History of St. James' Parish, Guelph

FROM ITS ORIGIN IN 1890 TO ITS CONSECRATION IN 1920

# An Distorical Sketch

PREPARED AND PUBLISHED ON THE OCCASION OF

## The Consecration

OF

## St. James' Church, Guelph

ON THE

30th Anniversary of the Founding of the Parish

GUELPH. APRIL 18TH. 1920

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## Church of St. James the Apostle.



Corner Stone Laid July 7th, 1891. First Service was held in the Church April 17th, 1892. It was Consecrated April 18th, 1920.

## A Retrospect

HE old saying that "stately oaks from small acorns grow" was never more exemplified than in the origin of St. James' Church, Guelph, which during thirty years has grown from a Mission Sunday School to one of the largest churches in the diocese of Niagara, with a steady record of progress, what the transition has meant in persevering effort, self sacrifice and unflagging zeal only the few can say who are left with us to-day of that small number who started out in the year 1890 with the determination to establish a second parish of the Church of England in this city, which would look to bring it to the day when the Church erected for His praise and glory can be consecrated clear of debt for the

Any attempt to record the history of the Parish of St. James' cannot but impress us with the bravery and faith of those who overcame many obstacles in their pathway, and with a broad vision of the future secured a division of the then Parish of St. George's, and founded the Church of St. James the Apostle. Few in numbers, but strong in spirit and faith in the Lord their God, with no endowment or large promises, they started with no thought of failure upon a \$16,000 undertaking.

Few of those faithful souls remain with us to-day. During the years that have gone, death has been busy, and removals to other spheres of influence have been numerous, but they left behind a memory of unconquerable faith that bids us of to-day go forward with the work and in our turn leave behind us a similar record of faith in God, and devotion to duty.

The minute book, that is used for the recording of the business transactions of this year's Vestry Meeting, is the same that records the successive congregational gatherings since the Parish was formed. It is replete with interest as the official record of the early days of St. James' and a barometer of its successes, and, in a few instances, its failures—for the past thirty years have not been without their disappointment in both the spiritual and temporal affairs of this congregation. A coincidence in connection with this book is that its pages will be completed when the record of this vear's Vestry meeting is entered.

great work that is yet before us.

## Historical

HE first meeting in connection with St. James' Parish was held in the old South Ward Schoolhouse on the corner of Glasgow Street and Waterloo Avenue, on Wednesday evening, March 19th, 1890, at 7,30 o'clock, and the minutes thereof are in the handwriting of the late Thomas W. Saunders, Police Magistrate, who may with every reason be termed the father of the Parish, for it was he who saw the need of another parish, and for its establishment. What Mr. Saunders was to the Parish in its early days, few members of the Church to-day can fully appreciate. By the influence of his words and deeds he was a tower of strength to the early Church: he was counsellor and friend alike to clergy and laity, he served for years as Church Warden, Lay Reader and Sunday School Superintendent; while his beloved wife was a leader of that noble band of ladies, who worked assiduously in manifold ways to add to the Church's numbers and usefulness. Though he was not privileged to live to see this day, we are indeed pleased that Mrs. Saunders has been spared to share in our rejoicing. Of the ladies and gentlemen who were present at that meeting, and whose mames appear in the minutes, very few are left with us, as a slague at the manes following will show—

T. W. Saunders, Mrs. Saunders, William Slater, F. J. Chadwick, George Harvey, St. George Scarlett, Miss J. Keating, G. A. Richardson, R. Mackenzie, James F. Kidner, W. R. C. and Mrs. Forster, John C. Holley, William C. and Mrs. Walker, William Buckle, R. M. Lindsay, George Hicks, Louisa Hicks, B. D. Saunders, Thomas Grant, W. M. Stanley, Henry Thatcher, John Ogg, John Jones, F. B. Benglieb, C. F. Howeit, E. Harvey, Johnung Harvey, Grace Kernighan, Thomas Steele, Charles Pinder, Joseph Shaw, George Bradshaw, T. Hodgson, W. C. J. Hill, M. A. Hill, Miss Howes, Minnie Cain, Lorne Campbell, A. E. Smith, William Godfrey, James McDonald, Jame Buckle, Mrs. I. Gibbs, Mrs. H. Kennedy, Mrs. Charles Champion, Fred Leader, Mrs. W. A. Garnham, Charles Walker, J. Richardson, Mrs. John Hudson, M. Harvey, Grace Kernighan, Thos, Grant, Robert Gausby, John Roche, Walter Clarke, J. D. Campbell, W. A. Christie, Alfred Cullen, Mrs. Chisholm, Mrs. Morris, Mrs. Walsh, Mrs. Ogg. Mrs. J. McD. Campbell, Mrs. Colson.

