

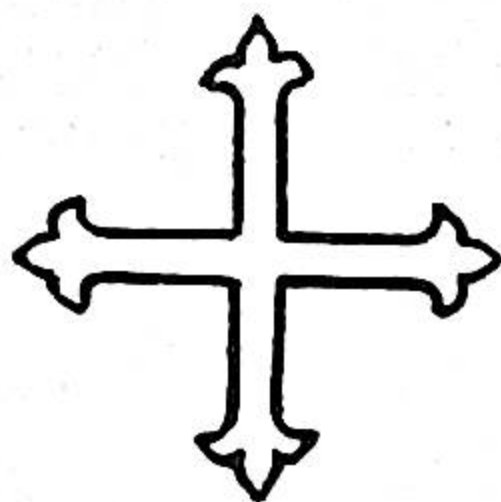
St. Michael and All Angels' Church

WEST SAANICH ROAD

ROYAL OAK

Vancouver Island

British Columbia



1883 to 1953

Don't know what

you're saying





ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Miss Madge Wolfenden - - - - Provincial Archives

Miss Mildred Chrow - - - - - Synod Office

Miss Audrey Alexandra Brown - - - - - Victoria

Mrs. R. O. Chase - - - President, The Parish Guild

*Clergy and Parishioners who have helped so much to compile
this history, and especially the Parish Guild, who gathered the
material from many sources.*

SOME six miles from the city of Victoria stands the Church of St. Michael and All Angels on the brow of a steep tree-crowned hill. For three score years and ten, unchanged in appearance, it has watched the traffic flow up and down the West Saanich Road. In the early days it watched the pioneers make their slow progress up the hill, and saw the smoke ascend from a few farm homes as the settlers established themselves in a new land.

*"Oft did the harvest to their sickle yield,
Their furrows oft the stubborn glebe has broke;
How jocund did they drive their team afield!
How bow'd the woods beneath their sturdy stroke!"*

(GRAY'S ELEGY).

The flying sickle, the dusty road, the creaking harness are no more. The latest models in cars speed past below the church, loaded buses groan up the hill, carrying the city workers to and from the homes which now crowd the district. Yet still in the lovely little church, and in the burial ground around it, "all the air a solemn stillness holds." The mellow-ness of age is here, and the memory of old far-off deeds and faces. It has become truly hallowed ground.

History of St. Michael's

THE history of St. Michael's antedates the church itself by nineteen years. As early as 1864 missionaries came, first from Christ Church Cathedral and later from St. Luke's, Cedar Hill, to serve what was then the mission of St. Michael's, Lake parish.

It is assumed, though there is no definite record of it, that services were held throughout this period in the old school at Royal Oak, of which The Colonist of January 4th, 1883, reports:

"Fire at Royal Oak—school burned to the ground. It contained a new organ worth \$150.00, on which \$50.00 had been paid, and another one belonging to Bishop Hills, which were consumed. Crockery and books were destroyed—the loss being approximately \$400.00. The fire is thought to be incendiary."

Probably this loss of their meeting-place crystalized the resolve of the parishioners to build their own church. Mr. Stevens (of the Stevens' Hotel which stood at the corner of West and Beaver Lake roads) gave property purchased by him from the John Black farm for the site. A building bee of parishioners was formed, headed by Mr. Hudson Roper. The shingles were hand-cut by Mr. Louis Duval, and the men went to work while the ladies of the parish served meals.

St. Michael's was built, on the crest of a very steep hill in a grove of fir trees, commanding a wonderful view south to the city of Victoria and the Olympics. Designed to accommodate over one hundred persons, and costing in the neighbourhood of \$2,500.00, it was consecrated on St. Michael and All Angels' Day, September 29th, 1883, by the Rt. Rev. George Hills, first Bishop of Columbia. The stone font was the gift of Mrs. Hills, wife of the Bishop, and the first babies were christened in the church the following spring. They were Leonora Camp and Fred N. Duval, the latter being still a resident of the district.

Concerning the consecration, The Colonist of September 30th, 1883, has this to say:

"The new Church of St. Michael's, Lake, was yesterday consecrated by the Lord Bishop of the Diocese. The event naturally excited considerable interest in the surrounding districts and also among churchmen in Victoria, and the ceremony was witnessed by a large congregation, including not only the principal settlers of Lake, but a large number of ladies and gentlemen from Saanich and Victoria. The church edifice has been erected through the zeal and energy of the Rev. Mr. Malachi, who only a year and a half ago began his ministry among the people of Lake. The Cathedral organist, Mr. W. Cross, presided at the harmonium, and valuable assistance in the choral parts of the service was rendered by members of the Cathedral choir.

