

150 Years of Christian Witness
1820 - 1970



Church of St. John the Evangelist
(Stamford)

Cover Photograph

The Chalice and Paten given by Bishop Charles James Stewart on his first visit to the parish of St. John the Evangelist (Stamford) are symbolic of the "Communion of Saints" in this parish. The "Blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ" offered to us today, was offered in this same vessel by the Reverend William Leeming to the founders of this parish. Buildings are erected and are later removed to make way for larger ones, rectors follow in orderly succession, but the Communion taken from the Chalice of the first congregation is the link binding us to our past.



Inscription on Paten

This Paten and Chalice
were presented by
Charles James, Bishop of Quebec
to the
Church of St. John the Evangelist
at Stamford U.C.
A.D. 1829

Introduction

The story of a parish can be told from many points of view. We have chosen to try to relate to the people of St. John's rather than to the buildings they built for worship. Both are important, and a later section tells the story of the buildings over the 150 years, but the main story line follows the people, and the rectors they have chosen to serve them over the years.

As we follow this approach, the history of the parish divides into three distinct periods. From 1820 to 1902, - from the time of Rev. Leeming to Canon Bull - St. John's was joined with Holy Trinity, Chippawa and All Saints (formerly St. Georges) Drummondville sharing the services of rectors and curates among the pioneer congregations. From 1902 to 1951, - from Canon Motherwell to Canon Walker, - St. John's was the parish church of the Village of Stamford, having its own rector and reflecting the life of the rural area on the northern outskirts of Niagara Falls. Since 1952 the parish has resembled many other suburban parishes with fantastic growth in members, new church and hall buildings, and all the glories and problems of growth. But unlike most parishes we resemble on the surface, we have roots which go deep into the soil of the Niagara Peninsula.

My dear people of the Family of St. John's:

As your Rector I am happy to join with you in the celebrations to mark the 150th Anniversary of the founding of the parish.

From the pioneers who helped to found the parish, down to the children of today, the grace of God has been working as generation after generation has knelt in worship and has gone out into the world stronger and better because of their membership in the family of St. John's.

As we prepare to observe this Anniversary we can clearly see the links that bind the past to the present and then point us to the future.

We look back in thanksgiving, we work and worship together in fellowship, and we look forward in hope.

May God help and guide us in our life together.

Sincerely in His Service,

G. Nelson Standish.

"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven." Ecclesiastes Chapter 3, Verse 1.



Diocese of Niagara

THE RIGHT REVEREND WALTER E. BAGNALL, D.D., D.C.L.
BISHOP

THE BISHOP'S ROOM
NIAGARA CHURCH HOUSE
67 VICTORIA AVE. SOUTH
HAMILTON

April 10, 1970.

To the Congregation of
The Church of St. John the Evangelist (Stamford),
Niagara Falls, Ontario.

My dear Friends:

I am very happy to have the opportunity of writing a brief message for your anniversary booklet. I am all the more grateful for the opportunity of doing so because of the significance of this anniversary (one hundred and fifty years of life, witness and service).

As you prepare to give thanks to God for all His blessings during the century and a half of your existence, I send you my heartiest congratulations and my blessing. I know your hearts are filled with thanksgiving for all you have been permitted to do and be during your long history.

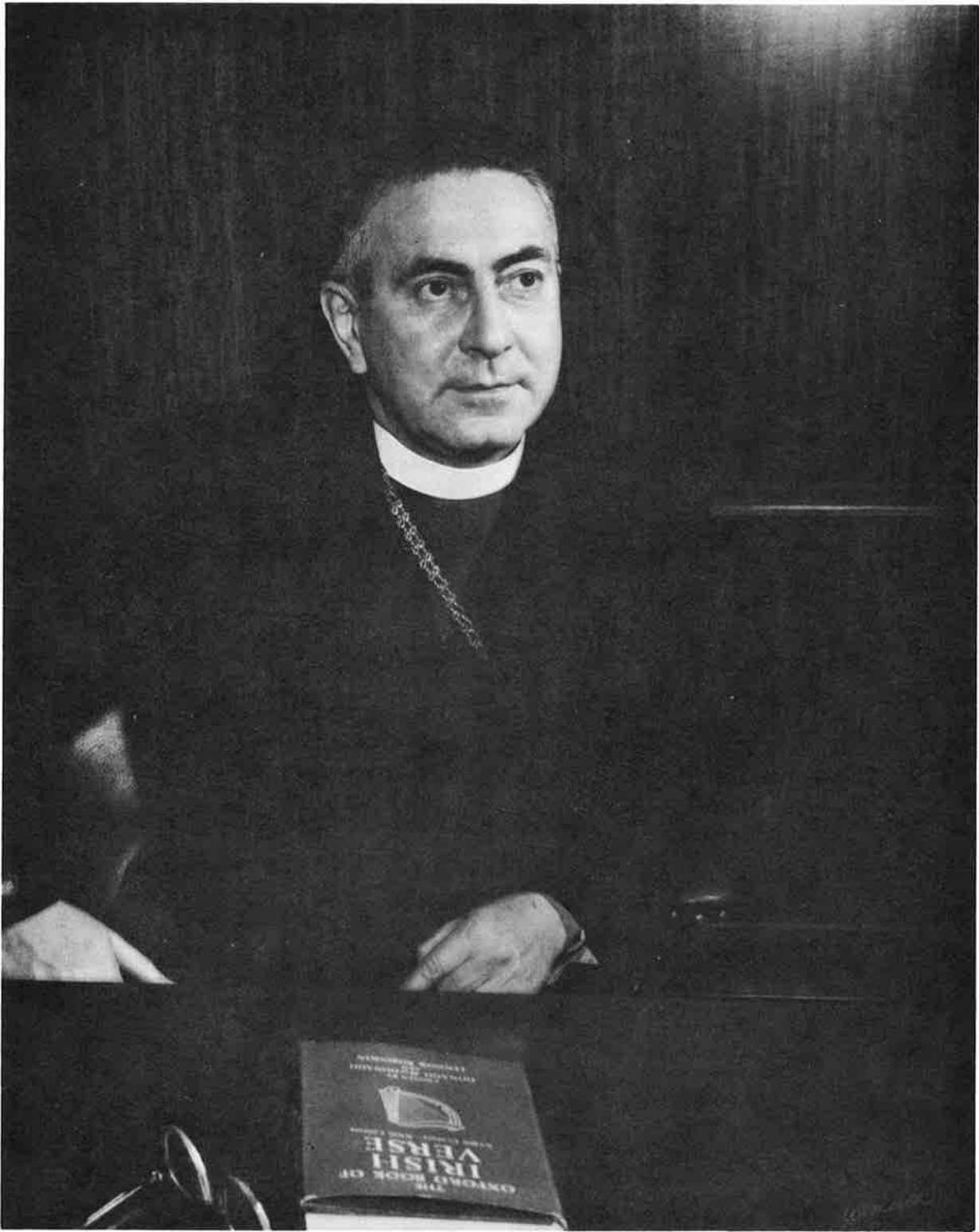
From the pioneers who helped to found the parish, down to the children of today, the grace of God has been working, and generation after generation has knelt in worship and then gone out into the world stronger and better because of their membership in the family of the Church of St. John the Evangelist.

As you celebrate the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of your birthday, you will, I know, look back in thanksgiving and then look forward in hope. Opportunities will be crowding in upon you and I know that clergy and people alike will be eager to seize them.

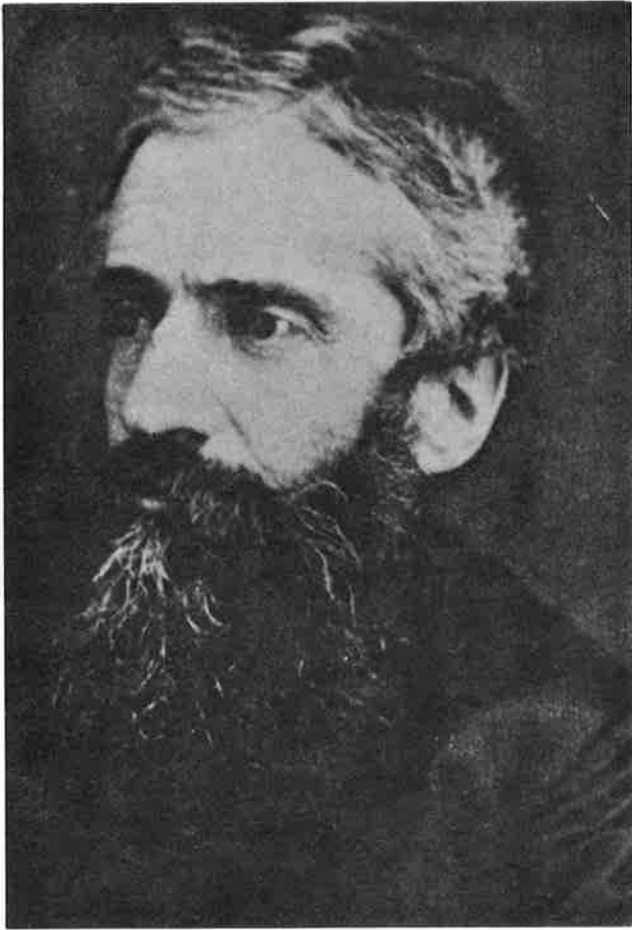
That God may continue to bless you in the future as He has done so abundantly in the past, and that you may continue to be faithful to your vocation is my earnest prayer.

Your friend and Bishop,

Walter E. Bagnall



The Right Reverend Walter E. Bagnall, D.D., D.C.L., Bishop



REVEREND CHARLES LEYCESTER INGLES, M.A.

Rev. Charles Ingles was born in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia in 1822, into the family of Rev. C. L. Ingles. He was ordained by Bishop Strachan of Toronto, July 30, 1848 and immediately came to the parish of Chip-pawa to minister during the illness of Rev. Wm. Leeming. He remained as curate and was appointed rector of St. John's, Stamford and All Saints, Niagara Falls on the death of Mr. Leeming in 1863. On Aug. 26, 1851 he married Jemima, daughter of General George Murray, a man prominent in the early life of Niagara Falls. Mr. Ingles and his father-in-law were instrumental in building All Saints Church. He died Nov. 3, 1885 in his 64th year and was buried in All Saints Churchyard.

in 1825 as the date-stone suggests, but owing, perhaps, to the difficulties of travel, services were not held regularly.

