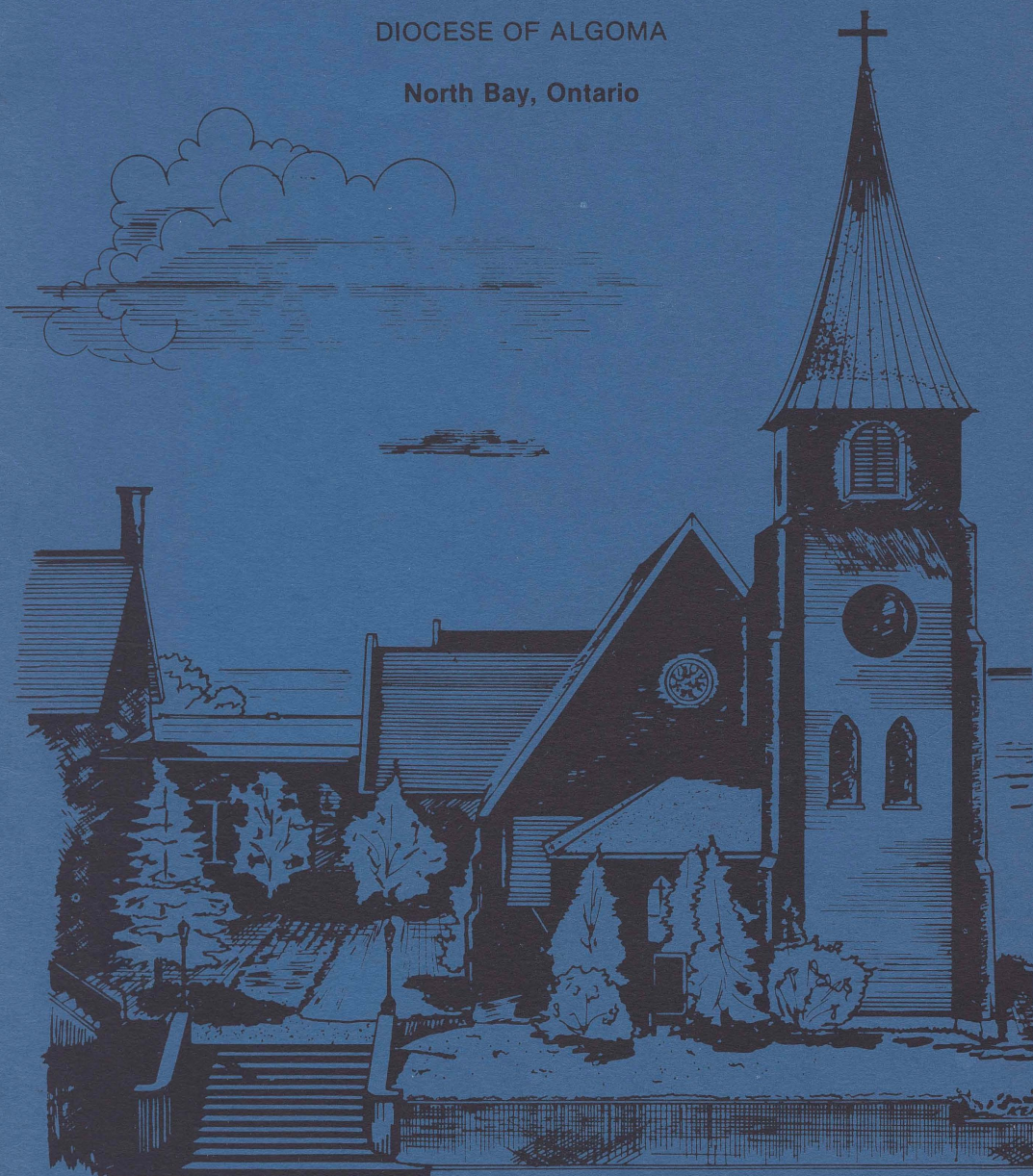


Church of St. John the Divine

(Anglican)

DIOCESE OF ALGOMA

North Bay, Ontario



1883 - 1983

100 Years in God's Service



1883 - 1983

100 Years in God's Service

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FOREWORD

This history of the ministry of the Anglican Church of Canada in the Nipissing and North Bay areas is written with considerable hesitation, lest in concentrating on the story of the Church of St. John the Divine of North Bay from 1883 to the present, the activities of other close by parishes whose early history is also part of the story seem to be overlooked. Furthermore the names of many organizations and people who played their part have doubtless been omitted through lack of information or inadvertence.

It was soon apparent during my research that this would have to be a history of the missionary effort of the Church of England, as it was called until about 1950, in this area, and could not be just of St. John's, because from the starting of the work in Mat-tawa, Sturgeon Falls and so forth, the whole area was involved.

Many people have compiled information from which I have borrowed. In particular I wish to express my appreciation to the late Rev'd Canon C. F. Large who sought out much of the story in 1958 for our 75th anniversary celebrations.

To all who have helped me, may I say thank you.

AUGUST 10, 1982

FRANK BOLAND

MISSIONARIES, PRIESTS IN CHARGE AND RECTORS
of
THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE DIVINE PARISH

Since the commencement of regular Anglican services
in the North Bay area, August 15, 1883

Aug. 15, 1883 - Sept. 2, 1885 —

The Rev'd Forster Bliss, Mission Priest (later Archdeacon)

Sept. 2, 1885 - Sept. 6, 1891 —

The Rev'd Gowan Gillmor, Mission Priest (later Archdeacon)

Mar. 31, 1892 - Nov. 30, 1897 —

The Rev'd A. J. Young, Priest in charge (later Canon)

May 8, 1898 - July 30, 1899 —

The Rev'd W. A. J. Burt, Priest in charge (later Archdeacon)

Sept. 3, 1899 - Oct. 29, 1905 —

The Rev'd A. J. F. Cobb, Rector

May 6, 1906 - Sept. 3, 1911 —

The Rev'd C. E. Bishop, Rector

Sept. 10, 1911 - May 1, 1921 —

The Rev'd C.W. Balfour, Rector (later Archdeacon)

Sept. 4, 1921 - April 24, 1927 —

The Rev'd Gilbert Oliver, Rector (later Canon)

May 15, 1927 - May 30, 1937 —

The Rev'd H.A. Sims, Rector (later Canon)

June 1, 1937 - Dec. 31, 1938 —

The Rev'd L. I. Greene, Rector (later Canon)

Jan. 25, 1939 - Aug. 19, 1951 —

The Rev'd W.W. Jarvis, Rector (later Archdeacon)

Sept. 12, 1951 - Dec. 31, 1973 —

The Rev'd Canon C.F. Large, Rector

Feb. 1, 1974 - July 31, 1980 —

The Rev'd N.L. Goater, Rector (later Dean of Brandon)

Oct. 1, 1980 - June 15, 1981 —

The Rev'd G. K. Gibbs, Rector

Nov. 1, 1981 -

The Rev'd Donald M. Landon, Rector

Note: The designation of the Clergy changed as the parish became self supporting and as debt against the church building was paid off.

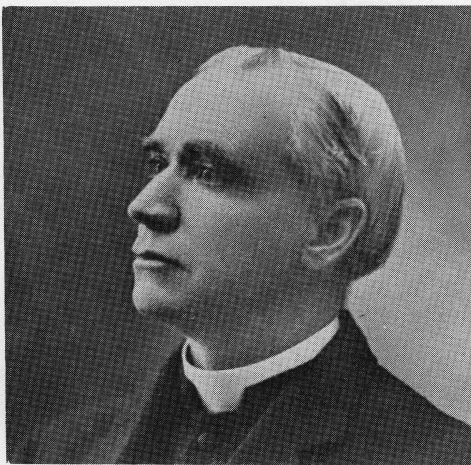
BISHOPS OF ALGOMA

1883 - 1983

Covering the period of Anglican Mission and service in the North Bay-Nipissing Area

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| 1. Frederick Dawson Fauquier | 1873 - 1881 |
| 2. Edward Sullivan | 1882 - 1896 |
| 3. George Thorneloe | 1897 - 1915 — Bishop of Algoma
1915 - 1927 — Metropolitan of
Ecclesiastical Province of
Ontario and Archbishop
of Algoma |
| 4. Rocksborough Remington Smith | 1926 - 1927 — Coadjutor Bishop
1927 - 1939 — Bishop of Algoma |
| 5. George Frederick Kingston | 1940 - 1944 — Bishop of Algoma
1944 - 1947 — Bishop of Nova Scotia
1947 - 1950 — Primate of All Canada
and Archbishop of Nova
Scotia |
| 6. William Lockridge Wright | 1944 - 1955 — Bishop of Algoma
1955 - 1974 — Metropolitan of Ontario
and Archbishop of
Algoma
1970 - 1971 — Acting Primate |
| 7. Frank Foley Nock | 1975 - 1983 |

The ministry of the Church of England in Canada, as it then was called, was extended to Nipissing District in 1882, when the Bishop of the Diocese of Ontario, the Right Reverend John Travers Lewis, sent the Reverend Forster Bliss to "the region of the upper Ottawa". Mr. Bliss was stationed in that year at Mattawa. The little church of St. Alban the Martyr is therefore the mother church for this area.



THE REV'D FORSTER BLISS

Forster Bliss was born in New Brunswick on May 12, 1853. His father was a travelling missionary in the Diocese of Fredericton. He received his primary education at King's County Grammar School. Later he attended a private school at Ottawa. In

1872 Forster was engaged as private secretary to Sir Leonard Tilley, the Father of Confederation who is said to have proposed naming Canada the Dominion of Canada after Psalm 72:8. Afterwards he was appointed private secretary to the Honourable Isaac Burpie, Minister of Customs. During this time Mr. Bliss was an active lay reader and publisher of the "Clerical Guide". He resigned his secretarial position in March 1882 in order to engage entirely in church work.

