

A History of Christ Church In Markdale --- A Place of Worship for Past 55 Years

In 1849, the Reverend Arthur Mulholland, afterwards Archdeacon, was ordained by the Right Reverend John Strachan, first Bishop of Toronto, and appointed travelling missionary for the two enormous but sparsely settled counties of Grey and Bruce, with headquarters at Owen Sound. There were no roads for wheels at that time, and he made his journey from place to place on horseback, a journey to Markdale from Owen Sound requiring as much as a day.

During his visits to this community, weekday services were held in the old log schoolhouse on the Toronto Highway across the swamp on what is now known as the Holley farm. The earliest recorded baptism in Markdale dates back to Feb. 12th, 1852, and the last recorded baptism performed by Archdeacon Mulholland in this district took place on Jan. 3rd, 1857.



Rev. Jas. Ward

In 1856, Mr. and Mrs. George Walker made a gift of the first acre of land cleared on their farm to be used as the site for a church, and Mr. William Ritchie had a little log church completed by 1860. The work was supervised by Rev. R. W. Johnstone, who boarded in Markdale at the home of Samuel Coleman, father of Benjamin Coleman. The first recorded baptism performed by Mr. Johnstone was on May 1st, 1860, and from that time we have an uninterrupted series of such entries, which circumstance goes to prove that definitely organized parochial work by a resident incumbent began at least as early as 1860.

Rev. Rowland Hill was next appointed in 1865, and laboured in the parish until July 1871. Mr. Hill took up his abode in the little stone cottage on the right hand side of the road as one nears Eugenia, travelling from Flesherton. Both he and his predecessor styled themselves "Incumbent of Proton, etc." and evidently covered a vast territory, as Rev. R. Hill had to his credit the baptism of persons in the townships of Mulmur, Amaranth, Melancthon, Proton, Artemesia, Glenelg, Ephrasia, Osprey, Holland and Nottawasaga.

From July 4th, 1871 to Feb. 1st, 1874, the parish seems to have been under the supervision of Rev. W. B. Evans of Durham who performed the Baptisms and entered them in the Register of that parish.

In February, 1874, Rev. J. J. Morton took charge, residing in Markdale. During his time, he officiated twice a month in Markdale, and once a month in Flesherton, Eugenia, Melancthon, Dundalk and Inistioque.

The Rev. Geo. W. Racey had charge of the parish from May, 1876 until Nov. 1877, and was succeeded by the Rev. Jas. Ward, who remained until 1887. During his incumbency, the present Christ Church was built and opened for worship on May 1st, 1880. The Churchwardens at that time were Benjamin Coleman and Thos. Elliot, and R. Biggar was Vestry Clerk. Thos. Elliot lived to see the celebration of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Church, passing away in January, 1934. It is interesting to know that the church building, furniture and fence cost \$4075.92. Of that amount

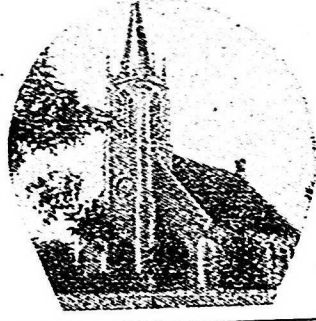
\$600 was contributed by friends in England, several hundred dollars was raised by the Ladies' Aid Society, and the balance by subscriptions. In the list of subscribers to the building fund we find recorded the following families: Arnold, Bennett, Biggar, Bradey, Cass, Caesar, Cunneyworth, Clark, Clarridge, Coleman, Cargo, Dormer, Dundas, Douglas, Drew, Elliott, Ford, Foster, Gibson, Haabury, Haskett, Hill, Hutchinson, Lucas, Mann, Maidment, McBride, Myers, Richardson, Rooke, Stephens, Smith, Turner, Truss, Walker, and Ward.

The church, being free of debt, was consecrated on Tuesday, October 12th, 1886, by the late Bishop Baldwin. The following clergy took part: The Bishop's Chaplain, Rev. Canon Mulholland, and Rev. C. H. Chaner, Rev. R. G. Moore, Rev. J. C. Farthing (then Rector of Durham) now Bishop of Montreal, Rev. J. H. Fairlie, and the Incumbent, Rev. James Ward.

