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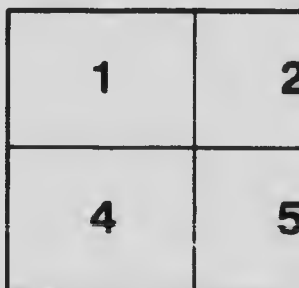
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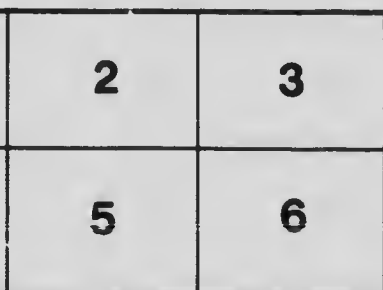
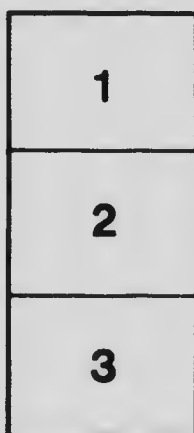
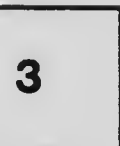
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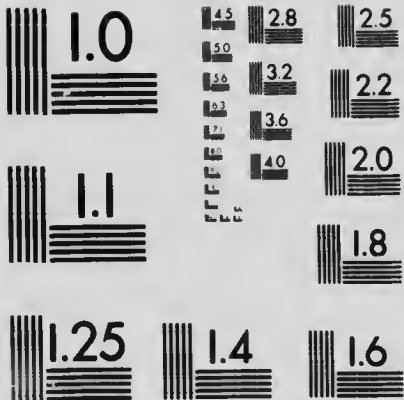
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**St. George's Church**  
MONTREAL

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# Jubilee Celebration

## 1870 - 1920

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In October, 1870, the edifice in which St. George's congregation now worships was opened for Divine service.

It is felt by the Rector and Board of Management that the fiftieth anniversary of this important event in the history of the congregation ought to be commemorated in a fitting manner, and to that end arrangements have been made for a

### JUBILEE CELEBRATION

DURING THE TWO WEEKS

## October 31 -- November 14

when the following programme will be carried out:

**SUNDAY, OCT. 31**

HOLY COMMUNION 8 a.m.

SERMONS at morning and evening services by the Right Rev. the Bishop of Toronto.

Bishop Sweeney is a connecting link between the early days of the Church and the present, having been a member of the congregation and been ordained in St. George's in November, 1880.

CHILDREN'S JUBILEE SERVICE, 3 p.m. Preacher, the Rector.

UNION OF CANADA  
GENERAL SYNOD, ARCHIVES



## MONDAY, NOV. 1

8 p.m.—JUBILEE RECEPTION in the Parish Hall, 15 Stanley Street.

Among the speakers will be the Right Rev. the Bishop of Montreal, and members of the congregation, who will speak on "The Yesterday, the To-day and the To-morrow of St. George's." A musical programme will be carried out under the direction of Dr. Illsley, and light refreshments will be served. All present and former members of the congregation are invited and it is hoped that the gathering will be one of the largest and most representative in the history of St. George's.

## THURSDAY NOV. 4

8 p.m.—Farewell Dinner to Dr. Illsley and the men of the Choir

## SUNDAY, NOV. 7

HOLY COMMUNION 8 and 11 a.m.—Morning service: Preacher, Prof. Oswald W. Howard, D.D., formerly one of the Clergy of St. George's.

Evening service: Preacher, Rev. Canon Willis, Rector of St. Jude's, formerly a member of St. George's congregation.

## SUNDAY, NOV. 14

HOLY COMMUNION 8 a.m.—Morning service: Preacher, the Right Rev. the Bishop of Montreal.

Evening service: Preacher, Rev. Herbert Symonds, Vicar of Christ Church Cathedral.

During the first week there will be celebrations of Holy Communion daily at 8 and 11 a.m., with intercessions for the Parish.

It is the earnest hope of the Rector and of the Board of Management that all members of the congregation will take a lively interest in the services and in the Reception on Monday night. This Jubilee Celebration marks the passing of a significant milestone in the history of the Church and should be made the occasion of Looking Forward as well as Backward.