On September 28, 1825 the Lord Bishop of Quebec, the Honourable Charles James Stewart, making one of his arduous trips into the western part of his Diocese, consecrated the church to be known as the "Church of St. John the Evangelist" with the Reverend William Leeming as rector.

Reports dated August, 1842, refer to a newly-formed "Church Diocesan Society" and names appearing in the reports include those of clergy, military and other citizens. One of the main objects of the Society seemed to be the formation of a library to be located in the Church and for many years the annual reports included references to money expended for books or materials to repair them. From a subscription list, we may assume that a bell costing £25.10.0½ was procured sometime between 1832-1845.

There is no record of Vestry meetings or other data for the period 1825-1845, but it is believed that, in the early years, a piano was used to accompany the choir. Minutes of a Vestry meeting held Easter, 1845, read that the Rev. T. B. Fuller and Mrs. Fuller pre-

sented, for the use of the choir, a seraphine, an early style organ "which it is earnestly hoped under Divine Blessing, will be the means of inducing every member of the congregation who can, to join in singing to the Praise and Glory of God."

The Reverend Charles Leycester Ingles was appointed Curate in 1848 to assist the Reverend William Leeming who had been suffering from a lengthy illness. Mr. Ingles continued to serve the parish after the rector's health was restored, although in 1857 he announced he would resign as curate unless his salary was increased. Recorded in minutes of a Vestry meeting in 1850 are the names of "Pew Holders" and "Holders of Sittings."

"Pew Holders" apparently paid a substantial sum for the lifetime privilege of reserving a box pew suitable for a whole family. "Holders of Sittings" paid one penny each per year to reserve a seat. Only Pew Holders and Holders of Sittings were eligible to vote at Vestry meetings. There is no record of the date at which pew payments were discontinued. A stone font was presented to the Church by Issabella Stewart in 1850 and it is noted that the font was "executed by W. Cole Statuary of the Village." In 1851, reward books were purchased for Sunday School children

and it is recorded that a cask of books from friends in England was lost when the vessel in which they were shipped was sunk in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. So that the Church could be "kept tidy" the Churchwarden decided, in 1853, to move the Sunday School to his home.

In 1857 there appears in the minute books the first reference about the salary of rector or curate. A subscription list was begun to increase the curate's stipend.

Attention should be drawn to the fact that the Parish of St. John's is one of the very few in this Diocese that is in receipt of an annual income from an Endowment Fund. This fund had been created from monies received from the sale of land in Collingwood Township, given to this Church by Mrs. R. H. Dee in 1845; also from the sale of local lands in Stamford Township of Lots 72, 88, 89 and 106 of the Clergy Reserves. This money forms a capital account invested in the Synod of Niagara and the interest of which provides part of the stipend of the rector.

There are notations of several changes in the form of Church furnishings in the 1860-1970 period.

The Rector, Rev. William Leeming, who had served the parish for forty-three years died in 1863 and the

Curate, Rev. C. L. Ingles, was appointed Rector of St. John's and All Saints' Drummondville (now Niagara Falls). The parish of Holy Trinity, Chippawa, had been set apart in the meantime and its rector also served Christ Church, Clifton, now known as Niagara Falls.

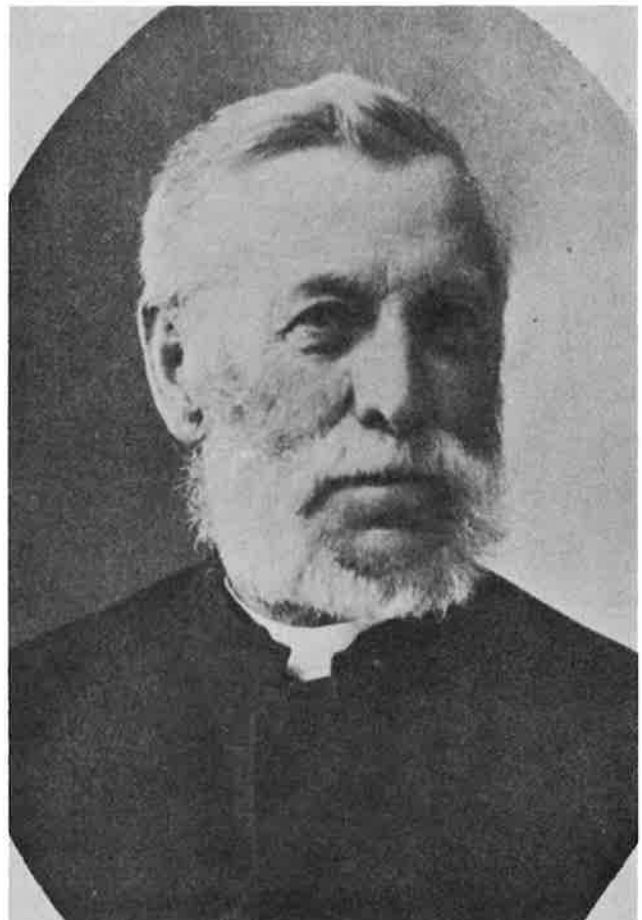
In 1864, the death occurred of John Mewburn, M.D., Rector's Warden and lay delegate for over twenty years. In tribute to Mr. Leeming and Mr. Mewburn, two beautiful memorial windows were erected in 1865 by subscription of friends and parishioners. Through a bequest of Dr. Mewburn, an addition was made to the cemetery which was consecrated in 1869. Originally in the Diocese of Quebec, St. John's was later under the direction of the Bishop of the Diocese of Toronto. It became necessary to divide the Diocese of Toronto in 1875, so a new Diocese was formed in March of that year and named Niagara.

It was during this period of change that the choir, which had occupied the gallery of the Church, was moved to the nave and the font moved from in front of the Communion rail to near the entrance of the Church where folding doors had been installed. Three more memorial windows were installed, one in memory of Mrs. J. W. H. Stewart, one to the memory of Mrs. John Mewburn, and the third to "Commemorate

REVEREND GEORGE ARMSTRONG BULL, M.A.

Canon Bull was born in Dublin, Ireland, May 16, 1828 and came as an infant to Canada. He was educated at Dean Geddes' school for boys in connection with Christ's Church Cathedral in Hamilton and later studied in Cobourg and Toronto. He was ordained by Bishop Strachan in Toronto in 1852 but served his ministry entirely in Niagara and principally at two parishes. He was at Barton and Glanford parishes near Hamilton for 32 years and at St. John's Stamford and All Saint's Niagara Falls for 17 years, from 1885 to 1902. He retired from the active ministry in May, 1902 and returned to Hamilton where he died July 21st, 1909 in his 82nd year.

Canon Bull was a noted historian and the founder and first president of the Lundy's Lane Historical Society. He was also president of the Ontario Historical Society from 1894 to 1897.





Churchyard about 1910 — Alfred Lusignan, Caretaker

the Liberality of Robert Henry Dee and Elizabeth Dee, his wife." The Dee window replaced the former "East" window that had been damaged by wind. Parishioners had requested that evening services be held occasionally, so a "Lamp Fund" was started in 1879 to procure lighting fixtures and there appears in yearly accounts payment for coal-oil and lamps.

A parcel of land immediately to the south of the existing church land was given to St. John's in 1882 by Mrs. Harrison Chilton Mewburn, with the express wish that a Sunday School building be erected. A few years later another parcel of land was given by Mr. H. C. Mewburn for rectory purposes. This addition completed quite a large block of land for the parish.

The Rector, Rev. C. L. Ingles, passed away in 1885 and replacing him was Canon George Armstrong Bull. Canon Bull appointed his son, Rev. George Burland Bull, as his Curate. Two lay readers were also appointed: Harrison C. Mewburn and Francis Mewburn.

More changes were made in the interior of the Church and a new organ was acquired. Records show that the Communion table was made over at a cost of \$6.38 and panelling was installed in the Chancel.

The first Rectory was built in 1888.

The year 1887 saw the beginning of an organization in the Diocese of Ottawa of a "Woman's Auxiliary to the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society" — a part of the Church of England in Canada. The name was changed in 1902 to the "W.A. of the M.S.C.C." The idea of this great missionary work spread rapidly throughout the Country and in September, 1892, a branch was formed at St. John's through the efforts of Mrs. R. H. Archer, wife of the

curate, who was the first president. The main object of the W.A., as the name implies, was to encourage and assist missionaries and missions in Canada and elsewhere throughout the world. This branch has always done more than its share of this type of work and has also assumed responsibilities for work within the parish.

The Curate, Rev. G. B. Bull, left St. John's in 1892 to accept a charge in Buffalo, N.Y. and he was succeeded by the Rev. Robert Henry Archer, who, with his family, occupied the rectory which had been rented for some time, while the rector continued to reside at All Saints' Rectory.

It might be of interest to note that the following is taken from the Service Register, March 25, 1894 — Easter Day: "Service at Quarries, 5 p.m. present 15, R. H. Archer, Officiant." The Quarries referred to are those known now as Queenston Quarries Limited. The men employed at the Quarry lived in a boarding house where Divine services were held from time to time.

The year 1902 brought many changes in the Parish. Canon G. A. Bull, after fifty years of active ministry, and in declining health, found it necessary to resign. With the growth in population in the entire community, it now seemed the time for the division to be made between St. John's and All Saints' and Valley Way was agreed upon as the dividing point.



St. John's - Parish Church of the Village of Stamford, 1902 - 1952

The decision to establish St. John's as a separate parish coincided with the resignation of Canon Bull as Rector of St. John's and All Saints' in 1902. The Reverend Thomas Motherwell was appointed Rector of St. John's only, and he and his wife and family occupied the rectory, he being the first resident rector to do so. With Mr. Motherwell's appointment, a new set of Parish Registers was begun. A branch of the Junior Woman's Auxiliary was formed — a successor to the Ministering Children's League which had been idle for some years, and about this time St. John's was presented with an organ as a memorial to Mr. and Mrs. James Marsh by their family.

