

THE STONES OF ST. JOHN'S PETERBOROUGH

PILGRIM'S GUIDE 2017



THE PARISH, FOUNDED IN 1826, MET FOR THE FIRST TEN YEARS OR SO IN THE DISTRICT SCHOOL HOUSE ON WHAT IS NOW MCDONELL STREET. THE CORNERSTONE FOR THIS BUILDING WAS LAID IN 1835 AND THE CONGREGATION HAS MET HERE NEARLY CONTINUOUSLY SINCE 1837.

PREPARED BY THE PARISH ARCHIVES 2010, updated 2017



St John's Church in 1839, just after completion of tower. Below, St John's Church, 1875, Photo by John Little

The parish of Peterborough was founded in 1826, with the ordination of the Rev. Samuel Armour, who ministered to Anglicans north of Rice Lake. The only nearby Anglican parish was that of Cavan begun in 1819. Both parishes were among the 57 rectories established by Sir John Colborne in 1836. Land was set aside to provide for a living for the rector; congregations were expected to provide the church, the furnishings and the accoutrements. Certain clergy, including those at St. John's, received modest stipends distributed by the SPG, the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts.

Samuel Armour supplemented his meagre pay by serving also as the schoolteacher and Sunday services were held in his school until the new church opened.

The members of the congregation in 1834 petitioned Peter Robinson and the Executive Council for the block of land, carved out of the military grants, on which the church stands. The church used John Howard's standard design for

a small church, evidently customized by William Coverdale. Both architects became renowned for their work in Gothic churches, but this was the first for both. At Robinson's request, the church was built in stone quarried locally near Jackson Creek in what is now Hamilton Park.

This was one of the two earliest stone Anglican churches of Gothic design in British North America. The church was extensively redesigned in 1882 and thus dramatically captures the changing notions of good Gothic design, and of fresh expectations of an Anglican church.

From the outside, John Belcher, the architect of the 1882 "restoration," made several major changes. The chancel and sacristy wings were added (the sacristy was further enlarged in 1907). The tower top was changed from pinnacles to battlements, more suggestive of the Norman period. The tower entrance became the



main entrance, and the former entrances on the south side were changed to two-light windows. The gallery windows were removed (as was the gallery) and the clock, only accurate twice a day, was removed and a perpendicular window, the first in Canada of that style, was added.

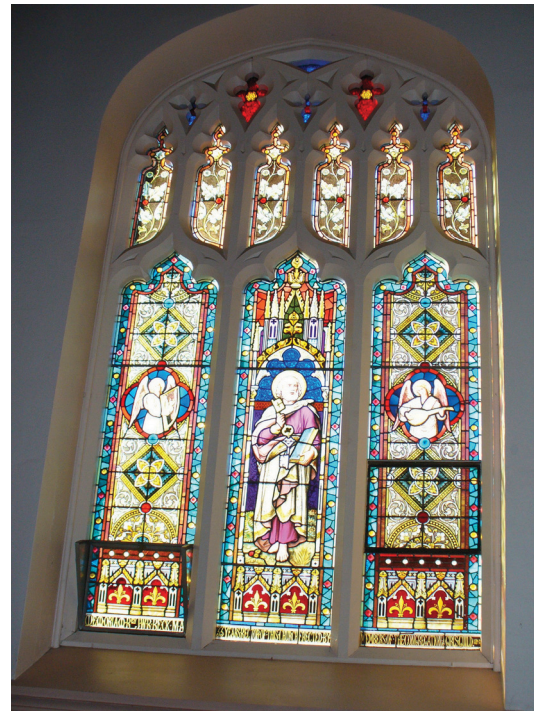


George E. Shaw window, east side of nave.

The tower had a remarkable wooden works tower clock from 1839 to 1882; after an odyssey the clock works returned to St John's in 1976. The tower was changed to a bell tower and had a large bell that in 1911 was given to All Saints' Church, a daughter church. The tower houses the People's Chime, then and still the largest set of bells between Toronto and Ottawa, which was installed in 1911. The bells were refurbished in 1992 by the Taylor Foundry in England and new bells were added. The Peterborough Chime now has 15 bells but the tower could accommodate a carillon of 24 bells as only the smaller ones remain to be added.

