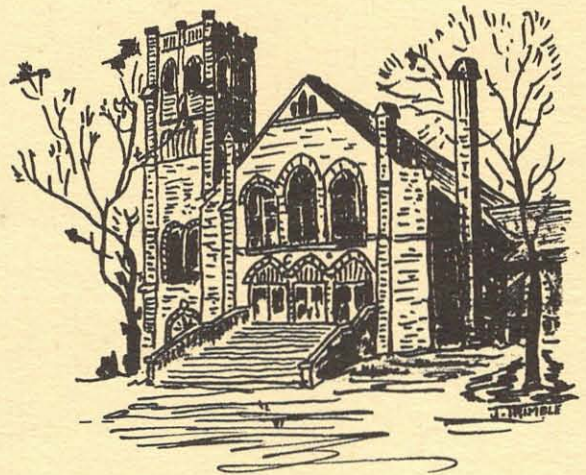
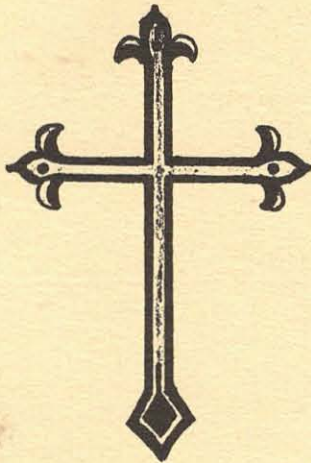
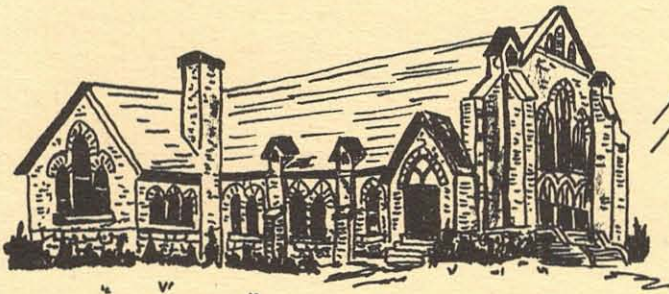
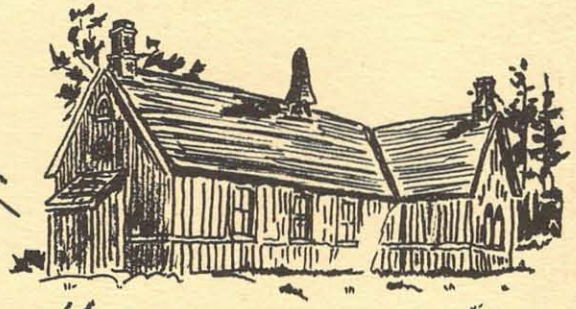
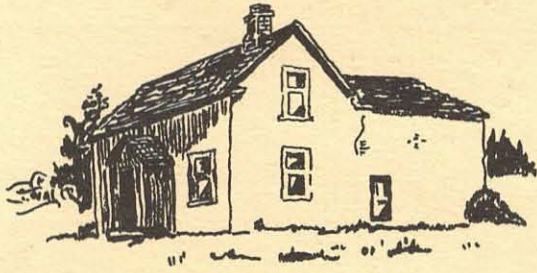
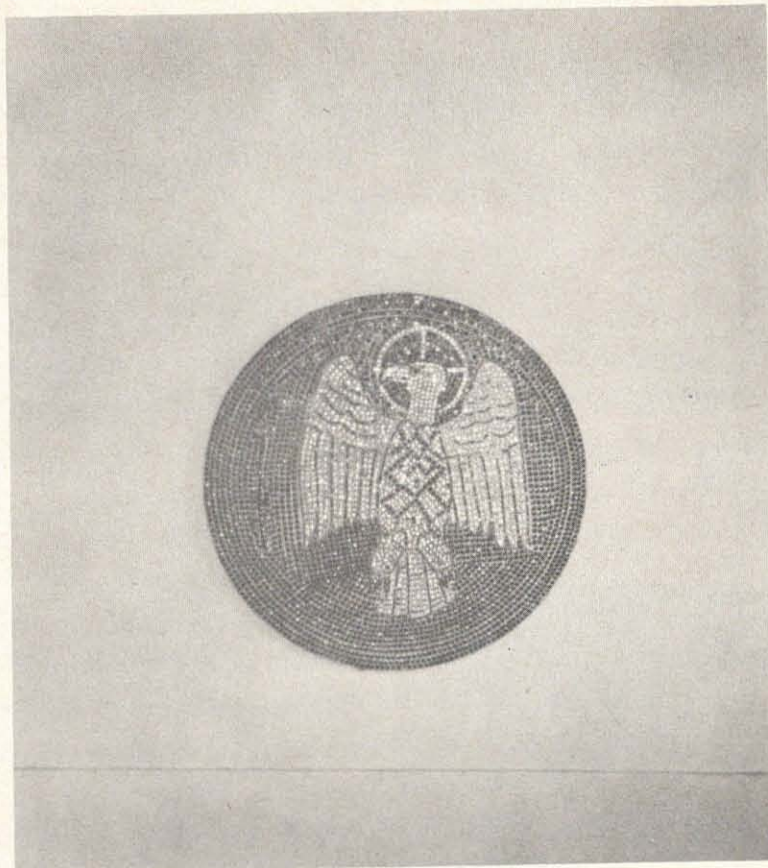


*St. John's Church*

*West Toronto*



Loyalty to the Church means devotion to some one congregation.  
A man's spiritual home is his own church. There he gives his witness.  
Dr. Chisholm



*Eagle Mosaic in Vestry Entrance*

FOR WITH THEE IS THE WELL OF LIFE;  
AND IN THY LIGHT SHALL WE SEE LIGHT.

PSALM 36:9

This booklet was planned as a short history to mark, not only the end of the first hundred years, but the beginning of another century, in the life of a loved and respected parish.

The example, set by those who first brought the teachings of the Bible to the pioneers, has been upheld throughout the years by a band of faithful men, women and children.

Obstacles have been overcome by faith, adversity has been accepted with endurance, progress has been met with adaptability, and success has been greeted with gratitude. The ever-constant willingness of a congregation to work together, pray together, and rejoice together - all this has built a bridge of faith, over which no one needs to walk alone.



Faith bestows that sublime courage that rises superior to the troubles and disappointments of life, that acknowledges no defeat except as a step to victory; that is strong to endure, patient to wait, and energetic to struggle.

James Allen

Grateful appreciation is given to John Trimble of Orangeville, for the ink sketch and script used as the cover design. It depicts the continuity of parish service, from the first cottage meeting to the present place of worship.

Appreciation, also, to Irene Munroe, for her sources of information, and her encouragement.

Thirza C. Donovan





The Incorporated Synod of the Diocese of Toronto

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

135 Adelaide St. East  
Toronto, Ontario  
M5C 1L8  
Telephone: 363-6021

March 24, 1981.

To the Congregation of  
St. John's, West Toronto

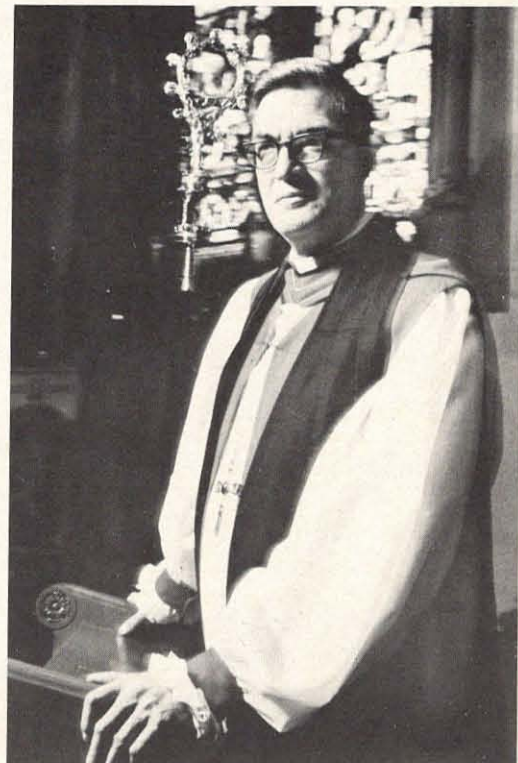
My Dear People:

I understand that St. John's, West Toronto, is celebrating its 100th Anniversary and I should like to join with a host of friends in prayers and best wishes on this important occasion. A century is a long time and I think of the generations of people who have served and prayed and witnessed in your community - theirs is the story of St. John's, West Toronto.

A century is an occasion not only to look back, but also to look ahead to the continuing work of the Church. While the world is changing, the essentials of the Gospel have not, nor the needs of people; and as St. John's continues to minister to those needs, it will also be an effective part of your community.

May God bless you all.