The summer of 1914 saw the beginning of World War One. Among those from St. John's who volunteered their services was Cordelia Margaret Motherwell, the youngest daughter of the Rector. She served as a Nursing Sister and, for valiant service in England and France, was decorated by King George V with the Royal Red Cross.

In September, 1916, Mr. Motherwell (who had recently been made a Canon) retired after forty-four years of ministry and moved to Montreal where he died early in 1917. Reverend Canon Charles Edwin Belt was appointed to St. John's and to St. Saviour's Queenston. With the added responsibility of afternoon services at Queenston, the Rector requested that St. John's Sunday School be held in the mornings as he felt it his duty to assist in the young people's

REVEREND THOMAS MOTHERWELL, B.A.

The Reverend Thomas Motherwell was born in Ireland but was educated at Bishop's College, Lennoxville, Quebec and ordained on Trinity Sunday, 1873 by the Bishop of Montreal. After serving briefly in a missionary parish in the Diocese of Montreal, he came to southern Ontario in 1887 serving at Grimsby and Dunnville before coming to St. John's, May 31, 1902. He ministered in this parish until 1916 when he returned to Montreal in retirement. He died there February 5, 1917.

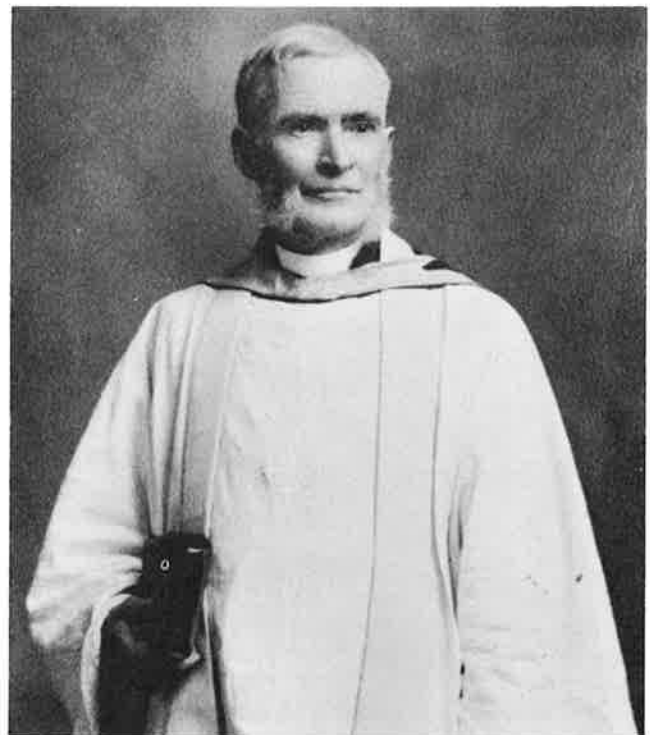


A Parish Picnic

Christian education. Previously the Sunday School had been held in the afternoon.

In 1917 a branch of the A.Y.P.A. was formed with twenty members. One of the first acts of this new organization was to donate \$27 to the Red Cross for war work. The money was raised at a concert given at John Marshall School (SS#4). A gift of \$100 was given in 1918 to help retire the debt on the church, and later a lantern was donated to the Sunday School.

The women of the parish were officially encouraged to attend Vestry meetings in 1917 and they have





REVEREND CHARLES EDWIN BELT, M.A.

The Reverend Charles Belt was born in Scarborough in 1862 and was educated at Bishop's College, Lennoxville, Quebec and Trinity College, Toronto. He taught briefly at Bishop's and studied for an M.A. at Trinity. Ordained in the Diocese of Niagara in 1888 he served his ministry in this Diocese at Harriston, Stoney Creek and Ancaster before coming to St. John's in 1916. He was made a Canon of Christ's Church Cathedral and served St. John's and St. Saviour's Queenston until 1926. He died at St. John's rectory on October 25, 1926 -- his silver wedding anniversary -- and is buried in Toronto.

been a welcome addition ever since.

The year 1920 marked the Centennial Anniversary of the founding of the Parish of St. John the Evangelist. Special services were undoubtedly held but nothing was recorded in the service register to mark this event.

In 1922 a Guild was formed from among the women of the parish, whose particular concern was work within the parish. The Woman's Auxiliary focused their attention on the mission field but it was thought that the area of parish work offered challenges. One of the early tasks undertaken by the Guild was the making of cassocks and surplices for the young boys who were to join the junior choir. In later years the Guild was inactive, but was revived in 1938 and continued actively until it merged with the Woman's Auxiliary in 1968 to form a local branch of the Anglican Church Women.

The Centennial of the building of the church was celebrated in 1925 with special services and events. A special appeal was launched in the parish for \$500 to be used for renovations to the church building. Programmes of the Centennial Service of Worship are in the hands of many present members of the parish.

In October, 1926, Canon Charles E. Belt died after a lengthy illness and was buried in Toronto. The Reverend William Lawrence Archer was appointed to St. John's and assumed charge on January 1, 1927. Mr. Archer was the son of the Rev. R. H. Archer who

had been a curate here under Canon Bull a number of years before. St. Saviour's, Queenston, which had been under the care of Canon Belt when he was Rector of St. John's, was returned to the charge of the Rector of Christ Church, Niagara Falls, and Mr. Archer had charge of St. John's only.

On Friday, September 28, 1928, the 100th Anniversary of the Consecration of the Church was observed. A special service was held at 10:00 a.m. and after the service all flowers used in decorations were placed on the graves of early parishioners. Celebrations continued on the Sunday, Harvest Thanksgiving, with the Lord Bishop of the Diocese, the Right Reverend Derwyn T. Owen as preacher. Also present were Rev. Gordon Hern, Rev. C. H. E. Smith and Rev. E. Brillinger.

Several organizations were formed or revived in the next five years: the First Stamford Boy Scout Troop; A.Y.P.A.; Little Helpers, and an Altar Guild directed by Miss M. J. Cullimore. Sunday School picnics were held at Brock's Monument during this period.

Under the Rev. W. L. Archer many improvements and additions were made to the hangings and decorations of the church and the accompanying picture shows the Sanctuary decorated for Christmas.

The parish was shocked in September, 1931, to hear of the passing of Mr. Archer, who died in Toronto while attending sessions of the General Synod.



Chancel at Christmas

He was buried in St. John's Churchyard with military honours.

Mr. Archer was succeeded by the Reverend Albert Henry Walker who commenced his duties at Advent, 1931. It had been evident for some time that St. John's was sorely in need of accommodation for the growing Sunday School and for group meetings which were becoming too large to be held in private homes. Soon after Mr. Walker's induction this general concern was focused on definite plans for the building of a parish hall. The wardens were able to arrange for a loan of \$2000 from the Synod office and a mortgage of \$2500 locally. In the spring of 1932 the carriage shed was razed and excavations were made for the hall. Credit must be given to Mr. William Scott who took leave of absence from his place of employment and who was planner and chief carpenter for the erection of the hall. With the added assistance of many, many others of the congregation who gave of their labour and materials so freely, the



Senior Choir

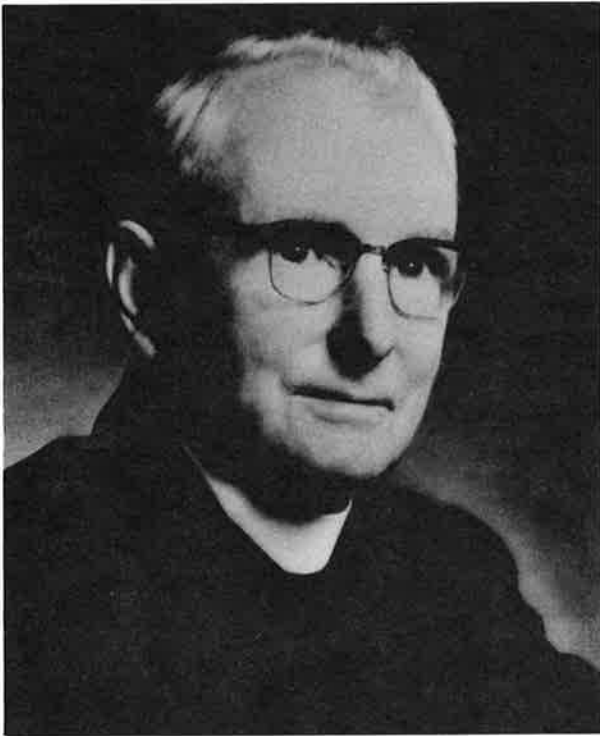
building was completed by the autumn. It was decided then to raze the rectory barn and build a two-car garage, and the grounds were graded and a driveway made to encircle the hall.

The period of the 1930's — the great depression — was a time of expanding parish activity. Active groups were in existence for young and old alike and much of their programme centred around the new parish hall. Dances, plays, concerts and suppers were regularly held in the hall and strawberry socials on Stamford Green were an annual event. Much of the work of the groups was pointed toward reducing the indebtedness incurred when the parish hall was built. These were financially perilous times for St. John's as they were for most parishes. It took the active participation of all groups, as well as the best efforts of the recently formed Advisory Board, to keep the parish solvent. Nevertheless, in 1933, when a nationwide appeal was launched for assistance to recoup the dreadful losses sustained in Western Canadian

REVEREND WILLIAM LAWRENCE ARCHER, M.A.

The Reverend William Archer was born in London, Ontario, the son of the Reverend R. H. Archer — a former curate of St. John's, Stamford. He was educated at Ridley College, St. Catharines and Trinity College, Toronto, and was ordained in 1907. After appointments in several parishes and special missionary offices, he joined the Chaplaincy Service in 1915 and saw service in England and France, being invalided home on Armistice Day, 1918. He was Chaplain at Ridley College in 1919 and was Rector at St. James, Hamilton, St. John's, Port Dalhousie, and St. John's, Thorold, before coming to St. John's, Stamford in 1927. His death came suddenly on September 18, 1931 while he was attending General Synod in Toronto. He is buried in St. John's (Stamford) Churchyard.





