



SAINT HELEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

Founded 1911





This document is the continuation of a tradition of the gift of ministry by the Saint Helen's Altar Guild. It is offered to the Glory of God, in gratitude for Altar Guild members – past, present and future, and particularly the Parish of Saint Helen's.

May we be given the grace to continue the work begun in our first century and to do the works of love that build community into the future.

“This is our heritage, this that our fore bearers bequeathed us. Ours
in our time, but in trust for the ages to be.
A building so holy, His people most precious



Faith and awe filled, possessors and stewards are we.”

OUR EARLY HISTORY

St. Helen's Church was built in 1911 during a real estate boom and was consecrated by the Right Reverend A. J. de Pencier in November of 1911. He was at that time the Archbishop of British Columbia. Much of the surrounding land had already been subdivided and everyone thought that the area was destined to become the metropolis of the Fraser Valley. It is a magnificent site and when the land was originally logged off, it had an overpowering view. There was a panorama both up and down the Fraser River with New Westminster as a backdrop.

Perhaps because of nostalgia for the ancient churches of his native England or perhaps he admired the medieval style of architecture – whatever the reason might have been – Walter James Walker decided to build a replica of an old English church but on a smaller scale. He retained the well-known architect Frank W. Macey to design it. How successful Mr. Macey was can be gauged from the fact that St. Helen's Church was declared a "Heritage Building" in 1983. People still marvel at the beauty of the edifice. It is built mostly of native fir; on the inside there is some fine woodwork, and an outstanding feature is the Rood Screen, which is a sort of open-work wall separating the chancel and altar from the body of the church with a crucifix in the center. Through this screen worshippers could become aware of what was taking place at the High Altar.

Because the High Altar is the focal point of worship, Mr. Walker decided it should be made from something special. He sent to the Holy Land for some Cypress wood from the Mount of Olives and built the main altar and the Lady Chapel altar.

Most altars have some form of adornment to remind worshippers that it represents the table of the Last Supper. Many churches had an antependium or Altar frontal made of embroidered silk. These could not be obtained locally so Mr. Walker contacted a friend, the Reverend Jocelyn Perkins, who happened to be sacristan of Westminster Abbey in England. Mr. Jocelyn responded nobly and sent a number of robes and other furnishings for the new church. He also donated a stained glass window in the Lady Chapel.

The main tower of the church was sheathed with shining copper and contained a beacon light, which could be seen for miles. Some still living in the area remember the light. It was operated by a clock inside the church, which turned it on at dusk and turned it off at dawn.

To many this might seem to be enough, but to Mr. Walker a church must have a set of bells, so he sent to England for some tubular chimes which still call the faithful to worship.

The first Rector was the Reverend C.J. Leonard, who lies buried in the church graveyard, under the holly trees.

POINTS OF INTEREST IN

THE BAPTISMAL FONT

OUR CHURCH

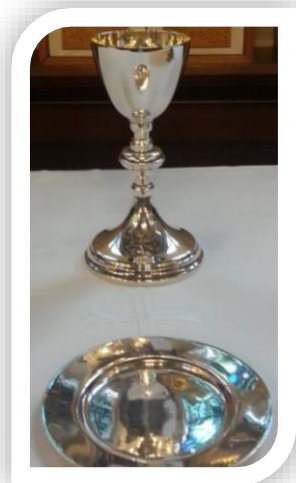
One of the traditional features of the medieval and renaissance churches of Europe was to have the baptismal font at the entrance to the church, or in a side chapel or baptistery, near the entrance, the reason being that Baptism is the sacramental entrance into the life, worship and witness of the Christian Church. The font at St. Helen's is stationed prominently just inside the west entrance to the Church. It was constructed of B.C. Granite in the first years of the life of the parish, and had a great oak cover made for it, with a large oak cross on a tri-footed pedestal. An addition to the font, and dedicated in 1986, is the large brass basin which was hand-tolled by a brass craftsman in Winnipeg, and made to size for this font. The basin is a gift of the Reverend Bill Dingle, from a bequest to the parish, from his estate; he was a priest of the parish in former years.



THE EUCHARISTIC ELEMENTS

The Parish of St. Helen's has a fine collection of silver vessels for use in the great Sacramental services of the Church – in the Holy Eucharist and Baptism.

1. The silver bread box was a gift of parishioners in memory of the first two priests of the parish: Father Cecil John Leonard (1911 – 1914) and Father Arthur Lee Ballard (1914 – 1917)
2. The silver tray with crystal cruets was given in memory of Dorothy Dingle, wife of the Reverend Bill Dingle.
3. The chalice and paten (small plate) depicted here is one of the three sets at St. Helen's, all of them memorial gifts



THE HIGH ALTAR

The High Altar of the parish church is made of cypress wood, brought from the Mount of Olives in the Holy Land and obtained by Walter James Walker, who had the church built. Through the seasons of the church's worshipping year, the various colours to celebrate the seasons – white and green and purple and red – are featured at the High Altar in four elaborate hand-embroidered frontals, three of which were brought from England. The purple frontal was made in the parish by Mrs. J. S. Hainsworth and Mrs. F. Cantell.