William Elliott of Toronto, who was an agent for William Morris of England, replaced the original nave windows with triple lights crafted into the unusually wide original openings. The windows were finely stenciled on glass that was frosted in rose and white hues. Bright stained glass was built into the borders and into the medallions of the special windows. This design was echoed in the sanctuary windows and in the new south windows. The sanctuary windows are designed to appear tall and narrow, and the openings are

beveled to suggest an appearance of being wider. In the nave windows, the challenge was to make the openings appear narrower. Two McCausland windows on the west side were added in the 1890s. The current sanctuary window, by Meikle of Toronto, was dedicated by Archbishop Derwyn T. Owen in 1947 as a memorial to those who fought in World War I and II. The 1880 Arthur Beck window on the nave side of the tower was repaired by McCausland in 2002.



Canon Beck window, west side of nave.

The buttresses added strength. Those along the east and west side were built in 1852, in conjunction with the pillars added on the inside. Those at the corners were added in 1882, at least partly for appearance. The slope of the roof was changed in 1852 by adding a new roof over the existing roof. The 1852 changes were the work of Kivas Tully, one of Canada's best-known engineers.

The Chancel and the Sanctuary

The chancel was added in 1882, and consecrated by Bishop W.D. Reeves, 16 May 1920. The chancel was built proportionate to the nave, and both had an arched ceiling of oiled pine, with stencilling, and wainscoting of oiled ash. The ultramarine altar wall was divided into squares by bands of black and gold. In 1882, the centre light of the new Sanctuary window featured St. John the Evangelist. The side lights were inscribed "The Lord shall be thine everlasting light" and "The

Lord is King for ever and ever.” The windows on the side walls commemorated baptism and communion. The first of three organs in the chancel, a large Warren organ, had exposed pipes painted blue and gold. A two-manual Legge organ was dedicated in 1933. The three-manual Casavant, dedicated in 1956, reputedly with an excellent swell division (“English” strings and reeds), is considered comfortable to play and a joy to hear.



St John's pulpit

The pulpit was added in 1890, and the Eagle lectern in 1901. The lectern was carved in England and apparently was delivered on a ship that sank in Halifax harbour. The lectern was the gift of Judge Weller in memory of his wife. Katherine Wallis sculpted the angels on the prayer desk, and perhaps other items. She apparently carved a lectern to replace the one in Halifax harbour. Sanctuary candelabra, electroliers (converted to candles in the 1980s) and silver sanctuary lamp were all added from 1910 to 1912, and the chancel was completed with new pews in 1913. The ceiling was varnished to look like mahogany in 1921 when the church was generally redecorated. The reredos was extended in 1940 the full width of the sanctuary; and the oak panelling was extended along the two sides of the chancel and sanctuary. The chancel was extended into the nave in the 1960s, and the altar was moved forward in the 1980s. The chancel and sanctuary, including the ceiling and part of the wall stencilling, were completely restored in 1993.



The lectern and the font.

The Sanctuary Window, designed by Meikle Stained Glass of Toronto, and dedicated to the memory of those who gave their lives in two world wars mixes the sacred and the profane. The left window featured St. George in armour. In the middle window, Christ Ascending, “King of Kings Lord of Lords” is surrounded by the symbols of the four gospel writers; below are two men with palm branches. The third window features St. John with palm branch and book. The words, across the three windows: “Not by might, not by power, but by my right.” “To him that overcometh / I will grant to sit with me in my throne / Lord Jesus receive my spirit even as I also overcame.” At the bottom of each window is a square pane, symbolizing the three armed services in order, RCN, RCAF, and Canadian Army. The words across the three panes: “1914-1918 A.D./ In honour of the men of two wars / 1939-1945 A.D.” The 1947 St. John window, in memory of William J. Hopwood (1859-1941) and his wife (1861-1943), proclaims, “Let not your heart be troubled.”

The nave

The four walls of the nave were essentially the four walls of the original church. The original church must be seen as essentially a rectangle, with the tower. There was a gallery across the back third of the nave; from 1852-1882, the first organ was in the gallery. The pillars, added as roof supports in the early 1850s, defined the aisles to the main doors. The chancel/sanctuary was a half-moon shaped area on the north end, now where the steps enter the chancel. The early sanctuary window was a triple light featuring the symbols of Alpha and Omega; this was the only window with pictorial decoration. The pews were box pews with doors; the pews close to the chancel area which were double deep had padded seating, and some seats that would have put parishioners with their backs to the minister during the service. The nave

was heated by stove pipes that went from stoves at the front of the nave and in the tower.