The Reverend Forster Bliss had been ordained in 1881 at St. George's Cathedral, Kingston. He offered himself in 1882 for missionary work in the region of the upper Ottawa. He established headquarters at Mattawa and conducted his first service in a shed. Other services were commenced at points east and west of Mattawa ranging from twenty to ninety miles distant. Altogether this pioneer missionary formed twelve organizations in a district comprising thirteen townships and built nine churches and several parsonages.

Thus, in 1883, Mr. Bliss extended his work along the line of the Canadian Pacific Railway, then under construction, to the village of Sturgeon Falls which was rapidly rising amid the surrounding forest and promising to become a point of considerable importance. The first service in Sturgeon Falls was held on May 3, 1883.

Having begun services at Sturgeon Falls, Mr. Bliss subsequently that summer turned his attention to the new station of North Bay which had just been designated as a divisional point on the C.P.R. At North Bay, on August 15, 1883 the first service was held in the company's "engine house," a temporary structure just vacated by the contractors and being used as a dwelling by several families. The first congregation in North Bay numbered 15.

At a service held on March 19, 1884 a subscription list for a proposed church in North Bay was opened by Mr. W. E. Bagnall. The building to house the church was erected on a site on Main Street which had been given to the Anglican congregation by Mr. John Ferguson often referred to as the founder of North Bay. The contractor for

the building was Mr. George Coombes and the cost of the structure was recorded as \$900.00.

Meanwhile, on May 6, 1884, the first funeral was held, that of Richard Bray. There is strong indication that the burial was on the site of the present Parish Hall which became next the site of the earliest rectory. Several burials were evidently made in this first church yard.

On the sixteenth Sunday after Trinity, September 28, 1884 the new church of St. Michael and All Angels was opened for divine service, and the Holy Communion celebrated therein for the first time, there being 5 communicants; the congregations at Morning Prayer and Evensong were respectively 33 and 35.

This first church building was later used as "St. John's school room". An old picture shows the small frame building with a little bell tower on the site of Thorneloe Hall, with the entrance facing Sherbrooke Street.

On a subsequent Sunday, altar ornaments were set apart for holy use by a special service of benediction at which the congregation was 30. Some of these gifts were from England, sent by Miss M. A. Fleming, St. Edmund's House Hunstanton. The church bell was the gift of Mr. W. Harris of Ottawa. A sanctuary lamp was presented by Mr. W. E. Caverhill, a member of the congregation, on Sexagesima Sunday, February 8, 1885.

The first missionary meeting was held by the Reverend A. F. Echlin when a collection of \$11.40 was given in aid of the diocesan mission fund.

Services were held every alternate Sunday from the date of the church opening until May 19, 1885 when they were increased to every Sunday morning and evening. Some months later, Mr. Bliss finding himself unable to meet the growing demands for the church's ministry and also finding himself to be within the jurisdiction of the Bishop of Algoma when at North Bay and Sturgeon Falls, reported to that Bishop, the Right Reverend Edward Sullivan, detailing what he had done at those places and requesting to be relieved of these two congregations.

After some weeks, the Bishop of Algoma requested Mr. Bliss to meet the Reverend Gowan Gillmor at North Bay and to transfer to him the charge of the two congregations. Mr. Bliss accordingly met Mr. Gillmor and on Wednesday evening September 2, 1885 the two together took service at St. Michael and All Angels North Bay. A similar service was held at the church of St. Mary Magdalene Sturgeon Falls the following evening. Thus Mr. Bliss handed over to the Algoma Missionary the charge of the Nipissing Mission as it was then called.

Mr. Bliss continued his service in the Diocese of Ontario, being a Rural Dean in 1890 and serving later as the Rector of the Eganville, Pakenham, Almonte and Smith's Falls parishes. In 1920 the then Canon Bliss was made Archdeacon. His death occurred December 31, 1924.¹

In assuming charge of these congregations of Sturgeon Falls and North Bay in 1885, the Bishop of Algoma also assumed payment of \$635.47 of unpaid accounts connected with the erection of the two churches in the previous year. The total cost of the properties was \$1,763.36; Mr. Bliss is reported to have provided and paid \$1,127.89 of this during the period between his beginning the work of building in 1884 and the transfer

to Algoma in 1885. The first church wardens at St. Mary Magdalene Sturgeon Falls were George Coombes and James Armstrong and at St. Michael and All Angels North Bay, Alfred Hill. ²

1. *Mr. Bliss' career is outlined in a publication "Pioneer Reminiscences of the upper Ottawa Valley" which was a Canadian centennial project of the Church of St. John the Evangelist of Eganville.*
2. *The preceding history of the mission is taken almost verbatim from the original parish register where it was recorded in the hand of the Rev'd Gowan Gillmor.*

The Reverend Gowan Gillmor took charge from 1885 to 1891. He was nicknamed "The Tramp" and earned that affectionate title because he walked endless miles to minister to his flock. We are fortunate to have a picture of Mr. Gillmor as Archdeacon, which he later became, complete with shovel hat and archidiaconal gaiters.



THE REV'D GOWAN GILLMOR

During his ministry, the little church of St. Michael and All Angels was fully paid for and consecrated Sunday March 27, 1887. It was enlarged and improved in the Fall of 1887 by the adding of a chancel, putting a stone foundation under the whole building and clapboarding the outside replacing the original battens. A parsonage was built in the Fall of 1890 on the site which is occupied in 1982 by St. John's Parish Hall.

In 1887, 17 ladies met and under the guidance of Mr. Gillmor and at their own request formed a Woman's Auxiliary, following the aims and pledges of a similar group who had met in Ottawa two years previously under Mrs. Roberta E. Tilton. Their purpose was to aid home and missionary work. This group of North Bay ladies decided to meet on the first Wednesday afternoon of every month (they still do). Their first Secretary-Treasurer, Miss Annie Begg, who was also the church organist, held the W.A. office for more than 30 years. A detailed history of this group up to 1960 is presented as appendix 1 to this booklet.

The Reverend Gowan Gillmor transferred from Nipissing Mission to Rosseau on September 8, 1891 and gave up his charge to churchwardens William Featherstone and Newton Williams. At his departure a debt of \$520. still remained on the parsonage in North Bay and a debt of about \$100. on a new church which had been built in Callander in 1890.¹

The Reverend Gowan Gillmor left in the earnest hope that the energy and zeal of his successors would not only enable them to clear off this comparatively small amount of debt but also to proceed bravely on the foundation of church work already laid in the mission and build a new stone or brick church in North Bay.²

1. *This is the only reference to the Callander church in the early records of St. John's.*
2. *This note is taken verbatim from the original church register where it evidently was written in by Mr. Gillmor himself.*
3. *A biographical sketch of Archdeacon Gowan Gillmor by Richard Cartwright taken from the Canadian Churchman of June 23, 1932 is presented as appendix 11 to this booklet.*

In March 1892 the Reverend A. J. Young, later Canon Young, was appointed to North Bay. Mr. Young was Priest-in-charge from March 31, 1892 to November 30, 1897. He worked for and witnessed the building of the new red brick building which became the Church of St. John the Divine. Construction began in August 1895 and on August 10, 1896 the church was opened for divine service and dedicated with the name of St. John the Divine. Congregations in the new church that Sunday numbered 350 and 300. Interestingly the cost of this fine brick and stone structure was said to be about \$6,000.



THE REV'D A. J. YOUNG

Mr. W. K. P. Kennedy, author of "North Bay Past-Present-Prospective," indicated he could not find out why the church name was changed except that someone told him that St. Michael's was not considered a suitable name for an Anglican church in North Bay.

Mr. Young was transferred to Manitawaning November 30, 1897 handing over charge to wardens J. Hannen and S. Wilson.

The Reverend W. A. J. Burt was Priest-in-Charge from May 8, 1898 to July 30, 1899. Mr. Burt later became an Archdeacon and in 1919 was serving in Parry Sound.

The Reverend A. J. F. Cobb succeeded Mr. Burt and at Easter 1904 became the first Rector as the congregation then became self-supporting. During Mr. Cobb's incumbency, the rectory and church grounds were improved, a stone retaining wall was built on Main Street and we are told that the debt on the church was somewhat reduced. In October 1905, Mr. Cobb resigned.



THE REV'D W. A. J. BURT

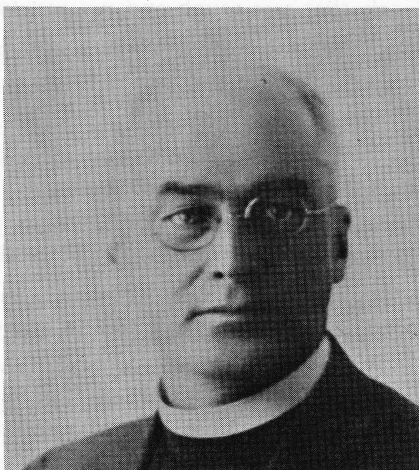


THE REV'D A. J. F. COBB

The Reverend C. E. Bishop became the second Rector in May 1906 and remained in the position for five years. Early in his incumbency the debt on the church building, incurred in 1896, was finally paid and the church was consecrated on February 12, 1908.

In 1910 the apse of the church was replaced by a large and dignified chancel which was ready for use and opened on October 1, 1910. Gifts to the church at this time included the oaken reredos, the stained glass window above the altar, a brass altar cross, brass lectern, stone font and others. The pipe organ also was purchased in 1910.

Mr. Bishop also gave leadership in 1910 in the building of the mission church then known as St. Simon's (now St. Brice's). This was originally a small wooden structure on the site of Silverwood's warehouse.



THE REV'D C. E. BISHOP

The third Rector, the Reverend Charles Wilfred Balfour, held his charge from September 10, 1911 to May 1, 1921. During this time the parishioners paid the entire cost of the chancel and completed paying for the pipe organ. The interior and exterior of the church were renovated and cement steps from the sidewalk to the porch were built to replace wooden steps. On December 22, 1918 Archbishop Thorneloe consecrated the chancel and the parish was free from debt in every particular.

