

The Mission of Magnettawan was founded by the Rev. Wm. Crompton, travelling clergyman for S.P.G. about the year 1880. Arpdin being his head quarters he travelled for many miles into the surrounding country, holding services wherever else opportunity offered. It was not until the year 1884 that the Mission was placed in charge of one who should give his whole time to furtherance of the work. Meanwhile between 1880 and 1884 the following buildings had been erected at Seguin Falls, a plain frame building dedicated to St. Paul; at Dufferin Bridge a fairly good building dedicated to St. John; at Pearceley a plain wooden frame building in honor of the Holy Trinity; at Midlothian a plain frame building dedicated to St. Peter and at Magnettawan a frame building plastered. A House adjoining the church 16ft. by 26ft. had also been purchased for a Parsonage and with the other sites duly deeded to the Bishop of Algoma. In July of 1884 the Bishop placed M.A.I. Young, from England, in charge of the Mission, services being held at Magnettawan every other Sunday in rotation with the other mission stations. At Magnettawan a Sunday School was at once started by W. Young, in the Parsonage. The first Sunday only the Catechists two children and one other attended, but in a very little while the school outgrew the Parsonage and was held in the Church until the end of 1887, when mainly by the exertions of Rev. A. Young who collected funds. Whilst on a visit to England a Hall adjoining the church was built, to this building 50ft. by 24 ft. the school was transferred it having been seated with chairs the gift of a Toronto lady. On Ascension Day 1885 Mr. Young was ordained Deacon by the Bishop of Algoma at St. Thomas' Bracebridge and on Trinity Sunday 1886 was ordained Priest by the Bishop of Algoma at Trinity Church Parry Sound. In February 1889 the Stations at Dufferin Bridge, and Seguin Falls were separated from the Magnettawan Mission and attached to that of Broadbent, whilst Dunchurch was added to the Mission. The Church of St. George the Martyr Magnettawan was from the first an object of loving care to the Rev. A. Young. When he first saw it it was seated with rough benches, stove pipes were poking through the roof, the battens were hanging off in many cases, and not a scrap of paint was to be seen anywhere. In a short time the stove pipes gave way to chimneys suitable seats and other necessary furniture, with Font and organ were provided. The Vestry furnished and carpeted nor did the outside remain untouched the battens soon gave way to siding. The approach to the Church was cleaned up and a neat fence with a flight of steps and entrance gate

provided. The Church was also painted both inside and out and the fencing also being painted. In 1886 the old porch was torn down, and the present handsome structure on a stone foundation 8ft. square was built. The design having been provided by a Toronto Architect. The Bell weighing 400lbs. was provided by Mr. Shane of Baltimore U.S.A. costing \$98.00. In the year 1889-1890 St. Peter's at Midlothian was improved and a Tower erected at a cost of about \$180. The most of this money being provided from the Bishops fund. A bell weighing 100lbs. was also presented to the church by an English Clergyman through Rev. A. Young but as yet it has not been hung. (Rev. M. French had it hung in June 19, 1900.) In 1890 a church Building was started at Dunchurch the Bishop buying the lot from Mr. Kelcey for \$50.00. The people worked well but have not for want of funds been able to complete the building--there is yet a debt of about \$100. on it. The Church of the Holy Trinity at Pearceley also suffered alterations with a view to comfort were effected, but it is impossible to make the poor building anything churchlike. During the time that it was the happy privilege of the first Incumbent Rev. A. Young to work in the Parish and Mission he met with the kindest of sympathy from all, and could at all times, and especially of late years count upon the hearty support of the people in the furtherance of every good work. In every good work he was ably assisted by his wife, who regularly and with marked punctuality presided at the organ and practiced the choir, superintendent of the Sabbath School and was ever mindful of the poor and needy never however neglecting her household duties but she proved herself an example in all godliness to all young and old. The present incumbent leaves the mission on the 28<sup>th</sup> day of March 1892 in the prayerful hope that God will raise of another, and a more worthy succession, who will carry on the work of which the foundation has only been laid. The Church of St. Peter Midlothian was mainly built through the liberality of friends in the old Land who for years had been acquainted with the family named "Cockerill" at present living opposite the church. Farewell services to Mr. Young were held at Pearceley on February 7<sup>th</sup> at Magnettawan on 6<sup>th</sup> March and at Midlothian on 20<sup>th</sup> March. Mission again opened on the 14<sup>th</sup> of May 1893. A.C. Wilson student of the Montreal Diocesan Theological College in Charge. Magnettawan, Midlothian and Dunchurch are the only three stations that received services this summer. The Church at Pearceley was closed, the people having deserted the place.

A great many people have left the Mission as can be seen by the Register.

Farewell services again as follows: Dunchurch August 24<sup>th</sup>, 1893, Magnetawan and Midlothian September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1893.