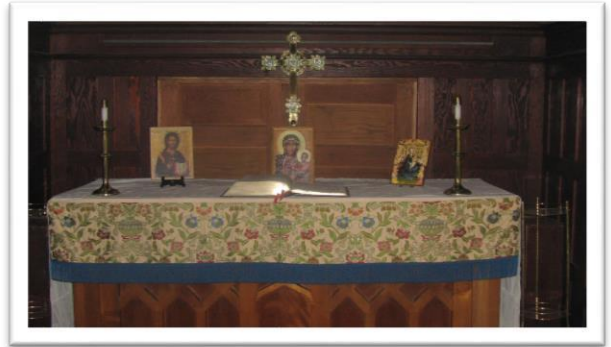


THE HIGH ALTAR AT SAINT HELEN'S DECORATED FOR THANKSGIVING

THE LADY CHAPEL

THE LADY CHAPEL ALTAR

The smaller altar in the Lady Chapel is also made of cypress wood from the Mount of Olives. It is identical in design to that of the High Altar. The Lady Chapel is named for the fact that it is usually dedicated to Mary, the Mother of Jesus. Ours features a central icon of Mary, cradling the infant Christ in her arms. It also has upon it a large King James Version Bible, just recently restored and rebound.



VERONICA'S HANKERCHIEF

The legend of Veronica's handkerchief is one that tells of a woman that wiped the face of Jesus while he was carrying the cross to his crucifixion. When she looked at the handkerchief afterwards she noted the face of Jesus had been imprinted upon it.

The painting in the Lady Chapel has an illusion in the artwork that Jesus' eyes may appear to be open, or closed, and if they seem to be open – they seem to look back upon you wherever you are standing.



LADY CHAPEL STAINED GLASS

The two stained glass windows in the Lady Chapel are both gifts to the parish. The older one (below) features the patron saint of the parish, St. Helen, who was mother to the Emperor Constantine in the fourth century. The window was given to St. Helen's parish by the Reverend Jocelyn Perkins, who was sacristan of Westminster Abbey in England, at the time the church was built.



The newer window (above) in the chapel features St. John the Apostle, and has the words from the Parable of the Ten Talents in the Gospel of Matthew: "Well done thou good and faithful servant." The window was given to the parish in

1963 in loving memory of the late Philip Pawson by his family and friends. Mr. Pawson had been a faithful member of the church for 50 years.

SANCTUARY ITEMS

The following items can all be seen within the sanctuary of St. Helen's Church.

1. The ornate great brass candle stands were sent over from England to grace the new church when it was built and furnished by Walter James Walker.
2. The three sanctuary lamps with their long brass chains and pulleys were purchased by the Women's Auxiliary in 1914.
3. The sanctuary banner with its diagonal St. Andrew's cross and the chalice in the centre was made by Mrs. Lena Stoneman, past Altar Guild president. It was given to the parish and was dedicated on the 50th anniversary of the church in 1961.
4. The large brass sanctuary bell is rung during the Consecration Prayer when the Great Memorial Words of Christ, the Words of Institution, are recited over the elements of bread and wine. It was purchased by parishioners of St. Helen's in 1912.



The pulpit was designed and constructed at the time the church was built, and in a native B.C. wood similar to that of the chancel screen. The hangings of fabric in the four colours of the season are the design of Georgina Clark.

A particular feature of the pulpit is the Chi Rho Cross, carved into the total design.

The Chi Rho is a monogram of the first two letters in the Greek word for Christ:

