

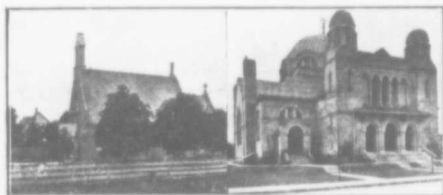
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St. Anne's Church, Toronto

**Fiftieth
Anniversary and Jubilee**

1862-1912



St. Anne's, 1862.

St. Anne's, 1912

An illustrated sketch of St. Anne's (the mother church of the western part of the city) during the past fifty years.

**ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA
GENERAL SYNOD, ARCHIVES**

"And ye shall hallow the fiftieth year; it shall be a Jubilee unto you."—Lev. 25: 10.

The Jubilee, or Fiftieth Anniversary of St. Anne's Church, Toronto

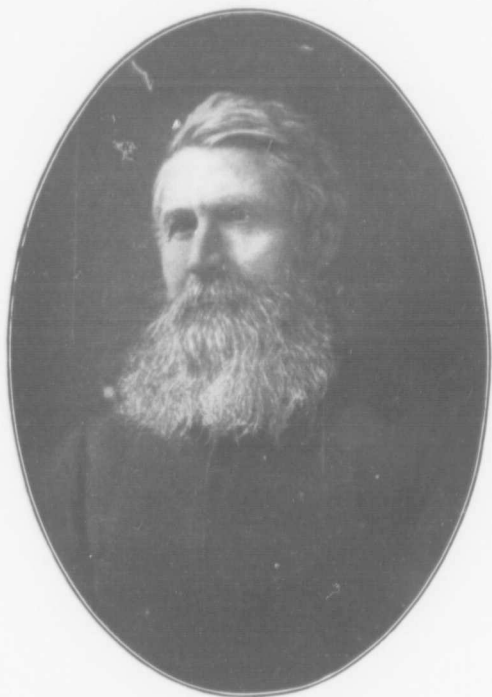
THE history of St. Anne's Church, Toronto, during the past fifty years has been in some respects a most unique and remarkable one. The nucleus of its congregation consisted of a number of people, who had been accustomed to gather together for worship in a private chapel, built by the late Col. R. L. Denison at his residence on Dovercourt Road, of which the Rev. John Hilton was appointed Rector.

Upon the partition of the Macdonnell estate, the two sons (Alexander and Angus), carrying out the wish of their father, the late Hon. Alexander Macdonnell, donated a piece of land on Dufferin street to the Church of England in memory of their mother, Ann Smith-Macdonnell, who, while her husband was a devoted Roman Catholic, was herself a faithful and loyal member of the Church of England.

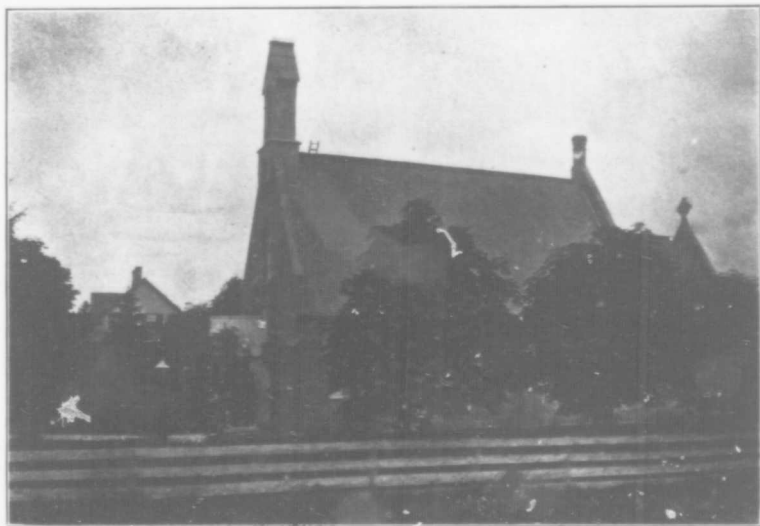
At the same time a second piece of land was donated by the same family on St. Helen's Avenue to the memory of their father. Thus, in memory of their parents, the land for two churches was given, on one piece of which was erected, in 1862, the Church of St. Anne's, where the truths that their mother loved were taught, and, on the other lot the Church of St. Helen's was erected, where the doctrines which their father believed were proclaimed. So in 1862, the Rev. John Hilton being Rector, and Mr. Kivas Tully the Architect, the first edition of St. Anne's was built. Some of the members gave their time and labor, others gave in money and the bricks were donated by Charles Denison, Esq., who is one of the very few members of the original St. Anne's who is still living and a member of the present congregation.