Your friend and Bishop,



***Speaking of Bishops.....***

*St. John's parish has played a part in the development of four Bishops. The first to go on to this further field of service was Incumbent Rev. F.H. DuVernet. After serving St. John's from 1895 to 1904, he was called to become Bishop of Caledonia, B.C. Later a Curate became better known as Most Reverend W.F. Barfoot, D.D., Primate of All Canada. Another Curate, Stephen Wong, returned to his native China after graduation and was made Bishop. Still later, the Right Reverend H.R. Hunt, D.D., left his parish work to remain in the Diocese as Suffragan Bishop.*

March 25, 1981

Dear People of St. John's:

As one of the clergy, privileged to minister with my wife, Rita, in St. John's Parish, during a portion of the last one hundred years, I extend warm congratulations and goodwill to the congregation, in this glorious centennial year.

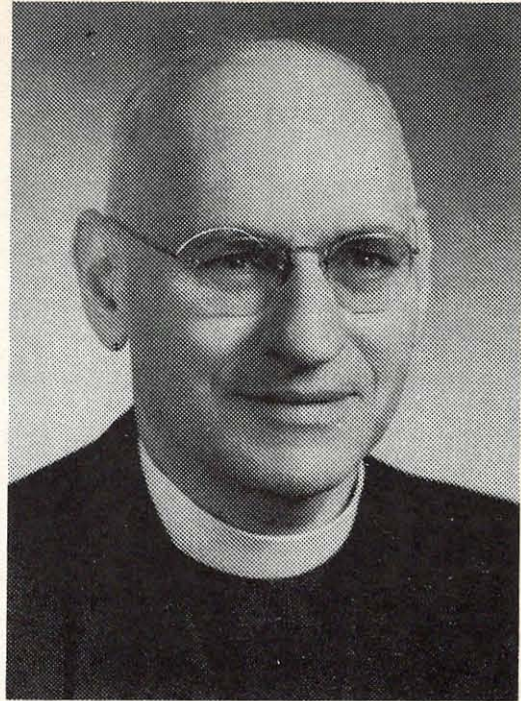
Throughout its history, marked by many changes in social and economic conditions and development, amid periods of brutal war and uneasy peace, the members of the Parish have remained steadfast in faith and witness to God, revealed in Jesus Christ, Saviour and Lord.

From personal experience we know and testify to the love, loyalty and ever-constant kindness of the people of St. John's. With the apostle Paul we "thank God in all our remembrance of you, making our prayer with joy, thankful for your partnership in the Gospel, and being sure that He, who began a good work in you, will bring it into completion at the day of Jesus Christ."

We rejoice with you in this centennial year, and, in expression of our greetings, pray that, in all future years, the good people of St. John's will ever heed the stirring apostolic call: "Be watchful; stand firm in the faith, be valiant, be strong. Let all you do be done in love."

Harry R. and Rita Hunt

This is how we knew him best - as our Rector from 1935 - 49. The Right Reverend H.R. Hunt, M.A., D.D., retired Suffragan Bishop of Toronto, died on April 2, 1981. A native of Brantford, Ontario, he served in parishes from Batteau to Toronto, before being elected to the Bishop's office. With his wife, Rita, Bishop Hunt gave to his ministry a selfless devotion, and an unwavering belief in the inherent goodness of man.



**REV. H.R. HUNT, M.A., B.D.**

While at St. John's, a 1939 Vestry report attests to his tireless concern for his parishioners: 779 personal calls, 952 sick visits, 437 meetings, 238 sermons.



In the Sacristy there is a chalice bearing the inscription:

In thanksgiving for the ministry of the Rt. Rev. H.R. Hunt, D.D.  
1935 - 1949

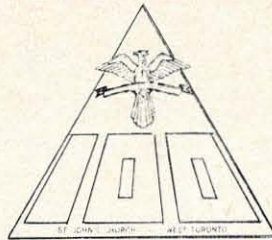
# ST. JOHN'S CHURCH -- West Toronto

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

TELEPHONE: 763-2393

CANON M. P. POOLE, B.A., B.D.  
RECTOR

288 HUMBERSIDE AVENUE  
TORONTO, ONTARIO M6P 1L5



For one hundred years, St. John's has stood as a witness to the Kingdom of our Lord and within the walls of three Church buildings devout and faithful worshippers have found strength for life's journey. We pay tribute to the vision of the pioneers of this Parish and acknowledge the tireless service of countless men and women from the past to those of the present day who are guarding well the heritage that has been entrusted to them.

We yield unto God most high our heartfelt thanks and praises for bringing us to this milestone in the life of the Parish and we seek His assurance and loving presence as we go confidently into the future.

Maurice P. Poole, Rector.



**THE REV. CANON M.P. POOLE, B.A., B.D., INCUMBENT 1981**

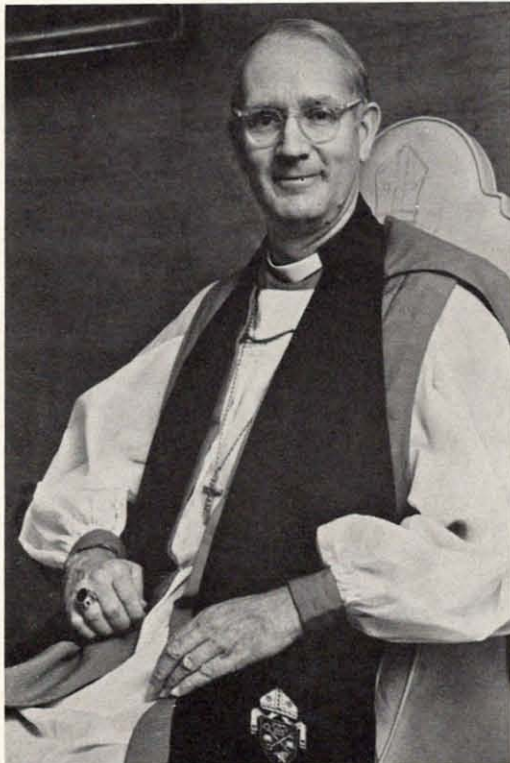




**RIGHT REVEREND HUGH V. STIFF, D.D.**  
Dean of St. James Cathedral  
Asst. Bishop, Diocese of Toronto



**REV. CANON R.F. STACKHOUSE**  
**M.A., D.D., Ph.D.**  
Principal Wycliffe College  
Former Rector St. John's



**RIGHT REVEREND A.A. READ, Ph.D.**  
Suffragan Bishop of Toronto  
In Charge of the Highlands  
Bishop-Elect to Diocese of Ontario

## TRIBUTE

The Church sent forth her message -  
To gather all within:  
With steadfast faith she beckoned,  
And called her children in.

A hundred years of service  
Have watched the people grow  
In love and understanding, -  
Begun so long ago.

The faith of those who laboured  
Nourished where they trod,  
And reaped the promised harvest  
In blessings from their God.

The fellowship and purpose,  
Of all who went before,  
Have left their mark to follow -  
Within this open door.

T.C. Donovan

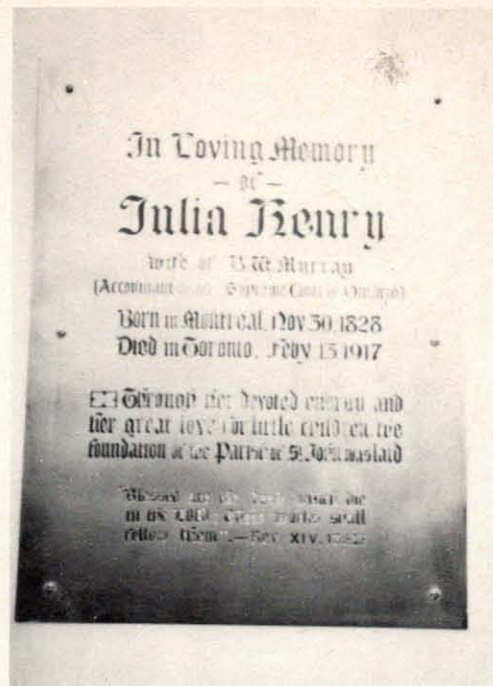


## THE BEGINNING

It all began in August of 1879, when Mrs. B.W. Murray (nee Julia Henry) hitched her horse to the buggy and drove through the bush of Runnymede and Swansea, stopping at the scattered homes along the way.

The children of these homes became Mrs. Murray's passengers to her modest house south of Bloor Street, there to begin the first Sunday School of the area. The road travelled that day became the nucleus of a parish to be later known as St. John's, West Toronto.

A plaque to the memory of Julia Henry Murray, on the east wall of the present church, testifies that "through her devoted energy and her great love for little children, the foundation of the parish of St. John's was laid."



## THE OUTREACH

It became apparent that the adults were desirous of family worship, and Mrs. Murray encouraged the establishment of a more permanent base, with professional clerical guidance. In the meantime, adults met at the McGregors, at Elizabeth and Annette Streets.

In September, 1879, the assemblage took over the Mission Room at Elizabeth and Louisa Streets (now Runnymede and St. John's Rd.). The first Vestry Meeting was held on December 19, 1879.

Soon an offer was made by Messrs. Fiske and Wadsworth, designating two and one-half acres of land, to be used for a church and a parsonage. Advice was sought from Rev. J.H. McCallum, Rector of St. Thomas, who had been ministering to the Mission congregation.

