

## PARISH NEWS

## ARCHIVES CORNER

# Churchyard all that survives of delightful chapel

In 1842, during the incumbency of the Rev. J. W. Disbrow, construction began on the little church at Magundy, above Fredericton on the St. John River, near Magaguadavic. It was completed during the time of the Rev. Joseph Elwell. This delightful little chapel sat on 1.5 acres of land deeded to the Bishop of Nova Scotia on Jan. 27, 1843 by William Lockard and his wife Mary. At one time a lot was also reserved for a rectory, but it was not built. Until the completion of St. John's, summer services were held in William Love's barn and in Benjamin Lockard's house during the rest of the year. In the early 1840's the Diocesan Church Society (DCS) awarded a grant of just over \$16 to Mr. Disbrow to assist in building the chapel at Magundy Settlement, the sum to be paid when "it shall be duly certified that the building is enclosed and that it stands on land held in fee simple by or for the use of the Church." Records of 1847 indicate that the grant was "not taken up because conditions had not been fulfilled."

On May 4, 1853, the vestry awarded the sum of \$5 to the Magundy church committee in order to pay off its debt. Just six weeks later, on June 18, the church was consecrated by Bishop Medley. On April 6, 1874 the vestry granted the sum of \$10 towards a new roof for St. John's. They also resolved to install an

east window in memory of the late Thomas Jones, "providing the members of his family approve thereof" and the rector was authorized to procure a prayer desk for the Church.

At a service in 1868 there were 12 confirmations and 19 communicants out of a congregation of 63. On August 22, 1875, 14 were confirmed at a 3 p.m. service. On July 30, 1879, seven candidates ranging in age from 12 to 16 years were confirmed by Bishop Medley. On August 17, 1884, Hattie, infant daughter of Thomas Albert and Mary Elizabeth Brown, was baptized in the Church.

Among the marriages solemnized were Thomas Adams and Sarah Ann McMullin on August 2, 1860; James Henry and Mary Jane Gartley on July 19, 1874; Eden Waugh and Mary Ann McElwain on Oct. 31, 1877; and Thomas Albert Brown and Mary Elizabeth Love on Sept. 18, 1878. The last burial in the churchyard was likely that of Martha Lockard, who died Sept. 30, 1913.

In his report to the DCS in the early 1870's, the Rev. Frederick B. Crozier spoke well of his congregation: "Attendance at services and the Holy Communion is in good proportion to the number of church people in the settlement. I think the reverence displayed for the worship of God's house is a matter of great thankfulness. The people enjoy the services heartily and on the most unpleas-



ant day in an unusually severe winter, many of these people have walked miles to attend a litany service."

In his report in 1885, the Rev. Arthur Lowndes wrote: "... St. John's Church, Magundy, needs over \$300 to put it in repair. The building is so dilapidated that it is very doubtful whether the erection of a new church would not be cheaper in the end than repairing the old fabric. The congregation at St. John's is small, though willing, and therefore it is difficult to know what course would be the best to pursue."

At a meeting of the Vestry held in the Orange Hall at Magundy at 2 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 26, 1887, a motion was passed that "the Rector be empowered to pull down the church at Magundy" but according to the Rev. C. T. Easton, it was still standing in the early 1890's when he echoed Mr. Lowndes' words: "A new church edifice is sadly needed at Magundy. The old one is dilapidated."

The Parish of Prince William annual meetings of 1895 and 1896 were held in St. John's in Magundy. These seem to be the last records of any meetings being held there. In 1897 the annual meeting was held in the Orange Hall. It is said that when the

church was torn down, the "wide boards" were taken to Harvey and used in building a store.

The names of families who lived in the area of St. John's Church during its existence include Blaney, Brown, Gartley, Graham, Henry, Jones, Kirkpatrick, Lockard, Love, McElwain, Miller and Pickard. They are buried in The Old Magundy Church Yard.

## Sources:

- \* Leaves from Juliana Horatio Ewing's *Canada Home* by Elizabeth Tucker
- \* Bishop Medley's Journal and Register
- \* R. P. Gorham, *The Church of England in the Parish of Prince William*
- \* Various Diocesan Church Reports
- \* Register of Services, Parish of Prince William and Dumfries, 1884-1919
- \* With special thanks to Wendy Brien, Ruth Ker and Joe Fletcher *The Archives Corner* is prepared by Twila Buttmer ([twila.buttmer@gnb.ca](mailto:twila.buttmer@gnb.ca), 506-453-4306) and Frank Morehouse ([frankm@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto:frankm@nbnet.nb.ca), 506-459-3637). *If you have any ideas for future articles or if you can add anything to the present story, we would appreciate hearing from you.*

## Council Briefs

### Outstanding budget support

The diocesan finance committee reported parish support of the 2008 budget was the highest it has been in the past six years. Parishes contributed just over \$1.4 million in support of the work of the bishop, diocesan administration (most of it in support of the parishes) and mission outreach. The requested total amount was about \$1.5 million.

### Insurance standard concerns

The diocesan insurance advisor is concerned that some parishes do not comply with approved coverage standards. Most parishes participate in a diocesan insurance program that analyzes the needs and goals of each parish and ensures adequate and appropriate insurance coverage is in place. Some parishes that don't subscribe to the diocesan program make sure their coverage meets the approved standards, but others don't. The advisor recently wrote letters to those parishes and asked them to comply. If they do not, members of the parish corporation will be asked to acknowledge, in writing, that they are not in compliance with the diocesan standards and they recognize the risk being assumed by the corporation.

### Bishop heading for Ho

Bishop Claude Miller plans to visit our companion Diocese of Ho, in Ghana, West Africa. Bishop Matthias Kwabla Medadues-Baduhu of Ho visited the diocese of Fredericton in 2007. Dates for Bishop Miller's visit were unconfirmed at press time.

## CoGS not prepared to discuss marriage canon

Continued from page 1

ity (as a pastoral response within the context of local mission).

CoGS also asked Canadian dioceses with Companion Dioceses in Africa and Brazil to talk with their companions about the same-sex issue, as part of the learning process.

"We're in the same place as most of the rest of the church," said Bishop Miller.

At its meetings in early May, CoGS announced it does not feel prepared to ask General Synod to amend the marriage canon to allow for the marriage of same-sex couples at its 2010 meeting.

Notices of motions relating to same-sex blessings, however, were included in the Convening Circular of our 2009 Diocesan Synod.

## Call for assessment of diocesan structures and processes

Continued from page 1

and Diocesan Council for implementation.

- Send a memorial to General Synod requesting that the national church investigate the adoption of the 10-10-10 giving and sharing model as the standard for the Anglican Church of Canada.
- Request that the bishop and Diocesan Council establish a task group to assess the value and the effectiveness of current diocesan governance structures and processes, with a view to improving administrative efficiency and reducing costs.
- Direct Diocesan Council to roll back expenditures and/or transfers of income in order to develop, over the next three

years, a \$100,000 fund for the stabilization, maintenance, and expansion of resident clerical ministry in rural and struggling parishes in our diocese. Funds for Anglicans in the Canadian North are exempt from roll-backs.

• Recognize the pastoral ministry of Integrity Fredericton, that it is the work of Anglicans within our diocese, and encourage Integrity Fredericton to continue this ministry.

The discussions and decisions related to these, and any other resolutions made at synod, will be reported in the July 7 and August 4 editions of E News as well as in the September issue of the *New Brunswick Anglican*.



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