



St. Mary's Anglican Church

**50th Anniversary of the New Sanctuary
1964 – 2014**



“Peace be to this House from God our heavenly Father.
Peace be to this House from His son who is our Peace.
Peace be to this House from the Holy Spirit the Comforter.”

*Spoken by The Right Reverend Frederick Hugh Wilkinson,
Lord Bishop of Toronto upon entering the Sanctuary.*

Reprinted from the Service of Dedication of the New Church, October 26, 1964

Our History

From the 1830s Anglicans in Richmond Hill attended Holy Trinity, Thornhill or were visited by its clergy for special circumstances such as weddings or funerals. From 1864 Anglicans worshipped in “Dr. Ducumb’s Hall” opposite our current church site.

Then, in 1871 John Arnold gave land for construction of a permanent church to serve the growing population of Richmond Hill. On December 8, 1872 the new church, named in honour of St. Mary was dedicated. The church was completed in stages, with the spire added in 1881.

Over successive decades the church complex expanded to meet the needs of a growing parish. In 1929 a basement (“The Crypt”) was excavated and often used by our youth. Wrixon Hall and the Sunday School wing (“The West Wing”) were built in 1956, and in 1959 additional land was purchased for future expansion. A new Rectory was built at 100 Arnold Street in 1963.



Growing Congregation Needs Larger Church



In the 1960s, with continuing growth of the Town of Richmond Hill and our expanding congregation, it was recognized that the original church was no longer adequate. Two services each Sunday were overflowing and the Sunday School classes in the “West Wing” beyond Wrixon Hall, were overcrowded. It was time to expand again.



Consultation and Approval

In January 1963, at a Vestry meeting attended by 150 parishioners, the draft plan for the new Church, including the “Cloister Link” was approved “in principle” and at a subsequent special Vestry meeting on June 17, 1963 the construction of the new Church at a cost not to exceed \$300,000 was authorized.

Commitment

This venture required commitment from the people of St. Mary's – the 600 families who would build the new St. Mary's. The Right Reverend F.H. Wilkinson, Bishop of Toronto wrote to the people of St. Mary's Church on July 29, 1963 and stated "But now is the time for the whole congregation with equal vision, courage, faith and sacrifice to build for the future, a church worthy of the worship of Almighty God and one which will accommodate the increasing population of the Community of Richmond Hill. You have a great opportunity to prove what a congregation with vision and determination can do."

The congregation responded with support and commitment.

THE FUTURE OF THE CHURCH IS IN YOUR HANDS



THE RIGHT REVEREND
F. H. WILKINSON, M.A., D.D.
BISHOP OF TORONTO



BISHOP'S ROOM
135 ADELAIDE STREET EAST
TORONTO 1

July 29, 1963.

To the People of St. Mary's Church,
Richmond Hill
My dear people:

St. Mary's Church, Richmond Hill, in every sense of the word, is a "church set on a hill." Consequently your parish is known far and wide and your expansion project will be followed with the greatest of interest by the congregations of the Diocese of Toronto.

You are about to embark upon an ambitious and yet well-considered venture for the purpose of building a new church. Your Building Committee has carefully considered the requirements for the new church and has engaged in the fullest consultations with your architects. It has been necessary for you to demolish the present rectory and build another on a different site. In a number of churches in the diocese we have had to do something like this which has been regrettable but absolutely essential for the welfare of the parish and results have justified a decision of this kind.

The present generation, I know, appreciates to the full the vision and sacrifice of those who have built in the past. But now is the time for the whole congregation with equal vision, courage, faith and sacrifice to build for the future, a church worthy of the worship of Almighty God and one which will accommodate the increasing population of the Community of Richmond Hill. Too often in the Anglican Church, we have lost our chance because we would not build for the future. You have a great opportunity to prove what a congregation with vision and determination can do.

May God bless you in this great venture and crown your efforts, your faith, your prayers and your sacrifices with success so that St. Mary's on the hill may exercise its even greater influence to the Glory of God and the building of His Kingdom.

Faithfully yours,

Fredrick J. Bonetta



Cornerstone and Construction

In January 1964 the Church Wardens hammered in the stake marking the spot for the new Church.

The plans by the Architects Brown, Brisley, Brown were finalized and on May 12, 1964 Bishop

F.H. Wilkinson mortared the Cornerstone of the new St. Mary's. Construction by Perwin Construction Company was completed in the Autumn of 1964. The Arnold Family Plot was incorporated into the "Cloister Link" and enclosed by the restored original iron fence.

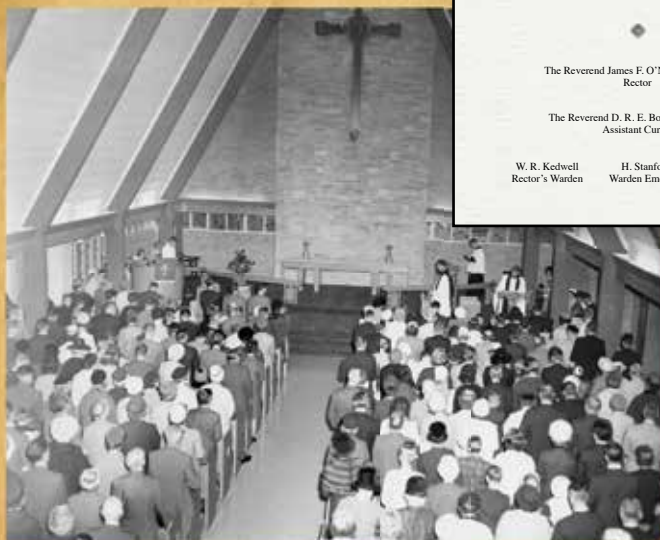


Stages of Construction



Photos from the private collection of Joan Connolly

Dedication and Opening of the New Church



DEDICATION OF THE NEW CHURCH

Monday, October 26th, 1964

at

8:00 p.m.