Mr. Hilton was succeeded, on his death in the year 1873, by the Rev. Joseph C. Gibson, who only lived nine months after his appointment, and was followed by the Rev. Dr. Strong, who labored from 1873 until his resignation through illness in 1877. Then the Rev. J. Maclean Ballard was transferred by Bishop Bethune from St. Bartholomew's Church to take charge of St. Anne's.

The parish at this early date was scattered over a large area extending from Davenport Road on the north to the lake shore, and from Trinity College on the east to the Humber river. Mr. Ballard soon found the difficulty of efficiently working so large a district single handed, and as the Rev. E. R. Stimson had started a little Sunday School in Parkdale, this was taken as a new church centre, and in 1877 a small chapel was erected (which is now used as the Infant Class and Choir Room of the present



The Rev. John Hilton.
1862-73.



The First Edition of St. Anne's.
1862.

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St. Mark's Church), and the new parish of St. Mark's was formally set apart, to which the Rev. Charles Ingles was appointed Rector in 1879. Some years after this (in 1887) a further division was found advisable and another parish set apart, and the first Church of the Epiphany was built, over which the Rev. Bernard Bryan was made Rector. This church has lately been rebuilt into one of the largest and most beautiful churches in the city, and, like St. Mark's, the original church is now used as a Sunday School. After these two infant parishes were separated from their mother church, St. Anne's had itself grown and had a south transept added. In addition to this enlargement a school chapel was erected on Grove Avenue, the land being given by Mrs. Harrison and the funds collected by Mr. George B. Kirkpatrick, assisted by Mrs. C. L. Featherstonhaugh. In this little chapel, with the assistance of the late Rev. Arthur Boulbee and two students from Trinity College, Mr. Robert Harris and Mr. Gilbert Parker (now Sir Gilbert Parker, whose books have interested and cheered so many of us), services were begun and carried on, and in a comparatively short time the Rector and Wardens handed this over to the Bishop, who cut off another piece from St. Anne's enclosing this chapel and made it into the parish of St. Barnabas.

This act of the Rector and Wardens was strongly objected to by St. Anne's people—so much so that whenever the new parish of St. Barnabas was mentioned they referred to it as St. Barabbas, "for," (said they) "it was stolen away from us against our will."

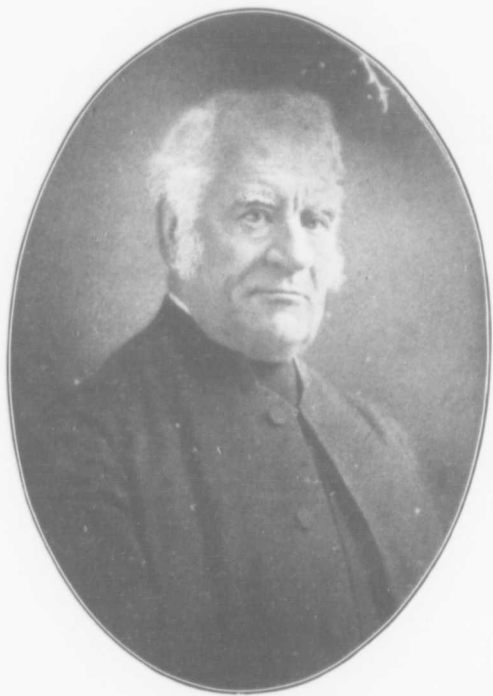
This little chapel on Grove Avenue, though built and paid for by the efforts of two of St. Anne's congregation, was now outside St. Anne's parish boundaries, and as the St. Barnabas people were, on that ground, laying claim to it, the men of St. Anne's took their own way of settling the dispute by secretly making their preparations, and then on a dark night quietly taking the little chapel away and setting it down close beside the old mother church, where it has stood ever since and been used as a school house, just living long enough to see the dawn of the Jubilee Year, and then meeting a most tragic end on a Sunday morning by fire.

The next outgrowth of the mother church was in the north of the parish. Here Mr. Dawes and Mr. George Mackenzie started a mission and Sunday School service, under the charge of the Rev. F. W. Squire, assisted by Mr. Edwards and his choir of boys from the Protestant Orphan's Home. Work was carried on in this part of the parish, but some dissension arose, resulting in the withdrawal of Mr. Squire and Mr. Edwards and the formal setting apart of this district into a separate parish, to which the Rev. Anthony Hart was appointed Rector. Then, through the generosity of Mr. Dawes and the untiring efforts of Mr. George B. Kirkpatrick (who might well be termed the Godfather of the parish), the Church of St. Mary the Virgin was erected. St. Mary's has in turn been subdivided, and the Church of St. Edmund set apart under the Rev. E. A. Vesey. While these enlargements were going on in the north and

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The Rev. Joseph C. Gibson, B.A.
1873.



