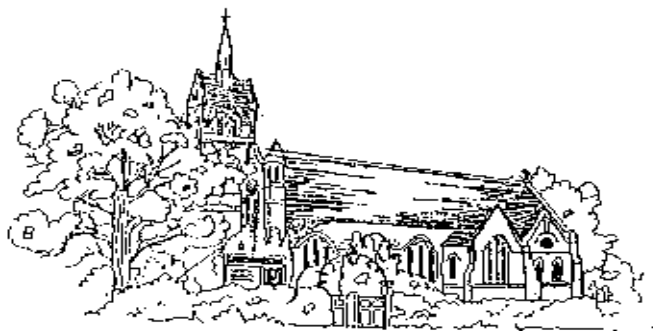


St. Peter's Church ***Bardon Hill***



100 Years Anniversary

1899 - 1999

The Past, Present and Future

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FOREWORD

The centenary of St. Peter's Church Bardon Hill gives us all a good opportunity to celebrate with one another (something we at St. Peter's find easy to do), the good things and good times God has given us today. We are glad to be part of a living Church, and we give thanks to God for one another.

It also gives us a good opportunity to celebrate and remember our history, and the foundations on which the Church of today has been built. Foremost, as the 75th celebrations emphasized, we are built on Christ the solid rock, and the good news of God in Christ crucified, opening a way of forgiveness and the hope of a heavenly eternity has been preached here for 100 years.

But St. Peter's has been a community owning and living this faith; and the pages that follow offer some glimpses into the life of that community in what has now become 'our history'. Far more stories could be told. Doubtless those recounted here will set off more memories among those readers who were members over these years. Why not jot them down as you remember them, before they are forgotten again? Our story is important, and, who knows, there may even be a sequel!!

One thing has impressed me as this booklet has emerged. We have living memories still, that stretch back to Mr Pillifant's time; the very first Vicar of Bardon. Indeed Mr Bancroft would have been brought by his mother in the days of Canon Broughton of Hugglescote... What a wealth of memories we have, charting the significant moments and some of the major players in the life of our fellowship!

On a journey, however, we don't only pause to look back at the view. We also let our eyes range forward, to the yet undiscovered territory before us. We owe it to the Church of tomorrow to be vibrant and vigorous for the cause of Christ in our own generation, and so to give them as good a platform on which to build as others have laid for us.

Yours, thankful for the past and open to the future,

ST. PETER'S CHURCH, BARDON HILL
CONSECRATION 7TH SEPTEMBER 1899

Opposite is a copy of the Service Sheet the congregation attending the above Consecration were given.

The Order of the Service began with the Bishop and his Chaplains being received at the West Door by the Minister, Clergy, Churchwardens, some of the principal inhabitants and the Patrons of the Church. Here a Petition, signed by the Incumbent and Churchwardens, was delivered to the Bishop, praying that he will consecrate the Church. The Petition was then read by a Registrar.

A Procession was then formed to make a complete circuit of the Church whilst singing Psalm 132. The Bishop then knocked on the West Door three times whereupon the keys of the Church were delivered to him and he entered the Church followed by the Procession. Psalm 24 was then sang as the Procession walked through the Church from West to East, the keys were then placed on the table and were blessed, this was followed by hymn Come Holy Ghost. The Bishop and his Chaplains proceeded to the Font, the Chancel Steps, the Lectern, the Pulpit, Stall of the Clergy, the Choir Stalls and the Holy Table; at each stop a reading from the Bible was given. Whilst at the Holy Table the Holy Vessels and fair linen cloths were presented to the Bishop by the Minister which were placed upon the table and blessed.

After prayers the hymn We Love the Place O God was sung and the Sermon given. Offertory hymn, Christ is made the sure Foundation, was sung followed by the recessional hymn, Soldiers of the Cross arise.

[AUTHORIZED FORM].



FORM OF PRAYER

AND

CEREMONIES

USED AT THE

CONSECRATION

OF

S. Peter's Church,

BARDON HILL,

SEPTEMBER 7th, 1899.

PETERBOROUGH:

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Consecration Service Sheet (above)



Exterior Of St.Peter's 1899 (above)



Exterior Of St.Peter's 1999 (above)

HISTORY OF THE CHURCH

Welcome to our Church in her centenary year. This Church was consecrated on Thursday 7th September 1899 by the Lord Bishop of Peterborough, Rt. Rev. Dr. Edward Carr Glyn.