At a Vestry Meeting in 1880, it was decided to present a concert in December to launch a funding campaign. Mr. Murray was chosen as the first Rector's Warden, and Jas. Kennedy for the people.

The Churchwoman's Mission Aid Society provided a surplice and Text Book. Mrs. Murray doubled as organist at the Harmonium and as Sunday School Superintendent. The Vestry appointed a Lay Delegate to Synod, and a building committee was chosen.

Mr Canavan appointed Chairman.

The accounts for the past year were read by Church  
warden, as follows

Received from Collections 85 60  
same paid to Students 85 60

Paid to Sexton 7 00

" for register of  
Births &c

At a meeting held on Friday 14 Nov 1881 pursuant  
to notice given the Sunday before.  
Present Messrs Canavan, Kennedy, J. Kennedy,  
McBryde, Miller, Dempster, Stephen Vaughan,  
and Murray.  
Canavan seconded by Mr McBryde  
D. Kennedy, Dempster and  
Bishop of Toronto on

At a meeting held on Friday 29 April 1881  
pursuant to notice given the Sunday before.  
Present Messrs Miller, Dempster, Mr Vaughan,  
Stephen Vaughan, Barter and Murray.  
Mr Canavan resigned his position as people  
Church warden.  
Moved by Mr Stephen Vaughan seconded by Mr  
Miller that Mr Dempster be people warden  
in lieu of Mr Canavan  
Moved by Mr Barter seconded by Mr  
Stephen Vaughan that Col. Bzowski be elected  
as Delegate to the coming Synod  
There being no more business to attend to  
the meeting closed.

Carried.  
Carried.  
Carried.  
Carried.

## THE MISSION CHURCH

The first official house of worship was planned in 1880, the cost not to exceed \$700. A simple wooden structure, without a cornerstone, was dedicated on November 20, 1881, by Bishop Arthur Sweatman, and served the congregation for eight years.

Classified as a Mission Church, it was designated St. John's Church, Runnymede, and was served by students of Wycliffe College. The clergy include such names as Canon Ardill, Cooper Robinson, J. Macqueen Baldwin, A. Gaviller and R.A. Sims.

By April of 1881 the Mission was referred to as St. John the Baptist. In November there was a meeting to discuss the opening of the new building. Fund raising events included a Tea Meeting with admission set at twenty-five cents. A six-month stipend of fifty dollars was offered to a Wycliffe student, for Sunday services and one weekly visiting day, with provision for his horse while there.

Parish life was affiliated with that of St. Mark's, Carlton until November 14, 1887, to become St. John's, Runnymede, later St. John's, West Toronto Junction.

### Excerpt from 1880 Financial Report

Collection .....	\$ 1.45
Pd. to Divinity Student .....	\$ 1.45
Lamp Chimneys .....	\$ 0.85
Tea Meeting .....	\$16.82
Collected by Mrs. Murray .....	\$40.20
Church Key .....	\$ 0.35

## WIDENING HORIZONS

In 1886, the Bishop was requested to set apart a Mission, bounded on the north by Davenport Rd., east by Keele and Dundas, south by Lake Ontario and west by Jane.

The following year, Dovercourt parish petitioned to be included with a pledge of \$300 per annum. The proposal was tabled pending the Bishop's decision. If denied parish autonomy, St. John's would include Dovercourt with a pledge of \$600 per annum. The Rector's guaranteed stipend was set at \$800 per year.

The Vestry minutes of 1887 reveal that the Bishop recommended one Rev. C.E. Thompson, a graduate of Trinity Divinity College, to minister to the parish, assisted by another Trinity student. A resolution evolved to inform the Bishop that "it is the unanimous opinion of this meeting that the ministrations of the Rev. Mr. Thompson are not acceptable to the members of this church." As a result, on March 31, 1888 the acting minister, Rev. Arthur Chipman Miles, was officially appointed Incumbent.

The need for expanded quarters became urgent, and in April plans were formulated for a new building, to cost not more than \$2500. This was later revised to \$8000. The organ in use, owned by Mr. Murray, was donated to the congregation, provided that the services were conducted in evangelical methods, periodic checking to be done by the Chairman of Wycliffe Board of Management. If any deviation from evangelical influence appeared, the organ would revert to its owner.

## THE SECOND CHURCH

On May 11, 1889, a cornerstone was placed to begin a new building at St. John's Rd. and Dundas St. An attempt was made to limit the cost to \$2500, providing a seating capacity of 330 souls. The old frame building became the Church Hall, and the Rev. R.P. McKim was inducted as Rector. Eventual cost of the structure amounted to \$8737. By 1894 the congregation had grown to include twenty-four Confirmation candidates.

The turn of the Twentieth century brought an influx of British immigrants to the parish, drawn by the railway industry and the annexation of the Junction as Ward Seven of Toronto. Enlargements and renovations of Church facilities developed under the leadership of Rev. F.H. Duvernet and Rev. T. Beverly Smith.

The new Parish Hall, built in 1913, was later sold to the Y.M.C.A. and used in Y programmes until its demolition in 1980.

Thirty-four years later the cornerstone was moved to the site of the present building at Humber-side and Quebec Avenues, where it stands as a tribute to 100 years of fellowship and ministry.



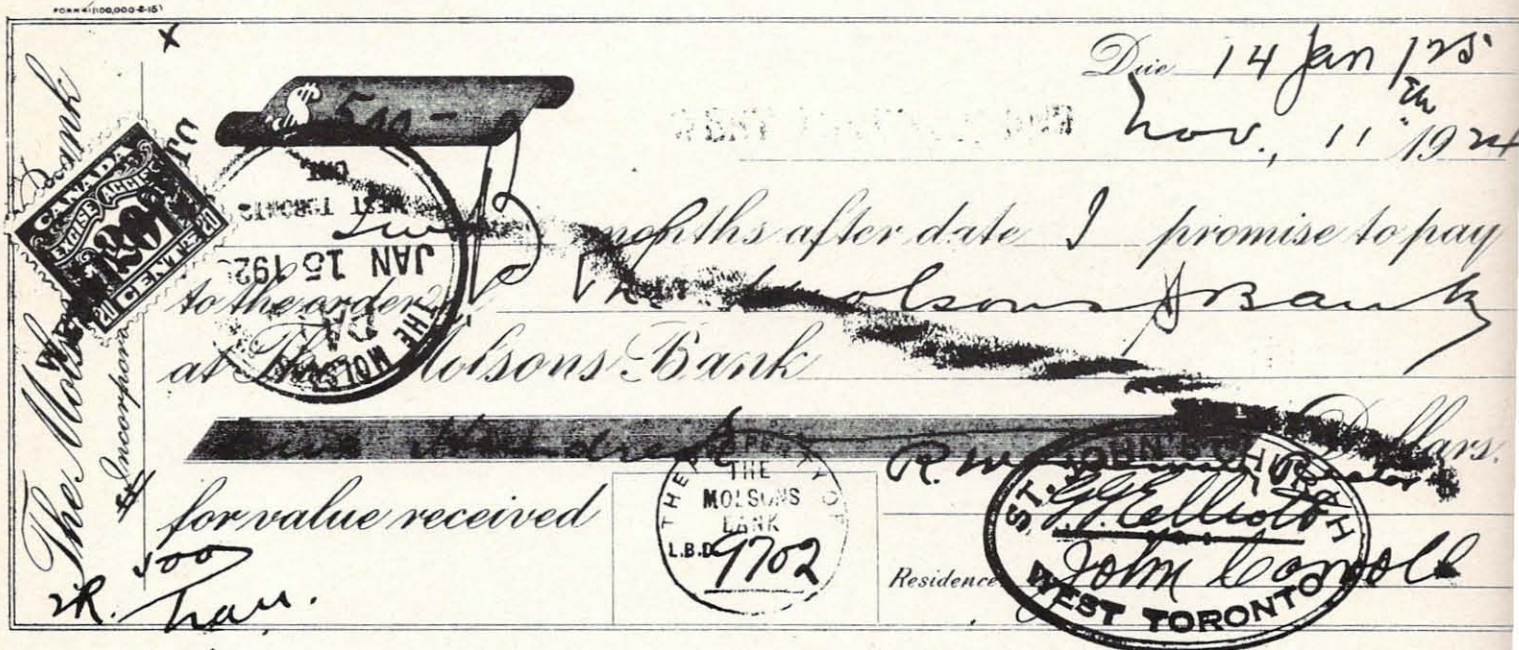
## NEW CENTURY GROWTH

In spite of enlarged quarters at St. John's Road and Dundas, the needs of the expanding parish could not be met from one location, and a Mission was set up at St. Paul's on December 5, 1909. Another was established as the Church of the Advent on February 26, 1912.

The Rev. T. Beverly Smith carried on a burdensome ministry through the war years until his premature death in 1918. During his last year of service, a Rectory was erected on High Park Avenue, the geographical centre of the Parish.

Plans for a new Church site were soon implemented. On May 5, 1923, the cornerstone of the present edifice was laid - a building designed to hold 600 people. November 4, 1923 was a red-letter day for the people of St. John's, when the magnificent new building was dedicated by Bishop Sweeney.