"Bishop Hills preached an eloquent sermon from St. Luke VIII. A collection, which amounted to \$50.00, was taken up, and we have no doubt that an equally liberal offering will result at the service which will be held at three o'clock this afternoon, the special preacher being the Rev. Mr. Marwood of H.M.S. Heroine. We congratulate the Bishop and the Church of England on this fine addition to their sacred buildings and we congratulate the Rev. Mr. Malachi on having brought his work to such a successful issue. Zeal and earnestness such as his merit their reward, and we trust that the people of Victoria will not allow him long to bear the burden of the debt which we understand still remains upon his church."

As will be noted from the above, the priest in charge of St. Michael's at the time of the erection was the Rev. W. W. Malachi. There being no rectory at St. Michael's, Mr. Malachi came out as a missionary from Christ Church Cathedral. The services were held in mid-afternoon, and Mrs. W. Heal recalls how in those days, when she was Miss Isabel King, she used to drive out from Cedar Hill, where she lived with her family, to play the organ.

The Rev. Robert Connell, a later incumbent says of St. Michael's: "The lovely little church was built in the time of Rev. Mr. Malachi, and to his interest and supervision is due the permanent character and charm of the building. It was decidedly handsome in my time when it had its background of

firs and stood so conspicuously on the crest of the road without rival buildings."

In 1884 Mr. Malachi was succeeded by the Rev. G. W. Taylor, F.R.S. As a young man not yet ordained, Mr. Taylor had come out from England to join cousins of his named Wilkinson, who were then living in Victoria, but who later made their home on what is now called after them, Wilkinson Road. Mr. Taylor was ordained by Bishop Hills in 1887, after having been a missionary in charge of the combined missions of St. Michael's and St. Luke's. During his incumbency a residence was established at Cedar Hill, in one of the red buildings still standing near the corner of Cedar Hill and Cedar Hill Cross Roads. His daughter, Mrs. C. B. Hill-Tout (not then born) tells us that her father probably walked the distance between the two churches, as later he always travelled ten miles on foot between the churches in his charge on Salt Spring Island.

A keen naturalist and biologist, Mr. Taylor was for some time the only Fellow of the Royal Society west of Winnipeg; the second, Professor Hill-Tout became his son-in-law.

That St. Michael's, quite literally, owed much to him, is made clear by the following extract from Bishop Hills' address to the Synod, October 23rd, 1889:

"To the Rev. G. W. Taylor, the diocese is deeply indebted, for besides other efficient labours, it was by his exertions, that the two handsome churches of St. Michael's, Lake, and St. Luke's, Cedar Hill, were erected. Full of zeal for this good work, besides his liberal private subscriptions, he advanced from his own means to the tradesmen employed upwards of \$1,200.00, \$400.00 on the Lake church (St. Michael's) and \$800.00 on that of Cedar Hill, none of which has been repaid him. It is to be hoped that they who are now enjoying the privilege of worshipping in such a beautiful House of God may gradually reimburse Mr. Taylor for his outlay on their behalf."

It has not been revealed to us whether the Bishop's admonition fell on receptive ears, but we are inclined to hope that Mr. Taylor found virtue to be its own reward.

Mr. Taylor remained four years at St. Michael's (1884-1888). In 1890 he became rector of St. Barnabas' Church. On his eventual retirement from the ministry he founded the Dominion Biological Station at Departure Bay, Nanaimo, B.C., and for a number of years was its director. We quote from the "Diocesan Gazette":

"By the death of Rev. G. W. Taylor who died on August 23rd, 1912, at his home at Departure Bay, the Diocese loses a loved and respected priest, and the world a distinguished naturalist. Mr. Taylor came out to Vancouver Island in the early 80's and after a year or two's work as lay reader he was ordained deacon in 1884 and priest in 1886 by Bishop Hills. In 1905 he resigned to take up the curatorship of the Biological Station at Departure Bay, a work for which his eminent scientific attainments especially fitted him. But amid the labours of this post, he still found time to serve the church, holding Sunday School classes and services until ill-health incapacitated him for work. To him we owe the introduction of the Quebec System into this Diocese, and he will long be remembered as a champion of the rights of churchwomen to vote at church meetings."