It was after many years of Worship taking place in the old schoolroom (where Bardon Quarries now park their lorries) that it was decided that a Church for quarry workers and their families was needed. After much discussion, the three sons of Mr and Mrs Breedon Everard of Bardon Quarry offered to build the Church in memory of their Parents; this fact is commemorated by a plate high up on the west wall, it reads:

"TO THE GLORY OF GOD AND IN MEMORY OF BREEDON AND ELIZABETH ANN EVERARD, THIS CHURCH WAS BUILT IN 1899"

The Church was designed by Mr John Breedon Everard, on land given by Mr William Thomas Everard.

The foundation stone was laid on 6th June 1898 by Lady Mary Glyn, (wife of the Bishop of Peterborough). At the ceremony there was a large number of local clergy and parishioners.

The Church is built of stone quarried at Bardon Hill and Markfield with dressings of doulting stone. The inside is lined with Ellistown red bricks relieved with Bath stone dressings from Corsham Down. The building contractor was Mr H Bland of Leicester.

It was the Parishioners request to help with their new Church that set them the task of fund raising for an organ suitable for the building. This they did and Taylors of Leicester was engaged to build it at a cost of £290. It was updated in 1965 at a cost of £531 for a pedal board and swell pedal plus cleaning and overhaul.

This Church is built in the old parish of Ibstock, with Hugglescote being her mother Church, on which some of her design is taken. It was to Hugglescote Church Bardon people went to receive the sacraments before this building was consecrated, and it was the Vicar from there who took the services here until we had a Vicar of our own in 1918. To this day succeeding Vicars of Hugglescote have been our Patrons.

The building consists of a nave with a narthex, a small transept on the south side and an aisle on the north side, together with a chancel. An organ chamber and a vestry are situated on the south and north sides respectively. The nave measures 45 feet by 32 feet inside (including the aisles) and the chancel 25½feet by 22 feet. There is a slender tower crowned by a fleche on a saddleback roof at the West End of the aisle which contains 3 bells cast and hung by John Taylor and Co. Loughborough. They are a Treble weighing 4cwt 2qr 7lbs, Second 6cwt 1qr 16lbs and a Tenor 8cwt 1qr 17lbs. They are inscribed: the Treble "To call the folk to Church in time I chime. W.T.E. 1898", the Second "On holy love to set the seal I peal C.E. 1898" and the Tenor "when from the body parts the soul I toll J.B.E. 1898." The initials are of the three Everard Sons; William Thomas, Charles and John.

The stained glass window to the east was installed in memory of John Breedon and his wife Harriet Selby Everard. It was designed by Mr Karl Parsons. In a letter dated 11/7/29 Mr Parsons explains what he set out to achieve, it reads "I wanted simplicity and fresh, bright but soft colour. In the centre of the window is the Madonna and Child, with the Archangels Michael and Gabriel on either side. The Cruciform Nimbus surrounding the Head of the Child suggests the Trinity. The Madonna has the traditional blue mantle which signifies heavenly love. Her green robe, the colour of spring, expresses hope and victory. The Archangel Michael (like unto God), Captain General of the host of Heaven, Conqueror of the host of hell, Lord and Guardian of Souls, Patron Saint and Prince of the Church

Militant, is depicted in complete armour with his sword pointing upwards.

The messenger of God, Gabriel (God is my strength), a figure in robes, is holding a lily in his uplifted hand, typical of the peace on earth which he announced. The group of children below are “real” children, but suggest that child-likeness of spirit which easiest receives revelations and best offers praise. This group is completed by a peaceful village scene on one side and a seascape on the other. The top tracery has a ‘tree of life’, and the two larger ones below, an Annunciation. These seemed to bind the whole conception together in thought, and to help to bring the warm colour up to the top so that the whole window should have a flume - like ‘going-up’ tendency”.

In 1980 Mr Peter Cormack visited from the William Morris Gallery, London, he then wrote us this letter:

“The window was installed in 1930, and was designed by Karl Parsons (1884-1934) and made by him in collaboration with the craftsmen of Messrs Lowndes and Drury of the Glass House, Parsons Green, London, where Parsons had a studio from (1908-1930). The window is one of the finest by Parsons that I have seen, and is very characteristic of his style. Karl Parsons trained from 1900-08 in the studios of Christopher Whall (1849-1924) the leading stained glass artist of the Arts and Crafts movement of the late Victorian/Edwardian period. Whall thought that a window should combine finely drawn figures and composition with the best of traditional craft techniques, and he was one of the first artists to return to the rich colours and textured glass of the middle ages. Parsons was probably the most accomplished of his many pupils, and succeeded Whall as Teacher of Stained Glass at the Royal College of Art and the LCC Central School of Arts and Crafts before the Great War. Much of Parsons best work is in South Africa: in Capetown and Johannesburg Cathedrals, at Potchefstroom, and in Salisbury Zimbabwe. In Britain his glass can be seen in St. Giles Cathedral Edinburgh, Bibury Church, Aynsley Church (near Nuneaton), St. Andrews Ilford, Christ Church Fulham, Waterford Church (Herts),

East Church Sheppey, and in many other Churches. The full size cartoons for the window are in the possession of Artists' daughter, Miss Margaret Parsons, of Highclere, Hants.

