

1871-1998

ALL SAINTS' ANGLICAN CHURCH

HUNTSVILLE, ONTARIO

ALL SAINTS' ANGLICAN CHURCH
ARCHIVES COMMITTEE

The history of our parish is, like all history, a work in progress.

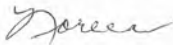
Since their formation in 1991, members of the archives committee have been collecting, cataloguing and safeguarding archival documents and artifacts as part of their spiritual commitment to All Saints' Parish.

This document, and a similar one prepared earlier this year for members of Holy Trinity Church in Newholm, were co-authored by Esther Spencer and Noreen Spencer-Nimmons. Marion Nickalls, Mern Parker and Joan Northey assisted in the project.

We think of this document as Volume I in a proposed series of similar documents which will make a boxed set. Volumes II through VII (or VIII) will record the history and people at the churches, once known as the "Missions" (Aspden, Grassmere, Ilfracombe, Novar, Ravenscliffe and perhaps Lancelot).

We thank all those who have helped us in our work. We count on those families who may be preserving records of the smaller churches to come forward in a spirit of cooperation to help us record and capture the past. This is an especially important task as we approach the millennium.

For the committee,



Dr. Noreen Spencer-Nimmons

THE HISTORY
of
ALL SAINTS' ANGLICAN CHURCH
HUNTSVILLE, ONTARIO
from
1871-1998

Volume I

The devotion, courage and vision of All Saints' earliest families, beginning 1871, was a gift of commitment to future generations.

Although our Parish has known change and adversity over the years, it has survived and progressed because that legacy is carried on.

This history, then and now, is about you, your families, friends and our visitors.

THE BEGINNING

1871

One hundred and twenty-seven years ago, All Saints' began as a small Church of England mission with eight congregants. Today it ministers to more than 300 souls. In 1871, the mission was administered from England by *The Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Lands*. Priests and missionaries of the Church of England in Canada covered long distances, by horseback and on foot, to minister to an expanding rural area as new villages and missions arose. All Saints' progressed from an "Out-station" to a "Mission" to a "Parish" church, thus part of a Deanery and Diocesan process. *Today, All Saints' parish is a full ministry within the Anglican Church of Canada.* It is guided by the Bishop of Algoma and an incumbent priest chosen and approved by the Bishop and representatives of the congregation.

1871-1873, Reverend Thomas Ball, a missionary at Bracebridge, held a service for seven people in the small home of Mr. Charles Morley, about two and a half miles north of the future settlement of Huntsville. Reverend Ball arranged for laymen to take services and visited as much as possible over the next two years when a permanent missionary was appointed.

In 1873, the Venerable Frederick Dawson Fauquier, Archdeacon of Brant, was consecrated the first Bishop of Algoma after the Districts of Muskoka, Parry Sound, Nipissing and Algoma were constituted by the Provincial Synod as a missionary Diocese. Bishop Fauquier was assisted by seven clergy. They expanded the work of the Diocese greatly over the next eight years.

1873-1876, the Reverend Edwin Cooper, incumbent. Reverend Cooper's mission in the Port Sydney area was extended to include Huntsville as an out-station. The first services were held in a log building which was also used as a meeting place by the Huntsville Orange Lodge. Early church ledgers record the sacrament of Holy Baptism, administered to Eliza Jane, daughter of James and Mary Later. The daughter of John and Maria Scarlett was baptised six months later.

1876-1882, the Reverend William Compton, incumbent. Reverend Compton succeeded Reverend Cooper as a missionary, travelling from his home in Port Sydney to conduct services in an area again extended, now beyond Huntsville, to include the new missions at Aspdin and Ilfracombe. In 1876, the first service of *Holy Communion* and the first *Confirmation* were held in Mr. Scarlett's new log store, Huntsville. The following photograph of the store also indicates the early stages of growth in the village of Huntsville. During this time, William Cann gave a piece of land to the congregation and the shell of a Church Hall was erected.