At this meeting the preliminary steps taken to secure a division of the Parish, were outlined and approved, the terms of said division being agreed to on the third day of March by the Rt. Rev. Charles Hamilton, D.D., Bishop of Niagara. It was decided to call the Parish "St. James," and steps were at once taken to secure a rector, and to raise a fund to pay him the stipend of \$800 a year

## The First Rector

The rectorship was offered to the Rev. (now Archdeacon) E. A. Irving, who had had much to do with the formation of the Parish as the result of his activities in Sunday School work in this section of the city, while curate of St. George's, but he felt unable to accept. Rev. A. J. Relt, M. A. (afterwards Rural Dean and Archdeacon) was then appointed the first rector of St. James' Parish, and the records indicate that during the most trying of ten years, when the demands were many and trade was generally dull, that gentleman labored unceasingly and with great success to build up the congregation spiritually and numerically. Too much cannot be said of the work he accomplished. He gave his whole heart and the benefit of a cultured mind to the cause of St. James'; he went over to England

#### The First Rector



REV. A. J. BELT, M. A. 1890—1900

and secured some money for the building fund. The type of service which he introduced recognized the three principles requisite in Divine service, of decency, order and edification, and has been maintained ever since. The letter of the rector in his acceptance of the pastorate may still be applied to those who are carrying on the work to-day: "May God give us all wisdom, strength and courage to build upon the only true foundation, even Jesus Christ, presented through his Church and Sacraments."

Inasmuch as the school house where the Sunday School had been held was not large enough for holding services, the Board of Education allowed the use of the Collegiate Gymnasium, and until the basement of the new church was ready, that building was used. The first services being held there on Sunday, 27th of April, 1890, and the first Vestry Meeting on the 5th of May following.

The first Wardens of the Church were Messrs, T, W, Saunders and E, Harvey, and the first Sidesmen were Messrs, W, R, C, Forster, R, Mackenzie, G, A, Richardson, W, Slater, William C, Walker, A, McRae, John Ogg, and A, E, Lyon, Later on Messrs, J, E, Perry, W, MeWilliams, George J, Thorpe, W, E, Cutten, A, E, Smith and Fred Harvey were added, F, J, Chadwick, W, M, Stanley and Charles Walker were the first lay delegates to Synod.

### Building the Church

Steps were immediately taken to commence the building of a new church, and after the present site had been selected from among others, it was donated by Mr. E. Harvey. The deed for this recently came into the possession of the officials of the church, for the first time since it was drawn up, for it has since been held by the mortgagors. It bears date the 4th March, 1891, and conveyed

lot 21 on the south side of Paisley street, containing about a fifth of an acre, "for the celebration of divine service therein according to the rites and doctrines of the Church of England in Canada." It is signed by Mr. and Mrs. F. Harvey, Rev. A. J. Belt. Thos. W. Sanuders and F. Harvey, the last three named representing the church. R. C. Windeyer, of Toronto, was engaged as the architect, and after the plans had been finally approved. William Stevens and Son were awarded the contract. The building committee was composed of the Rector, Church Wardens, Wm. Slater, C. Walker and F. J. Chadwick. Later on Mr. Slater resigned from the committee, having been awarded the contract for the masonry, which to-day stands to his credit as a well constructed piece of work. Another member of St. James who worked on the building was Mr. William Gny, who assisted with the carpentry. The late Mr. H. N. Benalliek was appointed to take Mr. Slater's place on the Building Committee, and Mr. M. Jones took the place of Mr. Chadwick, who died while to building was in committee.

The work of erecting the Church was pushed forward rapidly. The contract was let November 8th, 1890. On the 6th of April following, the ground was marked off and excavation commenced. On April 30th, the first stone was laid, and on July 7th operations had so far progressed that the Bishop was able to lay the corner stone. On December 20th, 1891, the first service was held in the basement of the Church an event that was signally celebrated. Operations on the Church proper went forward so rapidly that on Easter day, April 17th, 1892, one year after the ground was ready for building operations, and two years after the first service was held in the Parish, dedicatory services were held in the completed building, which was everywhere admired as the prettiest and less amonipoted Church of its size in this part of Outario.

There were good sized congregations and it is learned from the first financial statement presented that the total receipts for

#### The Second Mector



REV. E. A. VESEA 1900-1903

the year 1890 were \$1,619.07. There were fifty-four regular contributors to the envelope system that first year.