The tireless efforts of the congregation, encouraged by the zeal of the clergy, succeeded in completing the mortgage payments in 1944. Renovations were then made, and the purchase of the Parish House in 1959 extended the facilities for parish activities.



*A transaction with Molsons Bank three years before its merger with Bank of Montreal.*

## AN HOUSE FOR HIS KINGDOM

Following the discharge of the mortgage in 1944, arrangements were made for a formal consecration. The service was conducted on Sunday, November 19, 1944, at seven o'clock in the evening, with the Most Rev. D.T. Owen, Archbishop of Toronto, officiating.

A petition was read by Fred Cawthorne, Rector's Warden, and accepted by the Archbishop, after the traditional tri-knock, requesting permission to enter. The discharged mortgage and deed were presented by H.A. Hann, People's Warden. This was followed by the reading of the Sentence of Consecration and the ordering of the documents into the Registry of the Diocese.

The music for this occasion included "Lord God of Hosts", a composition by St. John's organist and choirmaster, Percy Wicker MacDonald, F.C.C.M. This chorale had recently achieved second place in a competition to which 660 manuscripts had been submitted.

A dedication of new work on the building took place in 1953, during the incumbency of Rev. Clinton D. Cross. The renovations included a new Holy Table and reredos, a mid-week chapel in the North Transept, a Baptistry in the South Transept, redecoration of the Nave, and completion of the Narthex.

A message from Mr. Cross to the congregation paid tribute to the parishioners for their faith and loyalty, saying that "St. John's has been a progressive parish, it has moved on, always in the hope of serving God, and glorifying God among the people."

## CURATES AND ASSISTANTS

A great contribution to the life of a parish is the work of its curates and assistants. St. John's has been blessed by the services of such clergy as Chas. McKim, Wm. Simpson, F.J. Lynch, Edward Morley, R.S. Mason, J.E. Ward, H.L. Nicholson, L. Smith, Albert Simpson, R.E. Lemon, F.V. Abbott, Henry Roche, H. Naylor, W.F. Barfoot, Minto Swan, G.F. Banks, R.C. Good, S. Wong, B.R. English, T.E. Jones, C.D. Cross, G.R. Bracken, D.G. Churcher, W.I.D. Smith, W. Johnson, Wm. Bradbury, P. Hamel, W. Pogson, J. Fralick, G. Fairhead.

Article 19 of Articles of Religion: "The visible church of Christ is a congregation of faithful men."



## IN HIS SERVICE

In the first century, St. John's has been served by ten Rectors.

A.C. Miles, B.A.	1887 - 1892	
R.P. McKim, M.A.	1892 - 1895	Later Canon
F.H. DuVernet, D.D.	1895 - 1904	Later Bishop
T.B. Smith, B.A.	1904 - 1917	
R. MacNamara, L Th	1917 - 1935	
H.R. Hunt, M.A., D.D.	1935 - 1949	Later Bishop
C.D. Cross, B.A., L Th	1949 - 1955	Later Canon
R.C. Stackhouse, M.A., B.D., PhD.	1956 - 1960	Later Principal Wycliffe
G. Philpotts, L Th, ThM.	1960 - 1964	
M.P. Poole, B.A., B.D.	1964 -	Presently Canon

## IN THE VESTRY

This is my sheltered little island - here  
Within the tranquil, ordered book-lined walls, -  
A haven where a thousand anchors hold,  
And make of me a captive of my goal.

Here are the tools to help me fashion words,  
To soothe and reason with another's stress,  
To salvage souls adrift on storm-tossed seas,  
And send them forth upon the ebbing tide.

Here is my opiate in troubled times,  
Where I can lull my doubts and petty fears, -  
I cleanse my mind to meet the rising sun,  
And gird my heart to reach my fellow-man.

When I must leave my isle, I trim my sails,  
To face the wide horizon of the world;  
I wrap my faith about me, like a cloak,  
And trace, with God, firm footprints in the sand.

T.C. Donovan

## MEMBERS OF THE PARISH IN SERVICE

Florence Giles	Nurse in Pangi
Edna Elliott	Overseas Missionary
Florence Nicholls	Overseas Psychiatric Missionary
Dorothy Warden	Overseas Teacher
Colinette Harris	Missions
Derwyn Shea	Ministry
John Hannant	Ministry
W. Arthur Gilbert	Ministry
Chas. Draper	Ministry
Leon Adams	Ministry
Raymond Taylor	Church Army
Victor Brass	Church Army
Philip Poole	Ministry

And he said unto them, go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

Mark XVI : XV



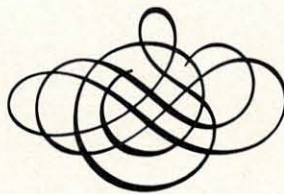
*Chapel Communion Table*

## THE WARDENS

1881 - 1887	B. Murray, H. Dempster
1887 - 1888	Chas. Flint
1888 - 1894	C. Flint, Geo. Behan
1894 - 1896	Tiffin Harris, Geo. Nicholls
1896 - 1906	H. Byers, Geo. Webb
1906 - 1910	Robt. Drewitt
1911 - 1912	Robt. Drewitt, A.H. Richardson
1913 - 1916	J.E. Scott, W.A. Skeans
1916 - 1919	T.C. Thompson, H. Fell
1919 - 1920	H. Fell
1920 - 1921	G.G. Elliott, C. Armstrong
1921 - 1922	J.B. McQuaig, G.G. Elliott
1922 - 1924	G.G. Elliott, C. Armstrong
1924 - 1925	J. Carroll, G.G. Elliott
1925 - 1926	C.T. Rose, W. Code
1926 - 1927	J. Carroll, V.S. Bailey
1927 - 1928	J. Madden, F.G. Kemish
1929 - 1930	J. Madden, E. Needham
1930 - 1933	J. Madden, C. MacDougal
1933 - 1934	J. Madden, W. Code
1934 - 1935	W. Code, H. Winn
1935 - 1937	J. Madden, G.G. Elliott
1937 - 1938	G.G. Elliott, F. Jones
1938 - 1939	F. Jones, C. Green
1939 - 1940	C. Crane, C. Green
1940 - 1941	C. Crane, C.G. Cameron
1941 - 1942	S. Hannant, C.G. Cameron
1942 - 1943	S. Hannant, A.R. Pye
1943 - 1944	F. Cawthorne, A.R. Pye
1944 - 1945	F. Cawthorne, H.A. Hann
1945 - 1946	H. Hann, F. Barnett
1946 - 1949	H. Hann, J.W. Spence
1949 - 1950	F. Butler, J. Spence
1950 - 1951	F. Butler, W.T. Rose
1951 - 1952	L. Addleton, W. Rose
1952 - 1953	L. Addleton, W. Shortt
1953 - 1954	W. Shortt, R. Willis
1954 - 1955	R. Willis, C. Fralick
1955 - 1956	C. Fralick, F. Munroe
1956 - 1957	F. Munroe, J. Goodfellow
1957 - 1958	J. Goodfellow, J. Lappin

1958 - 1959  
1959 - 1960  
1960 - 1961  
1961 - 1962  
1962 - 1963  
1963 - 1964  
1964 - 1965  
1965 - 1966  
1966 - 1967  
1967 - 1968  
1968 - 1969  
1969 - 1970  
1971 - 1972  
1972 - 1973  
1973 - 1974  
1975 - 1976  
1976 - 1977  
1977 - 1978  
1978 - 1979  
1979 - 1981

O. Taylor, J. Lappin  
O. Taylor, G. Hooper  
G. Hooper, W. Thompson  
W. Thompson, H. Bennett  
H. Bennett, R. Curry  
R. Curry, H. Lane  
H. Lane, J. Lawson  
J. Lawson, W. Hood  
W. Hood, F. Scott  
F. Scott, H. Elliott  
H. Elliott, W. Godson  
W. Godson, W. Todd  
G. Goodfellow, D. Young  
D. Young, A. Sim  
A. Sim, M. Johnston  
G. Devitt, M. Johnston  
W. Hoyland, E. Lee  
J. Varley, G. Devitt  
I. Munroe, J. Edwards  
I. Munroe, J. Edwards,  
Joan Devitt, Deputy



## ORGANISTS

1916 - 1923  
1923 - 1963  
1963 - 1968  
1963 - 1968  
1968 - 1972  
1972 -

Ralph Tucker  
Percy W. MacDonald  
Gerald K. Webster  
Alex Ogden, Asst.  
James Leonard  
Gary Gray

## THE SOUTH TRANSEPT

The South Transept has undergone several changes in planning and seating. In 1953, the focus was placed on its function as a Baptistry. The Font was set into an apse, surmounted by a mural of the descending dove, symbol of baptism.

During the resurfacing treatment of the floors in Centennial year, some of the pews were removed from the Transept. This leaves a larger open area between the Font and the participants in the baptismal service. Thus it becomes a special and separate place for the acceptance into the congregation of the newly-baptized, while maintaining its position as a link between Chancel and Nave.

## THE CHAPEL OF EASE

An item of interest came to light during the reading of the history of St. Philip's, Etobicoke.