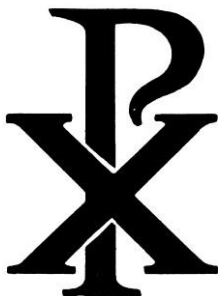
Rendered as: Χριστός

Taking

X Chi

ρ Rho

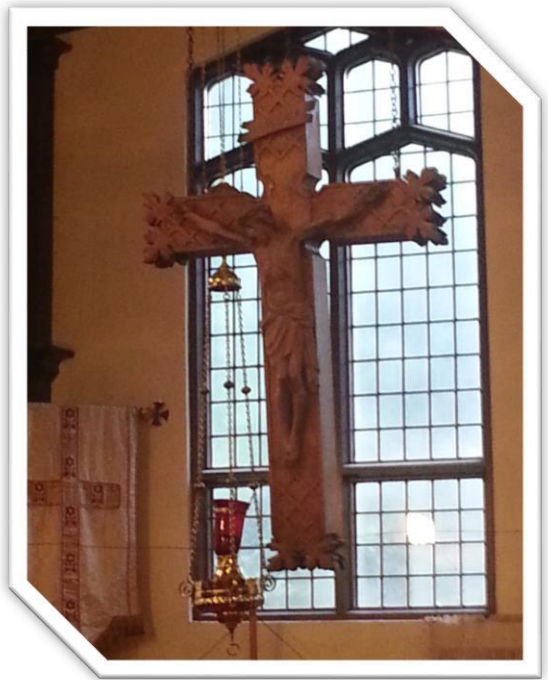
Gives us the symbol



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The elaborately carved chancel screen of native fir of the province is patterned after those found in a great many European churches, many of them carved in stone. The screen separates the choir and sanctuary from the nave of the church. If it has a cross or crucifix carved right into it, it is then called a 'rood' screen. 'Rood' is an ancient word coming from the Old Frisian language of the British Isles, which means 'the Cross of Christ'. St. Helen's screen approaches a rood screen in that a crucifix hangs suspended from the central design of the chancel screen. The 'rood' in St. Helen's was a gift from an unknown donor presented to the parish. It had been purchased in Oberammergau, Bavaria, where the Passion Play is presented throughout the summer once every ten years.




The East Window in stained glass above the high Altar is a 50th Anniversary Thank-offering from the people and friends of the parish of St. Helen's. It was created in loving memory of Walter James Walker, benefactor, who gave the church, the rectory and the land to the Diocese and parish. The window was dedicated in 1961 by the Right Reverend Godfrey P. Gower, Bishop of New Westminster. The window depicts Christ preaching from a boat on Lake Galilee, and above it are the words "He that hath ears to hear, let him hear."

A CENTURY OF STORIES

There are so many more stories that we simply couldn't include in this booklet: the three school buses that used to bring children to Sunday School in the 1970s, nicknamed 'Faith', 'Hope' and 'Charity'; the pipe organ that was built over the course of several years by a benefactor and at one point grew to three rooms in his house! We are a people of stories. We would love to hear yours.





AND NOW WE RETURN TO THAT WHICH GOD
HAS ENTRUSTED TO OUR CARE.

DEEP WITHIN EACH ONE OF US IS THE MESSAGE
OF THAT NEW LIFE SO FREELY GIVEN.

LET US SPEAK THAT MESSAGE,

LIVE THAT LOVE,

AND SHARE NEW LIFE WITH ALL

SO THAT ALL MAY BE FREE

WE GO IN PEACE

TO LOVE

AND TO SERVE THE LORD

An Eucharistic Dismissal

The Rectors and Priests in Charge of St. Helen's

Jun 1911 – Aug 1914	The Reverend C.J. Leonard
Aug 1914 – Aug 1917	The Reverend. A.L. Ballard
Sep 1917 – Oct 1918	The Reverend H.A. Butler
Dec 1918 – Apr 1920	The Reverend C.W. Houghton
Apr 1920 – Dec 1922	The Reverend W.T. Keeling
Dec 1922 – Nov 1924	The Reverend C.W. Houghton
Dec 1924 – Aug 1932	The Reverend J.P. Dingle
Sep 1932 – Apr 1937	The Reverend W.H.L. West
May 1937 – May 1939	The Reverend. E. Thain
Jun 1939 – Dec 1939	The Reverend W. Rorke
Mar 1940 – June 1940	The Reverend L.G. Hales
Jun 1940 – Aug 1941	The Revs. E.F.M. Dann & St. G.M. Boyd
Sep 1941 – Jan 1945	The Reverend J.P. Dingle
Feb 1945 – May 1946	The Reverend Canon F. Plaskett
Jun 1946 – Oct 1948	The Reverend W. Barlow
Nov 1948 – Feb 1949	The Reverend Canon F. Plaskett
Apr 1949 – May 1952	The Reverend N.H. Atkinson
June 1952 – Sep 1957	The Reverend D.A. Hatfield
Sep 1957 – Sep 1963	The Reverend R.N. Holmes
Sep 1965 – Apr 1976	The Reverend P.R. Ellis
Jul 1976 – Jun 1983	The Reverend J.L. Clark
Jul 1983 – Jul 1984	The Reverend E. Powell
Aug 1984 – Apr 1985	The Reverend T. Anthony
Apr 1985 – Jul 1993	The Reverend A.J. Hosking
Aug 1993 – Feb 1994	The Reverend E. Lowe
Mar 1994 – Oct 2000	The Reverend M.R. Muldoon-Burr
Nov 2000 – July 2001	The Venerable Dennis Popple
Aug 2001 – Feb 2013	The Reverend Michael McGee
Mar 2013 – Dec 2013	The Reverend Ruth Monette
Dec 2013 – July 2014	The Reverend Roberta Fraser
July 2014 – Present	The Reverend Stephen Laskey

Saint Helen's
Anglican Church



Home. Friends. Peace.

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www.sthelensurrey.ca

or on facebook at www.facebook.com/sainthelensurrey

@SaintHelensAng on Twitter

COME BY SOME TIME AND VISIT

Please drop by sometime and be our guest. You will find that our open doors are matched by open hearts and open minds.

Thank you for visiting us.