REVEREND ALBERT HENRY WALKER

The Reverend Albert Walker, another St. John's rector who was born in Ireland, was educated at Wycliffe College, University of Toronto and was ordained on May 30th, 1915. He enlisted as a private in the Canadian Infantry, transferred to the Royal Naval Air Service and served overseas as a Flight Lieutenant until 1920. He served at the parishes of St. Thomas's and Grace Church, St. Catharines before coming to St. John's Stamford in 1931. While active at St. John's he also served as chaplain of the Lincoln and Welland regiment and for many years as a member of the Stamford Board of Education. He was made a Canon of Christ's Church Cathedral in 1951 and retired from St. John's in 1952. He resides with his wife at 2971 Thorold Road and remains active as Honorary Assistant at St. Martins Church.

Dioceses, the people of St. John's found it in their hearts to support their more unfortunate brothers and contributed generously to this appeal. St. John's Women's Auxiliary, without reducing its other commitments, went the second mile in packing bales of clothing for the drought-stricken areas of the prairies.

1939 saw the outbreak of the Second World War in Europe and the men and women of St. John's were soon leaving in uniforms of all the services. The active chapter of the A.Y.P.A. was severely reduced in numbers but most other organizations remained active with particular emphasis on war work and civil defence.

The year 1945 marked the end of the war and also the 120th anniversary of the building of the church. Among the month-long celebrations to mark this milestone was the visit, on Sunday, October 7, of His Honour, the Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario, Albert E. Matthews, Mrs. Matthews and their official party.

Mr. Matthews read the Lesson at the morning service and later perused the prayer book of his predecessor in office, Sir Peregrine Maitland. This prayer book is still preserved in the Rector's study.

In 1950 a new electronic organ was purchased as a memorial to the men of the parish who had given their lives in the two World Wars. It replaced the Marsh Memorial organ which had been in use since 1914. The plaque from the Marsh organ was placed on the new instrument to preserve the connection with the previous gift. Another addition to the church furnishings in 1952 was a second Sanctuary chair provided by a bequest from the estate of Miss Sarah Ann Badger.

In January, 1952, the Reverend A. H. Walker, who had been made a Canon of Christ's Church Cathedral the previous year, resigned after twenty years as rector of the parish. The Reverend William H. Simpson was chosen to succeed him and was inducted as our rector in April, 1952.



Anniversary Service 1945



Wedding in Old Church

St. John's and the Building Boom, 1952 - 1970

By the time of the induction of the Reverend William Simpson as Rector of St. John's, it had become obvious that a period of change was upon us. Post-war housing sub-divisions were in full swing and the Stamford area was the suburb of Niagara Falls with the greatest growth. Extra Sunday services were scheduled at St. John's to cope with the influx of new parishioners. Changes were made to the parish hall, including a new heating plant, but facilities for existing organizations, plus the newly-organized Chi-Rho, Cub pack, and Men's Club as a Chapter of the B.A.C. were obviously inadequate. The Sunday School was suffering the most inconvenience from over-crowding, but somehow plans for a new church received priority.

Various alternatives were investigated involving renovations to the existing buildings. Early plans featured a church addition at right angles to the old church, using the old church as the sanctuary of the new complex. Suggestions involving raising the roof of the parish hall were checked out and Wardens and Building Committee members visited churches all over the Niagara Peninsula searching for ideas. It was a busy time for all, with new parishioners to be greeted at almost every church service and group meeting.

In 1955 it was decided to engage the Wells Organization to conduct a canvass to raise funds for the necessary expansion. As a result of this campaign an

increase in contributions of approximately \$20,000 was recorded in the first year. With this result in hand, the prospect of financing expansion was assured and plans for a new church were hastened to completion. The names of the Wardens and Building Committee members recur in the records of this period; names like Cecil Hall, Morris Matthews, Frank Goulding, Albert Hamer, Douglas Marshall, Borden Davis, William Dallman, Alex MacDonald, Conway and Mrs. Moore, Stanley Brown and J. E. Higgins. At the Vestry meeting in January, 1957, Mr. Cecil Hall, Chairman of the Building Committee, reported that consent had been received from Diocesan authorities to proceed with the construction and on March 31, 1957, the first sod was turned.

Under the supervision of Alan Plato, General Foreman of Newman Construction Company, the Church was made ready for dedication on December 4, 1957. Although the planning and building of the new church dominated the decade of the fifties, all organizations within the church were active. An Altar Guild was re-formed in 1954 at the suggestion of the Rector, and the Servers' Guild and Junior Choirs were expanded. The Rector was active throughout the community speaking of his missionary experiences and making St. John's better known throughout the expanding municipality.

In January, 1959, Mr. Simpson was appointed

REVEREND WILLIAM HERBERT SIMPSON, B.A., B.D.

The Reverend William Simpson was born in Regina, Saskatchewan, July 23rd, 1914. He received his early education in Calgary, Alberta and Port Hope, Ontario and graduated from University College, University of Toronto in Arts and in Theology from Wycliffe College. He was ordained in China, May 3rd, 1942 and served the missionary diocese of Honan until 1949. On his return to Canada he served as Rector of Trinity Church, Durham before coming to St. John's (Stamford) in the spring of 1952. Since 1959 he has been Rector of St. Stephen on the Mount in Hamilton where he and his family live at 294 Upper Wentworth Street.





REVEREND ROBERT JOHN BLACKWELL, B.A., L.Th.

The Reverend Robert Blackwell was born in Simcoe, Ontario in 1926 and is a graduate of Trinity College, University of Toronto. He was ordained in June 1952 at Christ's Church Cathedral, Hamilton and served as curate at St. George's, Guelph and as Rector of St. David's, Welland before coming to St. John's, Stamford, April 1, 1959. He accepted the appointment to St. Luke's Burlington in 1967 and lives with his wife and family at 1382 Ontario St., Burlington.

Rector of the Church of St. Stephen on the Mount and moved with his family to Hamilton. In the interval before a new rector was appointed Sunday services were conducted by laymen of the parish.

The Reverend Robert Blackwell was invited to leave nearby St. David's parish in Welland and was inducted as our rector on April 1, 1959. Later this same year, notice was received that St. John's was one of the many beneficiaries of the estate of a former parishioner and warden, George E. Russell. This bequest, amounting to over \$60,000 enabled the parish to retire the debt on the church building and proceed with plans for a new parish hall and rectory. Property was acquired on Frances Street and the new rector and his family moved into the new rectory before Christmas, 1959.

The official opening of the rectory was held as an "openhouse" in January, 1960 with the Reverend G. N. Standish, then Rural Dean, officiating.

With a new church building and rectory completed and dedicated, attention turned to the provision of an enlarged parish hall. At a special Vestry meeting on March 5, 1961, Morris Matthews reported that tenders had been called and that the Dominion Construction Company Ltd. of Niagara Falls had been awarded the contract for demolishing the old hall and erecting the new one. This construction dominated the life of the parish during 1961. The official opening was held on February 7, 1962 with Bishop Bagnall celebrating the Communion service, along with the Rector and former Rectors Reverend William Simpson and Canon A. H. Walker. In recognition of the generosity of Mr. Russell, the meeting room in the new hall was designated as "The George Russell Room" and a suitable plaque was placed on the door.

As a thank offering for the good fortune St. John's had enjoyed in being able to build a new church and

rectory within a period of six years, a gift of \$2000 was sent to the Diocese of Cariboo later in 1961.

Advisory board and Vestry meetings in this period were concerned with problems of the proper use of the new hall. The Primate's World Relief Fund was also widely discussed and supported as a means of providing help in areas of natural disaster or other trouble throughout the world. The support that this fund has received from St. John's over the years has been an example to other parishes in the Niagara Diocese.

In 1963 amalgamation was approved in the area and Stamford Township became a part of the city of Niagara Falls. At the vestry meeting it was decided to retain "Stamford" in the Church's name.

Much of the activity of St. John's in 1963 centered around the Anglican World Congress. Several parishioners attended meetings of the Congress and a large group of delegates had dinner and celebrated Evensong with us while visiting Niagara Falls. Archbishop Beecher of East Africa spoke on August 25 and on September 15 a Service of Witness for all Anglican Churches in the area was held at the Niagara Falls Arena. Later in the Fall Bishop Sabiti of Uganda and Bishop Sadig of Nagpur, India spent some time in the parish living with members and participating in services and meetings. The year 1963 also saw the introduction of the New Curriculum in the Church School. St. John's was chosen as one of the test parishes and all of our teachers under W. H. Dalman, John Donaldson, George Allen, Jr., William Mujir and J. E. Patchett have struggled to help the children and young people understand the principals and purposes of the Christian Life. As part of this new approach a parish Christian Education Committee was formed under William Honeyford and later Michael Steed. This group has remained active in adult Christian



W.A. 70th Anniversary - 1962



Volleyball or J.A. ?



Congregation — Full Church



Scouts — Awards Night

Education, sponsoring study groups, special programmes and joint studies with Stamford United Church on Church Union. This year, although the old church was deconsecrated, the decision was made not to demolish the building but to hope and pray for funds in the future to restore it to its original form. In the meantime the Lundy's Lane Historical Society was given permission to use the building for storage and display of material, as well as for meetings.

Early in 1964, in an attempt to provide a meeting place for the area young people, dances were sponsored in the hall. These progressed to regular events sponsored by various Hi-Y and Fraternity groups at which attendance was sometimes unbelievable. Robert Gale, who became People's Warden in 1966, represented the Church at these dances.

Evensong was sung for the last time as a regular service in this year. Its passing was mourned by many parishioners, very few of whom had recently attended. Also, during this year, gifts of \$200 each were sent to Archbishop Beecher, Bishop Sabiti and Bishop Sadig in appreciation of their visits the previous year.