In 1919 the wardens' report stated in part:

"It is a matter for great satisfaction that the statement shows that the long standing debt on the church building is now a thing of the past and that towards the next objectives, a new rectory and parish hall, there is already the beginning of a fund..."

It was also reported that:

"The statement takes no notice of the unfortunate loss to our organ equipment by fire on April 8, 1919, when the motor and blower were destroyed and other damage done. This is because while we shall be inconvenienced for a while, the insurance companies will see that all is restored as before without any expense to our funds."

When the same report came to the Sunday School, this was the exhortation presented:

"Our Sunday School does splendidly financially and it is a source of gratification to see the scholars helping on the cause of missions. Should not the interest and good work of the members evoke the sympathy and help of the congregation at large? Let not the Rector each Sunday be worried and perplexed at the lack of sufficient teachers or at the irregularity and lack of interest often manifested. This is an important work. The young must be taught the essential truths and principles of our religion. We must feed them with the bread of life. Decide now, however humble your ability to take a hand and help and encourage this neglected department of our church's work."

Surely that says much and not just for 1919.

The annual report of 1918 - 1919 includes a list of 160 names of men from the parish who were in the armed forces during the Great War. There are 14 names of those who were killed in that war.

The total amount received for all purposes that 1918 - 19 year was \$6,139 and the expenditures totalled \$5,583. 1

One of the early assistants to the Rector of St. John's was the later Canon William A. Hankinson.

In the fall of 1916, Mr. William A. Hankinson was sent by Archbishop Thorneloe to become assistant to the Reverend C. W. Balfour in North Bay. He nominally was in charge of St. Simon's, - Callander. While at North Bay he was ordained Deacon at St. Luke's Cathedral in Sault Ste. Marie in 1917. It was the intention of the Archbishop that Mr. Hankinson stay in North Bay until he was priested. However, Canon Frost of Rosseau suffered a stroke in February 1918 and Mr. Hankinson was sent there on a temporary basis. Canon Frost did not recover and

the temporary posting stretched out to ten years. Canon Hankinson wrote of this period:

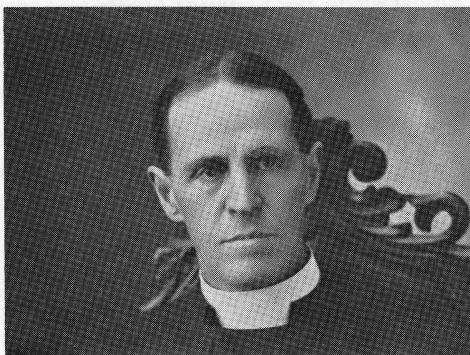
During the first two years I had to give much time to my studies in preparation for my ordination to the priesthood. At times I became discouraged, as there was an ever increasing pressure of work in the missions. As Greek was at that time considered essential for the ministry, I almost despaired of ordination. I wrote the Archbishop stating that I could only compare myself to a recruit for the army who was put in uniform, given a gun and immediately sent to the trenches.

To Mr. Hankinson's surprise, the Archbishop heartily agreed with him; no further Greek would be necessary. Therefore on Palm Sunday, 1920 he was ordained to the priesthood in St. John's North Bay. In 1920 also, Mr. Hankinson married Miss Emma Smyth who had been an active worker in St. John's parish. 2

The story the writer likes best about Archdeacon Balfour's time at North Bay concerns the Gigg family. Apparently Freda Gigg (Glover) went to church one Sunday and told the Rector that she had a new born brother. "What is his name?" asked the Rector. Freda says that without hesitation, she answered "Wilfred" using the Rector's second name. The family did not think they could refute this announcement, so Wilfred it was and is, only we call him Biff.

During Archdeacon Balfour's time at St. John's a rectory at 85 Worthington St. E. (now a part of the City Hall property) was purchased.

Archdeacon Balfour served Algoma as Deacon and Priest for 47 years from 1900 to 1947. He died in the Peace River country of Northern Alberta in 1973. This was a message he sent to Canon Large that year when we were observing the 90th year of Anglican service in North Bay, the Archdeacon then being 92!



THE REV'D C. W. BALFOUR

I would like to thank you for the letter I received from you today and for your good wishes to me.

I am glad that you would like to give me the opportunity to write a few lines of greeting and congratulations to the parishioners and St. John's Church on having reached the 90th year of worship and service in the community of North Bay.

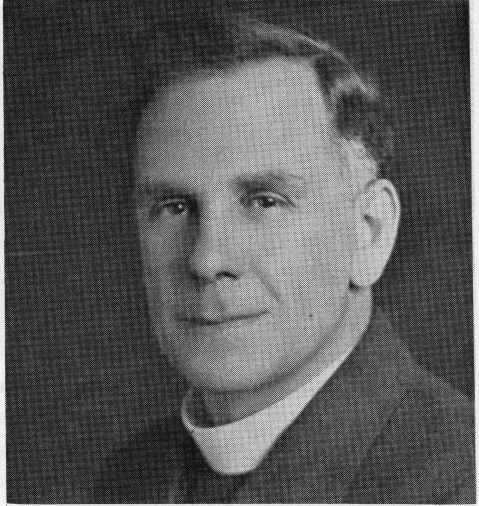
I recollect very well indeed that I had the happy privilege of being the Rector of St. John's Parish for ten years. I so often think about those years and the many friends I made then and with some of whom I have been able to keep in touch all through the years. I would specially like to mention Miss Mary Reidhead, whom I first met in the Parish of Huntsville, the very first parish of my ministry. On her coming to North Bay, Miss Reidhead became, at once, one of my great helpers, and she has been in so many ways ever since.

I trust that St. John's Parish has many years yet ahead of it in the service of our Mother Church and that the good work being done by its congregation will long continue.

May the Divine Head of our Church bless, in every way, the Rector and congregation and all the work that is being done in His Name, for the coming of His Kingdom for which we daily pray. ³

1. *These extracts are taken from what was called the year book for the Church of St. John the Divine dated Easter Sunday April 20, 1919. In the 1919 booklet it was noted that Miss C.E. Forrester who is still with us was Treasurer of the A.Y.P.A.*
2. *These details of the life of Canon W. A. Hankinson have been taken from the book "Faith of our Fathers"*
3. *From a letter written to Canon C. F. Large by Archdeacon Balfour in 1973 shortly before his death.*

Archdeacon Balfour was succeeded as Rector by the Reverend Gilbert Oliver who served the Parish from September 4, 1921 to April 24, 1927. During Mr. Oliver's time, in 1923, the lower portion of the Parish Hall was built and named appropriately after his predecessor, Balfour Hall. A review of the affairs of the various North Bay churches published at the time North Bay became a city in 1925 had the following to say about St. John's:



THE REV'D GILBERT OLIVER

"In 1921 the present Rector, Rev. Gilbert Oliver took charge and in 1923 the basement of the Parish hall was built finding accommodation for over 400 people (sic), proving a great asset to the church. Services are excellently attended, the church often being filled to overflowing. Last Easter the communicants numbered 525. In addition to the Parish Church there is a flourishing mission on Cassells Street which caters to the residents in that part of town. So the work has grown and each succeeding Rector has built on the foundation so splendidly laid by his predecessors." ¹

No history of St. John's Church would be complete without mention of W. I. Johnston who became choir leader in 1919 and served as such to the end of his life in 1943. In his memory the window depicting St. Cecilia, the patron saint of church musicians, which is located in the nave below the pulpit, was dedicated. This memorial was donated by past and present members of the senior choir. Those of us who came later to the parish and choir have often heard over the years what "W.I." did and how he did it. Mr. Johnston undoubtedly has a prominent and permanent place in our parish story. A picture of a very large, entirely male confirmation class shows Mr. Johnston as one of the sponsors and his son Johnnie as one of the candidates. There is also a good picture of this fine choir director in the runway in Thornehoe Hall.

Quoting from a letter written in 1958 by Miss C.E. Lett:

"Many residents here, at the home for elderly church ladies, Cana Place, are amazed at my knowledge of our hymn tunes. Mr. W. I. Johnston our beloved choir master is responsible. When our church organ rebelled, Mr. Glover Sr. would wave a magic string in its mechanism and Mrs. I. McDiarmid's skill as organist called forth complimentary remarks from the church dignitaries who were our visitors at the Provincial Synod in 1928." ²

1. *This is an extract from the program for Old Home Week in 1925, the year in which North Bay became a City.*

The Reverend Canon H. A. Sims was the Rector from May 15, 1927 to May 30, 1937. His daughter Lillian wrote the following about his term in North Bay.

"In May 1927 Papa conducted his first service at St. John's North Bay. The next ten years were to be most rewarding as he continued his many Diocesan activities, his Parochial work and his community service.

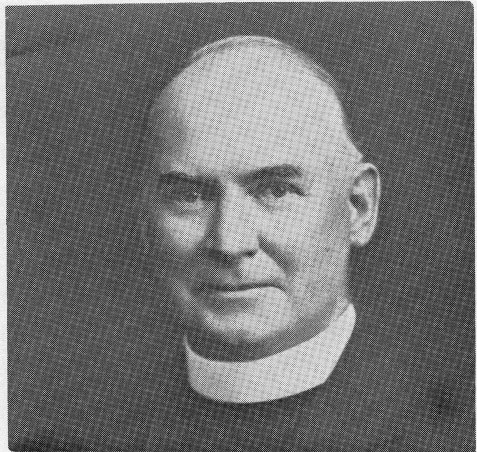
In 1937 when he and Bishop Rocksborough Smith were returning from a confirmation service in Sturgeon Falls, he made the headlines of the Toronto Daily Star:

**RECTOR DOFFS COAT, WIELDS FLASHLIGHT TO WARN OF DANGER
STOLEN MOTOR TRUCK UPSET ON TRACK THREATENED SERIOUS
MISHAP. BISHOP GAVE AID.**

Removing his coat to make his white shirt and collar visible in the glare of the headlight and frantically waving a small flashlight, the Rev. H. A. Sims averted what might have been a serious train wreck on the C.N.R. level crossing last night. Train No. 2 loaded with passengers was due in twenty minutes. Mr. Sims stated that he did not have time to feel nervous and left the Rt. Rev. Rocksborough Smith to direct traffic and watch his car at the crossing."¹

The Provincial Synod referred to previously in the quotation from Miss Lett on page 13 was held in St. John's Church October 9, 10 and 11, 1928. A picture taken on what is now the lawn between the church and parish hall shows a choir of 20 members, the Rector, Canon Sims and the Synod delegates. There were, counting from the picture, 48 clergy and 28 lay delegates.

