

Long active until recently was the Ladies' Guild, in all activities and support of the church. Long remembered are the Garden Parties held on the church lawn and Belmont School Yard, also their teas and bazaars, held in late years in the Masonic Temple.

The Choir served long, faithfully and well in the ministry of music. The first organist was Miss Nugent on the melodeon. Another early organist was Miss Thurza Esterbrook who at eleven years of age and playing by ear, had to have extensions on the pedals of the small foot pumped organ (1870). She continued in the role long after she became Mrs. Archie A. Taylor. Her father, sister and brother were in the choir. Other organists were; Louie Charles (Mrs. Dr. McIntyre), Ruby Soole, Blanche Sinclair (Mrs. John Turner) both before and after her marriage in 1910, Mrs. Owen Manning, Marguerite Soole, Inez Barons (Mrs. Gordon Smith), Mrs. Elgin Proconier, Fred Rice, Mary Ann Baker, Linda Satterley and Rev. R. P. D. Hicks. Around the 1920's a pipe organ failed and a small organ which sat in front of the north pulpit was played. Lastly an electric organ was used.

Special occasions were the anniversaries held in June, especially the 90th, observed June 18, 1961 with services befitting the occasion. Colourful indeed were the Harvest Home Services the last Sunday night in September with St. Peter's choir usually present, when this hallowed spot was made a place of beauty with earth's grains, fruits and flowers. Truly the admonition had been heard - "Come Ye Thankful People Come - Gather in The Harvest Home".

Memorials and Gifts have been received

1. The circular stained glass window to the west. This window was so engineered that when the sun shines through, a very picturesque design of the window is reflected on the floor.
2. Baptismal Font - bequeathed by Clara Tisdale a step-daughter of Thomas Nugent, 1873.
3. Pulpit Bible printed 1894, (King James Version). Presented by the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge.
4. Prayer Desk - formerly at St. John's Harrietsville, - from St. Peter's about 1960.
5. Communion Book Holder - John George Carter 1947.
6. Communion Table Cross - Mrs. Elva Birce, in memory of her husband 1947.
7. Hymn and Prayer Books - Ladies' Guild, Mrs. Annie Bates, Charles Baker, Mrs. John Ferguson.
8. Flags and Staffs - the Church, Ladies' Guild and Charles Baker.
9. Brass Vases - Ladies' Guild
10. Altar Book - Mrs. John Ferguson, in memory of her husband.
11. The Honour Roll made and donated by Gordon A. McIntyre records the names of those who served in the Second War, 1939 - 1945, and is in recognition of their faithful service.

Of interest is the fact that during the War food boxes were sent from this Belmont Church to the Belmont Parish in England.

St. George's Belmont has had a chequered course in its association with other parishes being associated at various times with Dorchester, Harrietsville and Glanworth but mostly with the former. In 1912 or 1913 St. George's Belmont disassociated with St. Peter's Dorchester and St. John's Harrietsville and joined Christ Church Glanworth. In 1931 St. John's Harrietsville which had been closed for some years was finally separated from St. Peter's and St. George's and Christ Church added. In 1950 Glanworth was withdrawn. St. George's Church, Belmont and St. Peter's Church Dorchester continued the historic association begun in 1862 and except for the years 1912 or 1913 - 1931, it has been maintained unto this day.

In this Church's 109 year history, twenty-nine rectors are recorded beginning with Rev. Des Barres through whose efforts the church began and ending with Rev. R. P. D. Hicks and Rev. Mark McDermott present at our centennial.

A momentous occasion was in 1933 or 1934 when the late Bishop Seager confirmed a large class in this church. The late Bishop Luxton also visited at least twice.

There have been but four weddings in the church's century history. The first was Miss Nugent. The others were; Marguerite Soole to John C. Farquhar, July 7, 1924; Mary Podeszwa to Allan Finch, September 23, 1961; and Linda Satterley to Kenneth Lewis, April 24, 1965.

In 1906 at Dorchester's request Rev. Harold Sutton moved from Belmont to that village renting a house, to oversee the building of a new rectory which he had planned (1907) and the new church which was built in 1912 - 1913. The Belmont Rectory was sold to Mr. and Mrs. George Falls for \$800.00 on December 19, 1906 by the Synod of the Diocese of Huron. Mr. and Mrs. Falls generously let the Anglicans continue to use the property for strawberry festivals and as a parish hall. In later years this latter courtesy was extended by Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Moore.