**The earliest recorded services of Holy Communion
and Holy Baptism were held here**



**Mr. Scarlett's store and the first business houses
built in the early 1870s on Main Street in Huntsville**

In 1879, Mr. John Sampson Scarlett, Church Warden, donated five acres of land, being Lot 11, Concession III, Township of Chaffey (West Road). The land, to be used as Burial Ground, was deeded to the Bishop of Algoma Diocese for the congregation of All Saints Huntsville. Efforts were made by volunteers to clear the forest. This work was finished in 1886 and the area fenced in at a cost of \$174. A survey and plan were completed at a cost of \$8. In 1883 the Reverend C. A. French was priest-in-charge. Huntsville was declared a separate mission in April of this year.

1883-1903, the Reverend Thomas Llwyd was transferred from Gravenhurst on September 7, 1883. He assumed the missions of Huntsville, Allensville, Ravenscliffe and Grassmere. But Reverend Llwyd's first work was to furnish the Church Hall so that full services could be held. He also secured the present parsonage on River Street at a cost of \$825. The Diocese contributed \$400 and the congregation assumed a loan for the balance.

In 1883 a new Church Hall and driving shed were built. The Women's committee and male members of the congregation raised the entire cost of \$870. Mr. George Hunt raised money to line the interior. A bell tower, which cost \$245.50, was erected at the Hall. During this time, the Sunday school children were under the supervision of Mr. Hunt.

In 1885 Ravenscliffe became an out-station of Huntsville. In 1890 the Reverend L. Sinclair took charge of both the Ravenscliffe and Ilfracombe missions. He had a great fear of horses and, as a note in the archives attests, he returned the Bishop's \$100 allotment for the purchase of a horse. The Reverend Sinclair walked to and from his missions, carrying a lantern to light his way home in the dark. The photograph below is of the communion set he carried with him in his ministries.



In November 1886, S. G. Waddington wrote an article in the Dominion Churchman about his three weeks in Muskoka and visits to Anglican churches in Port Sydney, Huntsville, Aspden and Lancelot. He didn't think much of the outside of All Saints' but praised the tone of its bell and the spirituality of its people.

...one Sunday, we spent the day at Huntsville, a village of 700 inhabitants, prettily situated on the river which unites Fairy and Vernon Lakes. All Saints Church, externally, is a most unsightly wooden edifice. But the appearance and arrangements of the interior happily are much more pleasing, and the heartiness and warmth of the service cannot fail to strike the visitor as remarkable, and afford unmistakable evidence of good pastoral training and teaching. Every man, woman, and child (the church was well filled, and there was a large quota of children) seemed to join both in the singing and responding, the result being a service at once jubilant and impressive as one could wish to join in any church, whether town or country. The demeanor of the officiating clergyman, the neat altar cross, the recital of the Athanasian Creed, it being St. James' Day, seemed to indicate a good sense of churchmanship, and the stirring words of the preacher were those of an evangelical churchman. Judging from the number and appearance of the congregation, from the citizen in his broadcloth to the farmer in his shirtsleeves, the church seems to have obtained a good foothold in Huntsville. *The strange exterior of the building is, as we were afterwards informed, due to the fact it was originally intended as a mere hall.* It is to be hoped it will before long be superseded by a real church, built on a good site. Huntsville has been unusually fortunate in the tone of its church going bells. Few bells in Toronto can compare for richness and sweetness with the two whose combined melody summons worshippers to church in this backwoods village, where but a few years ago resorted only the deer, the bear, and the beaver, and now and then a trapper, and perchance a surveying party.



In 1887 communion vessels were purchased and on November 4 All Saints' Rectory was consecrated by Bishop Sullivan, successor to Bishop Fauquier. Bishop Sullivan, frequently absent due to ill health, often sought the assistance of the Rector, Reverend Llwyd. Thus, as Administrator of the Diocese, Reverend Llwyd was instrumental in formulating early Diocesan policies.