1856 saw the arrival of the Rev. W.A. Johnson in the Weston area, where his ministry was a constant struggle to bring about a compromise between two strong factions - high church and low church ritual, free and rented pews, payment and withholding of stipend. Through much adversity he established a small church, naming it Chapel of Ease. In time this became the property of the moderates, known as St. Philip's congregation.

When the first St. Philip's building burned in 1888, the people assembled for joint services with the people of St. John's, Weston, in the Chapel. The many theological differences brought discord and St. Philip's determined to rebuild on the former site.

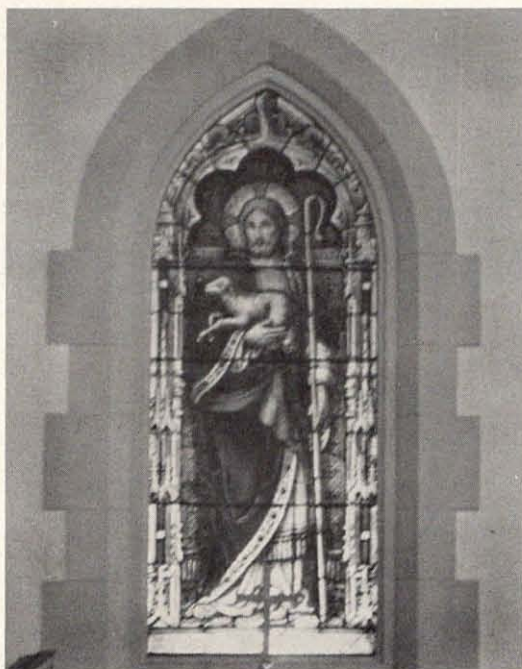
Their determination was strengthened when it was found that the Incumbent was signing the joint Register as Rector of St. John's, Weston. Then came the day, at the urging of the Rector, to move the Chapel to a more central location. Along Main St. it became bogged down in the mud and was pushed on to an unoccupied lot, where it remains today, after many alterations.

St. Philip's new building was erected in 1894 in record time, with the students of Wycliffe in charge. Within two years, through poor public relations at Synod, the Bishop ordered it closed.

Then came St. John's, Toronto Junction, to the rescue. The Rector, Rev. F.H. DuVernet offered to serve once each Sunday at St. Philip's to maintain its identity as a parish. Until his elevation as Bishop in British Columbia, Mr. DuVernet was the guiding force in a faithful congregation, whose people became a symbol of strength and zeal in the difficult early years on the Humber.

## MEMORIAL WINDOWS

Year of Dedication	To The Glory Of God	In Remembrance Of
1904	Sermon On The Mount	Most Rev. F. DuVernet
1917	The Good Shepherd	Sarah Griffin
1917	Fishers Of Men	Rev. T. Beverly Smith
1923	Jesus, Mary And Martha	Martha Ann Hinde
1923	Ascension	Fallen Comrades
1924	Blessing The Children	Mary Elizabeth Cooper
1930	Christ The Healer	R. Rutt Hopkins, M.D.
1931	Crucifixion	50th Anniversary
1943	The Empty Tomb	William H. Dixon
1945	The Boy Jesus	Bible Class Boys
1957	Virgin Mary	Marjorie Ethel Stokes
1962	Adoration Of Shepherds	Hilda May
1968	Christ Breaking Bread	Samuel Ryding and Wife
1969	Behold I Stand At The Door	H. Harrison and Wife
1976	The Rising Eagle	Five Bible Classes



## THE COLOURS

Through the years, ten flags have been dedicated, and function as permanent symbols, or used on occasions.

The Christian flag, designed by C.C. Overton, of New York, hangs in the Chancel, accompanied by the flag of St. John's. This was designed by R.E. Willis, a parishioner. Both banners were dedicated in 1974.

At the Chancel steps are the Canadian flag, given by David and Mary Legge in 1965, and the Anglican flag, adopted in 1955. The Ontario flag, in memory of Alice and Joseph Young, in 1965, hangs across the Nave from the Union Jack, official since 1801.

The War Memorial triple cluster is grouped over the Honour Roll. The Scout and Guide banners are carried during group processions.



The ancient symbol of a rising eagle is said to have been assigned to St. John the Apostle, because his gaze pierced farther into the mysteries of Heaven than that of any man.

The white, blue and red colours of the Christian flag signify purity, courage and sacrifice.

## THE BIBLE CLASS

It was October, 1923. It was Sunday afternoon. It was time to meet the new Curate. It was a memorable day for twelve young men from the ages of sixteen to nineteen, the first members of the Alerts.

The Rev. Minto Swan, the new Curate, had been requested by the Rector, Rev. R. MacNamara, to set up a Bible Class. This became a most successful venture into Christian activity and fellowship, with Wm. Shortt elected as the first President. The group grew to include 150 enthusiastic members, and celebrated a reunion in 1973, with Minto Swan in attendance. Many anecdotes still circulate concerning the studies and events enjoyed by the Alert Bible Class, under the guidance of their dedicated leader, known as the Bowling Parson.

To quote a Toronto newspaper covering the 50th Anniversary,  
"Young Deacon Swan is well-known across Canada now by different names. In ecclesiastical circles he is Canon Swan, in academic circles Dr. Swan, in penitentiary and air force circles Padre Swan, but to the members of the Bible Class, he will always be Minto."



*Rev. Canon Minto Swan,  
E.D., M.A., B.D., D.D.*

Not to be outdone, the girls of the parish formed two Sunday afternoon groups, known as the Kiselos and the Fahelos. Romances flourished and resulted in sixteen marriages within the three classes.



**BIBLE CLASS MARKS 50 YEARS AT ST. JOHN'S**

*Alert Boy's Bible Class, 1924, with Rev. Minto Swan returning to celebrate 1973 reunion at St. John's West Toronto Anglican Church, marking their 50th year this October 21.*

## 1934 GROUP LEADERS

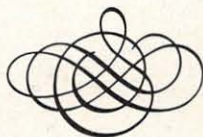
Sunday School	Mr. Cameron
Women's Guild	Mrs. Carberry
Woman's Auxiliary	Mrs. Hurlburt
Choir	Mr. MacDonald
Junior W.A.	Miss Laventure
Evening Branch	Miss MacNamara
Kiselo Class	Miss Lord
Fahelo Class	Miss Code
Bula Matadi	Miss May
Alerts	Mr. Bennett
500 Club	Mr. Pequegnat
Trufalo Class	Mr. Cameron

## FROM FINANCIAL RECORDS

1928 - Sale of St. John's Road property	- \$3855
1935 - Rector's salary	- \$1800
1937 - Rector's salary	- \$2000
1940 - Rector's salary	- \$2200

## MEN'S CLUB EXECUTIVE FOR 1952

Honorary President	Rev. C.D. Cross
Honorary Vice-President	Rev. R. De Courneille
Past President	Wm. Shortt
President	Frank Munroe
1st Vice-President	Norman Whittaker
2nd Vice-President	Ron Willis
Secretary	Geo. Mitchell
Treasurer	Herb Wickenden
Entertainment	Robt. Murray



## THE WOMEN

### WOMAN'S AUXILIARY

The year 1892 marked the inauguration of the first Parish branch of the Woman's Auxiliary, under the leadership of Julia Murray. Membership fee was set at ten cents. Names of the 17 charter members were Murray, Upperton, McDonald, McKim, Walker, Charleton, Keele, Constantine, Webb, McGuire, Stewart, Povey, Bagsley, Trott, Newson, Nicholls and Knight.

An evening branch was soon formed, followed by a Junior Auxiliary for girls from seven to twelve years. Later the St. Monica branch comprised young mothers. The Girls' Auxiliary for teen-agers became a helpful unit. To honour Wilhelmina MacNamara, a Life Member for over fifty years, a morning branch adopted her name.

The prime function of the W.A. was assistance in needy areas from far-distant missions to downtown projects. And who can overlook the "Bales" - miles of knitting, yards of stitching and acres of quilts, shipped to far-off parishes and missions? The first bale was assembled in 1893 for the mission of Rev. A. Ecclestone, St. Joseph's Island, Algoma, with a freight cost of \$3.69.

The W.A. is now part of the A.C.W. programme, and retains the spirit of its long history of dedication.

In 1981 the shipping of bales is to be phased out, due to declining outpost needs and escalation of freight charges. Emphasis will be placed on needs of mission clergy and local projects. Referring to the W.A., one clergyman noted that "next to Synod, it is the most important part of the Anglican Church".

Materials received from R. C. Headquarters  
Sept 5 to Dec 31/40  
unilite, pillow cases, sheeting, curly cloth,  
sichelown, chess material, namewote  
3103 1/2 yards  
Jan 15<sup>th</sup> to Dec 31/40  
Wool received 396 1/2 lbs.  

