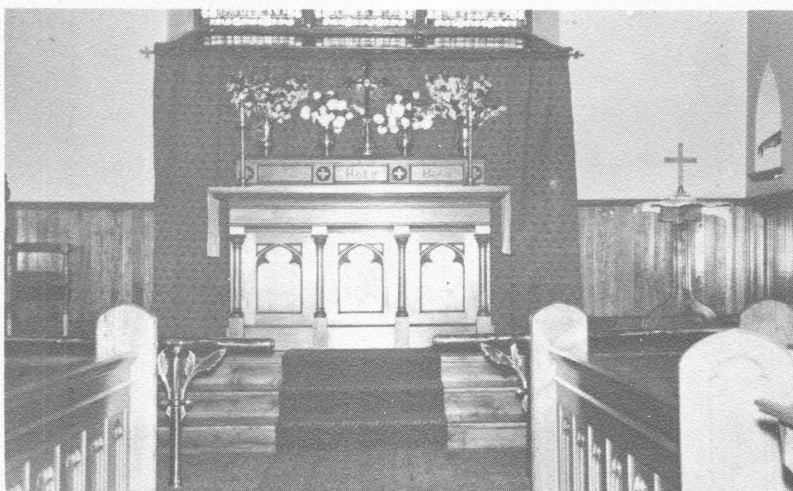


1915 — 1965
FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY



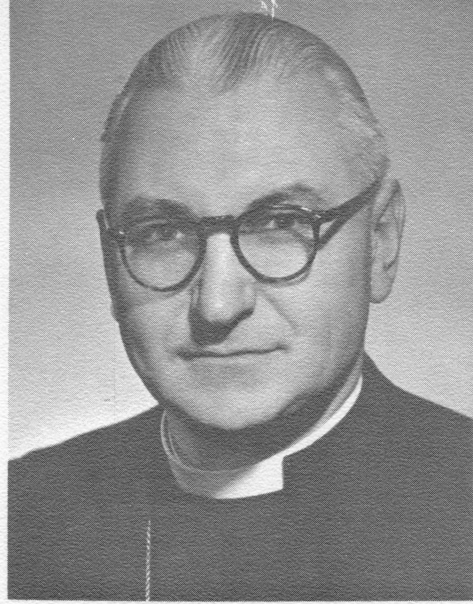
ST. THOMAS' ANGLICAN CHURCH
TORBOLTON, ONTARIO



IN THE BEGINNING . . .

On January 12, 1872, St. Thomas was given "one quarter acre more or less" of land on the farm of James and Susan Abbott. The present site was transferred to St. Thomas, Jan. 18, 1876 by John Hedley and his wife. A document was forwarded to the Rt. Rev. John Travers Lewis, requesting him to consecrate St. Thomas Church and cemetery both being free of debt. Names attached to this document were: John W. Weatherdon, W. J. Humphries, Thos. I. Vance, Thos. Vance Sr., Wm. Wilson, John Hedley, Thos. Wetherley.

On the 20th day of December, 1882 Bishop Lewis consecrated the first "St. Thomas", the small frame church many still remember with deep affection.



To the Congregation
of St. Thomas' Woodlawn,

My Dear Friends:

Congratulations on the Fiftieth Anniversary of your fine church.

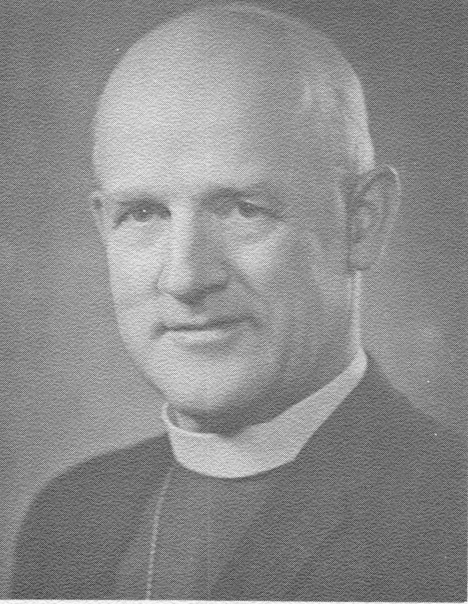
St. Thomas' Church is a credit to the faith and leadership of the late Canon Franklin Clarke and to the self-sacrificing efforts of all who worked with him in 1915, some of whom, I am thankful to say, are still worshipping there. Many of you have worshipped in this church since childhood and have given a splendid example of loyalty to those who went before you in the way you have maintained and improved the building and churchyard. You and they and those who have come more recently have witnessed by your faithfulness that a community is a more wholesome place when the worship of God is made central in it. St. Thomas' is set in your parish as a constant reminder that God is in the midst of His people to redeem and save, and to strengthen us for our service in His World.