The pre-1882 furnishings are few. The transom window over the entrance to the clock tower has glass and design like that of the earliest nave windows. The seven lights shaped like candles represent the churches noted by St. John the Divine in Revelations. Margaret Wallace's modern banner has the seven candles as well as the more traditional symbols of St. John: the eagle, the serpent and the chalice. The 1860s High Victorian Gothic font was formerly at the back of the nave, the cover was added in 1907.



Roche family window

The modern nave is characterized by the central aisle, the raised platform for the pews, the 1893 pews, dramatic windows, and many memorials. The walls and pillars were scored to look like cut stonework; maroon dado covered the bottom part of the wall. The wooden ceilings and the arches uniting the pillars were installed in 1882. As the pew platform has no subflooring, it was likely meant to placate those concerned about drafts from the new central entrance and the absence of pew doors.

Except for the two McCausland windows on the west side, the nave windows were installed by William Elliott in 1882. The most elaborate window, on the centre of the south wall, is in memory of Arthur Beck who was lost at sea in 1880. The keyboard for the People's Chimes is on the other side of this window. Elliott's other windows are characteristically stencilled and

painted, with stained glass only in the borders and the medallions. The window closest to the font features a lamb unfurling the banner of St. George and is in memory of Canon Beck's second in-laws, the parents of Margaret Brown. The motto across the top reads "Rest in the Lord, wait patiently for him." The next window, in memory of George Edward Shaw (1823-80), reminds us "Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God." The first light carries the words, "In the midst of Life we are in death;" the third, "Truly my hope is ever in thee." The middle light carries a coat of arms with the motto "Fide et Fortitudine." The third window, in memory of John and Elizabeth Roche, proclaims "I have loved the place where thine honour dwelleth." The pelican gathering fish is a tribute to women: "God is my work."



The Chamberlen window, west side of nave.

The two McCausland windows on the west wall were added in the 1890s. The bright red-and-white- lilies window, in memory of Edmund Chamberlen, like the Shaw window, tells us "Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God." The third light says, "Blessed are they that mourn for they shall be comforted." The central light features Jesus, "I am the true vine," and with the communion cup and grapes honours the communion. This window also includes symbols of the four gospel writers, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Close to the chapel, the blue and gold St Peter's window was erected in memory of Canon Beck (1827-1889).

There are 30 tablets commemorating former members of the congregation. Of particular interest are the two in memory of Thomas and Frances Stewart, the plaque in honour of those who died in the Great War 1914-18, and the recent plaque commemorating members of this generation who made possible the splendid restoration, 1990-1994, of the church. In the nave, the simplified designs joining the pillars were inspired by the 1921 plan.

Memorial tablets in the chancel and the sanctuary

West T1 : in memory of Griffin James Young (1916-44)
 West T2 : in memory of Isabella Gardiner (d.3 March 1931)
 West T3 : in memory of Griffin J. Young, Robert Dutton, Sam Patte, William Gibbs and Robert Darcy
 West T4 : [large Ionic cross] in memory of Canon J.W.R. Beck (1827-1889)
 West T5 : in memory of Henry Rush (1846-1926) and his wife Mary Bouskill Rush (1858-1939)
 West T6 : in memory of George Goodman Gladman (d.1936) and his wife Kate Maria (d. 1926)
 West T7 : [on bishop's chair] the bishop's chair and the oak panelling were donated by T.H.G. Denne in 1941 in memory of Henry Denne (d.1902)
 North T1 : [on altar] in memory of Lucy Denne (d. 1920)
 Sanctuary candelabra: 1. in memory of one of Christ's little ones; 2. W.F. Sherwood (d.7 January 1892)
 North T2 : [on credence table] in memory of Maxwell and Helen Swanston (1986)
 Prayer Book : in memory of Mr. and Mrs. W.E.L. Gillard (1963)
 Book of Alternative Services: in memory of Eva Florence Castle (1992)
 Alms dish : in memory of Mr. Harry Long, November 1921
 Sedilia : in memory of Lexa Denne (1941)
 Processional cross (1952)
 East T1 : in memory of Eva Emily Coulthard (d.23 November 1937), donor of the superfrontals for all Seasons. [There have been later donations of superfrontals.]
 East T2 : in memory of Georgina Beck (first wife of the Rector) who died 8 May 1864, aged 37 years, "by members of this congregation in testimony of their high appreciation of her Christian virtues and exemplary life."
 East T3 : in memory of the life and work of Archdeacon Davidson
 East T4 : the Oriental sanctuary lamp is in memory of Margaret Frances Gilchrist Perry (d.16 May 1912, aged 84 years), wife of the late Charles Perry. *R.I.P.*
 East T5 : in memory of Lillian Hamilton Mills (1881-1971)
 Choir pew : in memory of George Browne (1853-1925), a member of the choir for 40 years
 Organ : in memory of those who gave their lives in two world wars (23 December 1956)
 Organ lights : in memory of Matthew Hartley Sergeant and Matthew Frederick Sergeant (1962)
 Chancel rails : in memory of James and Louisa Wallis

