

THE STORY OF THE COLOURS

Purple, Yellow & Green!

Really? For the interior of a Church?

Really!



Saturday
May 11, 2002
2 - 11 pm

St. John's
Anglican Church,
West Toronto

288 Humberside Avenue
(across from Humberside Collegiate,
between High Park Avenue and Quebec
Avenue, 2 blocks north of the High Park
subway station)
416-763-2393
www.sjw1.ca



One of the most significant developments in St. John's history has been the installation of the vibrant colours on its walls.

Since the colours debut in May 2002, St. John's has been described as the "technicolor church" or the "Easter Church"

A splash of colour Parish stirs to life

By Carolyn Purdon

We are not a beige congregation." With these words, the congregation of St. John's, West Toronto last year began defining itself through a palette of colours that has resulted in a glorious rebirth of the church's interior.

Painted in purplish-blue,

St. John's building. When the plan went to the two vestries for a vote, however, St. John's approved the union but St. Paul's turned it down. After the decision, St. John's parishioners were tired and dispirited, says Mr. Van der Meer. "A lot of energy had gone into making (the amalgamation) come about," he explains.



The Anglican, June 2002, p. 1

"The process of coming to these colours happened within the existing community of people at St. John's. The place was looking shabby. Someone made the comment, 'We are not a beige congregation.'"

St. John's congregation are:

- A transforming community
- Easter people
- Risk-oriented
- In dialogue with our tradition
- Engaged in the issues of our day

St. John's called upon Stuart Reid, a stained-glass artist and professor of colour theory, for guidance. "What kind of feelings do you want to evoke about being in this space? What can the building tell the community about who you are and what happens here?"

The process of colouring St. John's was driven by harmonizing the church's interior with the key colours that connected the stained-glass windows, purple, yellow, and green, and which reflected the parish's identity

The colouring of St. John's concluded a period of major change for the parish that began in the 1980s:

- Adoption of Book of Alternative Service
- Move of Altar close to the congregation
- Lay involvement in services
- Movable pews to facilitate engagement



To further explore St. John's history on Humberside, visit: sjwt.ca/blog