(The Quebec System guarantees payment of clergymen's stipends regularly from the Mission Fund, instead of irregularly, as collected).

Mr. Taylor was succeeded at St. Michael's by Rev. A. Parker (1888-89) and Rev. F. L. Stephenson (1889-90), who left after a year's residence to take up work in the Yukon.

The Rev. M. C. Browne followed in 1890. It should be noted that, though the fifth incumbent of the parish, he was actually its first rector, his predecessors having only the status of missionary clergymen.

During these early years the rector's stipend was very small, sometimes amounting to less than \$500.00 a year "with forage." This does not mean, as might appear from a casual reading, that the rector was expected to eke out his salary by emulating Nebuchadnezzar. Rather, it indicates that he was encouraged to keep a cow and a few pigs. An orchard of apples and pears planted at this time and intended in like manner for the sustenance of the rector, still stands at Cedar Hill. Plainly he was "comforted with apples" if not "stayed with flagons"—(no cider press appears to have been furnished)—and had particular reason to pray for the "kindly fruits of the earth."

That this small stipend was truly earned is attested to by the fact that these earlier clergymen, besides attending to their duties at St. Luke's and St. Michael's, also at various times undertook mission work in such widely scattered districts as Cordova Bay, Metchosin, Colwood and Langford. When one realizes their means of locomotion was equine, these duties must have involved many hours of travel, often in bad weather. Truly, they were missionaries.

A document in the Synod Archives dated 1891 records that "I have received from his Lordship the Bishop, the title-deeds relating to the site of St. Michael's church, Lake district (and title-deeds from other parishes) with a view to effecting the

transfer of these properties from His Lordship to the Synod. Such transfers now in progress will probably be complete within the course of a few years." Signed, Lindley Crease.

In 1892 St. Michael's was made a parish. During 1893 the Rev. F. E. Wilson was its rector, succeeded in 1894 by the Rev. J. W. Flinton, who held the incumbency for seven years (1894-1901). His daughter is now married to Mr. Tom Merriman, editor of the Sunday Magazine section of The Daily Colonist. He was followed by the Rev. Robert Connell, who also held the position for seven years (1901-1908). Now Archdeacon Connell, a well-known naturalist and botanist, he is still living in Victoria and for a number of years has contributed a weekly article to "The Times" which is widely read.

At the time the Rev. R. Connell arrived from the Prairies to take charge of this parish the attendance had fallen off so badly that the advisability of closing St. Michael's was seriously discussed. An old hall at Colquitz had a good Sunday school and congregation every second Sunday, perhaps due to a larger concentration of population in that district than in the vicinity of the church of St. Michael's. As it was necessary to hold the services in mid-afternoon he rode over from St. Luke's, and during the summer at least he sometimes had a somewhat somnolent congregation. Mr. Connell started holding a service of Holy Communion at 9:30 a.m. once a month, and this tended to increase church attendance at St. Michael's. As new people moved into the district the situation gradually improved, and towards the end of his tenure, St. Michael's had re-established itself. Among the faithful attendants at this time we find the names of Mrs. Stevens (who played the organ 1901-1903), Trickey, Clapperton, Oldfield, Goyette, Stevens, Kyneston, Reed, Loveland, Holms, Averill, Wilkinson. Mrs. Clapperton also is numbered among those who presided at the organ for a period.

It was a constant anxiety to Mr. Connell that he might forget to bring the Holy Communion vessels with him when he rode over from St. Luke's for a service. Having heard him express this fear, Mrs. Morley and Mrs. Stevenson in 1902 presented St. Micheal's with a chalice and paten, and also brass vases for the altar. Mrs. Morley, a skilled embroiderer whose work won awards at exhibitions, set aside the prize money to buy these gifts, as well as giving linens for the holy vessels.

In 1902 it was decided to clear the land behind St. Michael's for a churchyard. Several "bees" were held to clear and level the land, the ladies serving refreshments, and the men

usually augmenting these with a barrel of beer. By 1906 God's green acre was ready, and the first burial was made in the churchyard in the same year.

An indefatigable worker in the church from 1904 until his death in 1937 was Mr. Trickey. The Eastern Star symbol in the roof of the chancel was given by him in memory of his first wife. Later when he married again, he and Mrs. Trickey organized, and for a long time devotedly carried on, the Sunday School at Prospect Lake—first in the school and later in their own home. Mr. Trickey was also vicar's warden and a delegate to Synod for many years.