On April 18, 1894, during the great fire in Huntsville, the wooden Church Hall burned down. Spurred on by the fire, Reverend Llywd urged the congregation at the Annual Vestry Meeting to finish the stone church. The present site at Main, River and High Streets was purchased from the Cann family for \$250. Architect Robert Olgivie's plans were accepted by the building committee [Messrs. G. Ecclestone, M. Kinton, H. S. May, C. Peacock, G. Hunt, F. Francis, G. Wilgress, N. Norton, J. Down and J. Baskerville.] who approved the estimated cost of \$5,000. Fifty four meetings were held over the next six years of planning and building. Mr. F. Francis and Mr. L. H. Ware oversaw the construction. The final cost rose to \$6,196.73. Donations poured in from England and other parts of Ontario. At completion, only a small debt of \$500 remained. The Women's Committee donated the furnace. Mr Olgivie donated the stained glass window in the Chancel and friends of his donated the South window. This early photograph records their achievement.



[Likely the Rev. Llwyd, the Rev. Sweeney and wardens, or members of the building committee]

The old bell survived the fire and was sent to New York to be recast. The new tenor bell weighed 895 pounds. Its tone was, and is, much admired by all who hear it. The bell is inscribed:

All Saints' Huntsville, Edward Sullivan, Bishop, Thomas Llwyd, incumbent, L. H. Ware and J. T. Burke, Wardens. Donated by the Church Women's Committee.

On Trinity Sunday, June 9, 1895, a special service was held in the new church. The guest celebrant, The Reverend Dr. Sweeney, Rector of Saint Philip's Church in Toronto, praised the foresight and hard work of Reverend Llwyd, and congratulated the congregation on their great achievement.

On January 16, 1898, The Right Reverend George Thornloe, newly appointed Bishop, presided at a confirmation service in All Saints' Church. **On February 5, 1900**, all debt to All Saints' was discharged and **on February 18, Bishop Thornloe consecrated the building.** In 1901, All Saints' Parish became self-supporting and relieved the Mission Fund of any further payment towards the incumbent's stipend.

On July 18, 1903, The Venerable Thomas Llwyd died. He had encouraged the congregation to build a Parish Hall and this work was in progress that summer. He was a man of great vision and devotion during his 19 years of service. This was noted on July 17, 1904, when Archdeacon Gillmor presided at the dedication of an Altar Cross at a memorial service.



The Reverend and Mrs. Thomas Llwyd with their son Charlewood.
Totally blind, Charlewood would become organist at All Saints' for many years.

1903-1911, the Reverend C. W. Balfour, incumbent. His ministry is notable because he started the *Mission of the Merciful Saviour* in the west end of Huntsville with the help of Mr. and Mrs. Rastall. The mission continued until WWI began in 1914. An important artifact from this mission is a concertina which was used to lead the singing of hymns. Bought in England, the concertina was restored recently by a parishioner and displayed at our centennial celebrations.

In 1905, supported by the wardens and the congregation, the Reverend Balfour accepted the design of Mr. W. W. Olgivie for a Parish Hall. Mr. George Hutcheson contributed the masonry and Mr. F. Francis the carpentry. The official opening of the Parish Hall was held on November 18, 1906. All work was completed in 1908 at a total cost of \$7,198.19.

In 1909 the Reverend Balfour began printing a Parish leaflet, copies of which are kept in All Saints' archives today.

1911-1914, the Reverend Edwin J. Harper, incumbent. The choir was vested for the first time at Easter, 1912. The choir leader was Mrs. Harper and the organist was Miss I. May. A pipe organ was donated by Mrs. Llwyd, wife of the Reverend Thomas Llwyd in memory of their son Charleswood who had died at the age of 36 years.