Under the leadership of Mr. Owen Swayze, choir director, and Mrs. Swayze, organist, the choir and congregation were introduced to the Folk Mass in 1965 — a new setting for the Holy Communion Service along with new hymn tunes. The choir participated in Communion Services using the Folk Mass, in Port Colborne and Hamilton — including a special youth service in the Cathedral.

The end of austerity arrived in 1966 with the padding of kneelers in the church. Plans were also started for an inventory of the churchyard after an offer was received from the Cemetery Department of the City of Niagara Falls to maintain St. John's Cemetery.

In September, St. John's was happy to welcome Canon C. Gray Eakins as associate priest. He had recently retired as Rector of St. Stephen's parish in Niagara Falls and undertook to help with visiting and hospital calls, as well as regular services.

Canada's Centennial year opened in St. John's with a farewell to Rev. Robert Blackwell and his family who moved to St. Luke's parish in Burlington. His nine years at St. John's had seen the consolidation of the post war expansion with all the new facilities in constant use. Canon Eakins carried on all the duties of rector until Reverend Malcolm Evans accepted the invitation of the parochial committee and came to be our rector in March from St. Hilda's, Oakville. The summer saw Tim Belford in Antigua as part of a World Mission programme.

The year 1968 was Mr. Evans' only full year at St. John's. His wife Ursula, and Mrs. J. N. Long headed an Anglican Church Women's project to form a Co-operative Nursery School in the area. Tim Belford returned to the Caribbean this summer as a leader on the World Mission work tour.

Years of discussion regarding the place of women in the church led to the formation of an all-encompassing organization called the Anglican Church Women (A.C.W.) this year. The A.C.W. incorporated the Woman's Auxiliary, the Guilds, and other groups and functions of women in the life of the Church. Mrs. R. Oakes was the first president of the A.C.W. at St. John's and presided over this difficult period of reorganization.

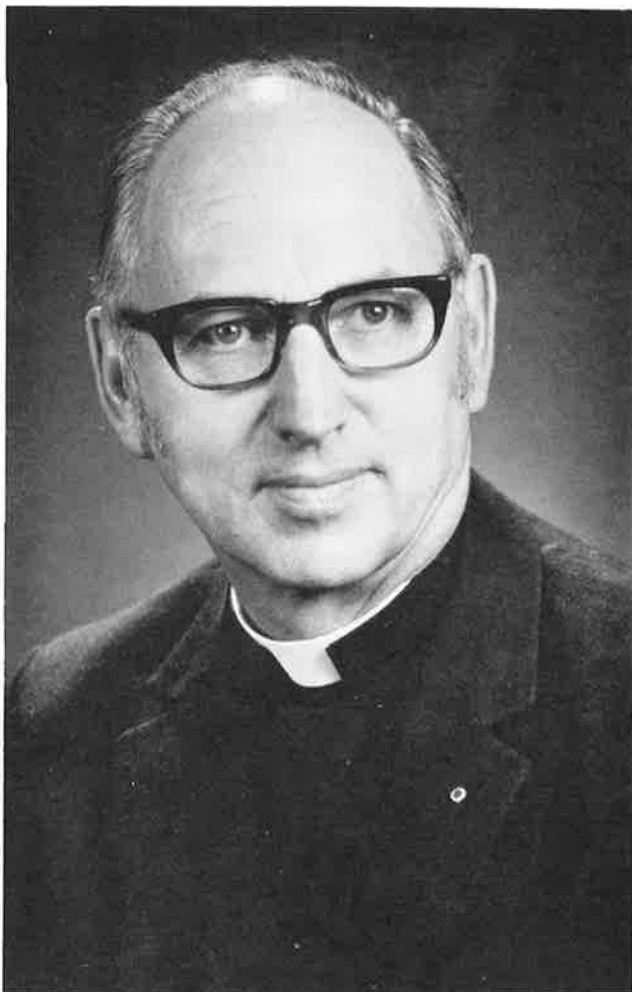
Changes in the administrative structure of the Anglican Church of Canada left vacant the position of Director of Planning and Programmes for the Diocese of Niagara in early 1969. Our Rector, Reverend Malcolm Evans, was appointed to this important position. Canon Eakins was again called upon to look after the parish until a new rector could be appointed. In June, the Reverend Canon Granville Nelson Standish was persuaded to leave St. James' Church in Port Colborne and take over the charge of St. John's (Stamford). It was at Canon Standish's suggestion that the Sesqui-centennial of St. John's be celebrated throughout the year of 1970 and that this story of the life of the parish be written.

REVEREND MALCOM CHARLES EVANS, B.A.

The Reverend Malcom Evans, son of the late Bishop of Ontario, was born in Norwich, England in 1932 but educated in Canada, attending Bishop's College School in Lennoxville, Quebec, Queens University in Kingston. He returned to England to study theology at Cambridge University. He was ordained in 1961 by his father and served as curate at St. John's Thorold and rector of St. Hilda's, Oakville prior to his appointment as Rector of St. John's, Stamford March 1, 1967. He is presently Director of Planning and Programmes for the Diocese of Niagara, and lives with his wife and three children in Hamilton.



OUR PRESENT CLERGY



REVEREND GRANVILLE NELSON STANDISH
B.A., L.Th.

The Reverend Canon Standish was born in Sullon Junction, Quebec, Sept. 14, 1916, was educated in Quebec schools and graduated from McGill in Arts and Montreal Diocesan College in Theology. He was ordained in Montreal in 1943 and left to serve parishes in Alberta and Athabaska until 1950. He returned to the Diocese of Montreal until 1954 and came to Niagara Diocese — St. James, Merritton — that year. Before coming to St. John's, Stamford, in June, 1969, he served eleven years as rector of St. James, Port Colborne. Canon Standish occupies the St. John's Rectory with Florence and Tim and frequently one or more of the three girls home for a visit.



THE REVEREND CANON C. GRAY EAKINS,
C.D., M.A.

Canon Eakins was born in Belleville, Ont., and received his early education in various communities. After serving as a gunner in the First World War, he entered the University of Toronto, graduating with a B.A. degree and a diploma in Theology from Wycliffe College. Subsequently, he received his M.A. from King's College, Nova Scotia.

Ordained Deacon in Yukon, he served in various parishes in Toronto and Ontario Dioceses, coming to Niagara as Chaplain of Ridley College and next as Rector of Holy Trinity, Welland. In June, 1940, he entered the Chaplain Service, seeing service in England and North-West Europe. On his return in September, 1946, he spent a short time at Milton and then two years assisting at Christ Church, Niagara Falls. When St. Stephen's was established as a separate parish he became its first rector, remaining there until his retirement in 1967. For the last four years he has been the Associate at St. John's.

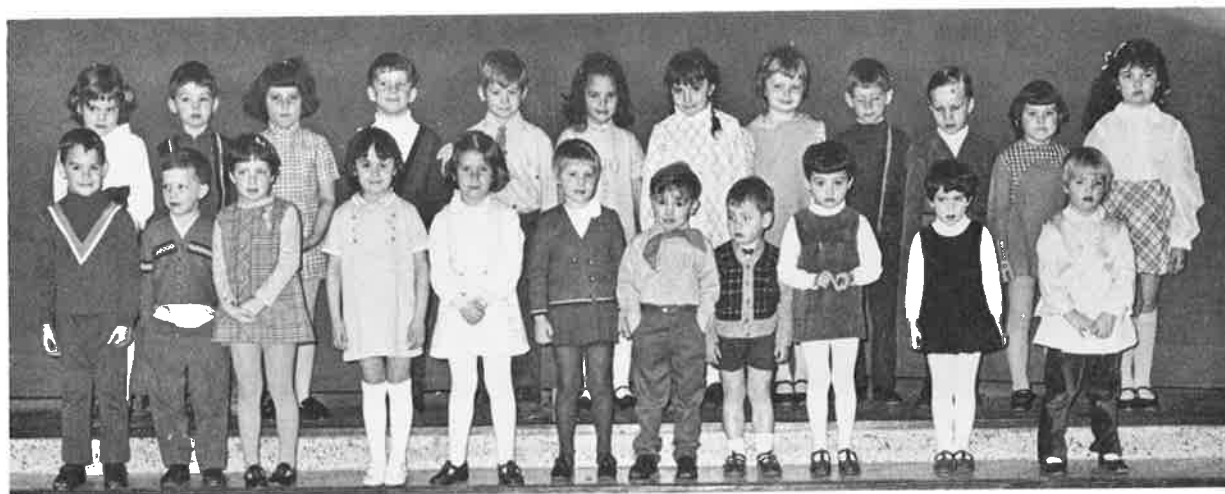


Senior Choir



Lay Readers — E. J. Ball, A. J. Hall, W. G. Brooks

Sunday School



Churchwardens of St. John's

"The Office of Churchwarden has been recognized in the Church for centuries as a position of dignity and responsibility. It dates from the 14th century, and its importance has increased rather than diminished under modern conditions. The name is derived from the one duty that originally belonged to the office: the custody or wardenship of the Church

property. Many other duties have been added in later times, and in the faithful and wise discharge of these duties laymen render most valuable service to the Church."

From the Churchwardens' Manual of the Diocese of Niagara.