A happy event took place in 1928 when St. Simon's Mission (St. Brice's) was able to organize as a separate congregation, after having been under the guidance of the Mother Church of St. John the Divine.



THE REV'D H. A. SIMS

At the time of the 75th anniversary celebrations in 1958 Miss C. E. Lett described a momentous occasion which occurred in 1929 as follows:

"When Lord Willingdon was Governor General he sent a request that he and Lady Willingdon on their trip west would like to stop over at 10:00 a.m. on Good Friday to worship at St. John's. What an honour was ours. Lord Willingdon read the lessons and Lady Willingdon at the close of the service came back into the church parlour to compliment our choir on their rendition of the anthem "God so loved the World."²

We have a picture of the Reverend H.A. Sims greeting the Governor General on that occasion.

Canon Sims started the first Scout troop at St. John's and also conducted the Boy's Bible Class which had been organized by Mr. Sharvell.

During his rectorship both the Advisory Board and the Cemetery Board were re-organized and enlarged.

The spacious upper parish hall which has served so many church and community activities over the years was constructed under his leadership in 1932. For years the Hall was the focus of many church sport and social gatherings. Canon Sims invented the game of diskings — at one time a very popular one for recreation for adults. This hall was originally called Oliver Hall after Canon Oliver.

A deep debt of gratitude is owed by us to Canon Sims and the faithful congregation of his time for the unceasing efforts in attempting to fulfill the financial obligations of the church during the time referred to as the Great Depression.

During Holy Week in each of the years 1936 and 1937, the "Little Theatre Guild of St. John's" presented a Passion Play in the Parish Hall. These presentations were directed by Canon Sims and he wrote many of the important parts. A review published at the time read in part as follows:

"North Bay amateur dramatics have attained a new and glorious dignity. From amid the merry-go-round of romances and comedies has come a gripping, thrilling drama, telling again to a modern world the centuries old story of Calvary. The Passion Play "For us men" presented by the Little Theatre Guild of St. John's Anglican Church in the Oliver Hall of the Parish House last Thursday and Good Friday nights will linger long in the memory of the hundreds of persons who witnessed this vivid presentation.

... All roles were splendidly portrayed but particular mention must be made of Miss Amy Prior who turned in a superb performance as young Samuel, serving lad of Achaz, who is wracked with anguish and cried at the death of Jesus. Other outstanding performances were given by C. McCambley as Peter; J. Gallardi as Judas; Mrs. Thomas Bertram as Mary Magdalene and Mrs. Alex Kirk as Mary the Mother."

Other actors, actresses and participants were, as listed in the Nugget: Mabel Rye, B. Phillips, Mrs. H. Brown, Jack Lethbridge, Beck Flumerfelt, Gordon Parker, Mary Mosley-Williams, Elsie Rye, Ivy Kirk, Frank Richens, Alex Stuart, Jean Frizell, Dorothea Sweezy, Roy Harris, Jack Ostrom, Bud Angus, Jack Barnaby, Bud Clement, Mrs. Sims, Reg McCambley, Lillian Sims, Mrs. Jack Lethbridge, Chester Smith, Jack Zoubie, Ralph Ashton, Grace Vokes, W. B. Williston, G. Hunter.³

Although Canon Sims left St. John's and North Bay in 1937, he did not lose his interest in the parish and more than thirty years later he would drive down from the missions he was then ministering to, when he was well beyond eighty years of age, to assist Canon Large with the Christmas and other services. It was as though he were coming home. At Christmas 1973, Canon Large being ill, Canon Sims and Archdeacon Lindsell, both very elderly, took the Christmas Eve service together.

Canon Sims suffered a great personal loss in 1944 in the death of Mrs. Sims who had been Guide Commissioner in North Bay. In 1971, when Canon Sims was 90, he was

still preaching both morning and evening sermons at St. John's New Liskeard. He had then been preaching for 68 years.

Canon Sims died in 1974 but his voice has lately been heard on the C.B.C. Sunday morning radio program, "The voices of the pioneers", describing early days in Cobalt.

1. *Quotation from the book "Faith of our Fathers"*
2. *Miss Lett wrote the letter quoted, to Canon Large, at the time of our 75th anniversary in 1958.*
3. *Quotation from the Nugget April 15, 1936.*

In 1958 when we were celebrating the 75th anniversary of our parish, we welcomed back the Reverend Canon L. I. Greene who succeeded Canon Sims in 1937 as Rector of St. John's. On that occasion the bulletin read as follows:

Today we welcome back the Rev. Canon L. I. Greene who became Rector of St. John's in June 1937 from St. George's Port Arthur. He came to this parish at a time when the depression had placed a heavy burden upon the church as well as the community. Although his tenure of office was short, his untiring efforts to strengthen the spiritual and financial well-being of the parish made him a beloved and well remembered priest of the Church of God. The vestry minutes record his unceasing efforts in encouraging regular attendance of all confirmed members at the Holy Communion service. In December 1938 ill health required him to leave our parish and go on an extended overseas trip to England and South Africa. Since that time he has served as Rector of St. Mary Magdalene of Toronto and Gladstone New Jersey, U.S.A.



THE REV'D L. I. GREENE

The Rev'd W. W. Jarvis was the seventh Rector of St. John's serving from January 25, 1939 to August 15, 1951. This was the second longest term in the history of our parish.

When the upper portion of the Parish Hall was built in the early 1930's the parish, and indeed the entire world, were in the throes of the economic disaster now called the "Great Depression". Those were very lean days. By 1938 the parish hall debt was a mortgage of \$25,000. The holder of the mortgage, Mr. Alex Ross of Mattawa, perhaps not knowing what else to do, gave the parish ten interest free years in which to pay off the debt. Unfortunately those ten years included the years of the Second World War. But more fortunately there was in those days a very strong Parish Guild. These ladies dedicated their every effort to raising money to get rid of the debt. Regular bingos were held and the final push was given by organizing a very large scale parish bazaar which featured some of the games usually found at an exhibition midway. There may be some question as to the propriety of churches using bingos to raise money. It was no doubt felt in the late 1940's that the debt must be paid and that in Hitler's era there were worse things than bingos.

In 1947, the rectory, 85 Worthington St. East which had been rented for some ten years, Mr. and Mrs. Jarvis having found it unsuitable for their needs, was sold and the proceeds were also applied to the discharge of the parish hall mortgage.

The outcome of all the activity was that on Tuesday April 6, 1948 there was held a parish dinner at which the guest of honour was Archbishop W. L. Wright and during which the mortgage was burned.

Later during Mr. Jarvis' time in the year 1949 the parish purchased a rectory on First Avenue East. New cathedral type lights were installed in the nave of the church as memorials given by members of the congregation and concealed lighting installed in the arch leading to the chancel.

A sanctuary lamp was given as a memorial to her late husband Alex and her son Gordon, a war casualty, by Mrs. Annie Kirk. Mrs. Kirk lived to be 91 and was a most faithful member of St. John's senior choir for more than 50 years.

During Mr. Jarvis' incumbency ladies' groups were organized in various parts of the community and these worked strenuously for the parish. Among these was the Henrietta Sharvell group. This notation on the back of a group picture taken on December 13, 1967 gives the names of those involved at that time:

Front Row — Mrs. J. H. Smylie, Canon Large, Mrs. F. R. Paterson, Mrs. C. Thompson.

Second Row — Mrs. Geo. Simmons, Mrs. F. Cliffe, Mrs. W. Lidkea, Mrs. A. Wharham, Mrs. J. Peever, Mrs. A. D. Haworth.

Back Row — Mrs. Mae Phillips, Mrs. F. Matters, Mrs. E. Schroeder, Mrs. G. Alkins, Mrs. E. Murphy (guest) Mrs. M. Berry, Mrs. J. Yorke, Mrs. N. Mantha, Mrs. D. Newton, Mrs. W. Bishop, Mrs. A. Nicholls.

Absent — Mrs. R. Andrews, Mrs. E. L. Hill, Mrs. C. F. Large, Mrs. J. Smith, Mrs. H. D. Stanton.



THE REV'D W. W. JARVIS

This group was formed in October 1944. The first meeting was held at the home of Mrs. N. S. Phillips and sponsored by Mrs. T. Marshall and Mrs. T. Jackson. The group has carried on into 1982, actively engaged in money making projects and fellowship, using the talents of its many members to the best advantage. It has each year been able to help the wardens with appropriate contributions, usually directed at the particular cause which is a priority at the time.

Another group, known as the Good Shepherd Group was also organized at this time and served the parish for many years. A third group was called the Grace Gibbard Group.

Soon after the Second World War the parish embarked on a program of "Restoration of the Church Property". The campaign was launched with a laymen's dinner during Lent 1950 attended by the Primate, the Most Reverend George Frederick Kingston, who was previously Bishop of Algoma, Bishop Wright and the then Rector of the Church of the Epiphany, Sudbury, the Rev'd F. F. Nock. Thus, as it happens, three succeeding Bishops of Algoma were present on this occasion at St. John's. This was in the incumbency of W.W. Jarvis, and Rev'd A.J.B. Whyam who was Rector of St. Brice's was also present.

These were the proposed projects:

1. To install a new heating plant.
2. Redecoration of the church.
3. Rebuilding of the church steps and approachments. (sic)
4. To establish and maintain a fund for a Rectory.

The total objective was \$15,000. These projects were all carried out, one way or another.