# Historical Sketch of St. George's Church MONTREAL

Issued on the Occasion of Celebrating, in October, 1920, the Fiftieth  
Anniversary of the Building of the present Church

**F**OR many years, in the early part of the past century, there was no Bishop or Diocese of Montreal, and Christ's Church and Trinity Church were the only Anglican places of worship in the city. About 1840 the need of increased accommodation for the steadily-growing membership of the Church of England in the western end of the city began to be keenly felt, and influential Churchmen finally decided to proceed with the erection of a new church on what was known as the proprietary principle. Proposals were accordingly made, in 1842, "for the establishment of a proprietary chapel in the western part of Montreal, in connection with the parish church known as Christ's Church," and a code of conditions for subscriptions and donations was drawn up. Every contributor of £12 10s. was to be a joint proprietor. The proprietors were to have the right of presenting an incumbent, with the approval of the bishop and the rector of the parish. One-tenth of the pews were to be free. At a meeting held in the Ottawa Hotel, on the 16th of February, 1842, the Rev. Dr. Bethune in the chair, a ballot was taken for the selection of a Building Committee, and the choice fell on Messrs. J. Thornton, J. T. Brondgeest, H. Corse, F. Griffin and J. H. Dorwin. On the 23rd of February the plan of a lot on St. Joseph Street was submitted. Messrs. Griffin and Corse having withdrawn from the Committee, Messrs. Charles Phillips and William Bradbury were elected in their places. Mr. C. Meredith explained the title of the property. The purchase price was £800, of which £700 was to remain on the property for twenty-one years. Mr. Footner submitted to the committee a plan of the proposed chapel. On July 8, 1842, the corner stone was laid by Bishop J. G. Mountain, a large number of the clergy, the churchwardens, Messrs. Thomas Mussen and Charles Geddes, and members of the congregation, being present.

## THE FIRST RECTOR

Such were the beginnings of St. George's Church. The next step was the selection of an incumbent, and apparently this task revealed considerable difference of opinion. At a meeting held on February 20, 1843, Dr. Bethune in the chair, offers to serve were reported from Rev. Dr. Robertson, assistant minister of Christ's Church, Rev. H. Sewell, of Quebec, and Rev. J. Jones, of Stanbridge. At a postponed meeting, letters were read from these gentlemen, and from Rev. Messrs. Parnter, Falloon, Mulkins and Leach. The last-mentioned gentleman was highly recommended by the Bishop of Toronto, and a majority of the proprietors were anxious to secure his services. Negotiations to this end were successful, and the first incumbent of St. George's entered upon the office of which, for nearly twenty years, he discharged the duties with general acceptance. The first churchwardens were Mr. F. H. Howard and Col. Dyde. The chapel was formally opened on June 30, 1843, the clergy of the neighborhood and the choir of Christ's Church taking part in the services, and the St. George's Society

being present in full force. In the following October a bazaar was held to pay for the organ, to which object the congregation of Christ's Church was asked to contribute. Mrs. Macintosh was the organist. The city council had lamps put up in front of the chape'. In May, 1847, a proposal was made to raise funds to meet a pressing emergency in the affairs of the church. On May 10, 1848, the building was injured by fire, but the loss was covered by insurance.

During the first five years of its existence, the congregation increased rapidly, and it was decided that an assistant minister should be engaged. And thus it came that there entered upon the scene of his long labors one who has passed from us within comparatively a few years—the Right Reverend W. B. Bond, late Archbishop of Montreal, and for many years Rector of St. George's. Mr. Bond was asked, in October, 1848, to become assistant minister in St. George's, and shortly after that date he entered on his duties. In the fall of the same year the chapel was mortgaged, and in 1849 additional pews were added and efforts put forward to induce the poor of the parish to attend divine service.

### A NEW DIOCESE

In 1850 the Diocese of Montreal was erected and Dr. Francis Fulford was nominated by the Crown as bishop. One of his first proposals was that the Synodical form of government should be adopted. This led to much heated discussion and, oddly enough, the clergy of St. George's were divided in their views, Dr. Leach favoring the Bishop's plans, while Mr. Bond was actively opposed to them. And yet, so highly did Bishop Fulford esteem the latter, that when in 1859 the first Synod of Montreal was convened he requested Mr. Bond to preach the first Synod sermon.