Peoples' Warden

1844	James Boyd
1845-48	no record
1849	George Taylor
1850	George Simpson
1851-54	Benjamin Rainsford
1855-64	J. W. H. Stewart
1864	J. W. H. Stewart
1865	John M. Dee
1866-69	Thomas Sutton
1870-73	Percival Prest
1874	Thomas Badger
1875-77	Francis Mewburn
1878-90	Harrison C. Mewburn
1891-93	Harrison C. Mewburn
1894-96	Walter Corry
1897	Clinton Hyatt
1898-1902	Harrison C. Mewburn
1903-04	James Harriott
1905-08	Albert W. Marsh
1909-17	Fred C. Marsh
1918-19	James F. White
1920-21 (to June)	James F. White
1921 (from June)	George Cullimore
Jan. 1922	George Cullimore
1923	P. Lloyd Prest
1924-26	S. O. Patterson
1927	Leonard A. Hawkins
1928	Charles H. Seaman
1928 (June)	Arthur W. Prest
1929	Arthur G. Bridge

Rector's Warden

John Mewburn
John Mewburn
John Mewburn
John Mewburn
John Mewburn
John Mewburn (to April '64 died)
Thomas Sutton (from May '64)
J. W. H. Stewart
J. W. H. Stewart
J. W. H. Stewart
J. W. H. Stewart
J. W. H. Stewart
J. W. H. Stewart
J. W. H. Stewart
Percival Prest
Percival Prest
Percival Prest
Percival Prest
George Coggins
George Coggins
George Coggins
Edward Culverhouse
Fred C. Marsh
James Harriott
P. Lloyd Prest
S. O. Patterson
Franklin H. Gallinger
Chilton Mewburn
Chilton Mewburn
Chilton Mewburn
Chilton Mewburn

	Peoples' Warden	Rector's Warden
1930	Arthur G. Bridge	John H. Coulstock
1931 (June)	George E. Russell	John H. Coulstock
1932	George E. Russell	John H. Coulstock
1933	George E. Russell	John G. Bevan
1934	Cecil W. Hall	James C. Hopps
1935	James C. Hopps	George Moore
1936	George Moore	A. W. Macdonald
1937-39	A. W. Macdonald	George A. Allen
1940	George A. Allen	Albert E. Bennett
1941	Albert E. Bennett	Fred Crowther
1942	Fred Crowther	Ernest Smith
1943	Fred Crowther	no record
1944	Fred Crowther	A. W. Macdonald
1945	Keith C. MacLeod	A. W. Macdonald
1946	Keith C. MacLeod	Harold McConnell
1947-48	Keith C. MacLeod	Bert Reed
1949	Stanley J. Brown	Bert Reed
1950	Stanley J. Brown	Keith C. MacLeod
1951	A. W. Macdonald	Cecil W. Hall
1952	Cecil W. Hall	Fred J. Quin
1953	Cecil W. Hall	Fred J. Quin (to July) (died)
1953-54	Cecil W. Hall	Morris A. Matthews
1955-57	Frank Goulding	Morris A. Matthews
1958-59	R. Jack Hall	John Crowther
1960-61	Douglas W. Marshall	William J. Oswald
1962	Douglas W. Marshall	James Nichols (to June) Clare Mitchener
1963-64	James Mitchinson	Clare Mitchener
1965	James Mitchinson	Fred N. B. Hodgson
1966-67	Robert D. Gale	Fred N. B. Hodgson
1968	David R. A. Williams	Fred N. B. Hodgson
1969	David R. A. Williams	C. Michael Steed
1970	Barry R. Kington	C. Michael Steed

Terms of office were from Easter Monday to Easter Monday prior to 1922.

Lest We Forget

1914 - 18

A. Ede
H. J. Willins
S. M. Wynn
G. Howe
W. P. Crosthwaite
F. Lowe
F. Powley

1939 - 1945

Grant Hill
Earl Kennedy
Alex Macdonald
Malcolm McPherson
James Staats
Robert Wing

The Buildings at St. John's (Stamford) 1820 - 1970

In the beginning the congregation of St. John's was without a house of worship. Services were held occasionally in the Presbyterian Church across the Green but plans for a separate Anglican Church were always foremost in the minds of the congregation. A parcel of land was given by Mr. R. H. Dee in 1820 and the church, which still stands, was built in 1825.

For us to try to form a picture of the church at that time is not easy as no photographs seem to be available; but from stories that have been handed down from people who settled here in 1832, the exterior is much the same as when built; of rough-cast, except for the porch and buttresses which are believed to have been added at a later date. Also, the tower was covered with rough-cast after the turn of the century.

It is quite a different picture you would see if you could visualize the interior of it in those early days compared to its appearance when it was last used as a house of worship in November, 1957.

As you entered the porch and the church proper, you would see on each side a small room, one used as a vestry, the other as a cloak room with staircase leading to the gallery. Each room was lighted by two large windows. Then you would see the nave with a central aisle and box pews extending from the aisle to each side wall. The pews were of a high-backed design equipped with doors, no doubt to curtail the draughts. Nearer to the "East" on each side of the aisle was a square pew, the one on the north side sometimes occupied by the choir when they were not accommodated in the gallery. The pew on the south side was often used by a prominent family. Farther "East" on the right side stood the very high pulpit of walnut surmounted by a large sounding-board on which a plaster-of-paris dove rested. On the left side of the aisle stood a high reading and prayer desk of walnut with a clerk's desk in front of it. (The clerk's duty was to lead the congregation in the responses.)

An early-type organ, a seraphine, was probably placed near the choir pew. Then you would see the Communion rail extending right across the building and within the rail a very simple Communion table. In the body of the church you would find five large gothic-styled windows of clear glass, set in the white-washed walls. The heating was provided by two wood-burning stoves and for the first half century there were no lighting facilities. No bell would be heard for the first quarter century.

The subscription list recorded the gifts of velvet hangings for altar, pulpit, carpet, etc. by Sir Peregrine Maitland, together with the sum of £75. Other original donations were:

R. H. Dee, (exclusive of land).....	£ 25
From the Society (S.P.G.)	100
A. Rorback	25
Commissary General Turquand	10
The Attorney General, Pulpit	50
Collection at Church on Consecration	3.9.0
The Lord Bishop of Quebec	5
The Lord Bishop of Quebec - silver service for Communion table. (This is the one pictured on the cover.)	

These and many other offerings provided the funds with which to finance

the building. An itemized account of materials and labour required for the building was also prepared and is preserved. The church was suitably furnished — largely through donations and bequests.

Renovations and alterations were made to the church over its lifetime. Buttresses were installed at the south-east corner to reinforce the walls shortly after the church was built. A major interior renovation was made around 1895 when the box pews were replaced by bench-style open pews purchased from St. Barnabas' Church in St. Catharines. With the change in style of pews, new wainscotting was necessary. The old-style high reading-desk was discarded and a walnut lectern replaced it. A furnace, new prayer desk and new carpeting completed this extensive renovation and converted the interior into the style most of us remember.

The first stained-glass window was installed in 1861. It was the "East" window and depicted the "Burning Bush" among other devices. This window was damaged by wind and was replaced in 1877 by the "St. John" window which now occupies the north wall of the chapel. The other windows were dedicated in two groups—four windows between 1864 and 1880 and four in 1944. When the new church and hall were built, certain medallions from these windows were incorporated into the west window of the new chapel.

General renovations were made about every decade; electricity was installed about 1900. In 1914 the Marsh organ was installed and changes were made to the Communion rail. In the late 1920, a new furnace was installed, windows were re-leaded and protected with exterior safety glass. In the early 1940's new flooring was put into the chancel and new carpeting was placed. The altar, communion rail, pulpit and reredos from the church were donated to Upper Canada Village in 1963 for inclusion in the church which was being restored there. According to Mr. Anthony Adamson, Consulting Architect for the development of Upper Canada Village, these were the best examples of early 19th Century church furnishings available.

The church was deconsecrated in 1962.

On Sunday, May 26, 1968 a plaque was dedicated and unveiled before a large group of parishioners and civic representatives under the auspices of the Lundy's Lane Historical Society and the Archeological and Historic Sites Board of Ontario. The inscription reads:

"Church of St. John the Evangelist, 1825"

This building, one of the province's oldest remaining Anglican Churches, was begun in 1825 on land donated by Robert H. Dee. It was built largely through the initiative and financial assistance provided by Sir Peregrine Maitland, Lieutenant-Governor of Upper Canada (1818-1828), who resided nearby at "Stamford Park", and other civil and military officials including John Beverley Robinson, Attorney-General of Upper Canada. Constructed of stone, in the early phase of Gothic Revival, St. John's was consecrated in 1828 by the Rt. Rev. Charles J. Stewart, Bishop of Quebec. The Rev. William Leeming, an itinerant Anglican missionary stationed at Chippawa, was the first priest to serve the congregation. The new church was completed in 1825.



Old Church, Parish Hall and Rectory about 1933



Parish Hall - 1930's

Rectory - 1920's



St. John's Rectory

A rectory was built in 1888 to the south of the church on property previously donated for this purpose. Canon Bull, who was rector of St. John's and All Saints' at that time approved the plans but, when the building was ready to be occupied in 1890, he decided to remain in the All Saints' rectory on the corner of Robinson and Main Streets. St. John's rectory was rented for a few years and later occupied by the Curate, the Rev. Robert Henry Archer, and his family. Canon Motherwell was the first rector to occupy the rectory.

This house was a large building with living and dining rooms, hall, study, kitchen and pantry on the main floor and five bedrooms, store rooms and halls on the upper floor. Renovations were made from time to time with electricity and a furnace installed in the early 1900s. A few years later an outer kitchen and a porch to the side entrance and a large verandah were added. The latter much improved the rather bleak appearance of the original building.

Over the years, the rectory served also as a meeting-place for church groups large and small. Several Sunday School parties were held here causing strain on the structure as well as on the nerves of the rector's wife. The Rev. Robert Blackwell and his family were the last residents of this building. It was demolished in 1960 to allow for the building of the parish hall. The front corner and the porch are seen in photographs of the laying of the cornerstone of the new church in 1957.

St. John's Parish Hall

The story of the building of the parish hall during the 1930's is outlined in the general story. This construction was a great congregational effort. Many parishioners who were forced out of work by the great depression volunteered their services to help in the work. No general contract was let but William Scott, a parishioner, was in charge of construction under the supervision of the Wardens.

The general plan of the parish hall was to complete the lower level and provide for the future addition of a second storey. The entrance was designed with this in mind and had cloak rooms to each side, with provision for doorways in these rooms for access to the future second floor. The lower level consisted of a large open room with a stage at the east end and kitchen in the south-west corner and committee room in the north-west corner.

Donations of time, labour, materials and some cash were the order of the day. Kitchen equipment, stage furnishings, table cloths and cutlery were given by individual parishioners and by groups. Much equipment was purchased at cost and most of the labour was donated. Parishioners, who had been forced out of work by the depression, contributed their time and were paid at the same rate as they would have received on relief. Twelve-hour working days for the equivalent of eight hours' pay were the rule rather than the exception.