From 1908 to 1913 the Rev. H. A. Collison (son of the famous Indian missionary and later Archdeacon) was rector of St. Michael's. In re-reading old records we try to visualize the conditions of that day. Heating arrangements in the church were still primitive, consisting of an old box-stove which roasted those in its immediate vicinity, but allowed the rest of the congregation to freeze. The lighting also left something to be desired, even when the original oil lamps were replaced by acetylene; the latter, though they gave a good light, occasionally made alarming noises which distracted those present with fears of an imminent explosion.

Services were still being held in the old hall at the corner of Carey and Wilkinson Roads to augment those at St. Michael's. These were discontinued when the church of St. Columba was built in 1912.

To Mrs. W. Carmichael, organist at St. Michael's from 1911 to 1915, is owed an interesting link with the famous "old iron church," the original St. John's, which stood on the present site of the Hudson's Bay Company's Victoria store. When this church was torn down in 1911, a text "Come Unto Me All Ye That Labour and Are Heavy Laden" was obtained from it by Mrs. Carmichael. Her friend, Mrs. Andrew, repaired the corners, after which it was placed in its present position over the chancel arch.

In this year (1911) was started the Woman's Auxiliary which has served the church without interruption through to the present day. The first president was Mrs. W. Jackson. It is interesting to note that Mrs. Carmichael's daughter, Mrs. W. J. Quick is still an active member of the W.A.

Two faithful members of the congregation, Mr. and Mrs. Philip Goepel, toured the world in 1912. While in China they bought a large bell and had it shipped to Victoria. A tower to house it—carefully designed to follow the lines of the

church—was built by Mr. W. Carmichael and the bell hauled into place by Mr. W. Quick. It still calls the congregation to worship, having a hearing radius of several miles.

In 1912 an Altar Guild was formed and carried on several years of useful service to the parish.

Between 1913 and 1918 the Rev. H. B. Hadlow ministered to St. Michael's. He had come from the Prairies and first served the parishes of Colwood, Metchosin and Sooke. In his time the parish of St. Michael's was separated from St. Luke's, so that he became its first resident rector, also serving the missions of Tillicum and Strawberry Vale. The new rectory was built under the supervision of Mr. Fred Quick, and the rector and his family were able to take up residence in it a few months after their arrival. In 1915 Mrs. Jackson took over the post of organist from Mrs. Carmichael and held it continuously until 1947.

The Diocesan Gazette, September 1914, carries the following item:

"The household of St. Michael's vicarage, Lake, had a pleasant surprise on a recent morning when they discovered an English baby carriage under the driving shed, it having been placed there overnight. A short note addressed to Miss Miriam Beryl Hadlow with love and best wishes from the parishioners, told the story of another little act of devotion. It is worthy of note that individual subscriptions were kept low as everyone desired to contribute."

In the same Gazette of May, 1915, we learn of St. Michael's that "the church windows were shattered by workers labouring on the Church hill." This would be when the crest of the hill was graded down for the first time to reduce the steep incline.

A member of the congregation, Mr. Joseph Freeman, left a generous legacy to St. Michael's. Through some technicality only the interest on this could be paid to the parish. It meant much to a church with a small congregation and limited budget. By the term of Mr. Freeman's will, dated 1916, the sum of \$150.00 is still paid annually.

In 1918 the Rev. C. R. Littler came to St. Michael's, on which both he and his daughter were to leave their mark. Mr. Littler had originally come out from England to St. Chad's, Regina, bringing with him several young divinity students, of whom the Rev. (later Canon) H. V. Hitchcox was to become rector of St. Michael's many years later. They are both buried under the shadow of the church.

Mr. Littler's daughter Margery proved a great asset to the parish; vital, spirited, full of energy and enthusiasm, she was like a fresh breeze blowing through the rectory and the district.