I hope that the above will be of interest, I was very pleased to be able to visit the Church”.

The Everards also donated the font in memory of two of their children who died as babies. A brass plate bears the description to this fact. The font itself is made of a bowl of alabaster mounted on a polished Hopton wood stone base. Chiselled into the outside of the bowl are the words “Jesus said, suffer little children to come unto me”.

The Everard family stayed loyal friends to the Church with Bernard becoming Church Warden and Lay Canon and his wife Florence Julia Fielding Everard being leader of the Mothers Union etc. until their deaths in 1963. All their graves are at the East end of the Church, the latest being Mrs Julia Elizabeth Halford who sadly died in October 1993, just a few weeks after I met her for the first and the only time. We had spoken on the phone many times and she was very happy to be helping me with this book. She was in disbelief to hear we still called her Miss Elizabeth, she said she hadn't been called that since she got married and moved away. A memory she did tell me about was from the day she got married. We were having water piped to the Church and she was going to walk to Church, just living a few yards up the road. Come the day of the wedding the water people had the path up and it had been raining, it was a right muddy mess and her mother was not best pleased. I was looking forward to be working with her on this booklet but it was not to be.

Since the Church was built we have had the heating updated to oil in 1956. Before 1956 heat was by hot air blown through iron gratings in the floor: (the older gentlemen tell me when they were boys they used to like sitting by them to see the girls skirts blow up!).

Electricity was connected in 1934 - until that time lighting was by oil lamps on wrought iron brackets, a couple of which still exist.

The Golden Jubilee was the occasion when the vestry arches were glazed and there is a brass plate in the vestry to inform us of this.

In 1996 the spire was stripped and rebuilt at a cost of £16,000.

In the Church there are a lot of things that we take for granted today which were given in memory of different people and without their kindness the place would be rather empty. To these people unnamed here, though their names can be found elsewhere, we express our most grateful thanks.

Outside, the Churchyard was consecrated in 1908 and today it is almost full. A Garden of Remembrance was created in 1964 to the south side of the building to cater for the growing popularity of cremations. It is a lawned area where ashes can be interred, and is bordered by flowerbeds. The Parish War Memorial stands on the southeast corner and was dedicated in 1920. The names of those who fell in the 1914-18 war are on the north and south sides, with those from 1939-45 on the east. We have a service here each Remembrance Sunday. Surrounding the Church are some very old rhododendrons, they are the first to flower just after Christmas each year and our Church is referred to as "the little Church with the rhododendrons on the front".

The Church, consecrated in 1899, stayed with her Mother Church sharing the same Vicar until 1918 when Bardon Hill was constituted as a separate Parish by order in Council granted on 4th March (recorded in the London Gazette 8th March 1918). Rev'd. Edmund Pillifant was Inducted on 22nd June. The Vicarage had already been occupied by the Curate-in-Charge since it was built in 1904. The link with Hugglescote was maintained and both Churches shared a monthly magazine until 1925. In 1927 Leicester became a Cathedral

City and we broke our ties with Peterborough and became part of the Diocese of Leicester.

We started our 100 year history with the Vicar of Hugglescote, Canon Henry Ellis Broughton

Then our own Vicars:

- 1918 Edmund Pillifant
- 1927 Arthur Newell Crane
- 1953 Henry Alexander Moncur
- 1958 Douglas John Nudds
- 1963 Ralph Ernest Wheaton
- 1971 Brian Matthews, Priest-in-Charge
- 1978 *We became a Joint Benefice with Christ Church, Coalville*
- 1978 Roger Amos Hinton
- 1985 Russell Edward Parker
- 1990 Steven Michael Lee
- 1996 Tom Laurence Ringland, Priest-in-Charge
- 1998 Tom Laurence Ringland

We have had two Curates:

- 1980 William John Peal
- 1983 Hugh Anthony Burton

In 1971 the Parish was placed in suspension (we were given a Priest-in-Charge until the powers that be decided what to do with us). This was lifted in 1978 when we became a Joint Benefice with Christ Church, Coalville. This lasted until 1995 when again we were again in suspension. Rev'd Tom Ringland came as Priest-in-Charge in 1996, and there was a sigh of relief when he became our Vicar in 1998.

Since we have become a Joint Benefice we have had several retired Vicars come to lead our services along with licensed Readers from Coalville and our very own Mr Peter Smith. To all these people we give our sincere thanks for becoming such loyal friends of St. Peter's.