The Rev. S. S. Strong, D.D.
1873-1877

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eastern outskirts, the parish church itself was twice more enlarged by the addition of a north transept, and then, Mr. Arthur Denison being the architect, the last enlargement was made which increased the seating capacity to about 700 and provided free seats in the gallery for the children of the Protestant Orphan's Home.

Two more missions were then established in the West of the Parish, St. Olaves' out at Swansea and St. Jude's on Roncensvalles Ave. The services at St. Jude's were carried on by the Revs. R. H. Harris, Charles H. Short, James S. Broughall and Robert McGinnis until the Rev. J. P. Roberts was appointed. Afterwards St. Jude's was set apart as a separate parish.

In November, 1902, Mr. Ballard was forced through ill health and over-work to resign from all active duty over the parish. Since Mr. Ballard's retirement there have been many changes, but it should not be forgotten that one soweth and another reapeth; that one man's work is the slow and difficult one of laying foundations on which another comes and builds. Mr. Ballard labored and toiled when the parish was scattered and during the years that the city passed through its severest financial depression, owing to the bursting of the land boom, and when men, now well off, were then so poor that they took the boards of the church fence to keep their children warm. All praise then to the man who struggled on through these trying years, bearing silently and patiently continual sickness in his home and doing his very utmost to meet the heavy burden of a rapidly growing parish.

Upon Mr. Ballard's retirement in November 1902, the Rev. Lawrence Skye was elected and appointed Rector-in-charge. In a few years the parish rapidly filled and the church was so overcrowded that rebuilding had to be considered. The difficulties in the way were many. The mortgage on the church for the last extension had never been reduced which, with other debts, amounted to \$15,000. This debt was now cut down to \$6,000, and then, after much prayer, the new church was undertaken. In the construction three simple rules were followed, viz: A church in which all could see and hear and have proper ventilation; for of what practical value is the most beautiful building if unsuitable for preaching the gospel? The committee therefore chose the Byzantine, the most primitive form of church architecture, and selected from the plans of competitive architects, the design submitted by Mr. Ford Howland, and erected the present church. It has a seating capacity of 1,600, a spacious chancel forty-five feet in width, seating a choir of ninety-five and room for twenty or thirty clergy. The foundation stone was laid by the Hon. S. H. Blake, K.C., in June, 1907, and the church opened by the Archbishop in October, 1903. The Rector's plan was to build the new church and then he hoped, five years after, to begin a new Sunday School; but the church had not been up more than two years before the old church (which had been converted into a Sunday School) was terribly overcrowded. Then classes were taken in the little old schoolhouse and the choir rooms and gallery



The Rev. J. McLean Ballard, M.A.
1877-1902.



The last edition of old St. Anne's.

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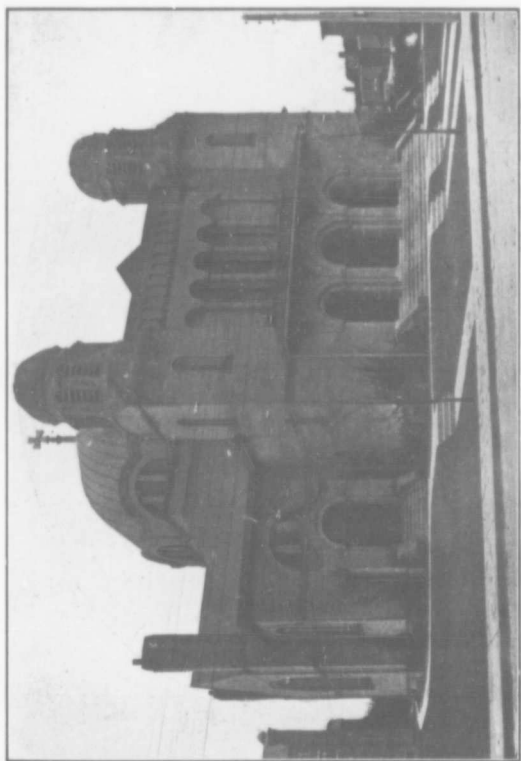
THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. ANNE'S CHURCH