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Materials made up & returned to R. C. Headqtrs.  
Jan 15/40 to Dec 31/40  
shirts, pillow cases, Hospital covers, bags, girls  
inches & mens pyjamas, pres. jackets, masks,  
dressing gowns, ladies dresses, napkins,  
blouses, slips, quilts  
2410

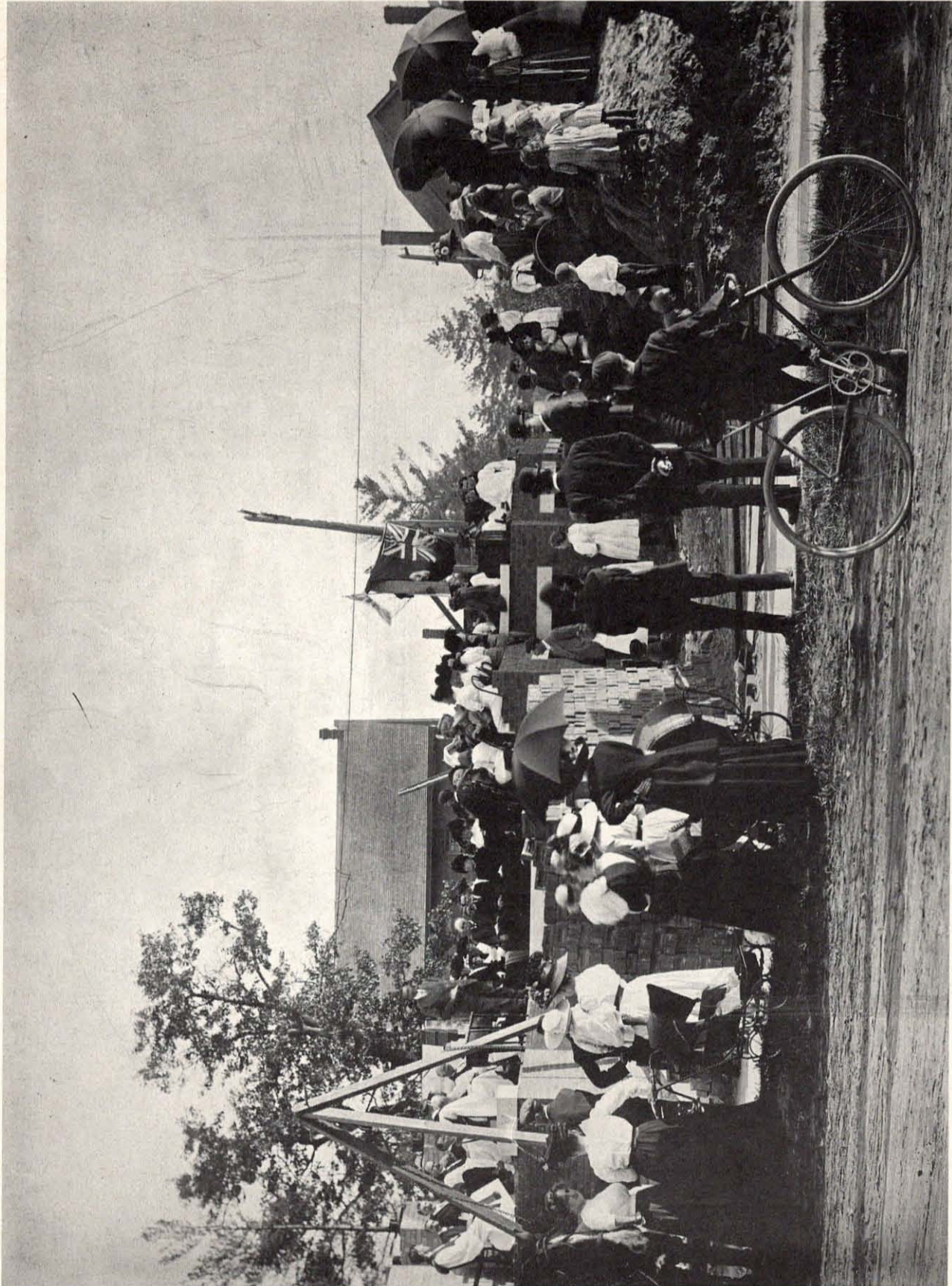
## WOMEN'S GUILD

The Women's Guild has had a long and devoted history of service. Its main function was parochial, emphasizing ongoing assistance to Rectors and Wardens. The Chancel window in St. John's is a lasting reminder of the many projects spearheaded by the Guild.

In February, 1927, the Unit system was established, comprising ten groups. Between the years 1908 and 1964, assistance was expanded to include visiting, overseas packages in two wars, provision of Choir vestments and participation in the Red Cross programme. The Guild was also represented in the Women's League of Nations.



*Martha Would Call Them Friend*



Cornerstone Ceremony, May 11, 1889

## CHANCEL GUILD

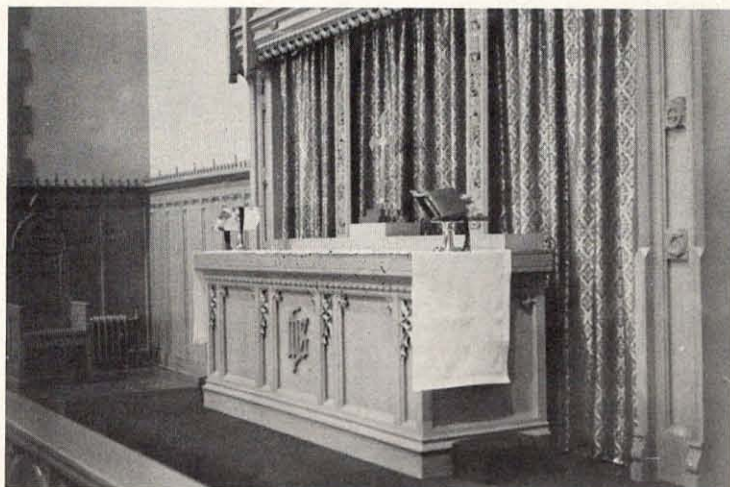
At a meeting of the Women's Guild, on May 15, 1917, The first Chancel Guild of St. John's was formed, installing Mrs. C. Temple as President. Charter members were Mesdames Fell, Mason, Farwell, Hurl, Collins, Jones, Hiron, Wilkes, Shortt and Hannington. Mrs Hannington became the second president.

The first contribution of the Chancel Guild was response to a request for communion linen and two hassocks. In May, 1918, a pix was dedicated in memory of Sgt. W.G. Fell.

The Guild has drawn from the congregation faithful and dedicated women, whose care of the Sanctuary is a testimony of their faith.



*The Vestments*



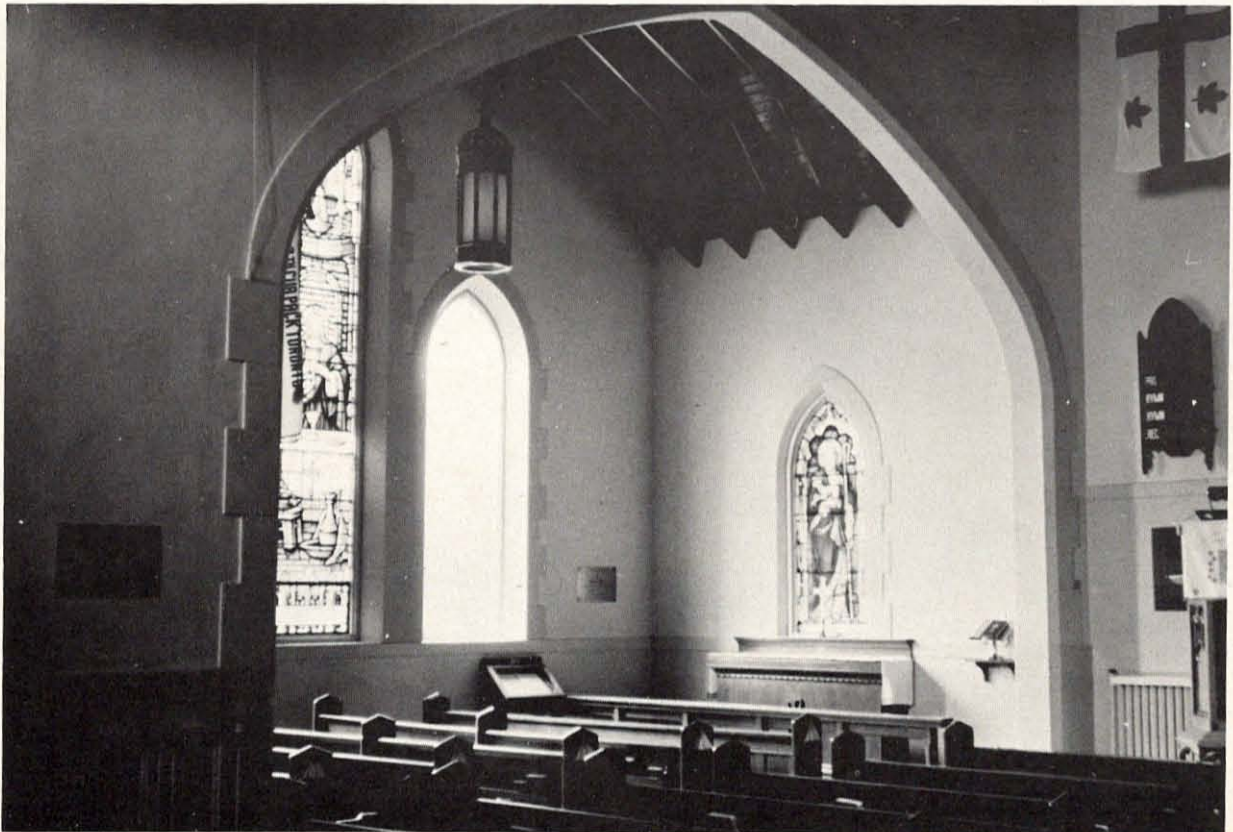
*The Fair Linen*

## ANGLICAN CHURCH WOMEN

As the work of the Auxiliary and Guild began to converge within and without the parish, it was decided to amalgamate, along with the Chancel Guild. The first meeting of the women of St. John's, assembling under the name of Anglican Church Women of St. John's, was called on January 23, 1964.