What struggles and privations were endured in those early years a faint idea is given by a perusal of the carly records of the Parish. This we do know: when the contract was let for the Church, the amount of promised subscriptions was only \$3,500, of which \$1,033.28 had been paid. So closely pressed was the congregation for money that one minute records a vote of thanks to a member for supplying wood for heating the basement of the Church, while frequent special meetings of the Vestry were held to try and raise additional funds to meet over-drafts at the bank. The rector was in receipt of an \$800 stipend, which was increased to \$900, and the year following he voluntarily relinquished \$100 of it in order to help out. What subtime self negation on the part of pastor and devoted loyalty on the part of popule!

### Cost of the Church

The report of the building fund committee of 1893 shows that the total cost of the Church, without organ, was \$15,000,00. The first organ installed was not satisfactory, and in 1899 the present organ, costing \$1,000, was erected, by Lyc and Son, Toronto, the cost being defrayed by a "mite fund." Liabilities of about \$11,000 were carried for some time, which was reduced until about fourteen years ago, a mortgage of \$7,000 was effected, which, with other liabilities, was the load carried for years, until in 1911, a bequest of \$4,000 by the late Matthew Jones, together with the premiums on a number of life insurance policies, reduced the mortgage to \$2,472. In 1915 this was again reduced by \$100, left by the will of the late Mrs. W. Dine, for years one of the most in-

defatigable workers of the Church, and in 1918 a legacy of \$1,290 from the late J. D. McWilliams cleared off a note for \$900 lond held by him and reduced the mortgage to \$1,933, which brought the total to such a figure that the movement to clear off the mortgage was mooted, with the result that every dollar owing on the building of the Church was cleared off on the 26th day of March, 1920. Considerable credit in this respect is due the committee which has handled the matter throughout, composed of the Wardens, Jos. Curzon, secretary, F. C. Spackman, F. K. Baker, E. C. Pettifer, A. Shouk, Sr., E. Drysdale, N. L. Young and the late John Trimote.

It may not be out of place to refer to the mortgage which is now held by the Fuller Estate, the \$7,000 being borrowed from the Federal Life Assurance Co. of Canada, who later transferred it the Sun Life Assurance Co. The mortgage is approved by J. Philip Niagara, the then Bishop of the diocese, W. R. Clarke, secretary-treasurer, and the signatures to the document on behalf of the church are Christopher P. Sparling, Charles L. Nelles and Palest Madegaria.

## The Five Bectors of the Parish

During its thirty years of existence St. James' Church has had obtained the rectors, and has been signally fortunate in obtaining men of deep spirituality, high intellectuality, and all permeated with loyalty and devotion to their work. The Rev. A. J. Belt, M.A., was Rector until October, 1990, when he resigned to go to Milton. The Rev. E. A. Vesey, of Georgetown, was appointed to the charge of the Parish the same year, being succeeded in 1993 by Rev. Christopher P. Sparling, M.A., of Harriston. This gentleman and his esteemed

wite labored with great success and acceptance until 1905, when the regret of all. Mr. Sparling decided to accept a pastorate at Louisville. Kv. Rev. C. H. Buckland, of Listowel, was then appointed by the late Bishop Dumoulin to the rector-ship, and considerable strides forward were made during his direction of affairs for ten years, the latter part of which was made momentous by the outbreak of the Great War. To do their part in withstanding the German oppressors nearly all of the men of the Parish adde to qualify event overseas. The handsome brass memorial tablet and honor roll overted on the transept wall, dedicated on the 25th of lanuary, 1920, containing the names of sixteen killed or died in action, and one hundred and thirteen of those who culisted, which latter included the Rev. C. H. Buckland and two of his sons, the former going overseas in 1910, and resigning the Parish in 1917, when he became convinced that its interests were suffering by reason of the absence of a rector.

Some very handsome gifts were made to the Church during Rev. Mr. Buckland's pastorate. A handsome window was installed over the altur to the memory of Mrs. America Raises, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. T. W. Saunders. The altar now in use was erected to the memory of the lace Matthew Jones, and a beautiful rerodus in keeping therewith was given by Mrs. Nelles, in memory of her mother, Mrs. Piper while the steps leading thereto were the gift of Mr. and Mrs. Buckland, in memory of their son, Godfrey. A brass lection was given by Mrs. J. J. Drew, in memory of her father, the late Mr. Gibbs, and the pulpit was given as a thank offering by Mrs. and Mr. W. Duncan, the baptismal four and brass railing around it having been donated some years previous by Miss Keatinge and the Sanday School.