of the new church filled with scholars. When the attendance increased to over 1,100 on Sunday afternoons (and a children's service of 500 at night) it was felt that a much larger school, capable of meeting the demand for a much larger and broader work, was absolutely necessary. The teachers were therefore called together and the whole matter laid before God in earnest prayer. Sunday after Sunday for several months they met after school and waited upon God for guidance. Then there came to them the conviction that the time was come to build and that God would be with them and open the way before them. Of a surety mountains seemed to face them. A congregation of working people without a rich man among them—a church just built with a mortgage of \$20,000 upon it—a mortgage of \$1,400 on the rectory which was falling down and required rebuilding—and another mortgage of \$6,000 on the old church or Sunday School. With this debt of \$27,400 already upon them no wonder many regarded the task of tearing down the old school, buying more land and putting up a large school or Parish Hall, which would cost an additional \$53,000, as rash and foolish, but "that which the world deems foolish is wiser than men's wisdom," and the God who called us to build made ready a way for the builders by raising up for them the needed helpers. One retired business man and his wife agreed to pay the interest on \$5,000 for five years, four other business men of our city did the same, and a number of large-hearted business men and women (and some of them members of other denominations) stood generously by us in this our efforts for the saving and upbuilding of the child life of the west end of our city. Our own Sunday School, teachers, officers and children gave \$3,000, our Anglican Young Peoples' Association \$500, our Choir \$500, and the remainder was contributed by the congregation. In this way the new Parish Hall and Rectory were built, Gordon & Helliwell being the architects, and we believe that two better planned buildings have never been erected in the city. The old corner stone of the original church (the only trace left of the old parish) with its battered inscription of 1862 was used again, the date of the foundation of the new Parish Hall (1911) inscribed on the other side of the stone, and in Nov. 1912—just 50 years from the erection of the first church—the new and complete parish plant has been finished.

This plant now consists of a Church seating sixteen hundred, a Parish Hall (which, when the basement is completed, will accommodate over two thousand), and a modern and well planned Rectory. All three represent a total value of \$175,000, and on the whole there is a mortgage now of only \$36,000. Surely the prayers of faith have been marvellously answered, and the hand of God hath gone before us and levelled the mountains into plains over which it hath been possible for us as a congregation to pass. From God came the inspiration, by His good hand the mountain levelling, therefore to Him and to Him alone let us render thanks and praise and be willing to follow His voice to whatever tasks He may point us in the future.



Rev. Lawrence Skey, M.A.
1902.



The new St. Anne's,
1908.



Chancel of the new St. Anne's.

THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. ANNE'S CHURCH

St. Anne's Church, according to the last Synod Report, now occupies the third place among the churches of the diocese, and in the number of its Easter Communicants, its Sunday school and men's work, it stands first. A great responsibility therefore rests upon us. Let us then work and pray that this responsibility may be fully and truly borne. We cannot close this survey of the history of St. Anne's without directing attention to what in my judgment is the reason of our blessing and the secret of whatever measure of success has crowned our efforts, and that is, St. Anne's *Missionary Character*. When we were building our church and needed money most, then, *just because we wanted money*, and wanted God's blessing on our work at home, we sent out and supported our first missionary abroad (our Curate, the Rev. R. M. Millman, now working in Japan), for we realized that great truth that God will not bless a selfish church and that a non-missionary church is invariably *in God's sight* a dead church. If, therefore we would continue to grow stronger and stronger, let us continue to devote more time and thought and money and prayer to the coronation among the heathen of our Christ as King.

Some may be interested to know that three missionaries now working in Japan were all at one time workers in St. Anne's—The Rev. F. W. Kennedy, the Rev. J. G. Waller and the Rev. R. M. Millman. In the Northwest we have sent out and share half of the support of the Rev. John Marshall and his wife (formerly Miss Mabel Long, who was for years our Infant class teacher). The Rev. Edgar Lake and his wife (formerly Miss Murton, a Sunday School teacher of St. Anne's) are now working in New Brunswick. Mr. Robert Kemp is with the Y.M.C.A. in China. Miss Mary Marshall, another S.S. teacher, trained for a nurse, married a Presbyterian medical missionary and is now working in India. Charlotte Gibson, Miss Dunlop and the Misses Wright, formerly of St. Anne's, are all engaged in missionary work in the Indian schools, and the late Rev. Frank Walker, once Curate in this parish was engaged in missionary work in Manitoba before his death.

We have also at the present time one of our girls in the Missionary Deaconess' training home, one of our young men preparing for Medical Missions, another for Missionary work in China, and three more at Wycliffe College preparing for the ministry.

May many more parents pray that their children may be added to our Church's Missionary band, that link by link our Church's Missionary chain may grow longer and stronger, thus bringing us closer to our Lord's ideal of what a true church ought to be, that when He looks down upon our church and listens to the word preached there, the prayers offered there, the praise sung there and the work done there He will not turn away disappointed. Let us then care nothing of what other churchmen say of us but careful only and always that as a church we may be more and more transformed and conformed unto the image or ideal which Christ has left for His Church, that when He comes He will acknowledge it as true to Him.



St. Anne's new Parish Hall.
1912.

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St. Anne's new Rectory,
1912.

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