There was considerable discussion when the time came for the painting of the church interior. The previous paintwork included very splendid ecclesiastical symbols on the arches and beside the windows and doors. To replace these would be costly and

it was thought beyond the talents of local painters. It was eventually decided (not unanimously) that the work would be done by volunteers and that therefore the colours would be as plain as possible. Some of us still remember Mr. H. G. Glover and Mr. Andrew L. Smith precariously perched away up on high scaffolding engaged in this work.

One Lent during Mr. Jarvis' incumbency a mission was conducted by that saintly man known affectionately from coast to coast as Father Palmer. He was a onetime Superior of the Society of St. John the Evangelist (the Cowley Fathers) at Bracebridge. Even the most "low church" among us did not balk at entitling him Father and when he eventually became Canon Palmer, the title did not fit him at all.

St. John's had a close association with the Cowley Fathers during the incumbencies of Mr. Jarvis and Canon Large, the latter of whom used to tell of his studies while living at the monastery. There is also Canon John McCausland, a son of St. John's and long time member of the Order, once Superior and now serving the Diocese on Manitoulin Island.

Mr. Jarvis was one who emphasized "churchmanship" and the importance of the church sacraments. One remembers very large confirmation classes during this time, when the Second World War seemed to recall many people to the Church. The level of churchmanship has remained high.

There was also in Mr. Jarvis' time a very large junior choir, which clad in red gowns took part in Evensong each Sunday.

The Reverend Canon Charles F. Large became the eighth Rector of the parish on September 12, 1951 and served until December 31, 1973. He had been ordained Deacon in St. John's Church September 25, 1938. He and Mrs. Large came to us from the Mission of Nipigon and Red Rock with a reputation for building and getting things done. Canon Large was impatient with caution and red tape and the next twenty-two years saw many things accomplished sometimes more quickly than the congregation would have wished.

Mr. Large felt that the rectory which had been purchased in 1949 on First Avenue East was not well located, was small for his family and that the parish should do better. Having accepted this idea reluctantly, the parish soon learned that it had another rectory, on the corner of Copeland and Bye (Plouffe) Streets. In order to secure this house, Canon Large at first agreed to purchase it in his own name, pending acceptance by the parish.

Meanwhile, the rather primitive kitchen facilities in the upstairs hall came under the Rector's scrutiny; he decided that the time had come to take over a long narrow cloak room under an overhanging balcony at the street end to create there a modern kitchen which would have a refrigerator, propane cooking range, good dishwashing facilities and plenty of cupboard space. No sooner had this project been given tentative approval than the young men of the servers' guild were busy at the necessary demolition work. The construction was done or finished by a contractor.

Outside on Main Street, the retaining wall, built in 1905, which was cracked and threatening to fall to the sidewalk, was rebuilt. At the same time the steep concrete steps built in about 1914 were replaced by less steep steps in the centre of the retaining wall and these led to an enlarged narthex or porch, providing a much easier entrance to the church.

The altar acquired in 1910 and set right against the "east" wall of the chancel (it is really the west by south-west wall) was found to be unsuitable for the priest celebrating the Holy Communion while facing the people, a concept which came along during Canon Large's rectorship. Canon Large had a new longer oak altar made, one which was in better proportion to the reredos, and set in its present location. The former altar, a beautiful piece of wood work, was set in place in the west alcove where it serves as a "side" altar.

During the incumbency of Canon Large the splendid series of stained glass windows in the nave was gradually placed as memorials by the several members of the congregation as noted thereon. The last of these windows was placed by the side altar, donated by Mrs. Archer, during the rectorship of the Reverend N. L. Goater. These windows depict significant scenes from Jesus' life on earth.

One of the bigger changes in the church facilities took place in 1964 when a new Thorneloe Hall or Room was added to provide a meeting place for both ladies' and men's groups. This room was and is much more comfortably furnished than were any facilities previously available. Renovations completed at the same time included a new office for the Rector and a much more spacious sacristy adjoining the sanctuary. A

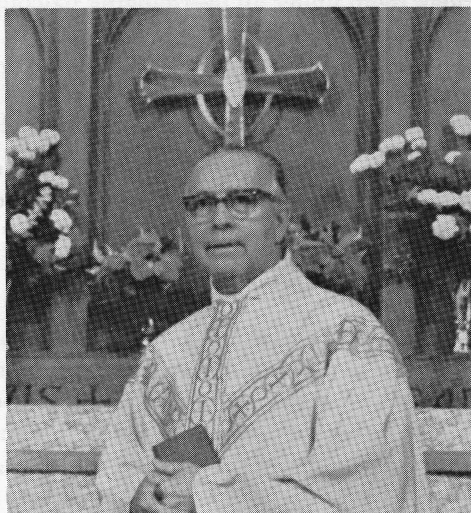
secretary's office was also set up and the old rector's office became available for more general office use.

In the early 1950's it became common for chairs to be required to augment the pews during the 11 o'clock morning service at St. John's. It soon became apparent that more or larger accommodation was needed. To solve this problem, land was purchased by the Diocese and a new mission parish, Christ Church, was established in about 1956. The leaders of this activity were active St. John's persons. The project was financed in the beginning by a joint financial campaign, during the course of which some of us heard of the Wells Campaign Organization for the first time. This campaign was of course tied in with a diocese-wide campaign for the "Archbishop Wright Church Extension Fund". Apart from the assistance given to Christ Church, St. John's contributed some \$48,000. to that fund over a three year period as well as its regular substantial contributions to the Algoma Mission Fund and the Diocesan Expense Fund. Canon Large gave good leadership during a time when his "flock" seemed to be dividing itself in two. It was noticeable then that he knew, after a five year period, more people on the parish list than anyone else.

Movable partitions in the upper parish hall were installed to permit easy separation of Sunday School classes while permitting the whole space to be available as one unit for other purposes.

During the wardenship of the late A. C. Dagg it was decided to sheathe the steeple and its surmounting cross in copper. This was done and over the succeeding years this metal has gone through various colour stages from its natural red-brown to black to the grey-green patina to be seen today.

One Thursday morning in 1958 there were four ordinations to the priesthood and five to the diaconate by Archbishop W. L. Wright at St. John's. Among the new priests was the Rev'd William Stadenyk, still active in the Diocese. The newly ordained deacons were the Rev'd Lloyd Hoover, the Rev'd J. Thomas James, the Rev'd Donald Landon, presently Rector of St. John's, the Rev'd Eric Paterson, the present Rector of the Church of the Epiphany, Sudbury and the Rev'd D. A. P. Smith lately the Rector of St. Brice's and Archdeacon of Temiskaming, now the Rector of St. Paul's Thunder Bay.



THE REV'D C. F. LARGE

In 1953, St. John's welcomed the Rev'd John Jordan as Curate or assistant to Mr. Large. Mr. Jordan was here for two years and during his time in North Bay he helped direct the senior choir, set up a Bible class, helped the Rector in his many duties and with his wife Phyllis became much respected and appreciated by the parish. In 1955 Mr. and Mrs. Jordan left to take over the Mission of Cobalt, Latchford and Temagami. They are still remembered by friends made nearly thirty years ago.

On November 22, 1955 the pipe organ was rededicated as a memorial to those who

gave their lives in the 1939 - 45 war. The sermon was preached by the Most Reverend W. L. Wright, Archbishop of Algoma and Metropolitan of Ontario. At that time the wardens were A. C. Dagg and Biff Gigg. It is perhaps worth noting that there were listed on the program 8 boy sopranos, 14 sopranos, 3 altos, 4 tenors and 5 basses. At the time of this writing, unfortunately, it is hard to picture that many in the choir.

The note on the program dealing with the organ itself was as follows:

The memorial organ was built by the Keates Organ Co., Lucan, Ontario. The organ contains a total number of 800 pipes spread over 13 ranks, with 21 stops. The two manual console is located on the Epistle side of the chancel.

The chimes are a gift to the church by Mr. and Mrs. F. R. Paterson, Edwin, Warren and Gerald.

The pipe organ was of course originally purchased in 1910 and the 1955 ceremony was really a rededication after it was completely rebuilt.

When the pipe organ was rebuilt, Mrs. Ilma McDiarmid who had so faithfully played the organ for four and a half decades decided that she would be unable to carry on further.

Accordingly Mr. Bill Cameron was engaged to be both organist and choir director. This was a change from a combination of Mrs. McDiarmid and various volunteer choir directors such as Andrew L. Smith, the Rev'd John Jordan, Rollie Willcox and Ken Little, after Mr. Johnston died.

Mr. Cameron was our organist and choir director for about seven years. The church music flourished. He was the first professional musician in the combined post and naturally he had his own ideas as to what was expected and proper.

We had a choir of about nine small boys in this era. One Christmas Eve, Mr. Cameron having especially drilled these small charges and begged their parents that they be allowed out to attend the midnight service, they were expected to offer the musical "piece de resistance" unaccompanied. Three times Mr. Cameron played the overture — three times not a sound came from the small boys huddled on the chancel steps. Then the service had to proceed. In general however the music was much better than that and could be heard.

In 1958 the Rev'd Terrence E. Clarke came to St. John's to be curate and assistant to Canon Large. He too stayed about two years during which he made many friends among the congregation who still enquire after him. Mr. Clarke later was a Priest in Niagara Falls, Ontario in the Diocese of Niagara. The Rev'd Ronald Barnes came as a Deacon in 1960 to assist Canon Large. In February 1961 Mr. Barnes was "priested" and therefore could take full charge of all services including the Holy Communion. In 1963 Mr. and Mrs. Barnes left St. John's for Blind River having made many friends during their short time with us.

In his 1961 report to the annual vestry meeting, Canon Large made these recommendations:

I strongly recommend to St. John's congregation that we give a place of honour to the following persons:

The late Mrs. Ilma McDiarmid, who for over 45 years walked across this city, twice each Sunday as well as any day she was asked during the week to play the organ in this church.

Mr. and Mrs. J.H. Elliott who for 25 years were responsible for our Sunday School teaching, Mr. Elliott being the Sunday School Superintendent.

