interviews, everyone ordained is interviewed by the Bishop, Archdeacon or Rural Dean once a year. 2)

Commission to survey the structure of the Diocese carefully analysing the Boards &

Committees that are responsible for implementing Diocesan Policy.

October - Day Away at St Andrew's Barnt Green led by new Archdeacon Ven John Barton.

This year we have drawn £30,000 from our reserves to meet heavy capital expenditure on roof repairs, organ, Lady Chapel window & Hall toilets. Our apportionment is over £25,000 - Stewardship brings in £32,000 this year.

Birmingham Diocesan Synod will be voting on whether it should be possible for women to be priests in the Church of England.

Hazel Massey has run the Day Centre for 15 years.

Traidcraft weekend at the home of Gill & Les Nunney has raised over £800 and still climbing.

Women's Fellowship gives £730 towards the repair of the Lady Chapel window.

November - Joint enrolment Service this year for the BB & GBs

The 'J' Team slept outside the Church on the wettest night of the century in cardboard boxes to get a taste of what it's like to be homeless. They raised nearly £500 for Children in Need

Fr John Salter of Castle Vale invited St Peter's congregation to a 5 course meal £7.50 each. £150 raised for MENCAP.

Traidcraft 1989= £80, 1990= £216, 1991= £800+.

Church Commissioners to withdraw some of their Ministry Income Support – Church facing something of a financial crisis.

During the Decade of Evangelism, the Bishop asks us to wear a small gold-plated cross on our jackets as an act of witness. £1 each - 200 sold at St Peter's.

Christmas Day cash collections = £582.37 – divided equally between Children's Society & Save the Children Fund. Allocation to charities this year £6300.  
New Year's Eve Medieval Banquet - £7.50 & £5

**1992** January - Grahame Baker completes 40 years as a Server.  
Magazine to cost 30p  
Birmingham Diocese Mothers' Union Centenary 1892-1992.  
February - Panto 'Medieval Masquerade' by Viv Wilkes  
March - Ecumenical Lent Course 'Living with the Good News'  
*Have tried to give collections on 1<sup>st</sup> Sundays every 5 years, but this information is no longer printed*  
April - Churchwardens Colin Dunbar & John Crane  
Choir sing Evensong in Birmingham Cathedral.  
June - 'When we are married' J B Priestley - Highfield Players.  
30 children from Belfast this year holiday in Hall Green.  
July - Rev Sally Davies was the only woman to be ordained in Guildford Cathedral.  
Festival - Icons Display in Church. Profit - £1790.  
August - Friends Coach Trip to Cheshire £6 & £5.50  
Highfield Players 'Goodnight Mrs Puffin'  
100 years of GB.  
October - Duck Race Day in Trittiford Park - £337 raised for E window appeal.  
Traidcraft weekend in = £1500+  
November - Choir sing Faure's Requiem liturgically as an act of worship for All Souls Day.  
November 11 - General Synod admit women to the priesthood.  
Medieval Banquet - £10 each. £2200 profit to East Window Appeal.  
£15000 needed to repair the East Window.  
Day Away at Offchurch, Leamington Spa £6.50.  
Marjorie Harrison retires from Day Centre cooking team after 16 years service.