The Units regrouped and adopted the names of Saints - Anne, Bride, Catherine, Elizabeth, Faith, Helen, Joan, Margaret, Mary, Mildred and Monica. As membership decreased, due chiefly to a shift in the parish population, the units merged into four main groups.

The 1970's saw a merger with the men of the parish, under the banner of A.C. Workers. However, there has been a resurgence of enthusiasm to return to the previous format, and to become again an integral part of the Diocesan Anglican Church Women, with the organization's ever-widening areas of service.



*The North Transept*

## THE DORCAS BALE

With the organization of the Woman's Auxiliary to the Board of Domestic and Foreign Missions, attention was focussed on the material needs of remote Missions. The Dorcas department in the Toronto Diocese assumed the task of shipping clothing and furnishings to many distant places throughout the world. The first shipment was made in 1886 by the women of St. Mark's, Parkdale, to the Diocese of Algoma.

The women of St. John's played a great part in the Diocesan provision of these much-needed items. In 1938, they shared in the assembly of 581 shipments. During the Second World War, they assisted the Diocese with increased contributions, due to the enforced lack of supplies from England. With the inception of A.C.W., the Dorcas department retained its role of assembling bales for the Missions.

As the seventies came to an end, it became apparent that the purpose of the bales had become impractical, partly because of the escalating shipping costs, and partly because of the growing resolve of the Mission clergy to stimulate self-help programmes within the Missions. Suggestions have been made to reorganize the Dorcas department, by adopting a system of direct financial assistance to outpost areas.

June of 1981 will mark the end of an era with the shipment of the last bales.

Alternatives will be presented to make use of the creative talents of the A.C.W. Ninety-five years of stitching and knitting will be remembered as a Christian labour of love by women whose efforts will be channelled into another stream of service.

1933 - MISS JULIA DAWSON

### EXPENDITURES

General Relief	23.71
Christmas meat for baskets	10.54
Fruit, vegetables	2.55
Extra basket	1.50
Mrs. Robbins for Mother's supplies	<u>5.00</u>
	\$ 43.30
Cash balance on hand Jan. 1st, 1934	<u>19.26</u>
	\$ <u>62.56</u>

No. of visits 464.

*Respectfully Submitted  
Julia Dawson.*



## THE BIBLE CLASS WINDOW

32



*This window is made in five panels, each symbolizing the goals of the five Bible Classes which are named Apex, Alert (boys), and Kiselo, Fahelo and Trufalo (girls). The Rising Eagle, symbol of St. John, surmounts all the sections. The Apex contains the Tablets of the Law. Next to the left is the Chalice, signifying the conquest over death. The Scroll and Quill pay tribute to the Gospel of St. John. The Bible at the right signifies the source of Christian teaching.*

**MISS HILDA MAY LOOKED BACK...**

H. May at first meeting.

*was in Dining Room Table Alberta Hotel Calgary 1890, with Clary & Miss Louis Patterson labrador.*

TORONTO W.A. Diocesan Report for year March 31st to March 31st, 1892.

The Diocesan secretary, Mrs. *P. Wilkings* Cummings, mother of Mrs. Blythe Sinclair, reported among the 16 new branches, St. John's, West Toronto.

In Diocesan Summary 'Treasurers' report \$1.70 Members' fees. (means 17 members @ 10¢ per member).

17 Chartered members of St. John's West Toronto Junction St. W.A.

Mrs. Murray, Pres. (Who began St. John's West Toronto Church August 1879 with a Sunday school class in her drawing room on her estate S.W. of Jane and Bloor.).

- Mrs. Upperton, Sec.
- Mrs. McDonald, Treas.
- Mrs. McKim, Rector's wife.
- Mrs. Walker, mother of Mrs. Millard. *Law Stud. W. Toronto.*
- Mrs. Charleton
- Mrs. Keele - Keele street named after her
- " J. Constantine
- " W. Ebb Wash
- McGuire
- Stewart, grandmother of Miss Mary Butchart.
- " *Passy*
- " Bagsley *mother of*
- " *Trask* - *connected I think with Dr. Miss Helen, St. John's Rd near corner of*
- " *Alb. B. Schubert*
- " Newson
- " Nicholls
- " Knight

*All above gone to their eternal rest*

St. John's West Toronto 1893 to 1894. Report to Diocesan Treasurer \$1.80 (18 members at 10¢)

Listed 1892 - 93	17 members
1893 - 94	18 "

1½ year organized. That means Autumn 1892 to Spring 94.

11 meetings 1893 to 1894.

6 average attendance.

11 leaflets (forerunner of living message).

*H. May has copies of the W.A. Leaflets*

A Junior branch (called "Willing workers")

*H. May. Miss C. L. Venter etc belonged*

Total receipts for Mission Work \$17.46

1 Bale, reported too late for insertion.

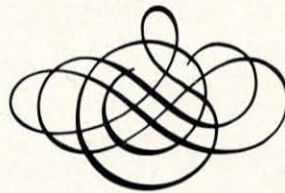
*Mrs. May met Mrs. Cummings. Mrs. C had for a good 6 years been doing labor for Mrs. Blythe. incline as Mrs. C was all the time. Mrs. C was in 1893 going home of Mrs. Blythe. Mrs. C was in 1893 going home of Mrs. Blythe. Mrs. C was in 1893 going home of Mrs. Blythe. Mrs. C was in 1893 going home of Mrs. Blythe.*

## THE CENTENNIAL STONE

On Sunday, June 7th, 1981, the Centennial Stone was added to the foundation of St. John's, West Toronto. The dedication ceremony was conducted by the Right Reverend Hugh V. Stiff. Enclosed with the Stone are mementoes of the Anniversary year: logo pin, inscribed pencil, spoon, bookmark, balloon, parish list, Order of Service and historical account.

A commemorative plaque is to be located in the Narthex, inscribed thus:

Given by Dwight and Eleanor Wilson  
In memory of Mr. and Mrs. H. Dean,  
Wm. J. Dean and Margaret J. Dean



### DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

March	1969	Ross MacDonald, Lieut. Governor Ontario (Scout Parade)
May	1973	Ross MacDonald, Lieut. Governor Ontario (Commonwealth)
November	1974	Most Reverend Edward W. Scott, Primate (Dedication of Flags)
February	1975	Pauline McGibbon, Lieut. Governor Ontario (7th Scout Reunion)
May	1976	Gerald Donahue, U.S. Consul (Canadian-American Friendship)
November	1976	Pauline McGibbon, Lieut. Governor Ontario (95th Anniversary)
May	1977	Diaconate Candidates (Diaconate Service)

**DO YOU REMEMBER.....? ? ? ? ?.....**

The handkerchief showers for the Fall Bazaar

The visiting committee doing fifty calls per month

The Domestic table convened by Mrs. Bolton

Grandma Marsh lighting up the Friendly Corner Club

Doug Grey and the Camel's Eye

The Scarboro Bluffs' outings with Miss Hilda May

The Apron-Measure Tea at Mrs. Fell's home

The Choir picnics at Craigleith

The Men's Club skit on the first Vestry minutes

The Brownie weekend at Piper's Hill

The Crusade week with Marny Patterson

The Humberside Reunion Service

The introduction of duplex envelopes in 1924

The Outreach 26-mile walk

The garden setting for the Married Couples' dinner

Changing the Chancel's four bulbs with John Lappin's ladder

The hunting season on bats by Ron Willis and David Legge

The old back-firing gas stove in the forties

The days the boys put the feathers in the organ

The tours of Dr. Minerva Reid's rose garden

## SCOUTS AND GUIDES

The 7th Toronto Boy Scout Troop received its original charter in October, 1909, and annual registration has never lapsed. Begun at the church on St. John's Road, it grew with the parish. During World War I, the Troop combined with that of Victoria Presbyterian, returning to its original sponsor in 1921.

A Cub Pack was formed during that year. This began the development of many later Rovers, King's and Queen's Scouts.

In 1973 the 7th flags were retired and placed in the Chapel. The new colours were destroyed, along with other equipment, by a fire which affected their storage space. In February of 1981, on Baden-Powell Day, the anniversary of the Scout and Guide movement, new flags were dedicated.

During the past year the 7th has been joined by the 71st, formerly sponsored by High Park United Church, along with members of their Group Committee.

The first Brownie Pack was formed in 1939, under the leadership of Mrs. Woolley. It became the 12th Toronto Pack, and three years later the members literally grew into a Guide Company - also 12th Toronto.