Memorial tablets in the Nave clockwise beginning at the font

East T1 : in memory of Beatrice (Mrs. Kenred) Eardley-Wilmot (d.7 April 1909)
 East T2 : the ewer stand tablet is in memory of Anna Maria Walton Beck (d.15 November 1897)
 East T3 : in memory of Capt. Charles Rubidge RN (1788-1868)
 East T4 : in memory of Margaret (nee Brown) Beck (1826-1903)
 East T5 : in memory of Ferman R. Yokome (1842-1918): "*With good will to my service.*"
 East T6 : in memory of Hester Hughes-Charles (1891-1902): "*Until the Day Dawn.*"
 East T7 : in memory of Edgcumbe Pearse (1836-1899), Annie S. Pearse (1841-1917) and their daughter, Edith (d.1904) *Come unto me and I will give you rest.*
 South T1 : in memory of Anna Maria (nee Haselwood) Wrighton (1815-1889)
 South T2 : for Charles A. Weller Dean (1892-1915): *In Christ shall all be made alive.* 1 Cor. 15:22
 South T3 : accompanying the Arthur Beck window
 Colours of the 57th Regiment, placed in sanctuary 1950; also a Union Jack and the Canadian flag. The regimental colour is to the left of the tower door; the Royal, to the right.
 South T4 : Plaque for the Colours of the 57th Regiment, placed in sanctuary 1904
 South T5: projected plaque for the colours placed in the sanctuary in 1950
 South T6 : this large plaque accompanies the Sanctuary window which was dedicated in memory of those members of St. John's who died in either World War.

From 1914-1918: George W. Bennett; J. Willard Brooks; Trevor L. Cuffe; Keith Cumberland; S.V. McCabe; Charles A. Weller Dean; Sidney Ecobichon; Robert McFair; Gordon S. Fife; Robert A.W. Hay; H. Knowles; Douglas Leal; Robert Levoir; Francis W. Morris; H. Parkinson; B.R. Poole; Edward Smith; Harold P. Smith; Hubert N. Stuart; Herbert Turner; Fred Worboy.

From 1939-1945: Hewitt Amys; Leslie Clark; Max W. Coones; Robert D'Arcy; Robert Dutton; Graeme Falkner; Bruce Forsyth; William Gibbs; John Gynane; James F.M. Hall; Lloyd Harvey; Robert Hewett; Clare McWilliams; Samuel R. Patte; Earl Pruner; John Quirt; Matthew Sergeant; Kenneth Williams and Griffin J. Young. The tablet was placed in memory of Robert A. Anson.

South T7 : in memory of Gordon Stanley Fife (1889-1916)

South T8 : in memory of Dr. Robert P. Boucher (d.16 March 1912)

South Glass doors "Let the light of the Lord shine through" in memory of Dorothy Sullivan, 2015

West T1 : in memory of Dr. George Burnham (1845-1917)

West T2 : in memory of Maria Lydia Dennistoun Kirkpatrick (1870-1945): *Behold I send an Angel before thee to keep thee in the way and to bring you into the place I have prepared.* Exodus 23:20

West T3 : in memory of Clara A. Rubidge (d.5 June 1913)

West T4: in memory of Barbara Lynn Comstock (1947-1989) to mark chancel restoration 1994

West T5 : in memory of Constance Mabel Massey-Cooke (d.1 December 1922): *Well done, good and faithful servant: enter thou into the rest of the Lord.* Matt. 25:21

West T6 : The second Stewart family plaque was dedicated in August 1994 in memory of Thomas and Frances Stewart by members of the family who contributed to the restoration fund, 1990-1994

West T7 : in memory of Mary Reynolds Rush (1812-1890) "*Rest in Peace.*"

West T8 : in memory of Thomas and Frances Stewart, dedicated 1927 by 177 descendants. "*Lord, thou has been our refuge from one generation to another.*"

West T9 : in memory of Matilda Florence Greenwood (d. 15 July 1900)

West T10 : in memory of Margaret Archer (1846-1925) and her sons John Rubidge and Charles Edward

North T3 : Lectern newell post: in memory of Margaret Wilson (d. 25 July 1926)

North T4 : [on door] in memory of Margaret A. May (d. 3 January 1921) from her Sunday School class

Pew 12 : in memory of Capt. Charles Rubidge RN (d. 1872)

Pew 27 : in memory of Frances Best (1838-1915)

Pew 29 : in memory of Isaac Robinson (d. 21 February 1886)

There are also tablets in the tower vestibule, relating chiefly to the People's Chime and to the laying of the cornerstone. The stairs to the tower must be used with caution, and only with official permission.

