

In 1950, about this time of year, heading into the end of October this article was printed in The Ottawa Citizen. 72 years later, we are now heading into our 162nd year. This is calculated from the date that St John's originally was formed as a "Chapel-of-Ease" and an extension of Christ Church in 1860. Yes, St John's is older than even Confederation!

At that time, several comments in the article refer to the past history of the church (already extensive and well-established) while noting the changes in staffing and programming. Ironical, isn't it, that even as we look back and identify what kind of parish community St John's was and how it functioned in the community that there were changes taking place and adjustments made as the character of our location and community evolved.

Change doesn't mean negating or disrespecting the past. Our parish has deep roots and respected traditions. Perhaps, as God is faithful to us and we to God, others will look back at this time and note our transitions, and be challenged to meet the challenges of the future we can hardly yet imagine.

Something to think about ...

St. John Evangelist To Observe 90th Birthday

By W. M. Gladish
Evening Citizen Staff Writer

A special occasion in the parish life of the Church of St. John the Evangelist, Elgin Street, will be the observance of the 90th anniversary of the founding of the Anglican pastorate.

The celebration by the downtown congregation, which will extend from Oct. 29 to Nov. 5 with the holding of special services on both Sundays, will also be marked by recognition of the 60th anniversary of the erection of the present edifice, then known as Grace Church.

St. John's parish had its start in 1860 with the establishment of the Chapel-of-Ease as an adjunct to Christ Church in what was then Bytown.

Became Church

Eventually, the chapel became the Church of St. John the Evangelist and the place of worship stood at the corner of Rideau and Sussex Streets, the site now occupied by the Daly Building.

The original St. John's Church was destroyed by fire in 1912, after which the parish was amalgamated with that of Grace Church under the joint direction of the two rectors, Rev. Canon H. Pollard and Rev. Canon J. F. Gorman.

Eventually, Canon Gorman had sole charge of the parish and was succeeded in 1937 by Rev. Canon Northcote R. Burke who continued until September, 1948, when he resigned to accept the appointment of rector of Christ Church, Deer Park.

Rev. Terence J. Finlay, formerly of Winnipeg, the present incumbent, took charge of the downtown parish following the departure of Mr. Burke for Toronto.

The present assistant rector, Rev. E. A. Pulker, is shortly leaving to become rector of the parish of North Gower and will

be succeeded by Rev. W. R. Wright of Petawawa.

Staff Expansion

Expansion of the clerical staff of the parish was recently made in the appointment as honorary assistant to the rector of Rev. Canon Henry G. Cook of Ottawa, superintendent of Indian School Administration under the Missionary Society of the Church in Canada.

The religious program in connection with the joint anniversaries will start with the family communion service next Sunday at 9.30 a.m. for which the preacher will be Mr. Finlay.

The guest preacher at the services at 11 a.m. and 7.30 p.m. will be Rev. Ralph R. Latimer, rector of the Church of St. James the Apostle, Montreal. Special choral music will be offered under the direction of L. S. Vorr, organist and choirmaster.

Many of the parish organizations will be taking part in events to commemorate the anniversary celebration during the week's observance.

Heading the officers of the parish are the church wardens, A. Keith Light and Lt.-Col. W. B. Pennock. The deputy church warden is David K. Drury.

In point of religious activities, social work and number of parishioners, St. John's has long been in the fore-front of the

Anglican Communion in Ottawa. Its anniversaries are an occasion of historical importance in the capital city.

One of the features of the ministry of this parish is the Sunday by Sunday broadcast of its morning service over the local CKOY radio station. These broadcasts began on Easter Day 1947 and continued during the fall and winter months until this past year when it has been maintained on a yearly basis and is heard throughout the Ottawa Valley.

Experiments in Manitoba are aimed at processing flax shive, a woody waste material, into briquettes for domestic heating.



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