The Font was procured through the efforts of Miss Elizabeth Walker and Miss Elizabeth Drew. The church bell and the altar cloth were procured by Mr. Ward in England, as was also the sterling silver Altar basin, while the carved Eagle Lectern, made in Orangeville, was Mr. Ward's own gift. During the earlier part of Mr. Ward's incumbency, he held Sunday services in Markdale, Maxwell, Eugenia Falls, Dundalk and Inistioque. Of these Markdale and Maxwell received services regularly and the others somewhat less frequently. Weekday services were held in homes and halls, including the Orange Hall, Berkeley.

Shelburne had been separated and constituted an independent parish in earlier days, apparently in July, 1876, before the coming of Mr. Ward. In 1880, apparently after August 1st, Dundalk was separated and placed in charge of Rev. W. Beaven, and in 1887 Maxwell was cut off from Markdale and put on with Dundalk. In 1887, Mr. Ward succeeded in having St. Matthias' Church begun in Berkeley, the builder being the late Thos. Abbott, the father of Mrs. E. T. Walters of Berkeley. St. Matthias Church was not opened for service until February 1888, during the incumbency of Rev. W. A. Graham, Rev. Jas. Ward and Mrs. Ward being present at the opening service. There were no Sunday services in Berkeley until the opening of the church, but there had been week-day services and a

Christ Church, Markdale



port during the time of Rev. J. R. Newell.

2. In 1908, Rev. J. A. Robinson being Rector, the church was re-seated, and redecorated and a pipe organ installed. In all, \$3000 was expended.

3. During the time of Rev. E. G. Dymond, most of the graves in the churchyard were removed to the Markdale Cemetery and the ground was then levelled. A stairway was constructed to connect the basement with the Nave of the church and to facilitate the procession of the choir, vested at that time. Also modern plumbing was installed in the rectory.

4. Another stairway was constructed during the time of Rev. A. W. Richardson for the procession of the choir up the centre aisle and to facilitate entrance to the Sunday School from the church vestibule.

5. Electric lights were installed in the church and in the rectory in 1896, and again after the electric light plant was taken over by the Hydro Electric Power System.

6. New furnace in the church, in 1928.

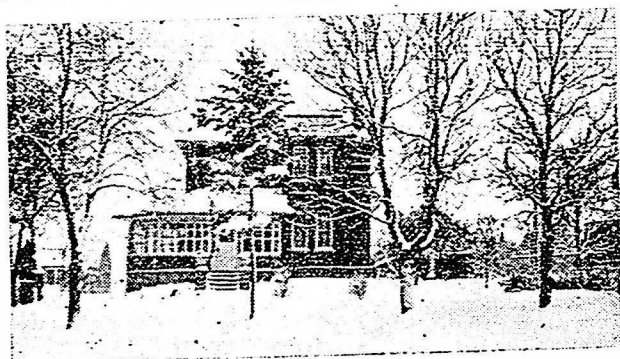
7. Extensive improvements to the rectory in more recent years have been: The enclosed verandah, 1919-1929; interior alterations, 1926; a new roof, 1927; enclosed cellar stairway and alteration of the heating system, 1929; renovation of the rectory grounds 1925-1934.

8. Redecoration of church basement, 1930.

9. In 1933, the church was redecorated, reroofed and the lighting system improved at a cost of \$702.89.

10. An altar book rest in brass given by Christ Church Chancel Guild in 1934.

11. In Dec. 1934, two memorial windows were erected, the one representing "The Nativity", in memory of Oswald Walker, and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Walker who had given the acre of land upon which Christ Church stands, and the other, representing "The Resurrection", in memory of Miss Elizabeth Walker, sister of Oswald.



Christ Church Rectory built in 1890

Sunday School. Seven years later, on July 11th, 1894, during the incumbency of Rev. M. M. Goldberg, St. Matthias' church was consecrated. Thus Markdale is the mother of churches.

Soon after Rev. W. A. Graham came to the parish in 1887, Christ Church rectory was built, completing the organization of the parish as at present constituted. Mr. Graham never used the Rectory, as it was not ready for occupation until 1890, and at the close of that year he was appointed to Shelburne Parish.