**1993** January - Magazine to cost 32p  
Death of Alison Thompson (294<sup>th</sup> Guide Company) & Peter Davies.  
1993 is the European year of the elderly.  
Choir sing Evensong Birmingham Cathedral.  
By Covenanting your giving, every £1 becomes £1.33  
February - Panto Highfield Players - Peter Pan  
Hilda Jackson has completed 25 years in the choir  
March - 4 hands 4 courses piano duets & dinner Kevin Gill & Andrew Fletcher in aid of the East Window Appeal £8.50  
Rev Roy is Chairman of HGCC  
Ecumenical Lent Course - God & Education, God & the Media, God & Morality, God & Health, God & Justice.  
East Window restored.  
June - Rev Andrew Spurr ordained - he will serve his title as Curate of Rainham  
Hall Green Infant & Junior Schools Centenary 1893-1993  
Festival flowers to represent a Country - profits -£2,100 Thanks given at Festival Services for the restoration of the stained glass windows.  
July - 'Sailor Beware' - Highfield Players  
10<sup>th</sup> year of the N Ireland holiday organised by the HGCC - 32 children, 4 leaders, enjoy a 10 day holiday. St P's contributed £1200 towards the holiday  
During the past 7 years, the choir repertoire has increased by well over 300 works ranging from 16<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> century music  
August - Friends coach outing to Oxford.  
Andrew Fletcher leaves.  
Maureen & Eric plus maintenance team decorate the Church Hall.  
September 22 Rev Roy's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of priesthood.  
Mark Witcomb writes in magazine from Wiltshire where he is Lay Chaplain to the Deaf – urging  
St Peter's to install a Loop System. 'Is the Gospel heard in your Church.'  
October - Day Away at Wadderton, Blackwell, 'Communication' led by Ven John Barton  
'Wanted, One Body' by Charles Dyer - Highfield Players £3.

Magazine produced on computer for 1<sup>st</sup> time.  
November - 80<sup>th</sup> Birmingham BB Company 25<sup>th</sup> Birthday Show 50p  
Will Tucker dies – he was the Sacristan & produced the weekly Newsletter , he ran the office for the booking of Baptisms & Weddings - 'Servant of the Lord'  
Family Day in St Peter's Church Hall 70 adults & 15 children 'Our faith & our everyday life' led by Rev Brian Russell  
Fritzi Cox 's embroidered kneeler for brides & grooms blessed for use at weddings.  
Traidcraft Sale at home of Gill & Les Nunney – 2 days - £1000  
December - Brian Groves becomes a Server

**1994** is the international year of the Family

January - Mr Darren Hogg is the new organist & choirmaster.  
February - Audree Hay dies 'knowing Audree was not just a pleasure, but an education & a privilege; I still expect her to give me a spiritual prompt as I need it. Death's not big enough to stop someone who cares as much as Audree'. *Rev Bob Gleeson.*  
Highfield Players – The Snow Queen, a children's fairytale by Hans Christian Anderson adapted by Viv Wilkes £3 & £1.50  
Rev Roy announces his retirement after 19 happy years at St Peter's.  
Mums & Toddlers wish to be known as 'St Peter's Tots & Co'.  
Pram Praise to be held on 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays of the month.  
MBE awarded to Tony Mullins in the New Year Honours.  
Maureen Northwood has been in charge of the Church cleaning for 20 years – Jennie Birch takes over. Memorial fund in memory of Brian Shaw has been distributed £2,800 to St Mary's Hospice, & £600 to QE Head & Neck research unit. Janet & Family give a brass ewer for use at the Font in memory of Brian.  
Ecumenical Lent Course postponed to Pentecost 'On Fire'  
May - HGCC coach trip to Worcester.  
June - Summer Festival - 'Victorian' theme. Victorian Olde Time Music Hall £2.50. Julia Tortise was once 'Festival Maid' – now in 1994 she is organising the Summer Festival.  
St Peter's blueprint for 2000 – Alan Greathead explores various possibilities to replace the Annexe.  
Helen Dunbar becomes a Server  
Madge Rodley presents a set of drama blocks, (made by Michael Dowsett) in memory of her close friend Mary Gillett.  
Highfield Players 'Absent Friends' by Alan Ayckbourn - £3 30  
Young people on N Ireland Holiday  
Mystery Plays at Birmingham Cathedral - memories of the 1991 Mysteries:- 'seeing Bishop Mark Santer sitting on the Cathedral floor with everyone else, Bishop Michael Whinney standing in the pouring rain, having folded up his umbrella, witnessing the 'crucifixion'.  
The Lord Mayor & Lady Mayoress, Councillor Paul & Mrs Janice Tinselly are honoured guests at Highfield Players' 'Snow Queen'. The cast present £100 towards the Lord Mayor's appeal funds.  
Friends outing to Welshpool Llanfair Railway & Powys Castle  
September - Bill Roberts dies aged 91 years - £474.63 to Children's Society. He was a Churchwarden for over 20years and was made Warden Emeritus,  
October - Parish Family Day 'As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be?' with an emphasis on the question mark. 'St Peter's Praise' new hymn book introduced & discussed  
Rev Roy made Honorary Vice-President of the Birmingham Battalion of the BB.  
Highfield Players & Friends - Mystery Play & Passion Play  
Rossica Choir from Russia 400 attended - £6  
Rev Roy retires after 19 years at St Peter's  
Traidcraft weekend - £833  
Barbara Priest takes over the running of the bookstall from Mary Brookstein  
New Year's Eve Party – American Supper  
**1995** January - Magazine will cost 33p - 600 copies distributed around the parish monthly.  
Rev Mervyn to move to St Mary's Warwick, 2 coaches transport congregation from St Peter's.  
In the interregnum - Rev Michael Dodd & Rev Kate Ricketts & Rev John Haslam  
February - Highfield Players - Pinocchio  
Sunday Parish Lunch - Archdeacon John Barton, speaker – Stewardship