The West Division Rangers have used the 12th facilities, continuing to provide leadership in the community and mutual responsibility within the movement.



YOUNG PEOPLE



*Junior Choir Picnic*



*Junior Choir*



*Church Choir*

## THE MUSIC

From time immemorial, music has been the expression of the soul of man, with praise to the Creator reaching the heights of vocal and instrumental sound. The composition and rendition of sacred music have become to the parishioners of St. John's an integral part of their worship.

The first recorded reference to musical participation was made in April, 1887, in the form of a vote of thanks to Mrs. Murray and her choir.

In 1891, a Vocalion, believed to be a reed organ, manufactured by Mason and Risch, was accepted on a trial basis. A decision was made to purchase the instrument, thereby creating a constant problem with payments. The Young People's Guild offered to help and the firm was asked to arrange terms not to exceed ten dollars per month.

Later that year, the People's Warden, Mr. Wright, "complained most grievously of the delay in securing money from the Treasurer of the Young People's Guild for payments on the Vocalion."

It was decided in 1893 to inform Mason and Risch of the inability to keep up the ten-dollar payments. A house-to-house collection was made by the women to reduce the debt. In the meantime, a delegation was directed to look into another type of organ.

Interest in the Choir soared by Easter of 1900, when Messrs. Ward, Smyth and Baker were appointed to "assist in the musical affairs of the Church." Immediately they recommended an expenditure of \$5.00 to buy sheet music. The meeting ended with "a prayer and harmony".

By 1903 Miss Harris was earning \$100 per year as organist, and \$120 as Deaconess. In 1904 the salary of the "organ blower" was increased from \$13.00 to \$20.00 per year.

In the early years the subject of the Choir appeared on nearly every Vestry agenda, not always productively. For example, in 1906, "the subject of choir leader and organist was brought up, but as J.G. Wright had left the papers in his store, the matter could not be dealt with."

In that same year the organist, Mr. Ives, resigned. A committee, including Mr. Wright, was appointed to select a replacement. Mr. Wright stated that "if the responsibility of a new choirmaster were left with him, he would not stand for any complaints".

The 1907 motion to provide vestments for the choir was lost in the lengthy discussion.

The subject of the organ is absent from the records until 1909, when a Vestry report states that "the balance owing on the pipe organ is due, and the church from which the organ was purchased is pressing for the amount of \$450.00".

David Legge has provided information relating to this instrument. It was built by the Lye Organ Co., Toronto. Mr. Lye Sr., played the bells at St. James Cathedral for many years. Air pressure for playing the pipes was provided by volunteers working a pump handle. Usually a choir boy did the pumping, and the choice rested with the one who showed up first. Among the many pumpers are the names of Bob Boyd, Bill Banks, Harvey Bennett, Bruce Hughton, Cyril and Norm Mashinter, Bill Shortt, Cliff and Howard Thompson.

In 1910, the Vestry voted \$200.00 to provide motive power for blowing the pipes. Also, in appreciation for the great strides in achievement, "a grant of fifteen dollars is to be made and set apart to banquet the Choir". By the year 1911, the Women's Guild was able to provide \$250.00 for the installation of a motor. It is said that if Percy MacDonald had run out of gum and string the whole organ would have fallen apart.

In 1923 the organ was moved to its present location. The work was done by the C. Franklin Legge Co., who have been in charge of maintenance, alteration and rebuilding ever since.

1947 saw the replacement of choir pews by Globe Furniture, Kitchener. The pipe organ was rebuilt, using the old pipes and case work, with new working parts. The console was moved from the Epistle side to the Gospel side of the Chancel in 1950.

A set of Warren Organ Co. Trumpets was added in 1953. This set had been made in Woodstock, Ontario, for Augustine Methodist Church, Winnipeg, about 1910.

The twelve 16-foot Trombone pipes came to St. John's by a circuitous route. They belonged originally to a Warren organ, installed in Erskine Methodist Church, Montreal, about 1906. In 1936, this instrument was replaced by a new Legge organ. The Warren organ was purchased by Holy Blossom Temple, Toronto. There it was dismantled in 1956, and the Trombones came to St. John's.

The Chimes, operated from the console, were given in 1961 by Alex Ogden, in memory of Ada Gertrude and Colin Ogden.





## OTHER ADDITIONS TO THE ORGAN

- 1959 - Cleaning, building frames, Swell shutters  
- Casavant Melodia from Renfrew  
- Oboe from Saskatoon, made in the mid-twenties  
- Dulciana and Gamba basses  
- Changing of Celeste
- 1961 - Deagon Chimes from Chicago, no longer available
- 1962 - Replacement of Chancel case  
- New pipes from Heyhusan, Holland  
- Trumpets, made in Germany, from St. George's on the Hill
- 1966 - Choir Organ, in memory of Percy Wicker MacDonald  
- Revoiced Clarinet and new Piccolo
- 1981 - Pedal Dulciana, Breckels and Matthews, 1911, from Parkdale United

The cleaning and repair of the pipe organ system is an ongoing operation. An organ fund exists to provide, through givings or memorials, for periodic servicing, in order to maintain the high quality of a fine instrument.

O sing praises unto His Name  
for it is lovely  
Psalm 135



*Gary Gray at Practice*

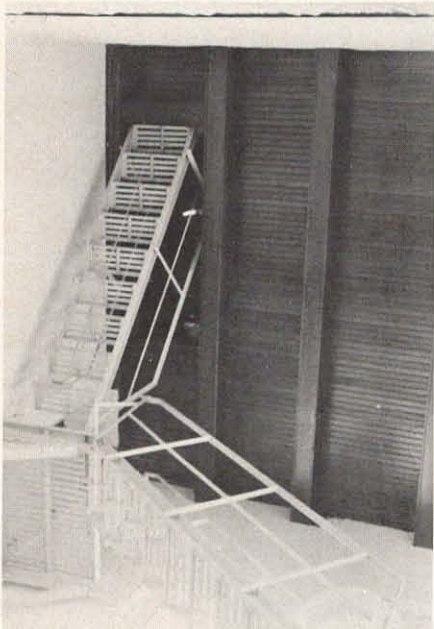


*Ruth Shortt, Chorister for 64 Years*

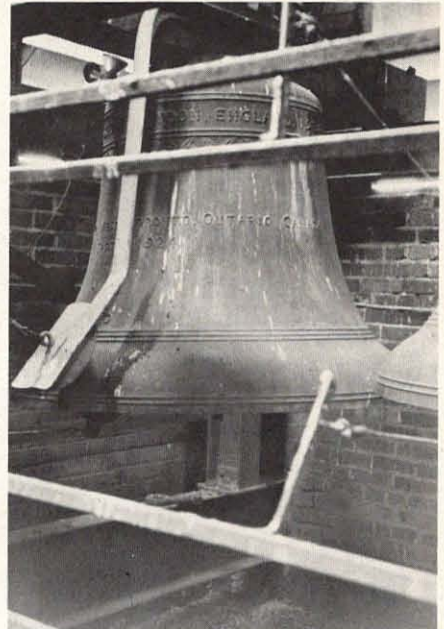
## THE CARILLON

An option in the architect's plans included a belltower to house ten bells. It was decided to follow this plan during construction, and the bells were purchased from England, with the assistance of Dr. Jackson and T.W. Chadburn. The extra footings required used up the budgeted moneys, leaving the Narthex and Gallery to be finished later.

The Carillon was installed in 1924 and dedicated in April. The bells range in size from 50 inches to 18 inches in diameter. The "broom-handle" keys are played by fist or open hand to ring the inside clappers. The outside clappers are operated by an electric clockwork system. The clappers were repaired in 1874, under the supervision of Gordon Slater, now Dominion Carillonneur in Ottawa.



*The Tower Stairway*



*A Croyden Bell*



*Alex Ogden Playing The Bells*

*Percy Wicker MacDonald, F.C.C.M.*

Beloved Organist and Choirmaster from 1923 to 1963. A student of Dr. H.A. Fricker, Percy at sixteen began his musical career at the Advent. During his forty years at St. John's he became known as musician, teacher and composer. His anthems, composed for special occasions, include:  
In My Father's House Are Many Mansions, The Tabernacle Of God, O Praise God In His Holiness.



PERCY AND HIS CHOIR CAPERS CAST



## MORE ON THE BELLS

The Carillon was first heard on Easter Day, April 20, 1924. The bells are classified as carillon because they are so assembled that they can be operated by one person, as opposed to individual change ringing. A modification of change ringing is provided by an electric drum, assuring that the heavy tenor bell finishes the ring change of the other nine.

The bells were cast by Gillett and Johnston, Croydon, England, and arrived in Toronto aboard the S.S. Bosworth. The largest bell weighs 2700 pounds. A companion set is housed in the tower of Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, Buffalo. Over the years, carilloneurs of the two churches have exchanged keyboard recitals.

In 1974, to mark the 50th Anniversary of the installation of the bells, a series of recitals was held each Sunday in September during the noon hour. Homebound churchgoers throughout the area were able to enjoy the stirring tones of the Bells of St. John's.