She started a Sunday School group, ably assisted by Mr. Fred Towler, Miss Marion Butt, Miss Kathleen Griffin, Mrs. J. Peet and Mrs. W. J. Quick. It opened with five pupils and in a few months the attendance had increased to one hundred and five. A jitney service was inaugurated to pick up pupils from the East and West Roads. Miss Littler also organized a Girls' Auxiliary and a Junior W.A. Group. As they had nowhere to meet, Mr. Richard Daverne donated a piece of his land which adjoined the church, and under her leadership and that of Miss Kathleen Butt, the girls helped to raise \$1,200.00, sufficient to build the parish hall. The parishioners at this time removed fifteen stumps from the ground in front of the rectory, replacing them by a tennis court, which was greatly appreciated by the young people of the community.

Miss Littler (who is now Mrs. Philip Shaw of Kelowna) tells how in 1920 some of the young girls of the parish, who had very little money for holidays, formed a small group which went over to Gordon Head, where they camped and hired out as strawberry pickers. This gave them a profitable summer holiday. They divided their earnings into three parts—one-third for their camping expenses, one-third for themselves and one-third for St. Michael's.

Anxious to do their part, the Junior W.A. (with an average age of ten years) donated paint, and laboriously painted the picket fence which bordered the church by the road.

At this time the road was very steep and Mr. Littler, who suffered very poor health during his incumbency, used to come home exhausted from the effort of urging his old Model T Ford up the hill. It was not unusual in those days for heavily-loaded wagons to travel in pairs, so that both teams might be used for each wagon, in turns, on this long steep rise. The municipality later cut away the crest of the hill and St. Michael's was left on a steep bank well above the road level. Indeed, it might be said that any member of the congregation, having climbed those flights of steps, is already halfway to heaven!

The Rev. A. L. Nixon followed Mr. Littler in 1921. He had spent much of his time in India. His wife and children joined him from England a year later.

At this time a very good choir was formed under the leadership of F. Ashley Sparks. Members included Miss Dora Young, Mrs. Towler, Mr. and Mrs. Sharpe, Mr. Jackson, Mr. W. Woods, Mr. Ibbotson, Mr. Bill Ibbotson, Mr. Burbridge and Mr. Speck.

In 1922 the church hall was built with the money Miss Littler and her associates had worked so hard to raise.

Invitations were sent out, asking parishioners to be present at the dedication and to bring "birthday gifts" (as many pennies as they were years old—this could have been embarrassing for some) to help pay off the debt still outstanding.

A newspaper carries the following account of the ceremony, which took place on April 18th, 1922:

**"NEW CHURCH HALL OPENED YESTERDAY
Will Commemorate Work of Miss Littler. To Serve
Parish of St. Michael's, Royal Oak."**

The new Church Hall of St. Michael and All Angels', Royal Oak, was opened by the Bishop of Columbia (the Rt. Rev. C. D. Schofield) last evening. There was a large gathering which taxed the seating accommodation to the full.

"Rev. A. L. Nixon, the vicar, welcomed the Bishop and the Rural Dean. He then briefly reviewed the history of the hall and told how the idea of having one originated in the time of the late vicar, Rev. C. R. Littler, to whose daughter the greatest credit was due for her enthusiasm in connection with the scheme, and also to the girls of the C.G.I.T., of whom she was the leader, and to Miss Kathleen Butt who had taken Miss Littler's place. They had worked very hard and it was by their instrumentality mainly that the funds had been raised.

"In grateful memory of all Miss Littler had done it had been decided to call the new building the 'Margery Littler Hall,' said the vicar.

"The Bishop in a pleasing speech, congratulated the people of St. Michael's in having such an excellent building. He then spoke of the great interest which the last vicar, the Rev. C. R. Littler and his family had taken in the hall, and commended the girls of the C.G.I.T. for their splendid energy in raising funds, and Mr. Daverne for his kindness in giving the land.

"The Rural Dean, Rev. Robert Connell, then related his own experiences as a former vicar of St. Michael's parish in its early days, and of the changes which had taken place in the population. He gracefully alluded to the benefit which the church owed to the long and faithful service of Mr. Trickey, church warden. . . ."

After the opening of the hall badminton was played there and the youth groups were very active. The C.G.I.T. raised the large sum of \$895.00 during one year. The question of acquiring a piano came up; the harmonium was sold for \$10.00 and the money was put aside towards the purchase of a new instrument. When later a piano was bought for \$70.00 the girls of the parish contributed \$40.00 which they had earned by picking wild flowers and selling them at a stall in the City Market.

The Rev. F. Comley came to St. Michael's in 1929 from Alert Bay, where he had been active in the Columbia Coast Mission. During the time he was the incumbent much was done to improve the grounds of the rectory and the church.