I am writing this little booklet in my position as the latest Church Warden. This year we are hoping to have the roof of the Church made watertight, and having had the steeple replaced not long ago, we are hoping that our little Church will see the people of Bardon through another Century. Since it was built, the Church has lost the village that was built to serve the quarry, but with a lot of buildings going up within our parish boundaries, we pray that new people will come and grow to love both St. Peter's and the Living God whom we serve, even as we do.

We have services every Sunday Morning at	10:15 a.m.
Mothers Union every third Tuesday	2:30 p.m.
Moms and Tots every second Thursday	10:30 a.m.
Sunday Club in Church Room each week	10:15 a.m.

I will bring to a close my part of this booklet with a large thank you to all people that have helped in any way to compile it: people who in the past have written about the Church; Rev'd Brian Matthews who made my job easy by writing such a good little booklet for our 75 years Anniversary; Rachel and Marcus for having the patience to teach me to use a computer (who said you cannot teach an old dog new tricks?) and for all the time they have spent making it look as good as it does; to the people who sent in their memories and finally to you, the reader, for buying it. May God bless you all.

Rose Beadman

PERSONAL MEMORIES

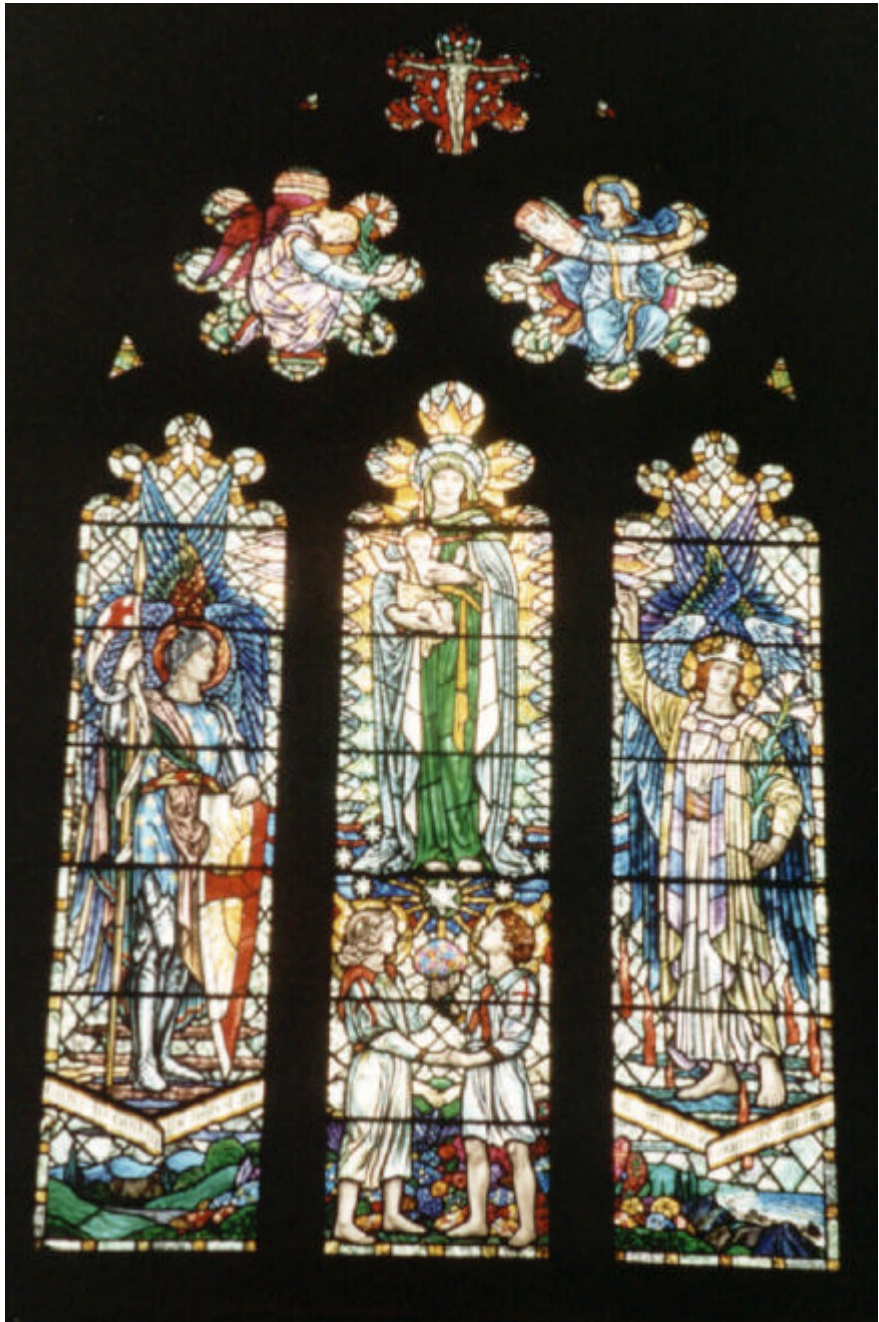
EXTRACT FROM LETTER RECEIVED FROM REV'D. DOUGLAS NUDDS VICAR DURING THE DIAMOND JUBILEE OF ST. PETER'S