1 year of Pram Praise.

People from Hall Green to visit New Mossley, N Ireland £80 per person to fly.

March - HGCC Ecumenical Lent Course on 'Meeting God in Prayer'

13 books presented to Hall Green Library by HGCC

Holy Week – choir sing John Stainer's 'Crucifixion'

April - Churchwardens – John Crane & Maureen Northwood – 1<sup>st</sup> Lady Churchwarden.

May - HGCC excursion to Hereford Cathedral

June - Highfield Players 'The Curious Savage' by John Patrick - £3.50

Festival - 'Religious Festivals of the Church's Year' - £1851 profit

July - Licensing of Rev Nicholas Ball by Bishop John Austen - 400 people attend. Helen, is his wife & Catherine, Caroline & Sarah are their daughters.

Kay Nunney presented with a 'Farewell & Thank you' present for all her work as a Sunday School Teacher. Kay is leaving England to teach in Kuwait

Doris Fearn resigns as Leader of Women's Fellowship after 17 years. Peggy Page new Leader.

August - Friends outing to Slimbridge Wildlife Trust

Isolde Andrews obtains her Doctorate in Theology

October - Highfield Players 'The Ghost Train' by Arnold Ridley - £3.00

50 years of Christian Aid

1995 -Traidcraft raised £1304

**1996** January – Magazine - 35p

February - Highfield Players 'Aladdin'

Pancake party at Vicarage

March - Parish Conference 'Come & See' 90 attended. Conference priorities:- 1) urgent review of acoustics system & Loop System 2) Replacement of Annexe 3) becoming a more welcoming Church 4) Youth Work 5) Development of lay Ministry 6) more information about House Groups.

Sung Compline every Friday evening in Lent 8.45pm in Church

Caroline George now a Licensed Lay Reader

Betty Brookstein resigns from leadership of MU

Mark Witcomb repeats his plea for a Loop System to be installed at St Peter's. (1993 & 1996)

April – Churchwardens - Maureen Northwood & David Tortise

13 years of N Ireland Project – HGCC plan visit from Hall Green to New Mossley, Belfast.

Children in the 11/12 age group – parents welcome to come also.

June - Highfield Players 'Confusions' by Alan Ayckbourn £5

Festival – 'Come & See' - £2158 profit

John Marsden has been on the Social Committee for 20 years.

Gill Nash - 10 years as Lay Reader

July - Friends outing to Chester £6.50

September - HGCC pilgrimage to Gloucester

Ordination of Rev Diane Rees our new Curate.

Birmingham - 30 years link with Malawi

Colin Dunbar, Eric Northwood & Richard Priest have the Bishop's permission to administer the chalice at Holy Communion.

Coffee morning in aid of new Annexe

35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 'Songs of Praise' - the TV programme celebrated in Birmingham

Symphony Hall Betty Driver reminds us in the 32<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of St Peter's of one of the ways we raised money for the new Church:- a pennies trail the length of the drive.