I would suggest we open a fund and give everyone an opportunity to make some offering of gratitude for their work and service to the church and our children. We could install two stained glass windows in the church as a reminder of their service.

Two stained glass windows were duly installed as Canon Large stated, to remind us of the services rendered by these devoted persons, but these memorials were evidently paid for by the families themselves.

Late in Canon Large's incumbency, he having purchased and developed a fine modern permanent home on the south side of North Bay's Trout Lake, the Copeland St. Rectory became superfluous and was sold, the proceeds becoming a Rectory Trust Fund under the control of the diocesan treasurer.

At this time the parish made a decision, still adhered to, of not owing a rectory. The three Rectors succeeding Canon Large have therefore found their own dwellings, assisted of course by a fairly substantial "living" allowance. This policy should have the effect of enabling the clergymen to build up some equity in a dwelling which would be of value at the time of their retirement.

Another of the changes during Canon Large's incumbency was the installation of Mrs. Nell Mallory as the first woman to be a warden of St. John's. This one of the Edwards sisters not only became Rector's Warden, she was also at the same time a very active Alderman for the City of North Bay. She endeavoured as much as possible to manage "her church" as she constantly referred to it. When in late 1973, Canon Large became unable through illness to carry on his ministry, Mrs. Mallory, in words used at her funeral several years later, "outmaneouvered Archbishop Wright" and sought out the Reverend Noel Goater to become the 9th Rector of St. John's.

No story of St. John's Church and of the Anglican Church in this area would be complete without references to the Reverend Canon Baxter Gordon Gosse.

Mr. Gosse's service to his church in this area began when as a lay reader he used to go to Sundridge, South River, Sturgeon Falls, Temiscaming, etc. and take services when there was a vacancy or when he was more available than anyone else. He was much beloved in these small places and was made welcome as perhaps someone higher in ecclesiastical authority might not have been. He was mainly responsible for there being a small chapel at Warren which is no longer used.

Mr. Gosse had taken some theological training in his native Newfoundland and at an age when most men are ready for the slippers and the comforts of retirement he decided to enter the ministry full time. He took responsibility for congregations in Warren, Cache Bay, Sturgeon Falls, Temiscaming, Quebec and later St. Brice's in North Bay. He travelled to these wide-spread charges until he was overcome with ill-health and age in the mid 1970's.

Another lay reader who left St. John's for the ministry was the Reverend Arthur Crisp. He left the employ of the L.C.B.O. to serve a Higher Master and ended his career and life as Priest-in-Charge at Lively a new church west of Sudbury. Mr. Crisp while at St. John's was a valued member of the senior choir.

The Reverend Ross Kreager, recently named Rector of St. Brice's, grew up in St. John's and St. Brice's both. He spent the early days of his ministry on the Queen Charlotte Islands in the Diocese of Caledonia, B.C. and later went to the Sudan in Africa from whence he came back in 1980.

Other ordinands who have gone from St. John's include the Reverend Raymond Nornabell, the Reverend Canon John McCausland, the Reverend Tony Bullman, the Reverend T. J. Davidson, a Roman Catholic priest the Reverend Ralph Sturgeon, The Reverend Bryan Beveridge and the Reverend Robert Kennedy. Mr. Kennedy had been an electrical engineer with Ontario Hydro in North Bay. He was ordained in June 1965 at St. John's by Archbishop Wright and served in the Diocese of Huron.

The Reverend Canon J. B. Peever, a native of North Bay who grew up in St. John's parish has distinguished himself in the field of Christian Education and he is now a Canon of Christ Church Cathedral in Ottawa, serving at the time of writing in Cornwall. Canon Peever was ordained Deacon in July 8, 1962 in St. John's Church, together with T. J. Davidson also of North Bay and James Francom, by Archbishop Wright.

In 1964, Mrs. Mary Sirrs succeeded Mrs. Elizabeth Rudy as organist and choir director. Mrs. Rudy had served us for two years after the departure of Mr. Cameron. Mrs. Sirrs was, as noted by Canon Large in his annual report for 1964, a United Church girl, not well acquainted with Anglican Church music or services. She took charge of a group of people, several at least of whom thought they knew more about what the choir should sing and how it should be sung than she did. Over the next 17 years the choir learned much more than it had known about choral work, about ecumenism and about the privilege of offering music to God in worship, thanks to Mrs. Sirrs' energy, enthusiasm and devotion.

The choir helped to lead the worship of St. John's as it has for several decades at the 11:00 a.m. Sunday services. As a measure of ecumenism it also, at various times, took part in services of presentation of sacred music in the First Baptist Church, St. Andrew's, Trinity and Emmanuel United Churches, the Roman Catholic Cathedral, Holy Name Church, St. Anne's Church, Mattawa and St. Vincent de Paul Church. The choir also at times helped the Rector at the Psychiatric Hospital, Cassellholme, Leisure World and the general hospitals.

In Holy Week, 1974 this story appeared in the North Bay Nugget:

CHOIRS UNITE FOR SERVICE AT MATTAWA

One of the highlights in Mattawa during Holy Week was the combined church choir of North Bay singing John Stainer's "The Crucifixion".

St. Anne's Roman Catholic Church was the setting for the fifty voice choir. The organ prelude of Handel's "He Shall Feed His Flock" followed by Bach's "Passion Chorale" set the mood for Sir John Stainer's well-loved music. The audience which could have been larger in the big church, sang, along with the choir, "When I survey the Wondrous Cross." Then Wilf Brown outlined the Cantata.

Members from the choirs of Anglican, Baptist, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Roman Catholic and United Churches in North Bay then sang the wonderful Easter time music. Soloists were Ted Price, Bruce McCubbin, Don Flynn, Rollie Willcox and Bill Taylor. Organist was Mary Sirrs and Marion Flynn directed the choir.

St. John's choir adopted new blue gowns about 1975 and the older traditional black cassocks, white surplices and black mortar boards for the ladies were disposed of. A member of the choir for more than fifty years, Mrs. Tyler Jackson, now retired, gave a generous gift to the parish in memory of her late husband, a former church warden, to defray the costs of the new choir regalia. Other choir members retiring after fifty years' service were Mrs. Doris Saunders and Mrs. Freda Glover.

Two former choir directors, Andrew L. Smith and Rollie Willcox, have passed on to a higher realm these past few years. The remaining long time member of the choir and one of our most faithful church attenders is Oscar Harris who has often been the tenor section by himself these past 51 years.

During the last two years of Mrs. Sirr's term the choir managed to present passable segments of Handel's Messiah at Christmas and Easter.

The children of the parish, trained and encouraged by Mrs. Sirrs, came to have an increasing part to play in our church services.

In late 1973, when the Rev'd Canon Large was unable, through illness, to carry on with services at St. John's, the Rector's Warden Mrs. Nell Mallory found that Lt. Col. Paul Delong, an Anglican Priest, was Command Chaplain (Protestant) for Air Defence Command at North Bay and that he might be available, temporarily, to help by taking service for Canon Large. Col. Delong thereby became our Priest pro tem. He and his wife Betty became very much part of our parish family. After the Rev'd Noel Goater's arrival, Col. Delong was named honorary assistant to Mr. Goater and retained that position for two years and several months. The Delongs were transferred by the Air Force to Winnipeg in May 1976.

The Rev'd Noel Goater became Rector of St. John's, February 1, 1974 and was with us until July 31, 1980.

This incumbency was marked by many changes in the parish family, the congregation seeming to become, as a whole, younger and more active. Considerable modernization of the hall took place including the provision of more adequate nursery facilities, using space over the hall kitchen. Thornehoe Hall was redecorated; the old rector's office and washrooms were refurbished.

The lower parish hall was leased to the Oddfellows and Rebekas in an effort to recoup some of the operating, particularly heating, costs. This was a reasonable move, that portion of the hall not being used for church purposes once the nursery was moved.

Mr. Goater originated a parish publication known as the "Patmos Press" named for the island where The Book of Revelation originated, and the Main Street Orpheus Choir (any men of the congregation who could be commandeered). He was once astounded to find that it was referred to in a Sunday bulletin as the Main Street Orphans choir. Perhaps that was what it sounded like to some person.

Also during Mr. Goater's incumbency, five Eucharistic Assistants were appointed by the Bishop and accepted by the congregation, to assist the Priest by administering the chalice at the Holy Communion. These were Messrs. Biff Gigg, David Johnson, Leonard Payne, David Saad and Mrs. Christine Whatmore. These assistants have helped greatly to reduce the physical burden on the celebrant who is, of course, usually the Rector.

On Sunday evening, June 15, 1980, at the end of Mr. Goater's incumbency, the parish held a "Goater Family Appreciation Dinner" in the Empire Hotel. At this dinner Judge Spiros Loukidelis expressed the appreciation of the parish for the privilege of having the Goater family with us for 6 1/2 years. The people's warden made a presentation to the family. Mrs. Jan Goater gave the family's response.

