

THE MISSION OF OLIVER

"Extract from a letter to Rev. T. J. Hay, written by Rev. J. McMorine, formerly Rector of Fort Arthur," (This is copied from Parish Register)

"My first visit to the Township of Oliver was made on the 20th, 21st, & 22nd, of August 1879, when among those visited, I found the following to be members of the Church of England.

Mr. Hopkins,.....John Baxendale,.....Isaac Ride,.....George Towle,..
William Squires,.....David Squires,.....Sam Garland,.....Jas Goulden,.....
H. Cook,.....The Claxton 2 Brothers,.....The Fledgers 2 Brothers,.....and
G. Grier.

"I returned October 7th and held first Anglican Service in the Evening of that Day in the house of Isaac Ride, at which 9 were present. Next day in a Public building at Marillo, 15 were present.

"I did not return during the winter, but Services were resumed during the Spring of 1880, and held almost monthly from that time. Sometimes at one house, sometimes at another. Many a weary trudge I had of it over those 16 miles during six years. Sometimes jumping from root to root through long tamarac swamps, and soaking almost up to the knees. My services could not be other than gratuitous and I rather think that I took too much out of myself, physically, during my stay in those Northern regions.

"In June 1883, Bishop Sullivan held Service at Wm. Squires & urged the building of a Church. - Mr. F. F. Davis, afterwards a Clergyman in Diocese of Rupert's Land - where he died, held Sunday Services during the months of July, August & September of this year. He was, then, a Student at Huron College. Mr. A. H. Harris of Jamaica, a Student of Trinity College, Toronto, held Services during corresponding months of 1884 & urged the building of the Church.

"Two acres of Ground was given by John Baxendale. Money was raised in the Township of Fort Arthur, and elsewhere, also from men working on the construction of the C.P.R. The foundation work was prepared by the Congregation, work on the building was started August 1884 -(Cost \$500.) and the first Service was

held in the Church - October 28th - by Rev J.K.McMorine. In September 1885, Bishop Sullivan visited the Mission and Consecrated the Church. The Rev. J.C. Machin, being Rector of Port Arthur. The Church was built, paid for and Consecrated within a year.

"For sometime the Church was served from Port Arthur by Students in Summer and later on was part of the Mission of Fort William. Rev. M.C. Kirby, Incumbent. Then the Church was closed for about two years.

"In August 1895, the Rev. M.C. Kirby was appointed Incumbent and regular Services were held. In May 1897 the Rev Mr. Kirby paid a visit to England, the Services were held by a Trinity College Student, Mr. R. H. Bell for about 8 months and then Lay Readers from Port Arthur held Services till August 1898, when Rev.T. J. Hay was appointed to the Mission.

"During Mr. Hay's Incumbency, following gifts have been made to the Church, Silver Altar Sets and small Font from Rev. M.C. & Mrs. Kirby. Prayer Books from Rev. J. W. Thursby, Chandelier from St. John's Port Arthur; Altar, Retable and Cross from Mrs. John Like, Port Arthur; Altar Frontal from Christ Church Lancaster Gate, London, through Bishop of Algoma.

"The Outstations are Stanley, and Slate River."

The Parsonage was built in the year 1904, and occupied for the first time by W. H. G. Battershill - Evangelist of Diocese - London England, & Student of Diocese of Algoma.

