

Changes to the Upper Church of St Peter's Pembury

(summarised from **OUTLOOK** the church magazine by John Hawker 2016)

- Aug/Sep 1984 Spire taken down as considered unsafe – *see photo by Mike Miller*
- Feb 1989 Rev Jim Brasier appointed Vicar
- Apr 1990 Following a feasibility study, plans were announced for re-ordering the Upper Church, to include a rearrangement of the west end of the church to accommodate a lobby inside the tower, leading to a glazed hall, with stairs to an upper room at first floor level, together with a toilet and kitchen.
- Jan 1991 The Vicar confirmed that 'Vision 91' replaces 'Re-ordering' as plans begin to be realised - *see photos taken before changes are made to church interior.*
- May 1991 Re-ordering update – PCC obtaining a faculty (permission from Rochester Diocese “to improve the interior to give a more flexible use for parish activities in the absence of a much needed parish room capable of accommodating expanding parish life and events.....The organ will be replaced by a high quality purpose built compact digital instrument. Chairs will replace the existing pews and the floor will be levelled. The Sanctuary will be re-ordered with new communion rails and a wooden pulpit/lectern will replace the existing stone pulpit.
- June 1992 Vicar announced that Phase One of Vision '91 would soon begin and gave notice of a Gift Day to be held on Sat 4 July '92. He referred to a similar appeal at a local village church for a near identical project which raised £70,000 on their gift day – “will you who live in Pembury do less?”
- Christmas '92 Phase One of Vision '91 project (re-furbishing the sanctuary) completed.
- Jan 1993 Jill Marshall, Churchwarden paid tribute to Rev Jim Brasier, Vicar, whose 'Knowledge of the skills required in the various trades deployed in the re-ordering has been invaluable.....His vision and his instinct for colour and design....He has designed the two chairs in the chancel, the altar rail and the lectern. This has saved enormous expense, as well as ensuring the church will be a worthy placefor future generations to glorify God.'
- May 1993 Fund raising events for Vision '91 include – car treasure hunt, flower festival, barn dance, fun run, concert (in the church), painting/photo competition etc.
- Sep 1993 Phase Two almost complete and plans for Phase Three well advanced, including disposal of the pine pews – priced at £75 each. New chairs may be sponsored at £60.
- Jan 1994 Vicar reports that Vision '91 drawing to a close – all major building works complete, only the new organ to be installed.
- Apr 1994 Vision '91 Thanksgiving Sunday 17th April 1994. The crowning glory was the arrival of the new Allen organ, a worthy successor to the old Victorian instrument now in Holy Trinity Church, Hoxton, its third home , for it was second hand to Pembury, coming from St Mary's, Hatfield. Carlo Curley, Organ Virtuoso gave an inaugural concert on Sat 25th June 1994.