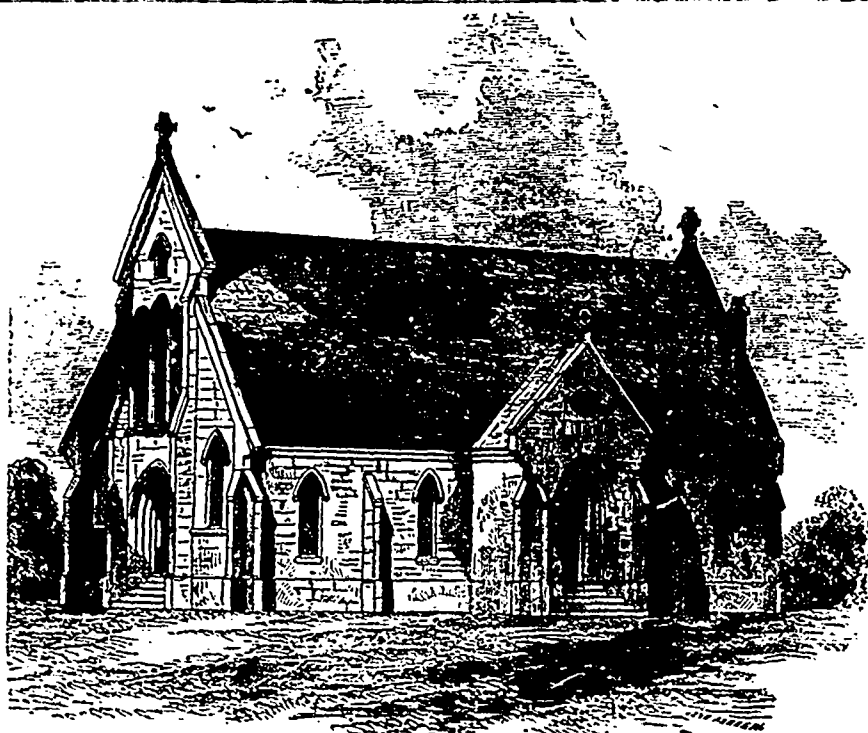




CHRIST CHURCH, LONDON, ONT.

## OUR PARISHES AND CHURCHES.

### NO. 10.—CHRIST CHURCH LONDON, ONT.

**F**OR many years, St. Paul's Cathedral, the old parish church of London the less, served for the spiritual wants of the citizens of that good town; but in the year 1841 the increase of the city, particularly to the south of the track of the Great Western Railway, rendered it imperative that steps should be taken to supply the spiritual wants of the people of that section. The ladies of the cathedral congregation took the matter earnestly in hand—it would be invidious to mention names where all were so zealous—a large committee was formed, and at the first meeting a resolution was passed “that no plans could be selected, or contracts let, till all the money for the erection of the church was in hand.” In 1862 the Rev. G. M. Innes was appointed by the Bishop as missionary, without any salary, to that portion of the city south of York street, which it was intended should form the future parish of “Christ Church.” Mr. Innes set to work to organize a congregation, worshipping in the Central School House on Sunday morning and evening, holding out-door service during the week on the site of the proposed church, which had been presented by Bishop Cronyn for that purpose, and establishing cottage lectures in several parts of the parish. An incident worthy of record occurred during one of the out-door services. The stump of an old tree stood on the rising portion of the

ground, and mounted on this the missionary preached, the congregation, usually from sixty to one hundred, standing or sitting on the grass. This stump was hollow. On one occasion some mischievous boys had filled the hole with dried leaves, to which, in the middle of the sermon, they managed to set fire, when the missionary had to descend from his perch and seek a cooler atmosphere. On the very spot on which this stump stood the present pulpit has been erected. The appointment of a clergyman and establishment of a congregation gave a new impetus to the building committee, and soon all the necessary funds were in hand. In 1863 the building was completed. It was consecrated in the same year by Bishop Cronyn. The first organ was placed in the church and paid for by funds collected by the late Col. Moffatt, at that time commanding the Rifles, stationed in London. The communion table, the chancel chairs, and the small oak font were presented by the first rector. The seating capacity of the church is five hundred, exclusive of the gallery.

The second rector was the late Rev. James Smyth, M. A., who was succeeded by the present rector, Rev. Canon Smith, in 1875.

The Sunday school numbers three hundred and fifty, with a staff of thirty officers and teachers. The Church of England Temperance Society, with the Band of Hope, numbers three hundred members.

The parish is a large one and requires a considerable amount of pastoral care and supervision, which it duly receives at the hands of the present rector and his efficient staff of workers.