

new.

HISTORY OF ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, SOUTH BAY MOUTH

St. John's is part of the mission of St. Paul's, Manitowaning, which consists of the following churches:- St. Paul's, St. John's, South Bay Mouth; St. Mary's, The Slash; St. John's, Bidwell; the Priest-in-charge being the Reverend Peter S. Park.

Before learning details of this Church in particular, visitors may well be interested in the history of the mission as a whole, which was founded in 1835. In the early decades of the 19th century the state of the Indians was a subject of much concern to the government of Upper Canada and the leaders of the Church of England in the province, for the vast majority of Indians living around the North Shore of Lake Huron and Lake Superior were still pagan and they lived in drunkenness and squalor and often starvation. In 1830 a society was formed for "Converting and Civilizing the Indians and for the Propagation of the Gospel among the Destitute Settlers of Upper Canada". In 1835 Captain G. Anderson, Superintendent of Indian Affairs, was instrumental in forming a missionary and educational establishment at Manitowaning, on the Manitoulin Island, which was to be an exclusive Indian Reserve. The Rev. Adam Elliot was released from his work among the white settlers to become the first Anglican missionary on the Manitoulin. Much encouraged by their reception by the Indians on a short trip in June, 1835, Capt. Anderson and Mr. Elliot returned a year later with Mr. Orr, a school-teacher. They set to work at once and cleared a small piece of land in the virgin forest. With a wigwam as their only shelter they began work on the erection of the necessary buildings and all was going well.... until Sir John Colborne was succeeded as Lieutenant Governor by Sir Francis Bond Head, who (having different ideas on Indians) ordered the work to be discontinued. Capt. Anderson fought for permission to complete the buildings, and a year later returned with a number of workmen but without missionary or schoolmaster. A new Lieutenant Governor, Sir George Arthur, then gave the Establishment his patronage. In 1838 the staff of the Establishment arrived at Manitowaning--34 in all:- The Rev. Charles C. Brough, Capt. Anderson, Dr. Paul Darling, and a school-teacher, Mr. Benjamin Bayly, together with their families and servants as well as a number of mechanics who were to teach the Indians various trades. In 1845 the Indians started to build their own Church, St. Paul's, and completed it in 1849. That Church still stands and is in use today as the parish Church of Manitowaning. It is well worth a visit.

The response of the Indians to the plans for training them for trades was disappointing and in 1862 the Manitoulin Island was opened up for general settlement, except for a portion East of Manitowaning Bay. Although the Establishment was closed, the Church eventually came into use again for the white settlers, and has been the mother of three daughter parishes at South Bay Mouth, The Slash and Bidwell.

For many years Anglican settlers at South Bay Mouth were without their own Church, and services were held in the school-room. Naturally the members keenly desired to have their own church, and this they did during the years 1950-52. The basic timber was taken from the old Church of St. John, at Hilly Grove, which was dismantled and transported to South Bay Mouth. Mr. Jack Leeson was Architect and Builder. Note his design of windows and Chancel Arch and the little crosses below the ceiling in the corners of the sanctuary. Mr. Ivan Sisson supplied and installed the electric wiring. The altar was made by Mr. Percy Sim. The Rev. and Mrs. C.J.Passey donated the picture of St. John and placed it on the East window. The building, painting, staining, etc. was carried out by members of the congregation.

The following special gifts are also recorded:-

Communion Set. W.A., St. Peter's Church, Erindale, Ont.
Altar Cross. Mrs. Florence Orrell, St. Joseph Island, Ont.
Candlesticks. Society of St. John the Evangelist, Bracebridge, Ont.
Altar Fair Linen and Communion Linen. Embroidery Committee of the
W.A., Toronto, Ont. and the Altar Guild, St. Luke's Pro-Cathedral
Sault Ste. Marie, Ont.
Altar Prayer Book. Executive Members of the W.A. Sault Ste. Marie
12 Prayer Books and 12 Hymn Books. Bible and Prayer Book Society,
Toronto, Ont.
White markers. Miss Daisy Hammond, Sheerness, Kent, England.

The cornerstone of the Church was laid on July 5th, 1950, and the dedication of the finished building took place on July 22nd, 1952, both ceremonies being performed by the Lord Bishop of Algoma, the Right Reverend W.L.Wright, D.D.

On June 30th, 1955, a new Lectern Bible and Apocrypha, purchased by the congregation, were dedicated by the Metropolitan of Ontario, the Most Reverend W.L. Wright. On Easter Day 1956, the Priest-in-Charge dedicated a Server's Badge and presented it to his server, Robert Gleason, on behalf of the congregation.

Many things remain to be done. At present the Ladies' Guild are working towards the purchase of pews with kneelers; in due course a carpet will be obtained;and so on. By purchasing this leaflet you are helping the congregation reach their goal. If you would like to help in any other way, please contact the Church Treasurer, Mr. A. Gleason or the Churchwardens, Messrs. J.M. Leeson and Bert Britten, all of South Bay Mouth or the Priest-in-charge, the Rev. P.S. Park, Manitowaning.

LIST OF CLERGY IN CHARGE OF THE MISSIONS ATTACHED TO MANITOWANING

1838 - 1841. Rev. C. Brough
1841 - 1862. Rev. F. O'Meara
1862 - 1864. Rev. Peter Jacobs (an Indian)
1864 - 1869. Rev. Jabez W. Sims
1869 - 1873. Rev. Rowland Hill (who baptised Mr. Bennett Sr. of Huron
Lodge, South Bay Mouth)
1883 - 1888. Rev. J.S. Cole
1893 - 1894. Rev. D.A. Johnson
1894 - 1899. Rev. H.C. Aylwin
1899 - 1909. Rev. A.J. Young
1910 - 1914. Rev. R. Haines
1914 - 1930. Rev. E.H. Pelletier
1930 - 1931. Rev. L. Sinclair
1931 - 1934. Mr. E.H. Rudge (a Catechist)
1934 - 1946. Rev. E. Weeks
1946 - 1949. Rev. E. Carding
1949 Rev. W. Trickett
1949 - 1953. Rev. C.J. Passey
1954 - Rev. P.S. Park

SERVICES AT ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, SOUTH BAY MOUTH

1st Sunday of month	.....	Evensong, 3.00 p.m.
2nd " " "	.....	Holy Communion 11.00 a.m.
3rd " " "	.....	No Service
4th " " "	.....	Evensong 3.00 p.m. May to Oct. Mattins 11.00 a.m. Nov. to April
5th " " "	.....	Evensong 3.00 p.m.