From St. Thomas' many have gone to other places, grateful for their Baptism and witnessing as faithful soldiers and servants of Jesus Christ wherever they are. As they serve God I'm sure their minds often turn back in thanksgiving for the place in which they had their first lessons in the Faith. As I think of those former parishioners who bear their witness in other places, my mind goes to the Bishop of Nova Scotia, the Right Reverend William Wallace Davis who typifies in his outstanding leadership in that large diocese all that is best in your tradition.

Our minds will also go at this time of anniversary to those who once worshipped God in this place and now worship in His nearer Presence. We thank God for them and pray that we may so live our time as those who believe "in the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins and the resurrection to life everlasting", that we may manifest the love of God in a world that needs "a true faith and a sure hope".

May God bless you and your anniversary to His glory and the furtherance of His purposes.

Faithfully yours in Christ,
ERNEST OTTAWA, Bishop



Dear Friends of
St. Thomas' Congregation, Torbolton

Your Historical Committee have kindly invited me to send a message for your booklet in marking the Anniversary, and it is an honour to share in the observances.

One of my duties is to be Chairman of the Church Historical Society of our Anglican Church of Canada, and our Society considers it important that every Parish and congregation should try to preserve its records and keep informed about its history.

We will all wish at this time to thank God for our Ancestors — fathers and mothers and in some cases grandparents who have left us so great a heritage in St. Thomas' Church and Congregation.

May the Anniversary be marked by fresh determination to go forward in the spirit and faith of our fathers.

Ever sincerely,
WILLIAM W. DAVIS
Bishop of Nova Scotia

NOTES FROM VESTRY MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 21, 1908

Matters relative to a new church were then brought up but it was decided to leave it over and call a Congregational meeting.

APRIL 13, 1909

After some discussion re-stipend it was decided to borrow amount owing Rector out of building fund account.

MARCH 29, 1910

James Brown reported \$289.96 in the Bank to the credit of the building fund. \$13.00 owing on amount borrowed last year from this fund was made up and paid over to Mr. Brown making a total of \$302.96 to the credit of the building fund.

APRIL 17, 1911

The building fund as per bank book was \$743.25.

APRIL 9, 1912

Bank book of building fund showed \$1,234.05 to the credit of the church.

APRIL 4, 1913

Building fund \$1,875.07 two cheques were given for stone being \$32.25 and \$21.25 leaving a balance in the bank of \$1,821.47.

The following were elected to form the Building Committee, the wardens, Peter Wilson and Frank Weatherdon, H. Poole, Jas. B. Wilson, J. A. Baird and Jas. Brown.

APRIL 9, 1915

James Brown, treasurer of building fund reported balance in the bank of \$2,048.63.

Tenders for building the new church were placed before the vestry.

It was moved by F. G. Weatherdon and seconded by James B. Wilson that the tender of C. J. Speagle of \$4,850.00 be accepted.

The election resulted as follows: the wardens J. A. Baird and Jas. B. Wilson and a committee of six being Peter Wilson, F. G. Weatherdon, H. Poole, James Brown, Justin Davis and W. J. Major.

APRIL 25, 1916

The report of the Building fund accounts was presented by the treasurer Jas. Brown. It was moved that the Building fund report as printed be adopted. This vestry meeting was rather lengthy as it included many votes of thanks for gifts received and letters of appreciation were sent to each person:

Miss Lizzie Dolan and the others of the family for the beautiful chancel window.

Mrs. John Hedley and Mrs. James Brown for the beautiful East window.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Blewett for the brass Lectern and Bible.

The Reverend John Osborne for the brass Altar-desk.

The Reverend E. A. Johnston for a cheque for \$10.00 with which a brass alms basin was purchased.

Rev. Franklin Clarke expressed the feeling of pleasure and thankfulness that the great work of building a new church which had been started a year ago had been accomplished and they were meeting in the basement of the new building for the first time. He expressed his appreciation of the zeal and enthusiasm of the people in the great work. He also thanked the wardens and other members of the Building Committee for the ready way in which

NOTES FROM VESTRY MEETING MINUTES

they seconded all his efforts and the splendid support which they gave their Rector in bringing the work to a successful issue.