When the hall was completed and dedicated in 1932 it stood as a true congregational achievement. Changes in the building codes would not permit the addition that had been planned originally and the parish hall was demolished in 1961 to allow for the building of the new hall.

This Indemnity made the boundary of Hamilton the year of One Red one thousand Eight hundred and twenty six. Hamilton in the County of Hamilton made the boundary of Hamilton the year of One Red one thousand Eight hundred and twenty six. Hamilton in the County of Hamilton made the boundary of Hamilton the year of One Red one thousand Eight hundred and twenty six. Hamilton in the County of Hamilton made the boundary of Hamilton the year of One Red one thousand Eight hundred and twenty six.

Signed and attested and attested in presence of

John W. McKim
Henry B. Swarth

Witness on the day and date of the above written
of and from the Honorable members of the Court
The name of the challenger being the name of the
Person or persons named being the full name
whom among them named to be sworn to them to see

Witness
John W. McKim

W. H. D. C.
John W. McKim

Furnishings as Gifts and Memorial (other than Monetary)

1825	The Pulpit	The Attorney General
	A piano	no record
1845	A seraphine	Rev. T. B. Fuller & Mrs. Fuller
	Bell and Yoke	By subscription
	Bible & Service Books (2)	John Mewburn M.D. & Mrs. Mewburn
1850	Stone Font	Issabella Stewart
1868	Stoves (2)	Miss Louisa A. Handcock
1869	New Organ	The congregation
1872	Sanctuary Chair (walnut)	Miss Louisa A. Handcock
1877	Communion Table renovated	Congregation
	Reredos and panels (walnut)	
1884	Organ	
1893	Carpet for Sanctuary	Mrs. Davison Pew
		Rev. G. A. Bull
		Rev. R. H. Archer
1895	Pews	from St. Barnabas Church, St. Catharines
1905	Lectern & Credence Table (walnut)	
1906	Hymn Board (walnut)	William Crosthwaite

IN MEMORY OF

DONOR

1909	Prayer Desk, Seat & Kneeler	Harrison Chilton Mewburn	
	Service Books (3)	Dorothy Mewburn, his wife	Congregation & friends
1912	Hymn Boards (2)		Mr. & Mrs. A. G. Bridge
1914	Organ	James & Jane Marsh	Their family
1940	Lectern Bible	William Henry Rollason	W. B. Rollason
1950	Projector		G. A. Allen
	Gallery Curtains		Mrs. A. Dawson
	Carpet		St. John's Guild
1952	Sanctuary Chair	Sarah Ann Badger	A legacy

Brasses in Old Church

In Memory of

Donor

	Plain Altar Cross		no record
1907	Flower Vases (2) small	Maud Frances Marsh	Mr. & Mrs. A. W. Marsh
1909	Altar Cross	Florence Mary Wynn	Her family
	Flower Vases (2) large		no record
1909	Altar Desk	Harrison Chilton Mewburn, Dorothy Mewburn his wife	The congregation
1910	Alms Basin & Collection Plates (2)	Percival Prest	His family
1952	Processional Cross	Florence Gordon Quin)	
	Wooden Processional Cross	Gordon Morris Quin)	F. J. Quin
1952	Altar Candlesticks	Edmund W. L. Tench	
1953	Hymn Boards (2)	Gladys I. Reed	Her family
1955	Lanterns (4)	George T. Moore	Mrs. Moore & Mrs. J. W. Crowther
		Mr. & Mrs. H. G. Haine	Mr. & Mrs. W. G. Manning
		Gift	St. John's Chi Rho Fellowship
		Gift	St. John's Men's Club
1955	Baptismal Ewer	Keith C. MacLeod	His Wife & family
1955	Pulpit Lamp	Gift	Mr. & Mrs. F. J. G. Goulding

Communion Silver and Linens, etc. in Old Church

		Donor
1825	Velvet hangings for Altar, Pulpit and carpet	Sir Peregrine Maitland K.C.B.
1829	Silver Chalice and Paten	The Lord Bishop of Quebec. Charles James Stewart Mrs. J. W. H. Stewart
1872	Silver Flagon and Plate	
1880	Festal hangings for Communion table. pulpit and reading desk	Miss Gaviller and Miss Perram Harrison Chilton Mewburn
1907	Private Communion Service Linen for above	Mrs. Harrison Chilton Mewburn Mrs. Hugh Bender
1913	Altar Linens	Congregation & friends
1920	Festal Frontal and Superfrontal (Renovated 1953) Miss Amy Mewburn	
1925	Silver and glass water cruet	St. John's W.A.
	1825-1925 100th Anniversary of St. John's Church	
	1892-1952 (repaired) 60th Anniversary of W.A. of St. John's Church	
	Silver Wafer Box (round)	
	Silver Wafer Box (oblong)	
	Pulpit and Lectern hangings white	no record
	Super-frontal (violet) pulpit & lectern hangings, Burse & Veil & Book Markers	Mrs. Butler
	Super-frontal (green) pulpit & lectern hangings, Burse & Veil & Book Markers	Mrs. L. T. Couch's Boy's Bible Class
	Super-frontal (green) pulpit & Lectern hangings	Mrs. L. T. Couch's Boy's Bible Class
	Burse & Veil	
	Markers	no record
	Super-frontal (red)	
	Burse & Veil	
	Markers	no record
1942	Complete Set of Altar Linens	St. John's Guild
1946	Complete Set of Altar Linens	St. John's Guild

Windows in Old Church

"East"	St. John	
1877	To commemorate the liberality of Robert Henry Dee and Elizabeth Dee to this Church.	
N. Side	(1)	Rev. William Leeming Rector 1820 - 1863 - By Congregation
S. Side	(1)	John Mewburn M.R.C.S. Died April 1864 - Erected by Friends and Acquaintances.
1864		
N. Side	(1)	In Memory of Mary Ann Lovell. Wife of J. W. H. Stewart
1872		By her affectionate children
S. Side		In loving memory of Henrietta Mewburn, wife of John Mewburn. - By her affectionate children
1880		
1944	(1)	Percival and Emily Prest and their daughter Gertrude. Erected by their family.
	(2)	William N. and Katherine MacLeod. Erected by their family.
	(3)	To commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Woman's Auxiliary of St. John's Church Stamford. Erected 1944
	(4)	In remembrance of the Reverend William Lawrence Archer. By the Woman's Auxiliary of St. John's Church Stamford on their 50th Anniversary 1944.

Tablets in Old Church

Rev. J. Lloyd Thomas

Sacred to the Memory of the Rev. J. Lloyd Thomas, Son of the Rev. Lloyd Thomas, Rector of Newport. Haverford West. Pembrokeshire, South Wales, late Travelling Missionary of the Talbot District, and late of Diocesan Theological College, Cobourg.

This tablet is erected by his fellow students as a mark of high esteem and regard for a departed Friend and Brother. He fell asleep in Jesus on the 27th of Feb. 1849 in his 27th year of his age and the 1st of his Diaconate.

"I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them that are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus, will God bring with him." Thess. IV - 13-14.

Sergeant John Shirley Murray Wynn.

of the 16th Field Company Canadian Engineers

Born Stamford, Ontario, March 9th, 1884.

Died at Vladistok, Siberia, January 14th, 1919 while on active service. Son of the late Joseph Wynn and of Emily Wynn his wife.

Honourable Jacob AEmilius Irving M.L.C.

Born 1797 - Died 1856

and his wife

Catherine Diana Homfrey

Born 1801 - Died 1858

Hannah Margaret Corbett

Born 1775 - Died 1865

Wife of Jacob AEmelius Irving, Esquire of Ironshore

in the island of Jamaica

and their only daughter

Elizabeth Margaret Irving

Wife of James Sawbridge, Esquire of Olanteigh Tower,

Kent, England. Died 1837

The Postwar Buildings - Church, Hall and Rectory 1957 - 1962

The magnificent building complex at St. John's (Stamford) is shown in the accompanying photographs and is now a familiar sight at the Green. The story of the construction of this group of buildings has been told in the general story. It was the dominant feature of our church life in the late 1950's.

The style is probably best described as "Ecumenical Modern," but is clean and spacious. The entrance to the church was planned lower than the sidewalk level to conform to the slope of the lot. The parish hall is on higher land but the slope of the roof has been kept low so as not to dominate the church. Both buildings have a lower level at the rear, providing extra rooms for the Church School, boiler rooms and a large room used as a nursery school during the week and as the nursery department of the Church School.

The parish has tried to use its new buildings in the service of the people in the Stamford area. The parish hall, as well being the home of the St. John's Co-operative Nursery School five mornings a week, is used by the Y.W.C.A. for a Saturday morning physical and craft program. Many other community events — some sponsored by church groups and some from outside — are scheduled at St. John's over the year. The Latvian Orthodox congregation has held services in the church in the afternoon of the first Sunday of each month for several years.

It is the hope of the Rector, Wardens and congregation that St. John's will continue to use its buildings and manpower in the service of all men and that the next 150 years may be worthy of the past 150.