After being closed for five months, St. James' Church was re-opened by H. Bruce, Lay Reader of St. John's Port Arthur & Student of Diocese, June 2, 1907. Two new Sign Boards were presented by Mr. E. D. Saunders of Port Arthur, in June 1907. On application being made to the Bible & Prayerbook Ed Society, by H. Bruce, 30 new Hymn & Prayer Books & 30 Library Books for the Sunday Sch., were presented to St. James' Church - August, 1907 -

The Outstations are now, Stanley, Kakabeka Falls, & Hymers, - Slate River

being worked from West Fort. Sept. 1907,

The roof of the Church was re-shingled with steel shingles in October 1907. Services at St. James' were conducted when possible during the winter 1907 - 1908, by the Rev. S. M. Rankin, West Fort. Regular Services were started again on April 26th - 1908 when H. D. Height, formerly of the Church Army and C. P. A. Reader in South London, took up his residence with wife and two children at the Parsonage. The Outstations being, - Hymers' Crossing & South Gillies which are worked alternately with St. James; Services were also started at the Red Brick School, McIntyre, the 1st Sunday in July; A new fence was put around the Churchyard in October 1908, the frontage being a Maple Leaf design, the remainder being a seven strand smooth wire supplied by the Frost Wire Fence Co., Hamilton, Ontario, at a Cost of \$52.00 clearing and erecting posts \$20. Cedar posts about \$8.00 making a total of \$80.00

Rev. J. Norman & Mrs. Norman came to occupy the Parsonage, May 31st. Predecessors were Mr. Height & Mr. Monckton, both Natives of England.

Mr. Height seems to have held his first Service in St. James Church, April 26, 1908, - his last recorded Service is put down for May 30, 1909. Mr. Monckton began his work in June, following, - Mr. Height leaving for elsewhere, Mr. Monckton's first Service was June 6, 1909, his last Nov. 7 of this same Year. -- Mr. Rogers, ~~Miss~~ School Teacher, then took up Lay Reading in the Church for a short while and held, or was present at & assisted in twelve Services. --- Work was then discontinued till taken up by Mr. Norman, June 5, 1910.

"We found the Parsonage being prepared for us; the Women of the Congregation were busy cleaning up when we came. The Rev. C.M. Rankin of West Fort accompanied us on this our first visit. I did not hold Service here the first Sunday after my coming, but went back to West Fort and assisted Mr. Rankin.

"On Sunday June 5th, I had my first Service at which 21 were present at 11 a.m., and 14 at 7 p.m.

"The week ensuing we did up the Parsonage - making it a bit comfortable, we also did some visiting - among those visited, here: -

Mr. & Mrs. Todd, & Family,..... Mr. & Mrs. Boulter & Family,... Mr. & Mrs. Park & Family,...and Mr. & Mrs. Cook & Sons. - During the next week we called on Mr. & Mrs. Kettridge,..Mr. & Mrs. Morrow & Family,...Mr. & Mrs. Barzaghi,.. Mr. & Mrs. Snelgrove,..Mr. & Mrs. Hahn. - We have also seen Mr. & Mrs. Lynn, Mr. & Mrs. Hayman,...Mr. & Mrs. Thomas & Family,...Mr. & Mrs. Bougan. In all, the families around connected with the Church have been seen, at least since our arrival. My time, since arrival, has been given wholly to Oliver Twp.

Among other work done, the men of the Congregation have put a substantial wire fence round the Parsonage grounds, a work badly needing to be done. The Parsonage was painted(since)we came."

 The Rev Griffith was at Marillo for about two years, he moved the ---?--- and built a new wood-shed. Mr. Tucker, came for two Summer Vacations, he was a Student from Trinity College. The Rev H.G.S.Watts came the 2nd Sunday in November, to begin his duties at Marillo. Mr. & Mrs. Todd & Mr. & Mrs. Ellett, welcomed him and Mrs. Watts on his arrival, the Rectory being clean and warm.