St. George's Church, Belmont is one of eleven churches scattered throughout Huron Diocese which is dedicated to St. George. At one time this church was the strongest in the village. Through the century there have been countless faithful servants who served this church with diligence, fidelity and devotion.

Vestry members whose names may be seen inscribed on the rear south wall were on January 1, 1896:- J. and T. Cunningham, D. Stewart, G. Campbell, Archie Taylor, L. Boyd. Other names have been recalled, - the Nugents, Bartons, Esterbrooks, Boweys, Sooles, Warrens, Clines, Henrys, Wilsons, Procuniers, Bakers, Carters, Strachans, Fergusons, Moores, Moncks, Littlefairs, Armstrongs and Rices - to mention a few.

I would mention Charles Baker whose duty and devotion to this church are well known, - treasurer, caretaker, lawn-cutter, bell ringer, usher, and generous giver and who also inspired "This Day". I would pay special tribute to Mr. Baker, Mrs. Frank Finch and Mr. Fred Draper for their planning and arranging of To-Days Celebrations.

We pause in retrospect. For one hundred years and more this church has been a blessing in this community and also in far places through those who have gone from it, carrying their high ideals with them.

While many names are mentioned here, the names of many more good men and women do not appear, but the God whom they served is not unmindful of the labour and love which they rendered Him. They walked these ways and made them better for the walking - each serving his own generation faithfully and well. For those pioneers and those of our own time who have led us on our way we offer thanks. They laboured mightily and we have entered into their labours.

To-day we stand in the present between the Past and the Future. What of the Future of this Historic Church?

May our Prayer be - "May St. George's Church long remain, for Posterity: - A Living Proof of Its Heritage".

Rectors of the Belmont Mission and St. George's Anglican Church

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|-------------|--------------------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| 1862 - 1865 | Rev. T. C. Des Barres | 1925 - 1928 | Rev. M. A. Garland |
| 1865 - 1871 | Rev. J. W. P. Smith | 1928 - 1931 | Rev. Geoffrey Stott |
| 1871 - 1872 | Rev. J. L. Hanson | 1931 - 1936 | Rev. G. G. Stone |
| 1872 - 1873 | Rev. N. C. Martin | 1936 - 1939 | Rev. Canon B. H. Farr |
| 1873 - 1877 | Rev. F. W. Raikes | 1939 - 1942 | Rev. T. D. Lindsay |
| 1877 - 1880 | Rev. P. E. Hyland | 1943 - 1944 | Rev. R. C. Holmes |
| 1880 - 1885 | Rev. L. Fortin | 1944 - 1947 | Rev. J. A. Catling |
| 1885 - 1889 | Rev. Charles Miles | 1948 - 1950 | Rev. R. W. Wenham |
| 1889 - 1890 | Rev. E. Softley Sr. | 1950 - 1951 | Rev. James Waring |
| 1891 - 1899 | Rev. G. W. Racey | 1951 - 1959 | Rev. L. C. Harrison |
| 1900 - 1912 | Rev. Harold Sutton | 1959 - 1961 | Rev. A. K. Morphy |
| 1912 - 1913 | Rev. Canon A. A. Trumper | 1961 - 1961 | Mr. Douglas Parker |
| 1913 - 1915 | ----- | 1961 - 1970 | Rev. R. P. D. Hicks |
| 1915 - 1921 | Rev. Oliver Thorne | 1970 | Rev. Mark McDermott |
| 1921 - 1925 | Rev. W. J. Eccleston | | |

St. George's Anglican Church Belmont celebrated their 100th Anniversary on Sunday, April 25, 1971. Service was at 11:30 a.m. The Centennial Service aroused a great interest in the welfare and future of this historic church.

It was a wonderful Centennial observance with a capacity attendance of friends from far and near. Other local church services had been withdrawn. Rev. Mark McDermott, rector, conducted the service; Archdeacon Lionel Nelles representing the Bishop, read the Scripture and Rev. R. P. D. Hicks, recent rector of the parish preached the sermon.