In 1860 the choir underwent considerable reorganization, and Professor Fowler was engaged to take charge of the musical services.

From 1848 until 1862 Rev. Dr. Leach appears to have been closely identified with McGill University and this left to Mr. Bond the main share of the pastoral work of St. George's. He is credited with accomplishing so much in these fourteen years, in the way of organizing various church enterprises, as to give St. George's a unique character for manifold benevolence. In 1862 Dr. Leach retired and Mr. Bond, as a matter of course, became senior minister. At a meeting called for the purpose it was moved by Dr. Scott, seconded by Mr. T. Evans, that Canon Bond having highly recommended the Rev. E. Sullivan as a fit person to undertake the duties of assistant minister, the vestry should concur in the recommendation. The work that this young minister did in St. George's and in the city will long be remembered, and the eloquence of the future Bishop of Algoma still lingers in the ears of some of our older members. In 1869 Rev. Dr. Sullivan resigned to accept the position of Rector of Trinity Church, Chicago, and was succeeded by Rev. James Carmichael, who remained assistant minister until 1879, when he became Rector of the Church of the Ascension, Hamilton, Ont.

In 1864—Messrs. Hutton and Lindsay being witnesses—a vigorous effort was made to get rid of the debt that had accumulated. Mr. Cunningham had offered to pay off one-fourth of this debt, providing the balance was contributed by the congregation before January 1, 1866. An appeal to the members was successful, the sum of \$3,440.00 being subscribed.

## THE NEW CHURCH

This brings our history down to the time when the building of the present stately home of the congregation began to engage the attention of those who saw that the westward and northward growth of the English-speaking population of Montreal would ultimately compel the removal of St. George's in the same direction. At a meeting of the congregation, Rev. Mr. Sullivan stated that the bulk of the members lived north of Craig and Bonaventure Streets, and it was decided to secure a site in the then western part of the city. Eventually what was known as the Watson lot—the site of the present church—was selected. It was situated on what were then St. Francois de Sales and St. Janvier Streets—now Osborne and Windsor Streets. The price paid for the lot was thirty-seven and a half cents per foot. In November, 1868, the churchwardens, Messrs. G. Moffatt and A. A. Budden, were authorized to raise a sum not exceeding \$25,000 on the St. Joseph Street property. A Building Committee was subsequently appointed, and the record of its proceedings makes interesting reading now, fifty years afterwards, when we are celebrating the Jubilee of the Church. The estimated cost of the building was \$40,000, exclusive of heating and lighting apparatus, but the committee decided to exceed this, if necessary, by 7½%. Competitive plans were asked for and finally those submitted by Mr. W. T. Thomas were adopted, the chief reasons given for the choice being that a good view of the officiating clergyman could be had from all parts of the Church, that the organ space did not unduly encroach on the main part of the Church, and that the tower was separate from the main building. These were certainly practical reasons, but when one considers the expressive ecclesiastical architecture of the exterior, or the beauties of the interior, there is cause for wonder that stress was not laid on these features. The unsuccessful architects were given small bonuses, Cyrus Thomas \$200, Nelson & Ballard \$150, and three others \$100 each. That architects could ruffle the feelings of a church committee was evidenced by Mr. George Moffatt expressing his disapproval of a letter received from Nelson & Ballard. The building was to seat 1000 down stairs and 250 in the gallery—the pews in the latter to be free. A proposition to provide for adding side galleries in the future was voted down. In January 1869 it was reported that \$23,660 had been subscribed to the building fund. On March 3, 1868, estimates were received totalling \$45,850. Of this sum \$10,000 was for masonry work. The total must have been largely increased, for the masonry alone cost \$880, and there were various other extras, in addition to the heating and lighting plant. An adjoining lot, probably that on which the organ stands, was bought at forty cents per foot. The rectory cost \$10,000. A Parish Hall was built subsequently. Among the tenderers for the building of the Church were firms whose names are still familiar, as that of Reed for the heating plant, Reed for the roofing, and Chanteloupe for the lighting fixtures. The corner stone was laid on May 15, 1869, and the Church opened for services on October 9, 1870. In 1872 the sum of \$12,000 was borrowed from members of the congregation on bonds payable in five years. There were some forty purchasers and it is reported by one historian that all of the bonds were generously cancelled by the holders.