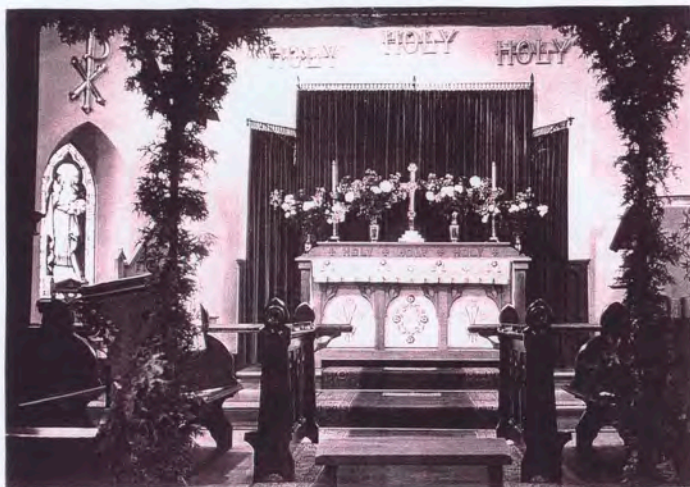
1914-1925, the Reverend Percival G. M. Law, incumbent. Equipment for the Parish Hall was purchased during his ministry. When he married, the Rectory was renovated and a fireplace added. Some of the gifts to the church during these years were: a Litany Desk, given by Mr. R. Salmon in memory of his wife and son; an oak retable, given by Mrs. Trimmer. Mr. C. J. Christenson gave a brass altar desk in memory of his wife. A brass ewer for the baptismal font and a new book of the prayer desk were given by the Altar Society. Mr. Onyett, Sunday School Superintendent, helped pupils to purchase a lantern for the Sunday School. It is still in use today.

1925-1926, the Reverend P. Steed, incumbent. During this year the Chancel and Sanctuary were enlarged and the Chancel was refloored with hardwood. The lighting system was overhauled and modern appliances installed. On March 21, 1926, Canon Allman dedicated a new pipe organ which had been installed in the renovated Chancel.

Cars had replaced horses and so the Church Stable, located across the road from the church, was torn down.

1926-1933, the Reverend Walter F. Smith, incumbent. He encouraged the congregation to add a Pulpit and a Bishop's Chair. They did so, giving the Bishop's Chair in memory of Bishop Thornloe who had maintained close association with the Parish since he presided at its first confirmation in 1898. New heating systems were installed in the Church and in the Rectory.

Christmas 1929



This photo is a good reference for changes that began taking place at All Saints' and should be compared to the photo on page 12. Note the drapes immediately behind the altar and the Holy... Holy... Holy... on the wall. Then, the priest said the Eucharist facing the altar. He was assisted by Altar Boys (Servers). Today, the priest - he or she - says the Eucharist facing the people and with the participation of the people.

In 1933, the Reverend R. C. Warder assisted the Parish when the Reverend Smith and his family took a year's leave to England.

The Great Depression had its effect on our Parish and it went into debt. It also lost its status as a Parish. At one point thought was given to taking out a mortgage or loaning money from the Mission Fund. But the "congregation soldiered on and with good stewardship they wiped out the debt in the next few years."

1934-1948, the Reverend E. Ray Nornabell, incumbent. During his ministry Reverend Nornabell coped with the effects of the Depression as it neared its end and the Second World War. In 1934, the wood remains of the Church Stable were sold at the going price for 15 cords, two foot wood. In 1937 a small organ was given to All Saints Sunday School from the estate of Miss Jelley. In 1938 All Saints Young People's Club funded the installation of new lighting in the church. A Pulpit was installed as a memorial to P. B. Walmsley and a window was given in memory of Mr. Ecclestone. *All Saints regained its status as a Parish in 1940.* In 1942, the Vestry Minutes recorded that 22 young men from All Saints' were now serving in the Armed Forces and 5 others were in the Veteran's Reserve. Extensive renovations were made to the Rectory in 1943.

1948-1954, the Reverend J. F. Hinchliffe, incumbent. The congregation took on new life in the post-war era and the work of the parish progressed, as it had under the Reverend Nornabell.

Progress, for example is recorded in the minutes of one women's group when the younger women asked the executive "...to allow us to call each other by our first names at meetings, rather than Miss or Mrs."

The Reverend Hinchliffe was a spiritual and an energetic man. He started a boy's choir, presided over renovations of the church crypt and the Rectory. He was very active (and successful) in the Badminton Club, which met weekly in the Parish Hall.

In about 1950 a stained glass window was installed in memory of the Reverend Sinclair. When he retired from his ministries at the Ravenscliffe and Ilfracombe out-stations in later life, he and his May moved into Huntsville where they attended All Saints' Church. Yvonne Williams of Toronto was commissioned to design a window that reflected Reverend Sinclair's ministry. She captured the image of him walking with his lantern at night and incorporated this in her design.