The following clergy have occupied the Rectory: Revs. H. E. Bray, Wm. Hinde, M. M. Goldberg, J. R. Newell, J. A. Robinson, E. G. Dymond, J. H. Hosford, A. W. Richardson, A. S. Mitchell, and the present Rector, C. O. Pherrill.

The principal changes and improvements since 1890 have been as follows:

1. The parish attained self-sup-

Other memorials given from time to time are as follows: A prayer desk in brass, the gift of Mr. and Mrs. Sol. Hill, in memory of their little daughter, Minnie.

The Altar Cross is a memorial to Archibald Elliot given by his wife and family.

The vases on the Altar were a gift from the family of Mr. and Mrs. George Walker in remembrance.

One offertory plate was given in memory of Mrs. Ford, and the other in memory of John Johnson Chapman.

On May 1st, 1910, the Thirtieth anniversary of the opening of the present Christ Church was observed by holding special Thanksgiving services, Rev. James Ward, under whose leadership the church had been built, preaching at both services. The Churchwardens in that Anniversary Year were Messrs. John W. Ford and E. Bradey, and the Vestry Clerk was Mr. W. Turner.

Again in 1930, the year of the Church's Golden Jubilee, a similar celebration was held on Sunday, June 8th. Rev. T. H. Cotton, M.A., D.D., Rector of St. Aiden's Church, Toronto was the preacher on that day, and Rev. James Ward assisted in the services. That veteran clergyman had been superannuated fifty-two years of active service. In that Jubilee Year plans were made to redecorate the church and a very substantial part of the necessary fund was raised. The work of redecoration, however, did not take place until 1933.

The officers of Christ Church in this 55th Anniversary Year are as follows: Rector, Rev. C. O. Pherrill, B.A., B.D.; Wardens, Johnson Lucas and Randolph Bradey; Assistant to Wardens, James Bradey; Sidesmen, Messrs. T. Lemon, C. Leatherland, J. Richardson, H. Walker, John Bradey, N. H. Dundas, Jack Mercer, Manley Richardson, Wm. Noble, jr.; Lay Representative to the Synod, Ran Bradey, and Substitute, I. B. Lucas, jr.; Select Vestry, H. H. Mercer, John Hill, Wm. Gregory, T. H. Reburn, I. B. Lucas, jr., Thos. Tuck, and Mrs. Hugh Mercer; Vestry Clerk, H. H. Mercer; Organist, Miss Madge Lucas; President of Ladies' Guild, Mrs. Thos. Tuck; President of A.Y.P.A., C. Leatherland; Treas.

of Church School, A. W. Sproule; Chancel Guild, Grace Lucas, Marion Hill, Marion Noble, and Ruth Reburn.

With all the improvements and refinements added from time, Christ Church has become ever more and more a churchly church with a moderate but very beautiful and impressive service. Faith in the living Christ and fellowship with Him will ever ensure for the church a life which is spiritual and vital, redeeming her members from any possibility of becoming formal in worship and cold in attitude towards their fellows.

Having received so much help in early days from outside sources, and having been in receipt of Mission funds up till about forty years ago, it is not likely that in the present state of rugged independence the congregation will ever turn a deaf ear to the needs of missionary work or to the outside objects of the church. Followers of Christ do not have to be reminded that His cross represents self-imposed sacrifice on behalf of others.

The past of Christ Church having been glorious, there is every reason to believe that with Christ in command, and strengthened and inspired by God the Holy Spirit, a yet more glorious future awaits Her.



CARELESSNESS is TOO COSTLY!

PASSING on a hill is just one form of haste . . . that craving to drive too fast . . . which is altogether too prevalent in Ontario.

The appalling number of motor accidents in this province means a drastic check-up on reckless drivers. Public sentiment, speaking through the courts, will be increasingly severe towards unreasonable, thoughtless motorists.

You know what you should do. How you should drive. So, for your own safety and that of others, *drive carefully!*

IT IS BETTER TO BE SAFE...THAN SORRY

MOTOR VEHICLES BRANCH
ONTARIO DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS



THIS MUST STOP!

In Ontario, during 1934, there were nearly 10,000 automobile accidents.

512 people were killed
8,990 people were injured

... a considerable increase over 1933. It must be evident to all thinking people that *this must stop.*

Hon. T. B. McQuesten,
Minister of Highways.