As a slight token of appreciation and in preparation for many cold cutter drives from Fitzroy Harbour to Woodlawn, a Raccoon coat and gauntlets to match were purchased and presented to Rev. Franklin Clarke.

APRIL 10, 1917

Rev. Franklin Clarke reported special collections amounting to \$171.73 which were probably the largest collections for missions in the history of the congregation. This was a good sign, considering the heavy extra expense the congregation had, in erecting their new church.

Miss Mable Vance brought the money from the sale of a quilt being \$21.00 towards the building fund. But as all debts in connection with the New church had been paid it was set aside towards the purchase of an Altar Rail and Miss Vance was asked to act as treasurer of this fund.

The Rector reported the number of families as 52, an increase of 6 over the previous year

The Building Fund Report was presented for the treasurer, James Brown by the Chairman.

Receipts \$114.29; Expenses \$96.08; Balance \$18.21, paid to Warden J. A. Baird.

At this meeting it was decided that the parish year be made to close on December 31st, to correspond with the Synod year.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The Building Fund Accounts of St. Thomas' Church

Given at April 25, 1916—Vestry Meeting:

EASTER 1916

Building Committee: Rev. Franklin Clarke, M.A. Rector; Jas. B. Wilson, Warden; J. A. Baird, Treasurer; Peter Wilson; Justin Davis; James Brown, Warden; Henry Poole; F. G. Weatherdon; W. J. Major.

RECEIPTS

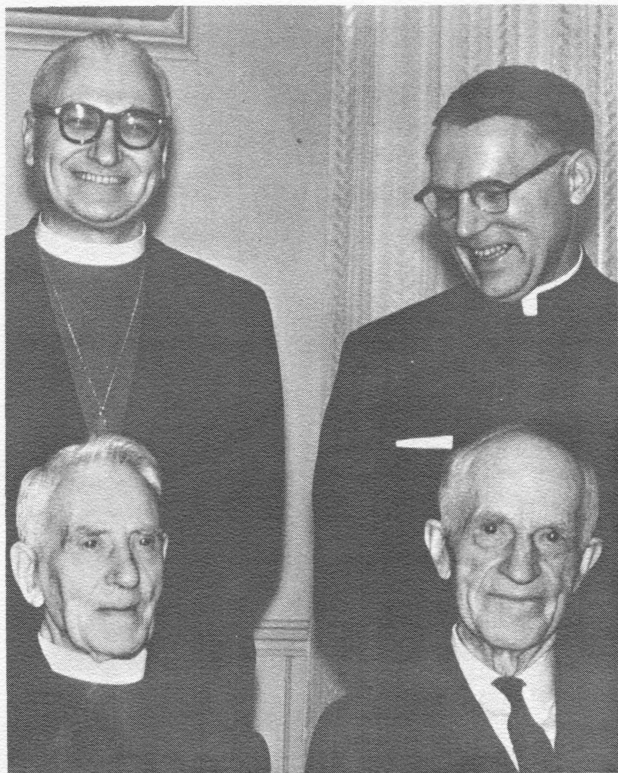
Subscriptions from Congregation	\$4,293.15
Total Receipts	\$7,165.52

EXPENDITURE

J. W. H. Watts, Architect — Plans	\$ 150.00
A Tripp, J. & B. Wilson — Stone	413.25
J. & W. Dolan — Excavating	58.00
J. Graham — Drain	25.00
McLaughlin Bros. — Final	23.60
D. Munroe — Tile	16.68
J. Kennedy — Cement Work	25.00
MacLaren & Co. — Lighting System	200.00
C. W. Powell — on Account Furnace	100.00
Telephone bill and other Sundry Accounts	116.06
Bradford & Serson — Contractors	5,950.00