Notice the banners that have been specially made for the church. The Alpha and Omega banners in the centre aisle were the work of artist Jean Nind. The banner over the vestry door was executed by Stephanie Ford Forrester. Some decorations are seasonal. The frontal storage cabinet in the south-east corner of the nave was thanks from Marlene and Bob Baker, 1999. The prayer book cupboards are in memory of Elizabeth R. Baden.

One of the mysteries of the nave is the raised floor under the pews. It is believed that they were raised to protect feet from the blasts of wind from the front doors. Earlier pews had doors and some could be heated by the occupants. This changed in 1893 when these pews were installed. The pews are numbered and missing numbers reflect alterations made to allow for processions and for a larger chancel.

The colours of the 57th Battalion / Regiment

The royal and regimental colours for the 57th Regiment were placed in St John's Anglican Church, in 1904 and in 1950. The bronze tablet from 1904, and the colours from 1950 are now a focal display at the rear of the nave. Military Colours contain the battle honours associated with

the respective units. When the units are active, both the unit and royal colours [King's Colours or Queen's Colours] are paraded at special moments, such as church parades and visits by royalty and dignitaries.

PEW PLAN 1836			
BROWN, COL. T.			66 67 68
CHURCHWARDENS			69 70 71
FLOOD, H. 3	32 REID, ROBERT	RUBIDGE, MRS 71	
HALL, JOHN 4	D'OLIER, REV MR	CHAMBERS, MRS	
THOMSON, JAMES 5	30	FORTUNE, J. B.	
HALL, GEORGE B 6	TAYLOR, ROBT J. C.	HARPER, THOMAS	
RUBIDGE, CHARLES 7	28 LOVE, JOHN W.	EASTLAND, WILLIAM	
ARMSTRONG, JOHN	BENSON, JOHN R.	ROSBEE, 38	
SHAIRP, ALEX 8	27		
SANFORD, EPHRAIM	HICKSON, EDWARD	WILSON 39	
HOLLAND, HENRY 10	D'OLIER, R. H. 25		
	28 WRIGHT, JAMES	40	
SMART, WILLIAM	SEA, MRS 23	DIXON, WILLIAM	
FERGUSON, JAMES B.	22		43
ORR, GEORGE F. 13	21	FERGUSON, T. 44	
	20		45
	19	BEDFORD, MRS 46	
SCOBELL, JOSEPH			

The first set of colours, which dated from 1868 and included the battle honours of the nineteenth-century, were placed in the church on May 24, 1904 following a special parade of both sets of colours.



The colours formerly hung over the vestry door.

The official description of the new colours was: "The field of the Regimental flag is blue, properly corresponding with facings of the Regimental uniform. The material is heavy silk, very rich in quality and colour tone, the whole being fringed with bullion. In the centre of the flag is the regimental device and motto: a beaver, under which, are numerals in gold, LVII, encircled with a scroll or garter. This is clasped by a buckle and bear, the designation 'Peterborough Rangers.' The whole is surrounded by a wreath, in which the rose,

thistle and shamrock are entwined, surmounted by the Imperial crown. Underneath is the motto: '*Quis Seperabit.*' The capitals of the staff - a crown surmounted by a lion- have been handsomely finished in gold. The King's colours consist of three emblematic crosses in red, white and blue, centered by the Regimental designation."