1954-1990, the Reverend George W. Sutherland, incumbent. Reverend Sutherland and his wife Jean were selfless people who cared deeply about the trials and tribulations of parishioners through the years. They raised seven children of their own and never turned anyone in need from their door. They quietly helped people down on their luck, hitch-hikers looking for work, feeding and sheltering them overnight.

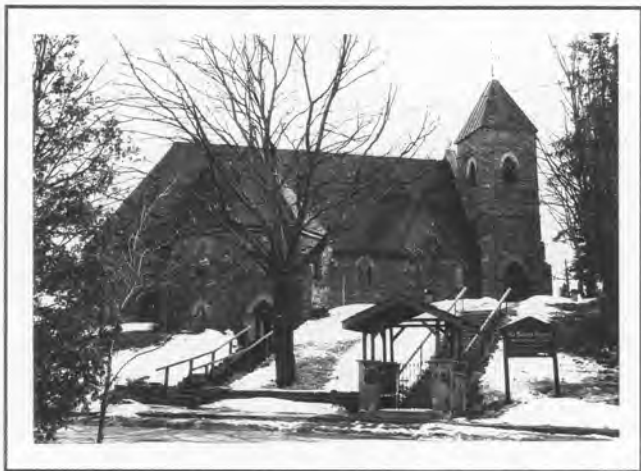
The Reverend Sutherland became a Canon during his thirty five years of stewardship. An accomplished and respected musician, he contributed greatly to the music of the Parish, the Diocese of Algoma and to the Church in Canada. He was a consultant to The Joint Committee of members from the Anglican and United Churches who published the new (red cover) hymn book in 1971. He meticulously researched and recorded part of the history of the Parish in a booklet. The booklet has been invaluable to the archives committee as confirmation of names and dates.

In Canon Sutherland's time, the church was restored to its original lines and an organ loft and chapel were added. A new pipe organ was installed, the gift of Frank W. Hutcheson and his family in memory of Emily Hutcheson, wife and mother. The chapel was built with funds raised by the congregation, and from gifts and bequests. It was furnished as a memorial to Sherwood Jupp, only son of Randolph and Alice Jupp who had died of cancer at a young age.

In 1964, Archbishop Wright dedicated all of these additions and gifts.

In more recent years, the Parish Hall basement was completely renovated. A new heating system was installed in both the Hall and the Church. The Parish Hall was renamed *Sutherland Hall* to mark Canon Sutherland's fortieth anniversary as a priest and to commemorate his and his wife Jean's ministries to the Parish.

Toward the end of Canon Sutherland's ministry, a roofed Lich Gate [sometimes spelled Lych]¹ was built at the base of the stone steps on River Street as a resting place for parishioners who walked to Church. It was given in memory of Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Wilson by their children: Robert J. Wilson, Edward C. Wilson, Esther Wilson Spencer and Kathleen Wilson Cairns.



1990-1991. The bishop found it hard to fill the void left by Canon George Sutherland when he retired. **The Reverend Gower** and **The Reverend James** both served short terms. Church services and pastoral care were provided by clergy from the Deanery and retirees, including **The Reverend Walter S. Johnson**, who became Honorary Assistant. Fr. Walter and his wife Helen have contributed substantially to the spiritual growth of All Saints' Parish. **Fr. Don Clark** had assisted in the parish for many years while on holiday at their cottage on Bella Lake. When he and his wife Ritsu retired, the cottage was rebuilt as a permanent home. He is a tremendous help in ministering at Grassmere, Ravenscliffe and Ilfracombe as well as at All Saints' Church. Fr. Don became Associate Priest of All Saints' when the new incumbent was appointed.

1991-1992 **the Reverend Patrick Playfair** was given a contract by the Bishop of Algoma to serve as Interim Priest for one year. During that time he worked hard to make changes in the Service needed to modernize our liturgy. The Book of Common Prayer had been used in some form since 1622 in England and elsewhere and was being replaced with the Book of Alternative Services. This break from tradition caused some discomfort in the congregation.

¹ A roofed place where coffin bearers could set down a coffin and rest. (Dial. Old Eng., lich meaning corpse).