Regarding a few personal details, we have now been retired for ten years and now live in an attractive small seaside town in Norfolk. I assist the local clergy in times of vacancies and holidays. The whole area is well known to us as the county is our original home and it is interesting to see a lot of the attractive towns and villages in a more leisurely way. Our daughter Helen is married with three children and lives between Leeds and Bradford in Yorkshire. Our Son Michael who was born after we left Bardon Hill, when I became Vicar of St. Michael's Belgrave, is also married with three children and lives in Borehamwood, Hertfordshire.

We have fond memories of our time at St. Peter's. It was of course my first parish and I am sure I made many mistakes because of my inexperience. The people of the parish however, were always tolerant and friendly and encouraged me in all my efforts to proclaim the Christian faith. We both send our good wishes as you prepare for this celebration of the first hundred years and as you look forward to the future.

Kindest regards from

Douglas and Monica Nudds



St. Peter's East Window (above)



St. Peter's Lectern (above)

A MESSAGE FROM CANON RALPH WHEATON

I am grateful for this opportunity to offer my congratulations to the congregation and parishioners of St. Peter's Bardon Hill on the occasion of its centenary.

I was inducted at Bardon on Lady Day 1963 after a very severe winter with the snowdrops in the Vicarage garden still being quite a sight. The reception after the service was held at Bardon Hill House, the home of Mr and Mrs Bernard Everard. The former was to die in the following October and his wife about six weeks afterwards. Their deaths so soon after my arrival ended the close association of the Everard Family with the Church, which I suppose it is true to say owed its existence to them. For two thirds of its life, therefore, this family was much to the fore in Church and parochial life which even allowing for two world wars was no doubt a rather settled time. Not so the remaining one third which has seen more changes than would ever have been envisaged in the earlier years. The Old Village has gone; no Long Row, Crescent or school; and changing patterns of ministry within the Church of England have seen the parish linked with Christ Church, Coalville for the last twenty years. Yet in spite of the changes within the life of the Church and society generally it is good to know that there are those who still value St. Peter's as a place of worship and a launch pad for Christian witness within the parish. I have many happy memories of my time at Bardon and of parishioners from those unbelievably far off days - the swinging sixties. I pray that as St. Peter's embarks upon its second century there will always be some who will walk in the footsteps of those who have so faithfully served it in the first.

From The Rev'd. Canon Ralph E Wheaton
Vicar of Bardon Hill
(25th March 1963 - 25th May 1971)

A MESSAGE FROM THE REV. BRIAN MATTHEWS PRIEST IN CHARGE 1971 - 1978

It was a great joy to have been invited to participate in the first of the special services to commemorate Saint Peter's Centenary Year, when (appropriately on Saint Valentine's Day) we thought about Saint Paul's words to his converts at Ephesus "Rooted and grounded in Love".

The scene has changed considerably within a square mile or so of Bardon Hill Church since I lived in its Vicarage. The Old Row, the School, Bardon Crescent and the sports field have all gone, and there is a vast business park on the other side of the main road (no longer the A50 but the A511). Yet Saint Peter's Church still stands as a witness to the Christian faith, with the Word of God faithfully preached and the sacraments duly administered.

Among many happy memories of my time as Priest-in-Charge are the celebrations we had for the 75th anniversary of the Church's consecration. We were very grateful to the late Mr J Gregory Tom, Managing Director of Bardon Hill Quarries, who arranged for the exterior of the Church to be floodlit. He also provided and transported a huge block of granite, carefully selected by Miss Doris M Williamson (Honorary Secretary of the Parochial Council) which was placed by the side of the main door to form the basis of a flower arrangement to express the words of Jesus: "You are Peter, and on this Rock I will build my Church".

I pray that God will use and bless Saint Peter's Centenary Year in every way, and through its ministry, many more may hear and respond to the preaching in word and deed of the Christian Gospel.

ST. PETER'S BARDON HILL MOTHERS UNION BY MRS JEAN SHELTON

Bardon Hill Mothers Union was formed in May 1906 according to a cutting found in the Coalville Times of 18th May. The cutting recorded: "Bardon Hill. The first meeting of the newly formed branch of the Mothers Union was held in the old school. An address was given by Mrs Clayton, wife of the Bishop of Leicester. There was a good attendance and an address given by Mrs Clayton on the duty and responsibility of Motherhood and how to make home attractive to Children and Husband."