During the ministry of the Rev'd Noel Goater, the Rev'd Kenneth Blaber became what was called "Associate Rector" of the parish. Mr. Blaber was a professional engineer from England who had felt called to serve the church while performing mining engineering duties in Northwestern Ontario. He had also served at Mistassini in the Diocese of Moosonee in N.W. Quebec. He was also involved in part time chaplaincy with the Air Force in N.W. Quebec. When he came to North Bay in addition to be-

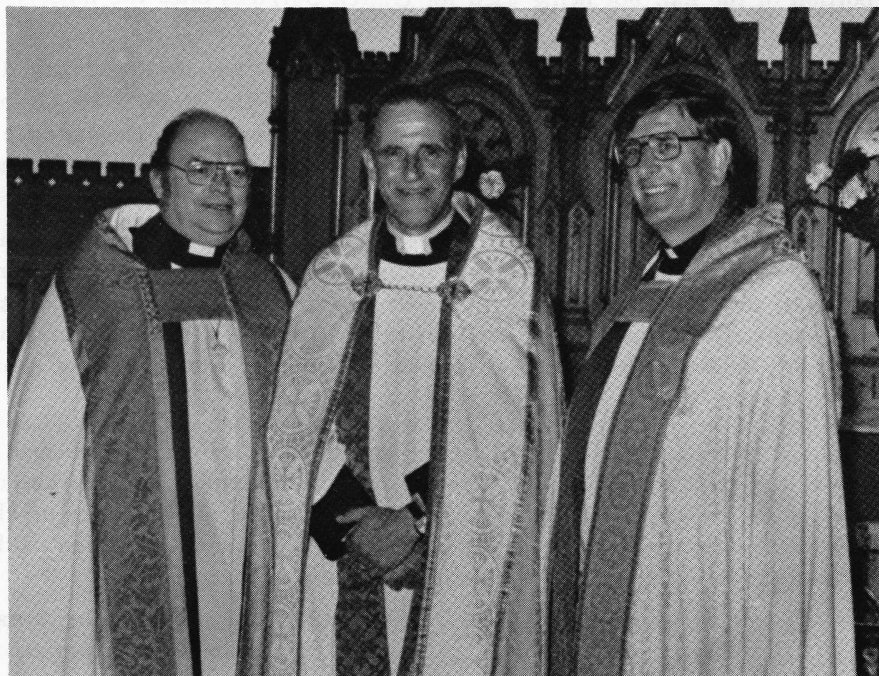
ing Associate Rector of St. John's he was in charge of Cache Bay, Sturgeon Falls and Temiscaming Quebec.

Mr. Blaber's service to St. John's was summed up briefly in the "Patmos Press" when he left for the military chaplaincy at Petawawa:

"At this time, Father Ken Blaber is leaving us. He and his wife Joyce have added greatly to our parish life. They worked very hard in the Christian Education Department, on the visitation program and on many other projects. For all they and their family have done we offer our thanks."

At a very well attended luncheon at Pinewood Park Inn, the parish thanked the Blabers for their work and time with us.

During his time in North Bay, Mr. Blaber presented a course in Theology through Thorneloe College, the Anglican College associated with Laurentian University in Sudbury. Thorneloe College came into being in the 1950's and through the Diocese of Algoma some of St. John's people including the various Rectors have had a part to play in its affairs since the beginning.



Left to Right — The Reverend Kenneth Gibbs, The Very Reverend I. L. Robertson, Dean of St. Luke's Cathedral, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, The Very Reverend N.L. Goater, Dean of St. Matthew's Cathedral, Brandon, Manitoba.

The Rev'd G. Kenneth Gibbs came to us as Rector of the parish about August 1, 1980. During his short ministry at St. John's the parish seemed to thrive. He was particularly attentive to and liked by small children. Older parishioners too found this Rector an easy person to relate to. He came to us from Elliot Lake with his family. The affairs of the parish appeared to settle into a state of security. Alas, this serene atmosphere was abruptly disturbed and once more in June 1981 we found ourselves selecting a concurrence committee and the search for yet another Rector was on.

For a period of six months during which time we were ministered to by Canon Kells Minchen, coming out of the armed forces chaplaincy, and Canon Harold Shail who had retired from the Diocese of Moosonee to North Bay, the affairs of the parish were admirably handled by two very dedicated wardens, Arthur Page and John Atkins. They deserve our utmost thanks.

The Reverend Donald Landon from St. Paul's, Thunder Bay became Rector of St. John's November 1, 1981 and conducted his first service November 8. Mr. Landon found a parish anxious to carry on Christ's work and looking for stability.

The Christmas 1981 services were attended by 585 persons with 441 communicants.

From the time of Canon Large's illness in 1973, the North Bay Anglican community and this frequently involved St. John's, had called upon Archdeacon D. A. P. Smith, the Rector of St. Brice's from 1972 - 1981 to "take funerals" and find us a clergyman to take Sunday services and tend the sick. Archdeacon Smith rendered a great service over those 9 years.

On March 16, 1982, the Rev'd Ross Kreager became the Rector of St. Brice's, Archdeacon Smith having transferred to Thunder Bay as replacement for Mr. Landon who had come to St. John's. Mr. Kreager was as it turns out a classmate of Mr. Landon at Trinity College and it was fitting that our Rector preached the sermon at Mr. Kreager's induction.

It will be noted that there are small gaps here and there between Priests-in-Charge and/or Rectors. During these gaps as we well know from recent experience there have been churchmen who "filled in". To those clergymen and laymen whose names may not appear in this imperfect record, we owe a great debt.

The present clergy in North Bay have all remarked on the good and close relationship between the Anglican churches of this community and district. May we go forward together in God's service in that manner.

The congregation was saddened to learn on May 24, 1982 that the Reverend Canon C. F. Large had died at his home in Victoria, B.C. on May 22. As the church bulletin of May 31 said he had been our friend and Rector for a longer period than any other Priest in our parish history. We were enabled on Thursday June 24 to hold a memorial service for Canon Large with Mrs. Large and children and grandchildren present.

In June 1982 St. John's Church North Bay and St. Mary Magdalene Church in Sturgeon Falls presented plaques to the Church of St. Alban the Martyr, Mattawa, then celebrating its centennial, in thankfulness. This was in recognition of the fact that the small church in Mattawa is the Mother Church of Anglican endeavour in this area. The presentations were made by Biff Gigg and Frank Boland.

SIDESMEN

The image of a church is often presented by those who serve as sidesmen. For many years the late Mr. Walter Jones used to preside in the church entrance. He is perhaps best remembered for telling one aspiring North Bay politician who appeared at the door before an election and notably not at any other time "We only allow honest people to act as sidesmen and take up the collection". Mr Jones was undoubtedly passing judgement, but he no doubt has been forgiven. Other names which came to mind are W. J. Edwards, Maurice Sage, Larry Frizell, Herb Scott and of course, Bob Rowe.

These men, and now ladies, have a big important part to play in the life of a parish and they are perhaps not appreciated as they should be.

CHANCEL GUILD

One of the important organizations found in an Anglican parish such as St. John's is the Chancel Guild. There is to be found usually, in the church, an appropriate amount of tapestry and linen finery and depending on the age of the parish and the affluence of its members a considerable quantity of plate, all of this requiring care and attention.

We take for granted that there will be flowers on the altar, that the brass and silver will be shining and the linen immaculate. These things do not just happen, nor are they in place Sunday after Sunday because the Rector or the sexton waves his wand. There has to be an organization to purchase flowers and arrange them, to launder the linen and polish the brass and silver and have it all splendidly in place.

For Christmas, Easter and Harvest Thanksgiving and for confirmations and weddings appropriate decorations are provided.

St. John's Chancel Guild has over the decades cared for the church as described. The ladies have provided most of the materials they use aided by the generosity of parishioners in giving memorial gifts.

One of the pleasant and heart-warming proceedings has been to give the flowers from the chancel to the shut-ins and elderly after Sunday services rather than having them wither in their urns.

Many ladies have been involved in this task over the years and to them we owe a great deal for their never failing discipline and devotion to duty.

MOTHERS' UNION

At one time and particularly among those who came to St. John's from England there was a Mothers' Union branch, affiliated with the Mothers' Union in England. Some of our older members recall that their mothers were part of this organization who were described in an annual report as doing:

"acceptable work in many ways. The members are zealous and contribute to missionary as well as home work."

EVENING BRANCH OF W.A.

For many years there flourished the "Evening Branch of the W.A." This grew out of a "Girls Auxiliary" which was made up of "working girls" who could not meet with the "Senior" or "Afternoon" W.A. by reason of their being otherwise employed. It became a fullfledged branch of the W.A. on its own. The ladies of the organization engaged in all of the money making pursuits usual to such groups and contributed to the church locally, the Diocesan and Dominion Boards. For example, in 1957 there were 22 different sources of funds producing \$1,348.79 and causes were supported with a total of \$1,111.73.

The Senior W. A. of course matched these figures, more or less, each year.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Over the years and despite the urgency of the plea in the 1919 annual report quoted earlier, the Sunday School has been ably served by many constant and faithful teachers and leaders. In 1919 J. W. Lethbridge was the superintendent. Reference has been made to Mr. and Mrs. Johnston Elliott who served for some 27 years. Wib and Connie Elliott, David and Barbara Johnson, Miss Lett, Mrs. Rice, Mrs. E.C. Battles, Miss Ruth Gould, Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Sage, John Irwin, Mary Saad, Miss Eleanor Coombes and many others have for the past century directed or taught in the Sunday School and have thus participated in what is probably the chief way in which most of us become aware of and conversant with our faith. There can be no finer service in Christ's Church than assisting in whatever capacity with the church school.

APPENDIX I

THE WOMAN'S AUXILIARY

1885 - 1960

The Woman's Auxiliary of the Church of St. John the Divine, North Bay, is one of the oldest, if not the oldest, in the Diocese of Algoma. In fact, it is one of the oldest in Canada, because it was organized in 1887, just two years after the first Woman's Auxiliary in Canada was formed in Ottawa by the late Mrs. Roberta E. Tilton.

In 1885, what we now know as the Church of St. John the Divine was called St. Michael and All Angels. It was a small clapboard building situated on a lot on the corner of Sherbrooke and Main Streets. The property was donated by the late John Ferguson, founder of North Bay, who at the request of his wife gave land to various denominations for the purpose of building churches. The total cost of this church, built in 1884, was \$900.00.

On a bright afternoon in May, 1887, a Mrs. Gregory invited a few Anglicans to have a cup of tea at her home. After discussions regarding the rapid growth of the little town of North Bay and feeling glad that the long winter was over (which meant they no longer needed to worry about the bread getting frozen in the cold rectory), the conversation turned naturally to their beloved little church and its many needs.

Then, a Mrs. Washburn somewhat startled the ladies by suggesting that they might organize just as Mrs. Roberta Tilton and her seven friends had done two years before in Ottawa and called the group "The Woman's Auxiliary". Fortunately at that moment their rector, Archdeacon Gillmor, dropped in for a cup of tea. Right away he was told how the ladies wished to organize an auxiliary of their own. They said they wanted to help financially with some of the Church's future plans to aid in a small way with home and foreign missionary work. The rector was delighted with the plan and told the ladies how much he appreciated their loyal and spiritual support.