by

The Right Reverend Frederick Hugh Wilkinson, M.M., M.A., D.D., LL.D.
Lord Bishop of Toronto

The Honourable W. Earl Rowe, P.C. (C), LL.D.
Lieutenant Governor of Ontario
in attendance

The Reverend James F. O'Neil, B.A., L.Th.
Rector

The Reverend D. R. E. Bone, B.A., B.Th.
Assistant Curate

W. R. Kedwell
Rector's Warden

H. Stanford
Warden Emeritus

H. C. Montgomery
People's Warden

Our Ministers

The Rev. James F. O'Neil	1957 – 1969
The Rev. David McGuire	1969 – 1971
The Rev. Bernard Barrett	1972 – 1979
The Rev. Gerald P. Loweth	1979 – 1988
The Rev. Jim Jackson	1989
<i>Priest in Charge</i>	
The Rev. Canon Robert Leckey	1989 – 2000
The Rev. Canon David W. Luxton	2001
<i>Priest in Charge</i>	
The Rev. Canon Mark Kinghan	2001 – 2013
The Rev. Ruthanne Ward	2013 – 2014
<i>Priest in Charge</i>	

Our Ordained Deacons

The Rev. Fred Eberlin
The Rev. Dr. Derek Davidson

Our Organists

Dorothy Cover
Dennis Stainer
David McCartney
Larry Rootes
Murray Baer
*has been our Organist and
Choir Master for 31 years*



Furnishings

The furnishings in the **Nave** and **Choir Loft** are the work of Casavant Freres Ltd., St. Hyacinthe, Quebec and the **Chancel** furnishings were done by the Valley City Manufacturing Co., Dundas, Ontario.

The **Font** (*shown on inside back cover*) is made of Indiana limestone by Scott Cut Stone Ltd., Toronto and is placed at the entrance to the Baptismal Apse in order to be in full view of most of the congregation.

The **Cross** (*shown on back cover*) hanging over the **Holy Table** is executed in walnut. The carved symbols designed by Douglas Brown of Brown, Brisley, Brown Architects suggest the events surrounding the Passion of Our Lord – the Denial, the Betrayal, the Last Supper and the Crown of Thorns, with the central symbol of the Phoenix rising from the flames, being the ancient symbol of Resurrection.

The **Altar**, or the Communion Table as it was referred to at the Dedication, (*see next page*) is free standing, enabling the Holy Eucharist to be celebrated facing the people. The words inscribed on the front of the Altar "... And Was Made Man" are taken from the words of the Incarnatus in the Nicene Creed, that Jesus became incarnate from the Virgin Mary and was made man, and chosen as both appropriate and fitting for the dedication of this Church to St. Mary whose chief glory was to give birth to the Son of God.

Several pieces of hand-crafted silver, including the **Wardens' Staves** (*shown above*), were created and donated by the world-renowned Douglas Boyd, silversmith.



The **Communion Rail** has symbols of the Apostles carved into the blocks around the base (*see bottom of previous page*).

The Madonna Lily symbolic of St. Mary is carved into the **clergy seats** and *the symbols of Canada* (*the Maple Leaf*), *Ontario* (*the Trillium*) and *Richmond Hill* (*the Rose*) are carved into the **Nave pews** (*shown above*).



The location of the choir in the loft enables the chancel and sanctuary to be open, and closer to the people, and the loft also accommodates the **pipe organ**. The organ, installed in 1988 was



made by Keates Geissler of Acton, Ontario and replaced an earlier Baldwin organ given by the congregation in memory of those who gave their lives in the First and Second World Wars.



Changes to the Sanctuary since the Dedication

The placement of some of the furnishings within the Sanctuary has been altered over time in accordance with new trends in Liturgy and Accessibility.



Stained Glass

The Baptistry Window (*opposite*) was made by Gerald Tooke, Toronto and “depicts a dove, ancient symbol of the Holy Spirit, coming in power and surrounded with much symbolic colour. The surrounding panels complete the theme of the cloven tongues as of fire associated with the Feast of Pentecost.”



The Altar Windows (*shown above and on previous page*) made by Angus Macdonald, Willowdale are an abstract design with rich, vibrant, coloured glass and consist of 17 panels.

The Nave Windows made by Luxfer Studios Ltd., Concord are an abstract design consisting of 40 panels of leaded glass.

The Leno Window (*shown below*) depicts The Sermon on the Mount and was made by Robert McCausland Limited.

The Sacristy Passage Door Window depicting a cross and the **Sacristy Door Window** depicting a Chalice and Priest's Host, were made by Neil Mann.







*We, the people of Saint Mary's Anglican Church,
called by God and committed to Jesus Christ
in the power of the Holy Spirit, seek to live and make known,
in word and action, the good news of God's love in the world.
Using our gifts, we worship, proclaim, learn, serve,
reach out, welcome others, and develop a caring
and sharing community of believers.*

St. Mary's Anglican Church

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The 50th Anniversary Committee gratefully acknowledges
the contributions of Phil Shepherd, of Shepherd Photography,
and items from the collection of St. Mary's Archives Committee.