## THE CLERGY IN LATER YEARS

In 1878, after thirty years' service with St. George's, Dean Bond, as he then was, was elected Bishop of Montreal, which office he held until his death on

October 9, 1906, in his 92nd year. In December, 1878, Dr. Sullivan was chosen Rector of St. George's in his stead, retaining the office until his elevation to the Bishopric of Algoma in 1882. From April, 1878 until 1884, Rev. Mr. Baylis acted as assistant minister. When the rectorship became vacant in 1882 the thoughts of the congregation naturally turned towards Mr. Carmichael, and he was invited to and accepted the office, being formally installed in it on June 17, 1884. Not many years passed before he was appointed Dean. As curate and rector, Mr. Carmichael made a wonderful record in St. George's. To him, as one historian says, belongs the credit of having organized the temperance work of the Church, and making the St. George's Church Temperance Society a powerful weapon in the struggle against intemperance. He was responsible, also, in large measure for the far-reaching work of the St. George's Y.M.C.A., in establishing mission churches in the out-lying districts of Montreal. This policy has resulted in the development of such important independent parishes as St. Matthias, St. Barnabas, St. Jude's, St. Simon's, and St. Cyprian's. In 1903 Dr. Carmichael was elected Coadjutor Bishop of Montreal, retaining the rectorship until 1906, when, on the death of Archbishop Bond, he became Bishop, thus severing a connection with St. George's of twenty-four years. On September 21, 1908, Bishop Carmichael died, full of years and honors.

In May, 1907, Reverend Dr. Paterson Smyth was called from Dublin to the rectorship of St. George's, an office he still holds (1921). St. George's has therefore had but five rectors in the seventy-seven years of its existence, and of these three resigned upon elevation to the Episcopate.

The assistant ministers since Rev. Mr. Baylis resigned in 1884, were Revs. L. N. Tucker, 1886-1894; Charles J. James, 1894-1898; O. W. Howard, 1899-1901; Dyson Hague, 1901-1903; H. P. Plumptre, 1903-1908; and the present incumbent of the position, Rev. W. S. Major, who was appointed in 1908. As curates the Church has had Revs. James A. Elliott, H. Britten, H. R. Stevenson, and R. G. Asch.

#### THE FIRST JUBILEE

The fiftieth anniversary of the creation of the parish was celebrated by Jubilee services on Sunday and Monday, Nov. 26 and 27, 1893. On Monday the city clergy were present in force, and the offertory, in money and promises, amounted to \$13,000.00, which apparently was devoted to making radical changes to the main tower. In 1896 authority was given to raise a loan by mortgage on the school buildings to complete the tower, meet a debt on the organ and pay off a floating liability of \$6,000.00.

Among the generous gifts received by St. George's should be mentioned one of \$10,000 from Mr. Wm. Francis, made in 1895, to clear off the debt. At a later date Mr. James Crathern presented the fine organ now in use, and Mr. A. F. Gault the chime of bells. The reredos was given in memory of an active member, Mr. James Hutton, and Mrs. James Ross left the Church \$5,000.00.

In his reminiscences, Rev. Canon Baylis says that throughout its history St. George's has been characterized by its work in visitation and help of the poor "this through its noble organizations of the Dorcas and District Visiting Societies in which the ladies of the Church gave unstintingly of their time and efforts."

As will be seen by the record, St. George's has had several churchwardens who have served it for many years. Mr. G. F. C. Smith acted as warden for eight

years—as far apart as 1864 and 1894. Mr. A. F. Gault served for seven terms, from 1870 to 1884, and Mr. R. W. MacDougall was also in office for seven years. Mr. James Crathern has the large number of eleven years to his credit, but all records were broken by one who has but recently passed from amongst us—Mr. George E. Drummond, who acted as warden for eighteen years and died in harness in February, 1919, in the early months of his nineteenth term.

St. George's has certainly been fortunate in the length of service given it by its clergy and officials. Dr. Percival J. Illsley, its very efficient organist and choir-master, has been with St. George's since 1890, while Mr. J. Tompkins, who resigned the position of Vestry Clerk on the first of January, 1920, had occupied his office for the long period of 45 years.