The new colours of 1904 were deposited in St John's, the Garrison Church, at a Whitsunday afternoon military parade, May 28, 1950. The preacher for the day was the Rev. W. Gilling, then rector of St Luke's Anglican Church. The stand of colours includes the King's (Queen's) colours, the Union Jack with the regimental designation added, and the regimental colours. The regimental colours carry the motto "Quis separabit" and the regimental honours: St Julien, Pozieres, Arleux, Passchendaele, Drocourt-Queant, Festubert, Vimy 1917, Hill 70, Amiens and Canal du Nord. Local soldiers served in many units, but in the 1920s these honours were credited to the 57th Regiment, Peterborough Rangers. The Peterborough Rangers continued until 1950. The first colours are commemorated with the 1904 plaque, now placed above the tower door, at the back of the nave. The second colours are mounted in Lexan on either side of the tower door. As well, the Union Jack and the Canadian flag form part of the display. A plaque for the second colours is planned. The plaque that marked the 1947 installation of the "east window" in the sanctuary has been placed with this grouping.

The Sacristy, the Vestry and the Parish Archives

The clergy robed in the tower until 1882 when a small vestry was built and then extended to its current size and to two storeys in 1907. The cross on the vestry roof was erected in 1907 in memory of the clergy of the previous 40 years. The stained glass window above the vestry door was repointed in the early 1980s.



View of a corner of the parish archives at St John's Church.

The Chancel Guild had drawers in the nave, and what is now the sacristy served mainly as the rector's office until the 1960s. The 1907 extensions improved the facilities for the choir. In recent years, sinks and cupboards were added to the sacristy. The lower vestry was the rector's office from the mid-1960s to the 1970s. The first sacristy cupboard is in memory of Mrs. A.P. Poussette, a founder of the Chancel Guild. *She has wrought a good work.* Mark 45:6. One window in the upper vestry is dedicated to John Belcher, the architect of the church from about 1878 to 1915.

The upper vestry was the Chapel of the Upper Room from 1938 to 1956, and then the parish office until it became the parish archives in 1976.

The archives contain parish registers nearly complete from 1833; vestry registers of services, from 1889; annual vestry minutes from 1906; Advisory Board minutes, from 1921; parish bulletins, from 1955; a scrapbook since 1954; the financial and glebe records since 1869; and papers of individuals and organizations from the 1830s.

The archives has an impressive collection of photographs, tapes of 50 services, architectural plans, memorabilia and a growing library of Bibles, prayer books and the books of spiritual, historical or religious significance.

The church still treasures the silverware purchased with the proceeds of the 1846 bazaar. The archives has restored library tables and is open to researchers by appointment. As well, the archives has records about church furnishings.

The Chapel

The modern chapel was built in 1956-7 as part of the major building project which joined the church and the parish hall. In the mid-1970s, the counter and screen were removed, and the support column was sheathed in wood, to match the columns in the nave. In the 1980s, the chapel was updated and integrated more definitely into the nave. An aumonier, a new altar, a new cross, a credence table, a communion rail (and extender) were added; the existing pews were redesigned to be more solid. The windows in the new chapel doors and in the modest clerestory echo the diamond shapes of the nave windows. The medallions in the door window feature (left) a communion cup and grapes, and (right) a mother pelican feeding her young. The transom etching

celebrates the call to worship. The clerestory windows, designed and installed in the 1990s by Marnie Turner Johnson, trace the life of Christ to the Ascension. A wonderful wooden tablet identifies the symbols and the donors. Among the memorials in the chapel, are a plaque in memory of Gladys Mae Stewart (1905-82); a chancel chair in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Mills and members of the family (1953); and a flower stand in memory of Florrie Ford (1989). The banner on the west wall, "Into the Light" was created by Stephanie Ford Forester in 2002, and dedicated in 2003. Recently, the pews were removed and replaced by chairs so that the space can be used more flexibly.

The Parish Hall and Narthex

The parish hall, also a significant heritage structure, was built in 1878 and enlarged in 1901, 1926 and 1957. These changes were entrusted to John E. Belcher and Walter Blackwell's firm, two of Peterborough's best architects. There were major renovations in 1980, 1990, and 2008. Since 1980, it has been known as the Guild Hall.



Parish Hall interior

Arthur Rutherford, a local contractor, built the St. John's Sunday School Building from July to December 1878. The former Sunday School was torn down in 1882 to make room for the chancel. The congregation raised the necessary \$1,350 with fundraising events and subscriptions. Parishioners held several concerts, hosted an impressive bazaar

in the Bradburn Opera House, catered lunches and dinners, and ran the refreshment table at the annual regatta of the Peterborough Boating Club.

After 1926, the hall boasted one of the best theatre arrangements in town, and amateur theatre flourished here until the Peterborough Theatre Guild was formed. The upstairs kitchen, in the 1891 addition, was added in the 1980s and was enlarged and updated in 2009. The choir room is housed in what was the backstage, in part of the 1926 improvements. The impressive Guild Hall, with its vaulted wooden ceiling, was updated after a 1980 fire in the former stage curtains.