I have not been able to find any more records. When I joined St. Peter's Mothers Union from Oaks in Charnwood in the early 1940's, Mrs Crane was Enrolling Member, wife of the Resident Vicar. Mrs Crane must have carried out all the duties on her own - a very diligent worker. We had a good membership and helped in all Church activities. A rota was formed for cleaning Church brasses and a flower fund and rota to arrange flowers in Church each 3rd Sunday.

We attended all Deanery and Diocesan meetings and contributed to Mothers Union funds. The highlight of the year at that time was the Easter Tea, held on the Thursday after Easter Sunday. Originally three branches took it in turns to meet together for a Church Service and tea party afterwards, Hugglescote, Whitwick and Bardon Hill were the original three, later Broom Leys was added being the daughter Church of Whitwick, then Copt Oak and Oaks in Charnwood joined. Rev'd. and Mrs Crane left Bardon when Mr Crane retired. During the interregnum Mrs Everard kept the branch together. When a new Vicar arrived, Mrs Everard had a meeting at her house and introduced us to the new Vicar and his wife, Rev'd. and Mrs Moncur. She proposed Mrs Moncur as our Enrolling Member and the Vicar agreed.

At our first meeting Mrs Moncur asked for volunteers for Secretary, Treasurer and Committee Members. From then on records were kept of all meetings and activities (and still are) and we still meet on the third Tuesday in the month.

Mrs Moncur also started a sewing group and we made articles to sell and raised money to buy a kettle, teapot and crockery for use in the Toc H Hut as it was at that time, later the 'Church Room'.

The Mothers Union have made various gifts to the Church. We first covered all the hassocks and later we made new ones. A new blue altar frontal and set was made and a green frontal added to a top. These were given during Rev'd. Nudds ministry when Mrs Nudds was Enrolling Member.

A beautiful set of Nativity figures was bought and dedicated to Mrs Everard who had done stalwart work during the interregnum.

After this we started to work for a new banner, the old one being beyond repair according to the experts. Our new banner was made by a friend of Rev'd. R Wheaton, Mrs Wainner, who was a member of the Leicester Embroidery Guild, and this was dedicated on 25th March 1969 at a corporate Communion service. All Enrolling Members have been dedicated to their work. During Mrs Moncur's time we had our first overseas link to St. Francis, Bekwai, Accra, which lasted a long time. It was closed owing to lack of English. There was a gap for a time and now we have a link to Port Moresby we also had a local link through Rev'd. Matthews to Leicester Forest East where he was before coming to St. Peter's, this has now finished owing to their branch closing down.

We also send birthday cards to all babies Baptised at St. Peter's.

We are still active and though small in numbers try to carry out our duties in true Mothers Union spirit. New members very welcome.

Enrolling Members:

Mrs Pillifant
Mrs Crane
Mrs Moncur
Mrs Nudds
Mrs Shelton
Mrs Clarke
Mrs Peal
Mrs Knight
Mrs Johnson

MEMORIES FROM MR GEORGE BANCROFT

I was born in 1913 and lived at no. 27, the Old Row.

My early memories of St. Peter's Church Bardon Hill would be from about 1919.

I would certainly have started Sunday School and attended Church with my mother well before that time. I hardly saw my father as a boy - he was on the Western Front in France. We have a Bible which belonged to my mother's youngest sister marked, 'St. Peter's Church Bardon Hill Advent 1910 Reward, May Smith'.

The Church in its early days and before relied heavily on Canon Broughton, from St. John's Hugglescote. Bardon people spoke of him with great affection.

The new school was closely involved with the Church. The Rev'd Pillifant regally attended school for Hymns and Prayers. In the early days of the Church Mr Thomas Prudence could be seen walking up Grange Road for the Sunday Morning Service, when he played the organ. A very prominent Churchman at that time was Mr Bellward, he mainly read the lessons and was in charge of the Choir.

The organist to follow Mr Prudence was Arthur White, he lived on the Old Row, Bardon Hill. At each service Gilbert Reason followed Mr White to the organ he was the organ blower.

Sunday School was held in the new school. Attending Sunday School and Church was a way of life for the young. The Sunday School Superintendent was Mr Bill Bailey, he was a keen disciplinarian, so not too much went wrong.

Mr Bailey lived on Meadow Lane, Coalville, and worked under Mr Bernard Everard at the quarry offices near Bardon station. This would explain his close association with the Church and the Sunday School. He walked countless miles, whatever the weather, to attend Sunday School.