Rectory on Frances Street



New Church and Hall



Sod Turning for New Church

Memorials and Gifts in New Church

(Apart from many contributions to the Building Fund)

	In Loving Memory of	Donor
Dec. 4, 1957		
The Holy Communion Table	Mary Street Scott William George Scott	Mary Scott Walker William Scott William P. Walker Mr. & Mrs. J. E. W. Skinner & family Mr. & Mrs. A. E. Corbett Misses Kathleen & Amy Mewburn
The Communion Rail	Malcolm A. McPherson	
The Credence Table	Two sets	
The Communion Linens	Members of St. John's Woman's Auxiliary who have passed to higher service	
The Sanctuary Cross	Annie C. Harriott William Liddell William E. Revill Their Parents C.S.M. Robt. E. Wing Lincoln & Welland Reg't. F/Lt. Alex Macdonald R.C.A.F.	W.A. James Harriott His Wife & family His wife & family Mr. & Mrs. L. Goulding His family
The Bishop's Chair		
The Bishop's Prayer Desk		
The Candlesticks		
The Sedelia		
Collection Plates (2)		
Collection Plates (2)		
Brass Vases (4)		
Three Choir Pews	Charles Gordon Bennett Kaye	His Parents & Sisters The Sunday School His wife Elsie His wife Annie C. Prior & son Ben Prior Mr. & Mrs. Alan Cornwell
Three Choir Pews	Ben Proir	
One Choir Pew front	Their Parents	
One Choir Pew front		
The Lectern		
One Prayer Desk & seat	Alice Catherine Emmett & Calvin David Emmett	St. John's Guild Their son & daughter Martha E. Breneman & Allan J. Emmett
One Prayer Desk & Seat		
The Baptismal Font	Issabella Stewart (Donor of Original Font 1850)	The MacLeod family
1958		
The Pulpit		
One Nave Pew	John Thorburn Scholfield	St. John's Guild His wife and daughter Susan J. Scholfield Agnes Scholfield Martin Son - Stanley J. Brown Mr. & Mrs. E. G. Fanstone His wife Nellie His wife Muriel His wife Ada His wife & family St. John's Junior Auxiliary The A.Y.P.A. John Crowther Their family W.A. Mrs. W. L. Archer & family Charles & Elizabeth Ellah
One Nave Pew	John & Helen Amelia Brown	
Donation	Their Parents	
Donation	Charles L. Manley	
Donation	Dr. P. Frank Prest	
Donation	George Prosser	
Donation	William E. Revill	
Donation		
The Book of Remembrance		
The Book case		
One Nave Pew	Mr. & Mrs. George Cullimore	
Two Nave Pews		
One Nave Pew Front	Rev. R. H. Archer and Mrs. Archer	
The Lectern Bible		
1960		
Silver Flagon (large) 1892-1960		W.A. of St. John's Mr. & Mrs. R. Oakes
The Wedding Cushions	On occasion of their daughter's wedding	Legacy of James Harriott Mr. & Mrs. C. F. Barker
Hymn Books		
Purple Book Markers (2)		

	In Memory of	Donor
Purple Burse & Veil White Burse & Veil White Book Markers (2) Communion Linens, 2 complete sets	Friend Clegg	Miss Martha Cullimore Chancel Guild Chancel Guild
1961 The Dossall Curtain	Her Husband Her Brothers & Sisters	Mrs. A. W. Marsh Mrs. B. L. Healey
1962 Service Books (2) Silver Wafer Box (large) The Candelabra (1) The Green Book Markers (2) The Sanctuary Lamp The Funeral Pall A Gift Velvet Cushions for Sanctuary	To mark the 60th Anniversary of the W.A. in this Parish Their Mothers, Maude E. Skinner & Fanny Catherwood Elsie Kaye Bill & Matilda Floyd Ernest Neal Lina Higgins Archie Peterson Men of the Congregation who lost their lives in the Second World War. Walter Coates	W.A. Mr. & Mrs. J. E. W. Skinner Mr. & Mrs. J. W. Smyth His Wife Dr. & Mrs. J. E. Higgins His Wife Winnifred Anonymous
1964 The Library Rack & Literature Rack		Mr. & Mrs. H. Littlejohn
1965 Book Markers Red (3) Book Marker White (1) Chalice & Paten	Doris Orsborn Cecil W. Hall	Her Mother Hattie Sullivan His Family & Friends
1966 The Ciborium The Festal Frontal The Flower Pedestals The Wedding Lectern	A Thankoffering Maisie Crowther Maisie Crowther Allan James Emmett	Anonymous Her Husband John Her Husband & Friends His Family & Friends
1967 Amplifiers in Narthex Installation		John Crowther Fred Hodgson
1969 Glass Cruets (2) Organ Speaker Canadian Flag	(1) Leonard Goulding (1) Earl Gordon Kennedy Mrs. B. L. Healey	His Wife His Parents Mr. & Mrs. B. Kennedy Legacy A.C.W. Afternoon Group

Plaques

The George Russell Room

In memory of the late
Mr. G. E. Russell
Whose generous bequest greatly
Accelerated our building programme
of Church, Rectory and Parish Hall
1957-1962

"Notes and Quotes"

Taken from the minutes of Vestry meetings and other records of the Church of St. John the Evangelist (Stamford).

1825	For 5½ gals. whiskey, raising the roof and tower	13s 9d
1845	Linen for a surplice	£1 6s 3d
	Making the surplice	10s
1846	Sexton — for taking down the greens used in decoration of Church at Christmas	1s 9d
1849	Mr. Dawes — sexton — for ringing the bell	5s
1849	Wine for the Sacrament	3s 1d
1850	W. Lowell, for black cloth for Church mourning	2s 6d
1863	Road tolls to St. Catharines	.02c
	Carriage of a letter	.02c
1865	Adam Bronsaki — for attending to church for one month	\$1.00
	Adam's wife for scouring church	\$1.00

* * *

1860 Entries in church records appear in decimal currency for the first time although legal documents had been changed from sterling in 1858.

* * *

1867 The church was draped in black on the occasion of the death of the late highly-esteemed Prelate, Dr. Strachan, the first Bishop of Upper Canada.

* * *

A Prayer Book inscribed with the name P. Maitland is one of the earliest treasures belonging to St. John's.

* * *

A wooden arm-chair used in the vestries of both churches came from the home of R. H. Dee.

* * *

One of the early rectors, when calling on his parishioners (travelling by horse and buggy), carried a basket to receive gifts of fruit, eggs, etc.

The James Thompson who supplied quantities of stone and lime for the building of the church in 1825 was the great, great-grandfather of Mrs. A. H. Walker.

* * *

On some occasions on Good Friday afternoons the young people of the parish would go to the Niagara Glen — then owned by the Murray family — for the purpose of gathering ferns and moss. These, together with the houseplants loaned, would be used to bank the Altar for the Easter services.

* * *

At Easter, 1907, a presentation of a sterling silver private Communion Service was presented to the Church of St. John the Evangelist, Stamford, by Harrison Chilton Mewburn as a thankoffering in his 92nd year for having escaped the flu the previous winter.

* * *

In 1909 the duplex envelope system was introduced at St. John's as a means to increase the offerings.

* * *

In January, 1921 it is recorded "that all monies received by this church be deposited in the newly-opened Stamford Branch of the Imperial Bank of Canada" — the first bank to be opened in the Township.

* * *

In 1922 in this Diocese the Church year was changed from Easter to Easter to the calendar year.

* * *

On June 28, 1931 the Lessons at Evensong were read by H. H. Clark, lay-reader of Thorold, who, in September, 1959, was elected as Primate of All Canada. It was on that date the Rector and Choir of St. John's, Stamford, exchanged with the Rector of St. John's, Thorold.

* * *

Several times during his term as Rector of St. John's, the Reverend W. L. Archer was confined to Christie Street Hospital, Toronto, suffering from an illness resulting from World War One.

* * *

March 23, 1970 marks the 40th Anniversary of the first service taken at St. John's by the Rev. C. G. Eakins, then of Ridley College, St. Catharines.

* * *

Another tie with the past comes through our present Rector. Canon Standish served the parish of East Farnham, Quebec in the 1950's. In the early 1800's Rev. Charles James Stewart, who later became the Bishop of Quebec and consecrated St. John's Church in 1828, also served as Rector of the same parish.

St. John's 150th Anniversary Programme

1820 - 1970

	DATE	PROGRAMME
January 4	(Sunday)	Announcement of Sesquicentennial Year
January 20	(Tuesday)	8:00 p.m. A.C.W. Annual Meeting
February 22, 23, 24		Joint Lenten programme with All Saints' and Holy Trinity — at St. John's
March 1	(Sunday)	10:00 a.m. Joint service with All Saints' and Holy Trinity — at Holy Trinity, Chippawa
March 8	(Sunday)	8:00 a.m. Corporate Communion for ladies and girls 7:30 p.m. Hymn Sing
March 15	(Sunday)	Guest Speaker The Rev. Robert J. Blackwell — Rector 1959-1967
April 10	(Friday)	6:00 p.m. Parish Social Evening Buffet pot-luck supper — Sing song — Pictures of parish life at St. John's. Entertainment by the young people.
April 22	(Wednesday)	8:00 p.m. A.C.W. Sesquicentennial Dessert Bridge
April 26	(Sunday)	4:00 p.m. Confirmation The Rt. Rev. W. E. Bagnall
May 3	(Sunday)	11:00 a.m. Rogation Sunday Combined service with All Saints' and Holy Trinity at St. John's
May 24	(Sunday)	Reunion Sunday — Guest Speaker The Rev. W. H. Simpson — Rector 1952-1959
June 13	(Saturday)	Sunday School Picnic — Firemen's Park
September 20	(Sunday)	Anniversary Sunday — Guest Speaker The Rev. Malcolm C. Evans — Rector 1967-1969
October 25	(Sunday)	11:00 a.m. Combined service of Holy Trinity and St. John's at All Saints' Niagara Falls
November 27	(Friday)	6:15 p.m. — Anniversary Parish Dinner Guest Speaker — The Most Rev. Howard Clark, Primate of Canada

Canon A. H. Walker, Rector 1931-1952, will assist at the Reunion Sunday Services, May 24, and at other services throughout the year.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Most of the words are by Miss Amy Mewburn and have been taken from parish registers and records and family files. She has been assisted by Miss Kathleen Mewburn and Mr. R. Jack Hall.

Mr. Ken James photographed the chalice and paten for the cover and restored most of the early photo-

graphs, some of which were of questionable quality. 1970 pictures are by William Oswald. Original photographs came from church records and from private files of Miss Amy Mewburn, Mrs. Cecil Hall, Canon Walker, Mrs. James Robertson, Mrs. W. P. Walker and others.

Typing of material was done by Mrs. R. J. Hall, Mrs. Audrey Brooker and Miss Jane Mitchinson.

Sesquicentennial Committee:

Frank Goulding - chairman
Audrey Brooker
Amy Mewburn
R. Jack Hall
Muriel Hall
Mary Smythe
J. W. Mitchinson

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