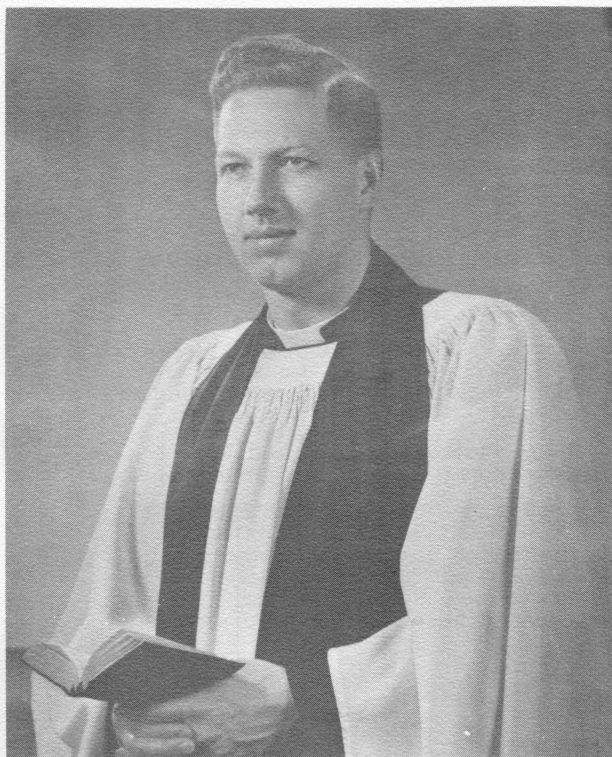
TOTAL	\$7,077.59
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Balance on Hand	87.93
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Standing:
Bishop Reed,
Rev. Allan Rogers,

Seated:
Canon Iveson.
Mr. Justin Davis,



Rev. Franklin Clarke

Rev. Ralph W. Smith,
present Rector.

NOTES FROM VESTRY RECORDS

APRIL 4, 1915

Easter Sunday: Special collection for building fund—\$55.01.

MAY 10, 1915

Tuesday—Rogation Day—7.30 p.m.

Last service in the old church before it was moved back to allow for building of the new church. 25 present. Service conducted by Rev. Franklin Clarke.

The corner stone of the New St. Thomas' Church was laid by the Right Rev. Dr. Roper, Bishop of Ottawa.

The following clergy being present:

Rev. Archdeacon MacKay, Rural Dean Whalley; The Reverends Pick, Osborne, Iveson, Wemberly, Turley, MacMoline and the Rector.

Present a large crowd, \$195.00 offering was received for the building fund.

The Laying of the corner stone on Dominion Day, July 1st, 1915 at 11.00 a.m. was Bishop Ropers' first visit to the Parish of Fitzroy Harbour. The silver trowel used was presented to Bishop Roper as a memento.

JULY 11, 1915

Trinity VI — Evensong and confirmation at St. Thomas' Church with 21 candidates by Bishop Roper at 7.30 p.m.

JULY 18, 1915

Trinity VII — First Communion for the Confirmation candidates was held at 10.30 a.m.

OCTOBER 3, 1915

Harvest Thanksgiving offering for the building fund, \$12.67. Service of Evensong at 7.30 p.m.

DECEMBER 12, 1915

Advent III — Last Sunday Service held in Old Church. Holy Communion at 10.30 a.m.

DECEMBER 14, 1915

Secularization of the Old Church, 11.00 a.m. Consecration of the New Church, 7.00 p.m. Confirmation candidates the night the Church was opened 14th of December, were:

Mrs. T. L. Wilson, Mrs. Henry Porteous Sr., Mr. and Mrs. Wm. John Carr, Mr. Harvey Carr, Mr. Thomas Dolan, Mr. Samuel Dolan.

The services for the day were performed by the Right Rev. John Charles Roper, D.D., Bishop of Ottawa assisted by Rev. T. H. Iveson, Rev. R. S. Jones and the Rector; Rev. T. H. Iveson, preacher. The offering being \$73.86 at the 11.00 a.m. service and \$41.56 at the 7.00 p.m. service was towards the new lighting system. The day was stormy, snowing and blowing. Dinner and tea were served in the basement.

NOTES FROM VESTRY RECORDS

APRIL 9, 1915—Last Vestry Meeting in Old Church

Number of Families	45
Total Church Population	237
Total Confirmed Members	127
Number of Communicants	77
Communicants at Easter	48
Average Attendance on Sunday	97
Baptisms	5
Marriages	5
Burials	2

APRIL 25, 1916—First Vestry Meeting held in New Church Basement

Number of Families	46
Total Church Population	243
Number Confirmed Members	144
Number Communicants	124
Average number Communicants on Sunday	41
Average attendance on Sundays	94
Number Communicants on Easter	68
Services on Sundays	51
Services on Weekdays	13
Baptisms	10
Marriages	0
Burials	1