They lost no time.

The following Sunday the rector invited all the ladies of the parish to attend a meeting in the Church on the Wednesday afternoon. Seventeen ladies attended the meeting. A Mrs. McWhinney opened proceedings with prayer. She thanked the ladies for the wonderful attendance. Archdeacon Gillmor then explained that there was a movement to organize a "Woman's Auxiliary" to St. Michael and All Angels and he discussed the aims and pledges of such an organization. He said it was a noble venture and both he and Bishop Sullivan heartily commended it. It was then in May, 1887, that this Woman's Auxiliary was born.

After some discussion, two ladies were named to stand for the presidency. Archdeacon Gillmor asked for a standing vote. Mrs. Washburn received eight votes and Mrs. Lounsbury nine votes, and so Mrs. Lounsbury was the first president of North Bay's "Woman's Auxiliary". Miss Annie Begg, the church's volunteer organist, was unanimously chosen secretary-treasurer (Miss Begg held the office of treasurer for more than 30 years). It was decided the auxiliary would meet on the first Wednesday of each month.

In those early days money was scarce in the church, and a paid caretaker was not to be thought of. However, Mrs. George Leach volunteered to be in charge of a number of W. A. members to do this work. They took turns in opening the church early Sunday for morning services. During the winter these ladies often found it necessary to carry lanterns because there were no street lights in those day. They always hoped the wood would be dry enough to build the fire.

Also, a group of the Auxiliary members met in the church every Friday afternoon to clean the lamps, sweep and dust. Because there were practically no paved sidewalks, mud was constantly tracked into church, which necessitated a good scrubbing almost every week. Because the church had no pump it was necessary to carry pails down the road for water. In winter this pump was frozen, so they just carried in pails of snow to melt, then down they went on their knees with water, soap and a scrub brush.

The Church of St. Michael and All Angels rapidly grew, both spiritually and numerically, during the following decade. On August 10, 1896, a large red brick church was opened for divine services. The building was erected on the same ground as the old clapboard church. Some years later an up-to-date parish hall was built, also Thorneloe Hall where the W.A. and other organizations meet in comfort. In 1896 the name of the church was changed from the Church of St. Michael and All Angels to the Church of St. John the Divine.

During the past 73 years the president's chair has been occupied by many gracious ladies. Their names follow: Mrs. Lounsbury (the first president), Mrs. Purvis, Mrs. G. W. Leach, Mrs. Tyner, Mrs. Lowery, Mrs. G. W. Hutchinson, Mrs. G. F. Morton, all deceased, Mrs. Halloran (part of 1941), Mrs. W. E. Wonch, 1939 - 1944; Mrs. R. Davidson, 1945-46; Mrs. W. Larden, 1947-48; Mrs. R. Thomson, 1949-51; Mrs. C. Dagg, 1952-53; Mrs. R. Davidson, 1954-55, Mrs. S. Frezell, 1956; Mrs. H. Trussler, 1957-58; Mrs. Johnston Elliott, 1959-60. Seven of the past presidents are still active members. From a small beginning in 1887 the Woman's Auxiliary has made tremendous strides, with five flourishing groups to its credit now. They are the Senior or Afternoon W.A. with Mrs. Johnston Elliott as president, the Evening Branch with Mrs. Oscar Harris as president, the Junior Auxiliary with Mrs. S. Moore and Mrs. F. Noaik as leaders, the members of the Girls' Auxiliary who meet at St. Brice's with Mrs. J. Daig as leader, and the Little Helpers under the leadership of Mrs. Boland.

The Woman's Auxiliary has sent officers to both the Dominion and Diocesan Boards. Mrs. Johnston Elliott resigned a few years ago after serving the Dominion Board for 15 years as Junior's Secretary. On the Diocesan Board the late Miss Annie Begg was Dorcas secretary for 25 years. Mrs. A. M. Fellman was vice-president of the Nipissing Deanery during 1932-36, resigning on account of leaving the city. Mrs. E. E. Wonch, now vice-president of Nipissing Deanery, has been in office since 1953, and Mrs. Gertrude Edwards as Social Service secretary since 1954.

Our W.A. would like to pay tribute to many of our faithful workers, especially the late Mrs. G. F. Morton who was president for 25 years. Her whole life was centered around W. A. work. Mrs. W. Larden has been a member for 53 years, and is a past president and life member. Also, Mrs. T. Marshall and Mrs. W. Scholfield, both in their late seventies, are members of long standing. These three last-named members are still active in the W. A.

The Woman's Auxiliary of St. John the Divine of North Bay is proud and happy of their spiritual, financial and social record of the past 73 years and invoke God's blessing on all future activities.

Compiled by Margaret Fellman.

Note: For information of the early days of the Woman's Auxiliary, this writer is indebted to interesting talks in the twenties with three charter members: Mrs. Dan McIntyre, Mrs. H. W. Hutchinson and Miss Annie Begg. For some dates and names, thanks to Miss C. Lett, a former North Bay school teacher, to Mrs. E. E. Wonch for a list of past presidents, and to the church records.

APPENDIX II

This biographical sketch of Archdeacon Gowan Gillmor by Richard Cartwright is taken from the Canadian Churchman of June 23, 1932 and was headed:

THE TRAMPING SAINT

Every Diocese of the Church has, I suppose its particular saints and heroes. There are outstanding characters in every province, famous men by which the Lord has wrought great glory. Often they are not famous from a worldly point of view yet precious in the knowledge of God and dear to very many on earth.

One of the great characters the Church of England in Canada has produced is surely the late Venerable Archdeacon Gowan Gillmor, D.D., a grand old Irish saint, a pioneer missionary, one who is remembered in town and hamlet over the whole vast Diocese of Algoma. At the ripe age of 78, God called him to his reward.

I had good reason to know the "tramp" as he loved to be called; for two years as a student, I worked with him. He was living inspiration and his photograph hangs on my study wall today; every time I look at it I am strengthened and encouraged.

He was a man wholly dedicated to God, wholly consecrated to his service. He lived in comparative poverty as regards worldly goods. When I first met him he had not a single comfortable chair, his only ornaments being a figure of Christ, some photographs and a little statue of St. Patrick. "Who do you think will meet me at the gates?" he used to ask. "St. Peter? No, it will be St. Patrick Himself". His bed was a single cot. We got a subscription up in the parish and purchased an arm chair and a comforter for his bed. He gave us a calling down for doing so. "Shure" said he, "they are too fine for an old tramp". His loving warm-hearted disposition won everybody. I never heard him speak evil of anybody. He always had some excuse for people who caused trouble in the parish. During the last years of his ministry, he lived in a poor room over a church institute. You had to go up a ladder to get to it. The door was never locked and crowds of children were forever going up and down the ladder. Children followed him everywhere and he called them his angels.

Untiring in his zeal, he worked until the end. He celebrated the Holy Communion for the last time on St. Bartholomew's Day, a short time before his death. Out of his 78 years Gowan Gillmor gave 45 to the Diocese of Algoma. He was born at Little Sligo in Ireland. He dedicated his life to the Church and came out to Canada first as a lay reader. He was ordained by Bishop Sullivan in 1884. For years he worked as a travelling missionary, travelling as he used to say "On me two feet". He has tramped as much as forty miles a day in the time of his full strength. He worked around Sudbury and North Bay, spending also 16 years as Rector of Rosseau. For 13 years he was a travelling missionary.

When anyone called to see him he used to display his little treasures which he had picked up at various times, fossils, arrowheads and other specimens. The cap of the collection was a medal which he prized very highly. It had been given to him at the conclusion of the North West Rebellion, during which (1885) he acted as chaplain. He loved to tell of this adventure.

The Bishop of the Diocese preaching shortly after his death said of him: "Among the many lessons to be learned from the life of the Archdeacon, three stand out most prominently. Firstly his simple unaffected goodness. Religion was to him a reality, the most important thing in life. Money meant to him nothing; if you gave it to him, he gave it away. Ease and comfort he would not have. Honours and dignities he never sought. In 1910 Trinity College made him a D.D., but the honours men usually seek, he despised. Religion was to him the breath of life, the pearl of great price, the one thing worth living and working for. Then the second characteristic was his untiring zeal and restless labour. He was never still, never idle. The burden and heat of the day was what he sought. His labours in the Master's service were endless as he tramped about from place to place. And again we see his intense loyalty for the Church. No narrow partisan, he loved all men and respected all honest creeds but at the same time knew what he believed. He stood for definite churchmanship."

His devotion to the means of grace was the secret of his influence for good. He was in personal contact with the living Christ, nourished and developed by the Grace of God. The title by which he was best known was "the tramp". For hundreds of miles he tramped on foot, on snowshoes, face to face with wild beasts. He was always a welcome figure, received into lonely cottages, in remote spots where he visited when railroads were few, motor cars were unknown and roads did not exist.

And through all his hardships and loneliness he never lost that sense of boyish humor which was ever with him. You could not be dull with him. He dispelled gloom and cheered you up when you were most despondent. He was fond of jokes on himself. There was nothing of the pompous Archdeacon about him. Addressing a gathering one day he told them how that once he was crossing a frozen lake when some wolves tracked him down and as the pack drew near, he noticed the leading wolf, a powerful animal. As they came up, the leader stopped and stared at "the tramp". "And brethren" said the Archdeacon "I remarked on the face of the wolf a most astonished expression, astonished! Why was it I ask you? I was the first Irishman he had seen. Then the wolf said "come on fellows, it's only old Gillmor".

He was indeed a St. Francis, tramping across frozen lakes, through forests, more than once in danger of his life, lost in blinding snowstorms, fighting his way to carry medicine to sick settlers. Gowan Gillmor is a figure who has made a mark on the church life of Algoma. God's happy warrior, a saint, a hero. May the Church in Canada give birth to many such as he.