On December 14th, 1924 the Church was burnt to the ground, only \$500.00 Insurance, only a few things being saved. On Friday April 24th, 1925, the Vestry met to consider plans and means for xx building a new Church, right away. The Vestry Meeting, which was a special meeting, was held at the Rectory April 24th, 1925. The Rev. H. G. S. Watts, - in the Chair,- The Meeting opened by Prayer. Moved by Mr. Boulter, Seconded by Mr. Todd that we build a Church on the small plan," Moved by Mr. Ellett, Seconded by Mr. Watts that "The Church be built on the small plan with Porch and Vestry combined, the Main building of the Church, to be, 42' x 24' wide," Moved by Mr. A. Todd "That Mr. Todd, Mr. Boulter, Mr. Ellett, Mr. Cook & Rev. Watts be appointed as a Building Com-

mittee, to get Specifications of the prepared plans, of the two plans of the Church, and report to the Congregation," -Carried. Moved by Mr. Earl Todd, Seconded by Mrs. Spence, "that the Meeting adjourn," - Carried. Refreshments were served by the Ladies of the Congregation.

On April 29th a Report was made by the Building Committee, was made to the Congregation of the Anglican Church with Plans and Specifications, and after discussion it was decided to build a new Church according to the Small Plan,- there being two plans, submitted.

The difficulty, was the means of raising money for the Building. We received the following Sums of Money,- \$300.00 from Insurance Co., \$47.30 Grant from the Algoma Association in England; \$137.30 from the Algoma W. A., (from Sault Ste. Marie)\$26.00 from Mrs. Lefroy, a friend of Rev H. G. S. Watts, in England.

The Rev. H.G.S.Watts, left Mirillo, and went to Viscount, Saskatchewan, in January 1927.

In May, 1927, Mr. A. Greaves, came to take charge, being just out of Trinity College, Toronto. In November 1927, he was Ordained Deacon at Sault Ste. Marie & in December 1928, was raised to the Priesthood.

At the Vestry Meeting in St. James Rectory, Oliver, on January 7, 1929 Mr. A. Todd announced that the new Church was paid for - and brought the Mortgage - duly cancelled. This Original Mortgage was sent to Canon Colleten, on January 17th, at his request.

During the year 1928, Mr. G. J. Ellett, gave to the Church the red Carpet for the kneeling at the Altar rails & also a pair of brass candle Sticks & Vases for the Altar.

The new Church, built on the site of the old one,-- burned down in Mr. Watts' time,--- was consecrated May 2nd, 1929, by Rocksborough R. Algoma.

The Clergy present:- Rev. J.C.Popey, - St. Luke's, Fort William
Rev. W.A. Hankinson, St. Thomas' - West Port,
Rev. Thos. Lloyd,-St. Paul's - Fort William

MISSION OF OLIVER.....Continued,

Rev. A. J. Bull, -- St. John's,-- Port Arthur,
 Rev. T.U. L'Estrange, St. John's, - Schreiber,
 Rev. A. Greaves, - St. James, - Oliver - Murillo

June, 1929, two Candles were presented by Mrs. A. Todd, used for the first time on Ascension Day. Mrs. Todd, also, presented the Credence Table for the Altar Services.

Rev. Alfred Greaves left Murillo, and the Mission of Oliver, after a very fruitful ministry, to take up the Incumbency of Garden River, Diocese of Algoma, may 14, 1934. He was succeeded in Murillo-Mission by the Rev. J.S.R. Sturgeon, his ministry, in this District beginning on Whit-Sunday May 20, 1934. During his incumbency, the 50th Anniversary of St. James' Church, Murillo, was celebrated - June 30th, 1935 - The Bishop of the Diocese, Dr. Rocksborough Smith being in attendance on this occasion. In this same year the Church was painted, and a good deal of repair made on the Rectory. Mr. Sturgeon left the Mission on August 26th, 1935.

Rev. J.S.R. Sturgeon was succeeded in the Mission by the Rev A.J. Bull, his ministry beginning on September 22nd, 1935, and coming to a close on May 3, 1936.

Rev. A. J. Bull was succeeded by the Rev. G.K.L.Lowe, his first Service being held on May 10th, 1936 - Mr. Lowe's incumbency in the Mission came to a close on July 5, 1936.

From July 5th, 1936 to August 8th, 1937, the Mission was administered by the Rev. S. F. Yeomans, Rector of St. Luke's Fort William.