RECTORS

1870-1875—Rev. D. P. Merritt	1914-1921—Rev. Franklin Clarke
1877-1879—Rev. H. E. Plees	1921-1925—Rev. E. W. Richards
1881-1885—Rev. J. W. Weatherdon	1925-1934—Rev. C. C. Phillips
1885-1887—Rev. G. W. Gwilym	1934-1940—Rev. W. G. Jones
1887-1893—Rev. J. F. Snowdon	1940-1943—Rev. R. S. V. Crossley
1893-1899—Rev. Edward Pick	1943-1951—Rev. Robert Strachan
1899-1902—Rev. John Osborne	1951-1958—Rev. W. J. Belford
1902-1907—Rev. E. A. Johnston	1958-1965—Rev. R. V. A. Rodgers
1907-1914—Rev. T. H. Iveson	1965- —Rev. Ralph W. Smith

THE INTERVENING YEARS . . .

The minutes in the Vestry book, were written by the Rev. Franklin Clarke from 1914 to 1921, as each year he was appointed Vestry Clerk. In 1922, Vestry was held in the Union Bank building. In 1923, a motion is on record to hold a box social, proceeds to be used for a Rectory Fund. The Rev. E. W. Richards served from 1922 to 1926, when the Rev. C. C. Phillips became Rector.

An attempt was made at the 1926 meeting, to have people pay monthly by envelope for Stipend, and quarterly for Mission, as arrears in the stipend money seems to have been a nagging problem at many Vestry meetings. In the grim days of the depression, two Special Meetings are on record, in 1931, almost bonding the Wardens to guarantee the Rector his salary. However, in the years that followed, money continued to be borrowed from other funds, e.g. mission, and paid back later, in order to meet the Stipend. In 1942 under the Rectorship of the Rev. R. S. V. Crossley, a motion was moved to put all monies in one fund, in order that there be sufficient funds available to meet the stipend on a regular basis. At this time, action was begun to bring the Cemetery up to its present well kept standard.

In 1934, a special meeting decided to install electric lights in the church, power being supplied from a Delco plant at the store. The Rev. Grant Jones was Rector. Chicken suppers, which had been the custom, were discontinued at this time, and a furnace was installed in the centre of the basement, which led to the disuse of the basement as a Parish Hall, for some years.

While the Rev. Robert Strachan was Rector, the church was re-roofed and the interior redecorated. Plans for the building of a new Rectory were begun, which building was completed and put in use while the Rev. W. J. Belford was Rector.

In 1958, under the Chairmanship of the Rev. R. V. A. Rogers, the Vestry Meeting discussed renovating the basement and installing a new oil furnace. Since then a fine Church Hall has emerged, with kitchen facilities, and good accommodation for Sunday School and various Parish groups. A good drilled well and washroom facilities, have recently been added. During this time, our responsibilities out of the Parish were not forgotten, for St. Thomas Church completed their apportionment of \$5,700.00 to the Diocesan Jubilee Extension Fund.

Our present Rector, is the Rev. Ralph W. Smith.

In 1932, William Wallace Davis, a son of the Parish, was ordained to the priesthood and has since become Bishop of the Diocese of Nova Scotia. He is the son of the late Isaac Davis, and Mrs. Davis.

Bishop Davis likes to recall things which made a lasting impression on his mind when a boy, and he remembers in particular, one of his Sunday School teachers, the late Mrs. H. Poole, whose faith seemed to him to be "catching". The Church continues to train her young in the Faith, and She is ever in need of people who will give their lives full time to the Ministry, as well as loving and faithful workers among the laity.

God is everywhere. St. Thomas' Church, like other places of worship brings His Presence into focus for succeeding generations of worshippers. This gives us cause for Thanksgiving, on this our Fiftieth Anniversary.



The Parish Hall Basement.



The J.A. 1965 in the renovated Parish Hall Basement.



CENTENNIAL YEAR OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

PEOPLE'S WARDEN MR. ELMER WILSON
 RECTOR'S WARDEN MR. RALPH DAVIS
 LAY DELEGATE TO SYNOD MR. EDGAR NEEDHAM

ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

THE RECTOR, THE CHURCH WARDENS,
 LAY DELEGATE TO SYNOD, MISS HELEN C. WILSON,
 MRS. LLOYD GRAHAM, MRS. T. WILSON, MRS. JOHN POOLE,
 MRS. RALPH DAVIS, MRS. EDGAR NEEDHAM.

HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

MRS. MERRILL PORTEOUS, MRS. SAM WILSON,
 MRS. GERALD WILSON, MISS ISOBEL DAVIS.

H. BRITTLE, *Commercial Printer*,
 ARNPRIOR, ONTARIO