October - 2 Tenors & Friends Concert - £92 for Annexe Fund

Traidcraft Bonanza at the home of Gill & Les Nunney £1420.49

Diocese of Birmingham have a new logo, a cross in a letter c.

Christmas Fayre - £3000

December - Darren Hogg leaves after 3 years.

Gill Nash resigns as Junior Church Leader after 17 years. Caroline George takes over.

New Year's Eve Party – American Supper

**1997** February - Pancake Party at vicarage

Panto Highfield Players 'Hickory, Dickory, Dock' written & produced by Viv Wilkes £4

HGCC Lent 'Worshipping life in our different denominations'

Bishop's Lent Appeal totalled £11,500  
 Easter Monday Family Ramble to Hatton Locks £1 each - to Annexe Fund Steve Pate the organiser  
 'Amicus' formed for 15-22 year olds by Brian Greaney  
 Graeme Martin appointed organist & choirmaster.  
 April 6<sup>th</sup> 1997 marks 1000 days to the Millennium  
 Nancy Williams dies - 'an artist with flowers, she inspired us all at the 1<sup>st</sup> Flower Festival at St Peter's 20 years ago'  
 A set of vestments given by Liz Wilson & Family in memory of her Mother, Mrs Vera Bixter – Maureen Northwood embroidered them  
 May - London Theatre Trip 'Jesus Christ Super Star'  
 Rev Nick Ball is on the Governing Body of Chilcote & Hall Green Grant Maintained Schools  
 Rev Diane Rees is on the Governing Body of Hall Green Infants & Junior Schools  
 June – Festival -'World -Wide Church' - £2000  
 July - Friends outing to Bath £6 20  
 The Midland Mysteries at the Cathedral  
 Rev Nick Ball resigns with immediate effect.  
 HGCC pilgrimage to Milton Keynes £7.50  
 15 years of N Ireland Holiday Project  
 August - Loop System installed.  
 October - Annexe replacement – Alan Greathead – 3 quotes for modular buildings which are:- £80,000 to £100,000 range, excluding VAT. Fund currently standing at £6000 - Smartie tubes to be filled by the children, with 5p pieces, also asking for 20p, 2p & 1p coins to be put in containers in the porch for the Annexe Appeal  
 Harvest Barn Dance in aid of the Annexe Appeal £5 & £3.50  
 November - 'Psalms for Today' £1.00 written by the members of the HGCC – all proceeds to the Bible Society  
 Profit from the Festival & Christmas Fayre total £5245.56 Christmas Fayre = £3239.91 record result

**1998** January - Magazine 40p

A letter from Vernon Aldridge, former Churchwarden – mentioned a phone call they'd had from Rev George Fletcher, (former Vicar) 86, has some arthritis, takes several Services per week, occasional game of golf & managed a hole in one earlier this year.  
 February -Rev Martin Stephenson arrives  
 Rev Diane Rees leads a trip to Israel - £935  
 March -Licensing Service - wife Alison, Timothy, Jane & Michael.  
 HGCC Lent Course 'Hope through change, hope through discipline, hope through Christ, hope through tears & hope through vision'  
 London Theatre Trip to see 'Blood Brothers' - £29.00  
 May - 50,000+ Christians gathered in Birmingham to form a human chain 7 miles around the City - 'Cancel the Debt' - in some places the chain was 4 people deep  
 NHS 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary – Service to celebrate in Cathedral  
 June - Festival theme 'colours'  
 July - Friends coach trip to Cambridge £8  
 Rachel Townsend to go to Buckingham Palace to be presented with her Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award by the Duke himself.  
 Highfield Players –'Wyrd Sisters' Terry Pratchett £4  
 August - Andrew Crane – Masters Degree in Aeronautical Engineering: Claire Hill Dr of Philosophy  
 September - new pattern of Services - 8.00am Holy Communion without music; 10.00am Parish Communion with Junior Church (Baptism on 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday) 6.00pm Evening Service (Holy Communion on 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday)  
 John Fardon dies - 4<sup>th</sup> generation owner of Birmingham's Fardon's Vinegar  
 October - Highfield Players - Victorian Olde Time Music Hall  
 Alan & Valerie Greathead leave to worship nearer home in Redditch after 24 years at St Peter's  
 November - Parish Day - 60 attend  
 Ration Book Ball (40s night) £15 – profits to the new building appeal