The fence, dilapidated by this time, was removed and through the generosity of Mr. Layritz a laurel hedge was planted to replace it. The church grounds were seeded to grass and many shrubs planted there also. A furnace was installed in the church, adding greatly to the comfort of the congregation. The church and rectory had electricity installed for lighting, and an outside notice board was erected.

Mr. Comley, who was a skilled woodworker and bricklayer, rebuilt the church chimney, made kneelers, and panelled the Sanctuary.

The Sunday School was carried on for many years by Miss Marion Butt. Miss Dora Young organized a large and flourishing branch of the A.Y.P.A., of which she was the first president. The members did much to help the work of the church and were regular attendants at the services.

In 1931 candlesticks for the altar and an organ vase to be dedicated in memory of her daughter, Marjorie, were presented by Mrs. Mead-Robins, an active member of the congregation and of the W.A., now residing in Victoria, but still regarding St. Michael's as her parish church.

At Easter 1932 Miss Lee and Miss Fowler gave a carved oak altar in memory of Miss Beatrice Cowley, a faithful worker in the church for many years.

The following year (1933) St. Michael's celebrated its fiftieth anniversary. Services were held on each of three days, in which several former rectors participated, the preachers being Ven. Archdeacon Collison, Rev. Robert Connell and Archdeacon Dewdney. At this time a desk prayerbook (given by Mr. and Mrs. W. Jackson in memory of their daughter Vera) and a receptacle for Holy Communion vessels (by the A.Y.P.A.) were dedicated. An evening service was followed by a well-attended social in the church hall at which several old-timers were present, among them Mrs. Louis Duval, a native daughter, who entertained with reminiscences of the early days.

As an act of thanksgiving on attaining its fiftieth year, the parish voted to become self-supporting. However, owing to the depression years, it was not found possible to maintain this status, which was finally attained in 1948.

In 1934 the A.Y.P.A. undertook to raise funds for the extension of the hall, which was no longer large enough for their increased activities. Mr. Daverne, who had given the property for the original site, donated another twenty feet for the extension, and shingles to cover it were donated by Messrs. Warren, Butt, Oldfield and Mrs. Mead-Robins.

Rev. F. Comley was succeeded in 1936 by Rev. S. J. Wickens, who came from the Indian Residential School at Brandon, Manitoba. During his incumbency a strong Men's Fellowship was established. This met regularly in the winter and had a programme of lectures and discussions which proved very popular.

Mrs. Wickens was superintendent of a very active Sunday School, whose pupils presented an oak hymnboard and the linoleum to the church. The interior of St. Michael's was redecorated, a work which had been postponed several times for lack of funds; the rectory was also re-sided and painted.

No history of St. Michael's would be complete without paying a special tribute to the W.A., an organization which has devoted itself to the service of the church ever since 1911. For many years their beloved president was Miss Kathleen Oldfield. During these depression years they gave invaluable help to the needy parishes of the Prairies in the form of clothing, food and money. Through all the vicissitudes of a struggling country parish, they have carried on their work and left a record of service which would be hard to equal.

At this time Mrs. Mead-Robins (then visiting in England) purchased white and purple materials for the W.A. Mrs. Wickens, who executed beautiful ecclesiastical embroidery, made sets of hangings for the sanctuary and prayer desks from these materials.

In 1938 the A.Y.P.A. suffered a grievous loss by the sudden death of one of its leading members, Lyndsay Towler. Only twenty-four, he was one of their most energetic members.

On December 17th of the next year (1939) the Rt. Rev. H. E. Sexton, Bishop of Columbia, unveiled three Sanctuary windows in St. Michael's. The north window, depicting the Virgin Mary, was presented by the W.A. and friends and pupils of Mr. Trickey, long superintendent of the Sunday School at Prospect Lake and Rector's Warden as well as delegate to the Synod for many years; the centre window, portraying Christ, is in memory of Lyndsay Towler; the south window, which represents St. John the Evangelist, was given by Mr. and Mrs. Richard Woods (he a former lay reader and member of the choir) in memory of their respective parents.

In 1939—this being the first year of the Second World War—Canon Wickens left to join the Chaplain Service of the R.C.A.F. Canon H. V. Hitchcox assumed the incumbency in 1940, and though he was then in very poor health, he valiantly carried on the duties of the rapidly growing community till his death, in 1947.