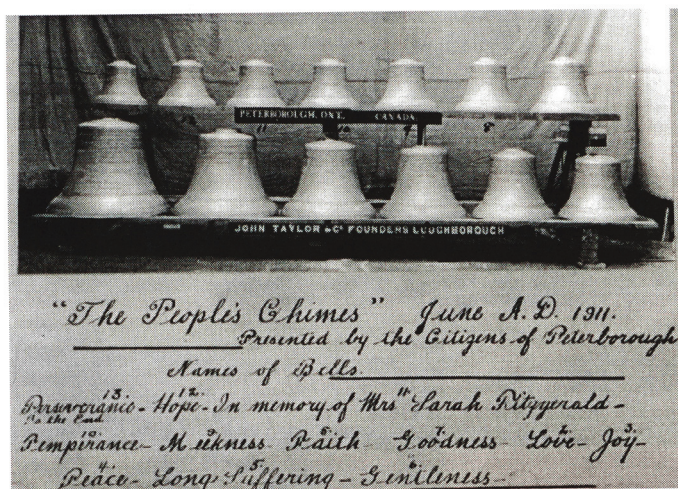
The lower levels have a hall, kitchen, parlour and some other rooms. The parish library and the offices of the secretary, churchwardens, and clergy are on the main floor of the church hall. Between 2008 and 2010, major renovations were made and the elevator was installed to serve the four levels of the parish hall. This area was built in 1956 to join two separate buildings. The narthex is now an ideal gathering place at the cross-roads of St. John's. The door to the chancel captures designs from earlier church windows.

Three panels from a stained glass window formerly on the north wall of the parish hall are installed by the exit to the memorial garden. The window was in memory of Charlotte Nicholls, whose will included a bequest to St. John's.

The Church Tower

From the moment it was completed in 1839, the church tower called people to worship and to emergencies. The clock was notoriously unreliable, and a churchwarden's bell, and then a flag, did service until a large bell, used at All Saints Church since 1911, was installed in the tower in 1875. Aided by generous community support, the People's Chime was dedicated in 1911. This was, then, the heaviest set of bells in Canada, perhaps in North America. The thirteen bells, founded and tuned by John Taylor & Co. of Loughborough England, weighed close to eight tons; the C bell alone weighed over one and a half tons. The People's Chime symbolized the

spirit of a whole town, not just the congregation. Dr. F.Y. Kenny donated the 14th bell in 1964, and many generous donors helped purchase the 15th bell in 1993. The People's Chime, rededicated 25 September 1993, was refurbished as part of Ian McGillivray's major restoration of the church from 1990 to 1993. The bells have been played on many memorable occasions, including daily during the nation's centennial and the parish's sesquicentennial. They were played for V-E day, for the death of monarchs and other public officials, for important civic occasions, for weddings and for Sunday services. The tablets for the People's Chime are found in the tower vestibule and the nave.



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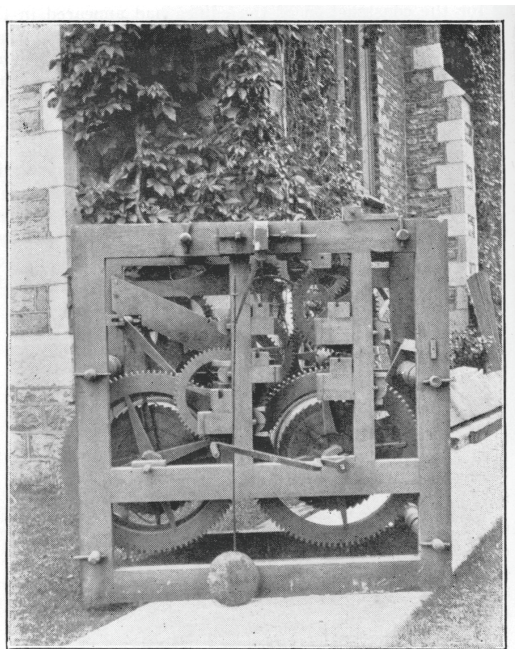
Fundraising was widespread. Those giving over \$100 included the Boyds from Bobcaygeon, J. G. Browne, H. M. and W. H. Cottingham, Cox, Elliott, the Dickson family (\$300), Sarah Fitzgerald (\$500), Ryerson Ritchie and E. R. Wood. Miss Fitzgerald also purchased the old bell for All Saints' Church. The Hon. J. R. Stratton committed his paper, the Examiner, to support the project. Several fraternal organizations, the 57th Regiment and labour unions supported the fundraising. Miss Denison's Bible Class raised \$50; other parish organizations raised funds as well. The employees of several companies, some using novel payroll deduction schemes, pitched in. These employees worked at Ackerman's, Adamson and Dobbin, Bell Telephone, Brinton Carpet, Canadian Canoe, the lamp department at Canadian General Electric, the Canadian Pacific railway station, Cressman's department store, Curtis brick works, William English Canoe, the Examiner, Nugent Drugs, the Oriental Hotel, Peterborough Canoe, Peterborough Lock, Peterborough Lumber, Peterborough Radial Railway, Quaker Oats, Rapid Tool, the Peterborough Review newspaper, William Stock bakery, Trebilcock Brothers and J. J. Turner and Sons. An additional 500 people from all walks of life made donations. At least 1,600 people gave something. The People's Chimes was dedicated debt free; nearly \$6,500 had been raised.