#### A CHANGE OF METHOD

In May of 1919 an important change was made in the method of handling the Church's affairs. It was felt that too much was expected from the wardens when all the business of the Church was laid on their shoulders. Accordingly, acting within the terms of the constitution, the Finance Committee appointed a sub-committee of nine, two ladies being included, which took over the conduct of the temporal affairs of the congregation. Of this committee the Rector's and Peoples' Warden are respectively chairman and vice-chairman. In pursuance of the policy of giving the ladies a more direct voice in the management of the Church all women members of the congregation were constituted members of the vestry.

The ever-continuing growth of the city in a westerly direction—the same movement which had caused the erection of St. George's on its present site fifty years ago—induced the congregation to accept, a few years ago, a favorable offer for the purchase of the Church property. No doubt to the relief of many members who would have sorely grieved at leaving a building hallowed to them by many sacred memories, the transaction was not completed, owing to financial difficulties created by the war. The Church had bought the Mussen property on Dorchester Street as the site of a new building, and in 1919, in order to discharge the liability thereby incurred, and to cancel the agreement to buy, had to raise a sum of \$40,000. This was about equivalent to a floating debt of \$25,000 and the cost of a new heating plant lately installed in the Church—liabilities which had been liquidated out of the moneys received by St. George's on account of the purchase price of its property. The net result of the real estate transaction therefore, was that the congregation neither gained nor lost by it. The \$40,000 was raised in a few days through the subscriptions of generous givers. A few months afterwards St. George's responded to the appeal of the Anglican Forward Movement with another subscription of about the same amount—so that within one year \$80,000 was given by the congregation for Church purposes, in addition to providing for the ordinary expenses of the Church.

This little summary is no history of St. George's. Just a record of names, and church-building, and business, and finance. The real history is that of its spiritual life—that for which only St. George's exists—but that which no man amongst us is competent to write. It is that which is in our thoughts as we look out hopefully into the future and say from our hearts, "God bless St. George's".

# Churchwardens of St. George's

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- 1843—F. H. Heward; Col. John Dyde.  
1844—Alfred Phillips; John Thornton.  
1845-46—Charles Phillips; H. H. Whitney.  
1847—H. H. Whitney; T. D. Hannington.  
1848—Charles Phillips; H. H. Whitney.  
1849—Charles Phillips; J. J. Gibb.  
1850-51—Charles Phillips; William Francis.  
1852—Henry Thomas; Charles Bochus.  
1853-54-55—Henry Thomas; J. J. Gibb.  
1856-57—James Hutton; Dr. W. E. Scott.  
1858-59-60—James Hutton; Mr. Lindsay.  
1861—Mr. Davies; Mr. Lindsay.  
1862-63—James Hutton; Mr. Lindsay.  
1864-65-66-67—G. F. C. Smith; Geo. Moffatt.  
1868—George Moffatt; H. A. Budden.  
1869—H. A. Budden; C. S. Blackman.  
1870—C. S. Blackman; A. F. Gault.  
1871-2—A. F. Gault; J. Plimsoll.  
1873—A. F. Gault; R. W. Shepherd  
1874—R. W. Shepherd; T. H. Schneider.  
1875—T. H. Schneider; T. Craig.  
1876—T. Craig; W. Donahue.  
1877-78—R. White; T. Craig.  
1879-80—James Hutton; A. H. Plimsoll.  
1881—A. F. Gault; R. Reford.  
1882-83—A. F. Gault; J. W. Mills.  
1884—A. F. Gault; J. S. Shearer.  
1885 to 1890—J. W. Mills; George Lightbound.  
1891-92—G. F. C. Smith; George Lightbound.  
1893-94—G. F. C. Smith; R. W. MacDougall.  
1895—James Crathern; R. W. MacDougall.  
1896 to 1905—James Crathern; George E. Drummond.  
1906-07—R. W. MacDougall; Lansing Lewis.  
1908-09—R. W. MacDougall; Peers Davidson.  
1910—R. Wilson-Smith; Peers Davidson.  
1911-12-13—George E. Drummond; J. H. Birks.  
1914—Howard G. Kelley; J. H. Birks.  
1915-16-17-18—Howard G. Kelley; George E. Drummond.  
1919-20—Charles W. Tuning; James S. Brierley.



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