19 June  
1893

Mr. T.J. Hag took charge Mission and held 1st services Feb. 26<sup>th</sup>, 1893. The Bishop and the Rev'd Rural Dean Chowne visited the Mission. A social was held in Parish Hall, the Bishop held a Vestry Meeting, and then the Rev'd. Rural Dean Chowne baptised four children and the Bishop confirmed three candidates assisted by Rural Dean celebrated. The Bishop stayed 2 days.

24 Jan.  
1895

The Rev'd Rural Dean Chowne paid a visit to the Mission holding services at Magnetawan, Dunchurch and Midlothian baptising and administering Holy Communion.

12 & 13  
Feb.  
1895

The Rev'd A.J. Cobb of North Seguin came into Mission and baptised nineteen children.

23 June  
1895

The Rev'd A.O. Tarrant Deacon of Toronto Diocese baptised six children at Ipenca.

Dec.  
1895

St. Peter's Midlothian. This Church was completed inside and seats bought, the congregation going into debt a small amount.

Dec. 4  
1895

The first wedding was solemnized in this Church by the Rev. C. Piercy of Burk's Falls, a bible being presented to the bride later on by the Catechists on behalf of Churchwardens and congregation.

9 Jan.  
1896

The Ven. Archdeacon of Algoma The Rev. T. Tlwydd visited the Mission and held services at various stations.

1896

The Congregation of St. Peter's Midlothian had the Church lot surveyed and they fenced the lot, the Church being free of debt was ready for consecration.

During Mr. Hay's occupancy of the Parsonage he spent a considerable sum fixing the house and making it more comfortable Mr. Hay raised a sum of money by sale of photographs and gifts from friends towards putting a stone foundation to the house and a sum of money was raised by a picnic. The bell had a debt on it and the money was so spent.

23 Aug.  
1896

Rev. D.A. Johnston took charge of Magnetawan, Midlothian, Dunchurch having been foolishly cut off as a separate Mission.

1899

Rev. D.A. Johnston conducted last service in all three churches and vacates the Mission after three labourous but successful years.

1900

- 1900 The Rev. W.H. French enters upon the duties of Incumbent of the Mission of Magnettawan, Midlothian, and Dunchurch.
- 1902 This day the first Service of the church was held up the East Road in the house of Albert George Coombs. After 3 Services then came a suspension until Sunday 3 Aug. when the Rev. W.H. French resumed but transferred place of Assembly to the schoolhouse.
- 1902 The Church of St. Peter Midlothian as also the churchyard and the Church of St. Andrew Dunchurch were duly consecrated this day by Bishop Thorneleoe.
- +5<sup>th</sup>/05 Rev. W.H. French resigns Mission and accepts Emsdale after 5½ years Ministry here.
- Jan.15<sup>th</sup> Rev. C. Ryan resigns mission after 9½ months ministry. The  
1907 to Church was then closed for the winter and in May 1st/08  
Oct.30<sup>th</sup> Richard Haines Catechist took charge of the missions and con-  
1907 services each Sunday until Oct.1st/1908.
- Nov.22nd Mr. H.J. Hawken took charge of the three Mission stations  
1908 Magnetawan, Midlothian and Dunchurch and conducted services until May 16<sup>th</sup>, 1909 during his time in charge he replaced the frame work which had answered the purpose of Holy Communion Table for a nice framework Table - Cross and Desk for the Altar Service Book.
- May 30<sup>th</sup> Mr. R. Haines again took charge of the three stations of  
1909 the Mission and held service each Sunday until Sept. 26<sup>th</sup>.
- Oct.1909 Marked a great change in the working of the Mission which with fifteen other stations was placed under the Rev. Canon Burt with the assistance of one Priest and three Catechists. Mr. P.F. Bull moving from Sprucedale to Magnettawan Mission having for outstations Dunchurch and Midlothian Sprucedale being added as a station of the Novar Mission.
- Oct.27<sup>th</sup> Rev. P.F. Bull held his last service at St. George's.  
1912 From that state until May 1st, 1913, there was no service  
in any of the 3 churches, except during the annual visit of the Bishop, who, accompanied by Canon Allman, came on February 20<sup>th</sup>.
- May 1st, On Ascension Day Rev. W.H. Trickett re-opened the Church  
1913 and held his first service. During his incumbency Service was held at St. George's every Sunday evening, instead of in the afternoon, as before. On Monday, August 11<sup>th</sup> the rector left for the Indian station of Sheguiandah, on Manitoulin Island.

He was succeeded by Mr. R.M. Fairbairn B.A., a Divinity student of Trinity College, Toronto, and an associate member of the Church Camp Mission, of London, Eng. During his brief stay in the parish no changes were made, save that a short devotional service on Wednesday evenings was introduced. He gave up the charge on Thursday, September 25<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Fairbairn was followed in the Mission by Mr. J.H. Hamilton who acted as Catechist until Dec. 1915.