In addition to these gifts the church was at various time-

the recipient of various memorials to the departed. One of these was a brass tablet creeted by I. Eardley Willmost on the death of

#### The Third Meeter



REV. C. P. SPARLING, M. A. 1903—1906.

his wife, formerly Miss B. Chisholm. Six stained glass windows were also put in, one to the memory of five children of Rev. and

#### The Fourth Mector

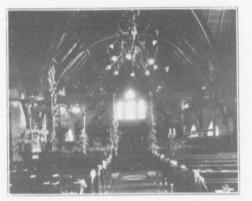


REV. C. H. BUCKLANT

Mrs. Belt, and others to Mrs. Nicholson (Mrs. Sparling's mother).
Mrs. Harriert Samders, daughter of Mr, and Mrs. T. W. Saunders
Mrs. J. L. Stanley, (Mrs. A. E. Smith's mother), Orrie Porter and
Hector Cooper, Last year a handsome oak rood screen (the first
erected in this part of Canada) was put up at the entrance to the
chancel in memory of the late Lieut, Ronald Campbell, M. C. killed
in action, his mother, Lady Campbell, of Malvern, England, being
the contributor through her consin, Major H. D. Merewether
The screen has added materially to the beauty of the church.

Upon Mr. Buckland's resignation His Lordship Bishop Clark appointed Rev. Archibald Cameron Mackintosh, B.D., of Fort Erie, to the rectorship, who has since energetically continued the good work and under whom the Church has prospered. In 1918 the Bishop appointed Mr. Mackintosh to be a canon of the diocess, and very shortly afterwards appointed him Archdeacon of the Counties of Wellington and Halton, a position which he now holds. The honor thus conferred was duly appreciated by the congregation.

The progress that has been made of late years in the Parish iteratly pertrayed by the fact that St. James' is now clear of all mortgage indebtedness. Early in 1918, it was decided to purchase a rectory and one was secured on the corner of Cork and Glasgow Streets, the same being now held by a committee in trust for the Parish, until it is taken over by the Vestry. A for next to the Church, of sufficient size for a school house, is also owned by the congregation and is now clear of dely.



Interior of St. James' Church, showing the handsome Rood Screen recently erected as a memorial to the first man to enlist in Garlph for overseas services, Lieut. Campbell, killed in action. Also the Altar, Pulpit and Lectern.

#### The Present Lector



VEN. ARCHDEACON A. C. MACKINTOSH, B. D. Who took charge of Parish in 1917

### Halued Assistance

An account of the life and activities of St. James' Church would not be complete without some reference to the distinguished clergymen who have taken part in its services and given of themselves without stint in an honorary capacity. The first of these is the Rev. Canon Baker, formerly rector of Bath, who came here to reside in 1897 and for a number of years was an honored and respected parishioner and gave valuable assistance 40 the rector. He passed to his reward in 1908. In 1907 the Rev. C. J. S. Bethune was appointed on the staff of the O.A.C., and made St. James' his church home. From that time until now he has given ungrudgingly of his services and means to the Church, and through many trying times has been a true and steadfast friend. For some years until his death in the early part of 1920, the Rev. W. Duthie, a respected minister, who for years officiated at Hespeler, was with us and gave what assistance he could, and the Rev. O. Glynn H. Lloyd was in charge of the Parish after Mr. Buckland went overseas until the present rector was appointed. He worked with unflagging zeal to advance the Church's interests.

In the early years of the Church when the rector was without the clerical assistance that came with later days, lay readers were appointed, those holding the office being Messrs, W. R. C. Forgier, W. M. Stanley, T. W. Saunders, J. E. Perry, Eardley Willmott and tysenb Curzon.

All through its career St. James' has been well organized, and no doubt owes much of its success because of that fact. A branch of the Women's Auxiliary was formed in 1892 and has since been a tower of strength and one of the most active organizations of the

Parish, it has been of great assistance to the Wardens beside the great work it has done for Missions. A junior branch of the Auxiliary is also doing good work amongst the girls. A Chancel Guild bas been in operation from the opening of the Church, and Missionary zeal has always been a strong feature of the Parish In the early days services were held in Brooklyn, in the West End, in postingly and at Mosterough.

### Statistical

The first Confirmation was held in the Parish on Sunday, October 12th, 1890, with twenty-four candidates receiving the rite from his Lordship, Bishop Charles Hamilton.

The first death notice in the Parish Record was in October

Very shortly after the basement of the Church was completed the first weelding in the Church building took place, uniting Mary

The first wedding in the Parish was that of James Louis Pass to Africe Rydall, on December 10th, 1860.

The first baptismal record is that of Margaret S., daughter of George, and Eliza Ann Hood, on June 8th, 1890.