The Archives Committee was formed in 1991 to file and document all literature and artifacts of church history. A quarterly, called *The Chronicle*, was reinstated after a lapse of some years. The original had been started by the Reverend Sinclair in 1904. "Fr. Pat" encouraged the children back into the church and Sunday School. He was assisted in the latter portion of his interim ministry by Fr. Don Clark.

1991 - 1996. On March 1, 1992 in Sudbury, **The Venerable Eric B. Paterson** accepted the request of the Bishop of Algoma to become Rector of All Saints' Church. On April 5, The Right Reverend Leslie E. Peterson celebrated the new ministry of Fr. Eric and his wife Pat. By 1995, Centennial Year of our church building, the parish was thriving. The people participated by reading the lessons, chanting the psalms, leading the Prayers of the People and openly exchanging "the peace" at the Prayer of Peace. Members of the congregation, including teenagers, were trained to assist at the altar during the Eucharist. A Parish Advisory Council was established, operating effectively through an organizational mode known as 'The Wheel' with the Clergy and Wardens at the hub and organizations fanning out from them. Pat Paterson directed the choir, played the organ and supervised the 10:00 a.m. Choral Eucharist. Pat and Fr. Eric were also involved in All Saints' Players.

In 1995, the "Francis" property was purchased and renamed All Saints' House. The house, home of Fred and Ann Francis and their nine children was built in 1906 adjacent to the church. Fred had been a member of the original (1889) church Building Committee. Today, this lovely red brick, three-story building is used for administration, meetings and Church School.



The choir, Fr. Don Clark, Warden Murray McInnis, Archbishop Ted Scott, Archdeacon Paterson.

Many celebrations took place during Archdeacon Paterson's ministry. Every event produced an archival record. The photograph below, for example, was taken on **Homecoming Sunday, 1995**. Canon George Sutherland returned as guest preacher for the day. Archdeacon Eric Paterson is seated behind the lectern on the left. Changes to the interior of the church are evident by comparing this photograph with the one on page eight of this document. Note the altar.



In 1996 when Fr. Eric and his wife Pat retired, the People's Warden Jack Howell paid tribute to their ministries by recalling all the special celebrations of All Saints' Parish life, such as

our patronal festival, Centennial of our building, and the 125th Anniversary of our Parish. We hope we can continue with the strong Lay Ministry that has developed with your guidance, that we will all continue with our stewardship of time, talent and financial gifts that you have nurtured. We give special thanks to Father Eric for his teaching and preaching, for his liturgical knowledge and practise as he has led our services of worship. To Pat we say thank you for sharing your gift of musical leadership. The development of talent within our choir has been appreciated by all the congregation...your selection of hymns and anthems has made our Sunday worship more inspirational. Your work in organizing the Centennial Sunday Serenade Concerts was outstanding.

During the late 1900s more women were being ordained as Deacons and Priests to serve the Anglican Church in Canada. On August 25, 1996, Bishop Ferris announced the new incumbent: **The Reverend Lynn Uzans**, who had been ordained a priest at All Saints' in November 1993.

The Reverend Lynn began her ministry on **October 1, 1996**, together with her husband, Dr. Elmer Uzans, Regional Coroner for north eastern Ontario. The Uzans have two daughters attending university. The Reverend Lynn has had a prestigious career as a Public Health Nurse and brings to the congregation that caring and thoughtfulness for others so often present in the nursing profession. She was Mental Health Coordinator for Muskoka-Parry Sound Health Unit, Master Teacher Seneca College, a Social Services Research Associate with the Community Concerns Associates in Toronto, a Social Work Counsellor at St. Michael's Hospital Toronto, and a Community Health Nurse for York Region and the City of Toronto. She has a Masters degree in Divinity, Trinity College, University of Toronto, a Bachelor of Arts degree in Religious Studies from Laurentian University, a Public Health Nursing Diploma from McGill University and a Registered Nursing Diploma from Saint John Hospital in New Brunswick.

The Reverend Lynn has come to All Saints with enthusiasm and vision, ensuring that the legacy of our past and our commitment to the future will continue to be exciting.



This celebration cake, made for the children of the Sunday School, captures All Saints' view of the future as we approach the millennium.