The Vicar suggests that we place one card to everyone this Christmas on a special board and give the money saved, to charities. As a result, £346.85 sent to Honduras/Nicaragua Hurricane Appeal Christmas cash collections £384.27 divided between Save the Children/Children's Society  
Traidcraft Bonanza - £1500 & rising!  
Marjorie Harrison has organised the coffee for over 20 years Josie Crane takes over  
Stewardship Statements will be issued at 6 monthly intervals instead of 3 monthly.  
10 years of Traidcraft for Gill & Les Nunney up to November this year £1856.67  
Sue Williams dies

**1999** February - 'Meg & Mog Show' by David Wood Highfield Players  
16 years of N Ireland Holiday Project by HGCC  
1999 is designated United Nations International Year of Older Persons - Bishop's Lent Appeal is for local initiatives with the care of the elderly.  
40 years of Scouting at St Peter's  
New Annexe expected to cost £170,000  
'Orange' telecommunications company would like to install equipment in the Church Tower – they'd pay an annual rent fee of £4000  
Director of Music – Gill Nash  
Len Perry & Family make a delightful gift of the Book of Gospels in memory of Connie, for use at all the Holy Communion Services  
March - Rev Martin has become Vicar of St Peter's, rather than Priest-in-charge, 'the legal possession of the temporalities of the benefice' means that the appointment will not have to be renewed after 5 years.  
April - Churchwardens Maureen Northwood & Roger Hill  
Christian Aid street collection raises £1014.81  
May - Rev Michael Dodd's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ordination  
June - Festival Circus Skills Workshop £2.50  
July - Friends Outing to Windsor £10  
'The Paradise Centre' is the name for the planned new building – the logo competition was won by Jane Stephenson  
N Ireland Project  
Rev Mervyn Roberts, former curate, preached non-stop for 48 hours in Chapel of Warwick Castle. Roger Hill, Yvonne Randle, Cynthia Tongue & Roy Tufft have the Bishop's permission to administer the Chalice at Holy Communion  
35th year of Wednesday Ladies  
CMS celebrates 200 years of mission  
September - Shirley Witcomb retires as Editor of the magazine after 20 years. Jennie & Andy Birch take over  
October - Quiet Day at Snitterfield Christian Centre - Rev Geoffrey Herbert, Diocesan Adviser for Spiritual Direction to lead us – Elijah. Arranged by Robert Brown  
Junior Church Notice Board purchased  
Churches together in Hall Green (new name for HGCC) arrange a visit to Handsworth to meet Sikhs Ruth Gaskin & Jenny George become Servers  
St Peter's 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary  
Nearly half the parishes in England & Wales will be planting Millennium Yews. St Peter's collected theirs from the Cathedral after a Service of Blessing & Distribution. Every tree is a cutting taken from a yew tree in this country that is at least 2000 years old and so was alive at the time of Christ. Ours was taken from the Crowhurst Yew in Surrey, which is probably 4000 years old. At Eastertide it will be planted in the island bed in the middle of the car park, underneath the hawthorns & oak tree. These must be over 100 years old. The Girl Guides made the centre garden patch many years ago, carrying buckets of soil to make it and planting 75 daffodil bulbs and several rose bushes.  
It has been announced that on June 11 2000 in Cannon Hill Park – Pentecost in the Park.  
Junior Church Council formed.  
Doris Fearn embroidered the Sunday School banner in the sanctuary many years ago  
November - Traidcraft Extravaganza £1279  
New Year's Eve Millennium Celebration Party at St Peter's.

Setting up of Credit Union in Hall Green & Acocks Green to celebrate Jubilee 2000 'Cancel the Debt' 'The Flame of Hope' in Centenary Square will burn constantly. It will be lit by Sir Cliff Richard. It will cost £170 a day.  
Jill Bramwell retires from BB she has been an Officer for 43 years.