							774
							441



REV. CANON E. M. MASSEY BAKER Former Rector at Bath. Honorary Assistant of St. James', 1897—1908

REV. C. J. S. BETHUNE, D. D.
A beloved Priest who has given freely of his services as Honorary
Assistant of St. James from the year 1907

## The Sunday-School

No history of St. James' Parish would be complete without a reference to the splendid work of the Sunday School—the foundation stone of the Church. The start of the Parish originated in the Sunday School which was held for years in the South Ward school by members of the Church residing in St. James' Ward. It the thirty years of the Parish's experience as a separate identity the Sunday School has had only five superintendents, two of them still being members of St. James' Church. At the commencement W. R. C. Forster, now of Branchton, was superintendent. In 1892 Robert Mackenzie succeeded to the position, his place being taken two years later by the late Thomas W. Saunders. Three years afterwards A. E. Smith, who had been secretary-treasurer of the school since 1893, was appointed to the position, which he held until 1917 when he was succeeded by A. Bena'lick, who is ably continuing the good work founded by his predecessors in office, supported by an able band of teachers, who continue to evidence the same devotion and self sacrifice that have been the predominating spirit of the teachers of the Sunday School since its formation,

#### The Chnir

It will be thirty years ago on April 27th that St. James' Parish choir led the first service held in the Gulph Collegiate Institute gymnasium, Miss Nettle Saunders presiding as organist, which position she filled until July, 1895, with skill and faithfulness. During those past thirty years what changes have taken place in the choir; many have seen the little white clad choristers of 1890 grow to manhood and now their children are old enough to take the places

once occupied by their parents. Miss Trixie Chisholm was a fitting co-worker with Miss Saunders as leader of the choir and continued in her services to the Church antil February, 1896. It may be interesting to recall the personnell of the choir during those early days, which was composed as follows: Ladies—Miss Pipe Miss Rose Chadwick, Miss Snider, Miss Mary Sniler, Mrs. E Harvey, Miss Clark, Miss Minnie Howard, Gentlemen—Mr. C. S. Nichols, Mr. W. M. Stanley, Mr. R. Grierson, Mr. Percy Morris Boys—Sydney Saunders, Harry Howlit, Harry Cullen, Stuart Saunders, Willie Cotton, Frank Buckle, Joseph Benallick, John Chadwick Frod Gibbs and Jack Harvey.

Upon Miss Chisholm's retirement her place was filled by J. it Trendall, who gave place to Mr. B. Saunders, and he in turn was succeeded by F. R. Clark. Then came Mr. S. Pratt in 1899, followed by Miss Ethel Worswick, Professor Thomas, Miss Henderson, H. K. Anthony, J. Packer, E. E. Bell. For the past nine years Mr. J. R. Pears, the present overpant of the office, has faithfully and perseveringly continued the choir in the state of proficincy which has always been a marked characteristic of the services of St. James. At the organ one recalls Miss Kate Reynolds, Miss Walker, Miss Eva Taylor, Miss Grant, Miss Hill, and Mr. James Metcalf, who held the position with great ability for a number of years until, upon his demise, he was succeeded by Miss Marjorfe Marshall, who continues to give great satisfaction in assisting with the praises of Almighty God. The congregation of St. James has always been proud of the choir and its splendid work of the configuration.



REV. O. GLVNN H. LLOVO In charge of the Parish for over a year in 1916—191

## Mardens since Marish was formed

1899-R. Mackenzie and M. Iones.

1907-F. K. Baker and A. E. Smith

1914-F. K. Baker and A. E. Smith

1917-S. H. Northcott and Joseph Curzon

## Cau Delegates

F. J. Chadwick, Charles Walker, W. M. Stanley,

G. A. Richardson, J. G. Bell, M. Jones.

R. Mackenzie, C. L. Nelles, Joseph Curzon. J. J. Drew, C. Byford, C. B. Marsland.



## Officials of St. James Church

Caster, 1919-1920

Mector

VEN. ARCHDEACON A. C. MACKINTOSH, PAGE

The Rectory, 60 Glasgow St. Telephone 472

Bionorary Assistants

EV C. I. S. RETHUNE, D. C. L.

REV. C. H. BUCKLANI

Deopte's Gelarben

AND A RESIDENCE AS POSITION AND

d'hairmaster

Mector's Gelarden

P S T ROBLER too Liverpool St

Organist

HSS M. MARSHALL, 45 Park Ave

Sexton

POLLARD, Cambridge St.

Members of Select Destry

TAS. L. NELLES
F. K. BAKER S. I

A. J. HEWER

JOS. CURZON

J. N. LANE

NORTHCOTT A. BENALLIC WYNDHAM A. W. REYNO

ACRMAN W. C. DAINT