Rev. Cyril G. Peto, entered into the Mission on August 13, 1937, his first Services being conducted on August 15th, - Trinity XII - 1937.

The Year marked a step forward when Electric Lighting was installed at the Rectory, and in 1939 the foundation of the house was repaired, these necessary improvements were made possible through the efforts of the Women's Auxiliary.

In 1938 a Parish Hall was erected for the purpose of furthering the activ-

ities of our Church in this district. This building has proved its real worth to the people through the many and varied activities that are now possible. The land on which the Hall stands, was donated by G. J. Ellett of Murillo.

In 1938 the old barn which stood on the Rectory Grounds was torn down & a small garage erected for the Incumbent's car. The Church-bell was donated by a Church in Toronto, wishing to remain anonymous, the bell is of fine workmanship & clarity. This Bell was rung for the first time on Sunday May 25th., 1941.

The Rev. C. G. Peto's last Services were held on Sunday May 25th., 1941 Mr. H. W. Ellard, Dic. L. R., of Fort William served this Parish from June 1st, to July 6th. - and also from August 31st, 1941 to January 18th, 1942, Mr. Harold Nickle, of Wycliffe College Toronto, was Student Missionary from July 15 to August 24th (1941)

Francis M. Belt, formerly of the Canadian Church Army, being temporarily appointed, coming from the staff of the Bishop Holden Memorial School, at Moose Factory. Took his first Service on February 1st, 1942 - until July 4th, 1943, as Catechist-in-charge.

During this time, a second Mission Church in Oliver Township was duly dedicated by the Lord Bishop, viz, The Church of the Messiah, Kakabeka Falls, named after the Church of The Messiah, Toronto,- whose congregation did much to assist this small congregation to become established during the incumbency of the Rev. C.G. Peto. On Monday May 11, 1942 the Service of Dedication was held, - during the following October the Ladies' Guild was formed into a Branch of the Womens' Auxiliary, and also in the early part of 1942 - (February 27th) - Boy Scout Troop was organized and a Canadian Charter was granted to the Church of the Messiah, Kakabeka Falls.

Beginning during the early incumbency of Mr. Peto, the Anglican Church in this Mission Field, has taken the lead in both Communities in organized

efforts among the Youth of the Township. During 1938 Boy Scout, Wolf Cubs, and Brownies - respective groups were organized, and are still in operation. St. James' Sunday School, Marillo, has fifty-six children on all of its Rolls, thirty-five of these are of Sunday School age.

The Trinity Sunday School Mission, Arthur Street, has forty-four children on its Rolls, about thirty-five of these have been taking and answering the Institute Leaflet & Child's Own, during 1942 - June 1943.

The Church's influence has spread far and wide - in Oliver Township, and the adjoining Townships - where chiefly work among the Boys & Girls has been and is being organized.

GIFTS TO ST. JAMES' CHURCH...NOT LISTED...ELSEWHERE.

LECTURE... 1924, by Mr. Allan McFarlane, in Loving Memory of his Parents - was destroyed when the Church was burned down,

HYMN

BISHOP'S CHAIR... Presented by The Girl's Auxiliary.....1935

COCOA-NUT-MATTING... Presented by The Girl's Auxiliary...1935,

(When Mrs. A. McFarlane, was Girls' Supervisor)

SANCTUARY-CHAIR... Presented by the Girls' Auxiliary.... }
and
HYMN BOARD..... " " " " " " } 1937

(Under Mrs. A. Todd's Supervision

DOSSAL CURTAIN... (Red)... Presented by F. M. Bolt, Trinity Sunday 1943... A Gift from St. Paul's Church, Middleport, Ontario (a former parish,)

The two Chairs & Hymn Board, were made locally by, Mr. Jack Davis,

Hardwood Floors were laid in the downstairs of Rectory, donated by the Girls' Auxiliary, under the supervision of Mrs. Suter, in 1933.