During his term as rector, Herbert Oldfield, an active member of the A.Y.P.A. entered the ministry. On the occasion of his priesting in 1941 he was presented with a white embroidered stole by the congregation.

It was suggested in 1941 that a compilation be made for a Roll of Honour containing the names of all members of the congregation who had joined the armed forces. In two years this project was completed, thanks to the craftsmanship of Mr. C. Moss who executed the lettering. The Roll of Honour was dedicated by the Most Rev. M. M. Harding in October 1943.

In 1943—the sixtieth anniversary of the church—the harvest supper was instituted as the one large parish gathering of each year. Because of gasoline rationing the Sunday School attendance dropped sharply during this year, but the situation was eased by the establishment of branch schools at Elk and Prospect Lakes. The following year (1944) it was found necessary to remove Cordova Bay mission from the parish because of its distance from the church, and transportation difficulties.

Mr. and Mrs. Clark, who had been members of the congregation of St. Michael's for several years, left for Ottawa in 1939. Soon after arriving there, Mrs. Clark died, and in her memory Mr. Clark had a Chancel rail erected. Designed by Mr. J. Rodd it is beautifully carved in oak and represents five native woods—dogwood, holly, oak, maple and ivy. It was dedicated by the Rector, Canon Hitchcox, on Good Friday, 1945. In the same year a white dorsal was given by Mrs. Phillipson and made up by Mrs. Hitchcox.

In 1946 the proposal was made to separate the parishes of St. Columba's and St. Michael's, owing to the rapid increase in growth of the two parishes. No immediate action was taken, however, but it is hoped that the separation will take place soon as both parishes have increased in size and population so much in the ensuing years.

The year 1947 was eventful in several ways. Canon Hitchcox died in the spring and was succeeded by Rev. N. J. Godkin, who is the present incumbent. Before her departure for Australia, Mrs. Trickey donated a new carved oak lectern in memory of her husband. In this year also Mrs. Jackson died. She had been church organist for thirty-two years, even having brought her children to church as babies, placing them in a basket on the pew while she fulfilled her duties. As a tribute to her memory, the congregation installed a new electric organ in the church. The former organ, which had been given

by Mr. R. Layritz, was given to St. Alban's, Port Alberni. Miss Kathleen Oldfield died in November of 1947. The Parish Guild was reorganized after a lapse of several years, and undertook the task of providing robes for the choir. They also purchased red brocade and made new antependia for the sanctuary and prayer desk. They are still working hard for the church.

In 1949 the W.A. commemorated Miss Oldfield's many years of faithful service with them by presenting a beautifully carved oak reredos in her memory. The congregation gave a sterling silver chalice in memory of Canon Hitchcox. Mr. A. Wood made the gift of an oak processional cross in memory of his wife, Mary Ann, a long time member of the W.A.

A stained glass window, installed over the organ, was dedicated in 1950 in memory of Mr. and Mrs. George Wood. Through the generosity of several donors alterations and improvements were made in the Margery Littler Hall, and an oil-burning furnace installed in the church. With the rapidly growing population of the district it was possible to open the mission of the Good Shepherd at Prospect Lake, where the congregation erected a hall by voluntary labour.

In 1951 a dramatic club, the St. Michael's Entertainers, was founded. They have since produced many excellent plays and concerts, the funds from which are being used for the benefit of the church buildings.

A new parish hall, built by voluntary labour beside St. Columba's Church, was dedicated in February 1953. The parishioners of that church are now raising funds to buy a rectory and hope soon to have a resident incumbent serving the church and parish.

The district of Royal Oak has grown tremendously in recent years and the church attendance has risen proportionately. This has taxed the facilities of the church to the limit and the church committee, looking to the future, have undertaken the task of raising funds to increase the seating capacity. A finance committee has been struck, an architect has prepared plans, and a church extension fund has been opened. It is hoped to go ahead with the building of this addition as soon as the bulk of the \$8,000.00 needed has been raised. The proposed addition will harmonize with the architecture of the existing building, and so will preserve its individuality, while fulfilling its utilitarian purpose of serving a rapidly expanding community. All the organizations of the parish are bending their efforts in this Seventieth Anniversary project to raise funds for expansion.

St. Michael's and All Angels' Church looks back over an eventful seventy years of service to God and man. It looks forward with confidence to many more years of work, certain that only the prelude of a long and glorious story has yet been written.



NOTES