In the early days, services at St. Peter's were well attended. Mr Everard and his Family attended Sunday morning and always occupied the front pews in the centre of the Church. In an age when poverty was not too far below the surface, most village life was attached to the Church in some way or another. Business people from Coalville also attended the Sunday morning services amongst them was a well known local farmer, Billy Moore and his daughter Flo. They came up the Church by pony and trap tethering the pony at the Birch Tree then walking the rest of the way.

One of the Church Stalwarts was Mr Joby Anstiss. He was a man for all seasons: Sexton, Bellringer, Stoker and Grave-digger. Gilbert Reason and Harry Williamson were both staunch workers for the Church.

In the memory of local men who gave their lives in the 1914-18 war the Memorial was erected in the Church-yard. There is still a list in existence of monies given by village people showing amounts such as one shilling, or half a crown (five pence and twelve and a half pence) etc.

The Harvest Festival was a big occasion for St. Peter's. Ladies of the village worked for days with needle and thread sewing hundreds of single wheat strands together. The stems had been cut to about 8 inches long below the ear after packing to a suitable thickness they were spiralled up the Church pillars and a lot of dedication and skill was required. As a boy, I remember watching my Grandmother on this operation and the Church seemed full of ladies in aprons.

Come the Bardon walk the first Thursday in August, the ladies would have met at the new school from an early hour. There was no sliced bread in those days! Wearing white aprons, they seemed to be cutting bread for hours and preparing a huge spread to follow in the afternoon. It seemed that hundreds of children congregated at the school from early afternoon. The children were lined up by the teachers and we then marched up the boundary to the Church for a service. Then with the Church doors open we left the Church and surrounded the building, the teachers and children holding hands, with the organ playing loudly we sang "We love the place O God". We then marched back to the school, and what a tea awaited us! The marching had still not finished, because after the tea, the band was waiting for us. We formed up again and marched up the Old Row and up the main Leicester Road to the field between the Birch Tree and the Old Row for sports and the wake.

These are my memories and the influence the Church and Sunday School have had on my life.

MEMORIES FROM MRS NANCY SYMINGTON

May I recall a few memories of St. Peter's Church Bardon Hill.

It dates back to when my Grandparents arrived from Bourne in Lincolnshire to work at the quarry. My Gran was a founder member of the Mothers Union along with a great number of ladies of the Church. They lived in the Spinney Cottages where my Mother and her sisters and two brothers who both died with the First World War

lived. As they grew up, all played their part in the life of St. Peter's. At Harvest time they would go round the farms for hay and vegetables, and it being a beautiful new Church, one can wonder back to what it must of looked like.

Hugglescote Church was the sister Church, and my Parents were only the third to get married at St. Peter's. They had eight Children of which all were Christened at the Church by Rev'd. Pillifant.

The Parents of Doris Williamson, who herself was a life member of the Church, were their neighbours, and all went to school in the middle of the Old Row. As I was growing up we went to the new Church school and life was very much round the Church. At special times, Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, Whitsuntide and Christmas, we as Children walked hand in hand up the Boundary to the special Morning Service.

We Children remembered Mr Joby Anstiss was the Verger and Mr Harry Williamson was the grave digger who also rang the bells.

At our Christmas party Mr Bailey, the Church Warden, was always our Santa Claus. One great day we had a band and marched to the Church round the village for a special Service in honour of Queen Mary and King George's Silver Jubilee. When we left the Church, we had tea in the cricket field and were given a lovely mug each. When we closed for our big holiday, Mr and Mrs Everard called at the school to give prizes to the top class pupils. Another big event at the Church was when their daughter Elizabeth was married. They had a red carpet right from the White House to the Church. In winter time, Mrs Prattley brought cocoa to the school and we paid half a penny a cup. All the Church members used to come to our sports days in the cricket field.

When I began to take interest in the Church, the Sunday School Teacher was old lady Knight, as we used to call her, and we used to go to the farm on a Saturday afternoon for lessons. Rev'd. Crane used to have meetings in the Church rooms on a Friday night. He

used to show slides of African Countries. That is when he tried to get the fire going in a little stove in the middle of the room and he always sent us packing if he didn't succeed! A young lady and Rev'd. Crane used the school for what was called the Kings Messengers on a Friday evening - her name was Mary Dean. She taught us sewing and told us fantastic stories. I remember her 21st Birthday at her Parents house. Her Sister Helen had made a beautiful cake. Her Parents used to travel in a little Beetle car to Coalville to sell their lovely home made cakes. She later became Mrs Lincoln and she made lovely cakes herself. She made St Peter's a very welcoming place and along with Rev'd. Crane inspired us to do a few plays. Our first was Oliver Twist and we performed it at the Bath Hall in Avenue Road.

