

Mervyn and Emily Tripp Remember

The building

- When the church was built, stonemasons (probably from Scotland) were engaged

Inside the church

- The altar is the original in Mervyn's and Emily's memory, having been moved forward off the wall during the incumbency of Rev. Donald Clark
- The question of whether or not it should be moved was resolved when, in a Congregational Council meeting, Rev Clark asked those in attendance how they would like it if he addressed them in the meeting with him back turned!
- There was no bell prior to the installation of the current one in the 1980s. Mervyn and Helen Poole (the first lady Warden) were Wardens when this took place
- The two Wardens and the Minister ran the church in the early days
- Eleanor Owens was very involved with having the bell installed. Mervyn never rang the bell until her funeral. While at the rail for Eucharist, Ken Spear (Priest at the time) asked Mervyn to ring the bell. "It was quite a challenge, but I got through it!"
- The pews, the lectern and the stained glass are the only ones Mervyn can remember, thus being at least 85 years old
- There were three stoves: one a 2' x 4' box stove at the door (on whose chimney the bell tower now sits); one where the organ currently sits (with a pipe straight up), and a little stove in the vestry
- Electricity came to the church, and to all of the Harbour, in 1931 when the dam was being built. Previously, light was provided by coal oil lamps on brackets at every window. ("It was not very bright!")
- The original ceiling was considered too plain, so in 1929/30 Mr. Harold Owens put up the false rafters
- The organ was located in the chancel years ago (Emily played it there). The organist had to pump with her feet. The sound wasn't very loud so that sometimes the congregation at the back of the church was half a verse behind the front!
- Later, a vacuum cleaner was used for the bellows
- The current door from the church to the hall is in the location of a former window

Outside the church

- There were stables for the horses for members of the congregation
- The lot where the church is now situated had a house on the south east corner. It was demolished in the early 1960s

The Rectory

- The rectory was built in 1954/55 at a cost of \$15,000 raised by donations from the congregations of the three churches of the parish

The Cemetery

- The first man buried in the cemetery was one of Mervyn's grandfather's brothers, killed in a shanty in the 1840s
- There are four Anglican priests buried in the cemetery
 - Rev. EWB Richards
 - Canon Bill Belford
 - Archdeacon Eric Osborne
 - Archdeacon Howard Sadler
- One cemetery service a piano was taken up the hill from the church on a truck, but it rained so hard that the service was abandoned with the piano being returned hurriedly back down the hill

Finances

- For many years the annual budget was less than \$1000
- During those years \$35 per year was budgeted for wood
- The cemetery grass was cut once per year, with a scythe, in preparation for the cemetery service, at a cost of \$6
- The People's Warden was always the Treasurer. It was around 1940 that the roles of Treasurer and Warden were split with Reginald Owens the first Treasurer
- There were only two committees in the early days: finance and (probably) cemetery

The services

- The services were morning, afternoon and evening alternating between St. George's, St. Thomas's and St. Paul's. There was no communion after twelve noon
- So there was no communion at the nighttime Easter and Christmas Eve services - only the following morning
- The Priest conducted the whole service, with no involvement of the laity, so that 90+ minutes was the norm, with communion taking twice as long
- Parishioners brought their own hymn books. These hymn books contained the services too.

The congregation, Sunday school

- The church was nearly full every Sunday, with sixty children in three Sunday School classes taking place for thirty minutes in the body of the church before the main service:
 - Seniors at the front
 - Intermediate in the middle
 - Beginners at the back
- Following Sunday school the children then sat quietly with their parents for the full service.
- There was no washroom. It was a miracle we got through that!
- The Sunday School children were required to write papers for homework, to be handed in the following Sunday for marking
- There was a children's offering at Sunday school. This paid all the expenses for the school materials

Women's Auxiliary

- The WA supported church missions
- For many years, WA meetings were held at the homes of ladies of the congregation
- Two quilts were made every year for the bale
- The WA became the ACW in 1966

Other

- There was no ecumenical contact with the other churches in the Harbour
- Parishioner Mr. Jimmy Monroe, who died in active service, flew a plane before he drove a car

The Harbour

- The Harbour was a crowded place when the dam was being built, with 2000 men seeking employment. They camped or boarded, and there was a hotel (on the corner opposite the separate school) - but the hotel had no liquor because the Harbour had taken the 'Local Option', as too had Arnprior. *"There were bootleggers"*.
- A 'pan' of bread (four loaves) cost 25c