There are several plaques in the tower porch. The plaque dedicated to the "People's Chimes" notes the names of the Chimes committee, and that the Chimes were placed by "present and future citizens of Peterborough of all creeds." The F Bell is in memory of Mary Kenny, 1964. The cornerstone was rededicated 10 April 1985. Others comment on the memorial trees, the church flood lighting and the tower porch lantern.

Memorial Garden



The 1878 parish hall and memorial garden



The old clock works from the clock which was the main feature of the tower from 1839 to 1882.

Many memorials to former parishioners are on the church grounds. Many memorial stones line the memorial garden located between the church and the hall on the south side of narthex. In this area are significant memorials to Fred and Gladys Stewart and to Margaret McCulloch Edison. The lights on the steps leading to the tower entrance were in memory of the Denham family. Notice the

provincial historical plaque placed in 1956, and the plaques relating to the cornerstone. The provincial plaque was dedicated in the 1950s, and the description reflects the understanding of the time. The church is officially designated. As well, there was a ceremony to mark the 1835 laying of the cornerstone, and the year was marked on an 1882 corner buttress. The plantings have varied but over the years the front lawns have been highly rated for their beauty.



This view of the church from the Brock Street side has the vestry wing and chancel in the foreground.

The clergy

Photos of most of the clergy are mounted on the corridor wall across from the St. John's library. The first clergy were missionaries, as the parish was considered a mission. When the Rectory of Peterborough was created in January 1836, the incumbent at St. John's was the Rector of Peterborough. Sometimes, the rector also served as the Archdeacon of Peterborough.

The Rev. Samuel Armour	Missionary 1826-33	
The Rev. Richard H. D'Olier	Missionary 1833-6; Rector 1836-7	
The Rev. Charles T. Wade	Rector 1837-41	
The Rev. Robert J.C. Taylor	Rector 1841-52	
The Rev. Mark Burnham	Rector 1852-7	
The Rev. Canon J.W.R. Beck	Rector 1858-89	
The Venerable John C. Davidson	Rector 1889-1930	Archdeacon 1920-30
The Venerable Robert C. Blagrove	Vicar 1921-31; Rector 1931-6	Archdeacon 1932-6
The Venerable William P. Robertson	Rector 1936-52	Archdeacon 1936-52
The Venerable Frederick G. Ongley	Rector 1953-62	Archdeacon 1956-62
The Venerable Jack C. Clough	Rector 1963-74	Archdeacon 1972-4
The Rev. Canon William E. Moore	Rector 1974-87	
The Rt. Rev Geoffrey Parke-Taylor	Locum tenens, 1987-88	
The Rev. Canon Ronald R. Davidson	Rector 1988-97	
The Rev Mary Bell Plouffe	Priest-in-Charge, 1997-98	
The Venerable Gordon H. Finney	Rector, 1998-2014	Archdeacon 2005-
The Very Rev James Merrett	Priest-in-Charge, 2014-15	
The Rev Brad Smith	Rector, 2015-	



The east side of St John's looking to the vestry door. Below, the view from Brock Street.

There have been two major parish histories; one written by F. M. de la Fosse (1927) and the other by Dr. Elwood H. Jones (1976). The parish archives was established in connection with the writing of the second history. It is located in the upper vestry, in a room that was formerly the Chapel of the Upper Room, and then the office of the parish secretary.

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