The ministry of music was led by St. Peter's choir of Dorchester, with Mr. Fred Rice as organist. The soloist was Mrs. Arnold Weaver and the solo, fitting indeed for the occasion, - "Bless This House". Ushers' duties were performed by Tim and Tom Rice and Charles Baker. Flowers were the gift of the Weaver Family.

Following the last hymn The History of The Church was presented by Mrs. Frank (Evelyn) Moore. Following the recessional the formal Centennial Service was concluded by the tolling of the Bell one hundred times -- just as its tolling had also ushered in this Day of Remembrance, a scant twelve hours before.

The congregation re-assembled at the kind invitation of the Belmont United Church in their spacious basement. Here a bountiful lunch (organized by the three remaining active members of St. George's Church, - Mrs. F. Finch, Mrs. C. Baker and Mr. F. Draper) was served.

The Anniversary Cake was the highlight of the hour. Greetings were extended and pictures taken.

Too soon the time of sociability and reminiscence was at an end and the celebrations marking the Centennial of St. George's Anglican Church, Belmont came to a close in which had been honoured with all honour our worthy and faithful forefathers.

What of the future? Regretfully, regular services have been withdrawn. The members are attending St. Peter's Church in Dorchester. One more service is planned for August 1, 1971, in connection with the Belmont Old Boys' Reunion.

It is hoped that this Church, so quaintly beautiful and so architecturally rare, that stands as a monument to the workmanship of those who built it, and to all who laboured there, that has served so faithfully and well the village of Belmont and surrounding community, may in some way be preserved for our own and succeeding generations.

We wish to thank everyone who has contributed materially or inspirationally to this History. Especially are we grateful to: Huron Church House (Archdeacon Lionel Nelles, Miss Shirley Adams); London Free Press (Mr. L. N. Bronson, Mrs. Hooper); London Public Library; Rev. Orlo Miller, Point Edward; Rev. C. H. James, Stratford; Mr. Harry O. White, Glanworth; Mrs. Percy Hale, Mrs. Russel Jelly, Mrs. Olive Ward, of Dorchester; Mr. Charles Baker, Mrs. Frank Finch, Mrs. Fanny Wintermute, Miss Marie Faulds, Mrs. Fred Satterley and Mrs. Inez Smith of Belmont.

Compiled by Mrs. Frank C. Moore
(formerly Evelyn L. Poole)
Belmont, Ontario

ST. GEORGE ANGLICAN CHURCH

The St. George Anglican Church was built in 1870 and the rectory in the following year, 1871. The minister at that time had three parishes under his guidance, namely, St. George, Belmont, St. Peter's, Dorchester, and Harrietsville Anglican Church. The Rector resided in Belmont until 1910, when at the request of St. Peter's, Dorchester, the Bishop moved the Rector to Dorchester to live.

The Belmont Rectory was then sold and the money used to help build a new Rectory at Dorchester. In 1911 and 1912, a new Rectory and Church were built in Dorchester.. Harrietsville Church was closed at this time and Dorchester and Belmont Parishes remained together until 1913.

In 1913, Belmont Parish joined Glanworth Parish and remained with them until 1930, when the Belmont St. George Parish was placed back with St. Peter's, Dorchester.

Some of the ministers were:

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| Rev. ^{MILES} Murworthy | Rev. G.G. Stone |
| Rev. Sopley | Rev. B. H. Farr |
| Rev. Racey | Rev. J.D. Lindsay |
| Cannon Trumper | Rev. R.C. Holmes |
| Rev. Oliver Thorne | Rev. J.A. Catling |
| Rev. W.J. Eccliston | Rev. R.W. Wenham |
| Rev. M.A. Garland | Rev. G.L. Harrison |
| Rev. Geoffrey Scott | Rev. A.R. Morphy |



ANGLICAN GUILD

Back Row - Mrs. Birce, Mrs. E. Procanier, Mrs. T. Langford, Mrs. W. Sayfield,
Mrs. B. Heour, Mrs. Wilson, Mrs. A. Taylor, Mrs. A. Monck, Mrs. Ed. Davies,
Front Row - Mrs. J. Ferguson, Mrs. L. Stephenson, Mrs. M. Cousins, Mrs. C. Warren.