After the war years all my sisters got married at the Church and Stanley and I got engaged one Sunday morning in Church. We were the last couple Rev'd. Crane married and he gave us a book in silver letters which said, 'A wedding present from the Church', and he signed it for us. When Gloria was born, and Christened at the Church, I began to get to know all the Church Ladies, Mrs. Shelton, Mrs Knight and Mrs Kirk. Stanley and myself were Confirmed at Hugglescote Church. We had Rev'd. Nudds and members at our home to prepare us for it.

The Church had a full choir then with several young ones my nephew Michael Wardle and the Page brothers. Karen Rooms, my niece, used to sing solo with Mr Kirk. Gloria became a Sunday School Teacher and Marie joined the choir. Mrs Shelton enrolled me into the Mothers Union and I was a member for 32 years. The Autumn Fairs were held at the St. John's Ambulance Building in Forest Road, and what grand afternoons they were, all the stalls beautifully turned out. Mr Lincoln and Mrs Miles always had a grand fruit, vegetable and flower stall.

At the time the Guides and Brownies were in full swing and the Church ladies in charge invited me on to the Committee. Gloria and

Marie joined also. St. Peter's Day was celebrated with a special Service and we had refreshments on the Vicarage lawn when Rev'd. Wheaton lived there.

A social evening was held to buy Prayer Books which were given to Tilson House as a gift from St. Peter's Church. As the school started to have hot dinners it was the Church ladies, Mrs Shelton and Mrs Kirk, who served them. May Day was enjoyed at the school, dancing round the May Pole with Mr Allen playing the fiddle.

I used to look forward to our M.U. meetings. I became Secretary for a time, and also a member of the Church Council - and it wasn't long before the dear ladies roped me in to do the Church cleaning, with which Stanley also helped.

The great day arrived when Gloria got married. Canon Oscroft took the service and he bought his choir from Christ Church and charged 2/6 (12 ½p) for each one - it was well worth it.

Owing to ill health I don't do much to help now but having 17 relatives at rest in the Church Yard I some times wonder if they are all together in God's Mansion talking to one another.

Now I know other members of the Church have wonderful stories of their own over the years and I think it is a remarkable achievement of the few who faithfully carry on now keeping St. Peter's Church going with their lovely flower festivals and fund raising events. I am looking forward to the 100th Birthday of the Church, and also our Golden wedding next year.

God Bless

Nancy Symington (Nee Brown)

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE MR PETER SMITH, LAY READER

As I look forward to the years to come at St. Peter's, my mind goes back to 1985 when I first became a part of God's Family of the Church. The Congregation was small but faithful and possessed a real determination to serve God and His People within the Parish. I am reminded here of the words of Christ "where two or three are gathered together in my name then I am there also".

There have been many happy, indeed joyous occasions shared between friends at St. Peter's over the last 14 years. Our Flower Festival weekends in particular have seen us working closely together to glorify God and to welcome visitors sharing with them our pleasure in St. Peter's. We have had our times of hardship too, not least the repair needed to the Church Steeple which has significantly stretched our resources.

All times of difficulty have been overcome with prayer and the working of the Holy Spirit among us. So what of the future? We are constantly hearing that the Church is in decline, that its teachings are out of date and that it has nothing to offer today's society. This has been the cry for many centuries past and yet every day more people come to know Christ to accept Him as their Saviour. It is so hard to visualise a life without Him.

We celebrate 100 years of worship at St. Peter's this year and remember fondly all those who have made this possible and serve God so faithfully. Now from 1st January 2000 we look forward to establishing the next 100 years of Worship here and begin again with the words of Christ, "the Son of man came to serve not to be served". We offer ourselves as servants of God and of all the people in this parish. We need the support of all in whatever way they feel able to help. May God Bless you all, as He has cast His Blessings upon all who trust him as Lord.
Your Friend in Christ,

Peter Smith

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Rev'd. Brian Matthews and Helpers for producing a helpful booklet for the 75th anniversary from which much of the historical information in this Issue was gleaned

The People of St. Peter's past and present

Rev'd. Douglas Nudds

Canon Ralph Wheaton

Rev'd. Brian Matthews

Rev'd. Tom Ringland

Mr Peter Smith

Mr George Bancroft

Mrs Jean Shelton

Mrs Nancy Symington

Postscript:

As the present Vicar, I should like to record my thanks and to acknowledge the debt of us all to Mrs Rose Beadman, Churchwarden, who has worked long and diligently to bring this book from vision to reality. Thank you Rose!



Interior of St.Peter's 1899 (above)



Interior of St.Peter's 1999 (above)

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