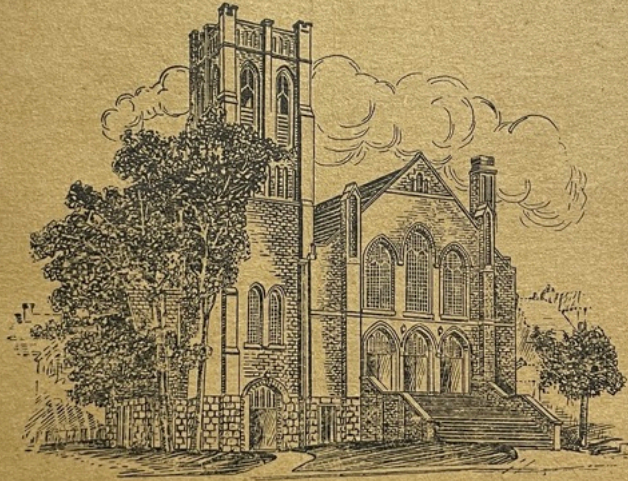


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St. John's

HUMBERSIDE and QUEBEC AVENUE

Parish Magazine



November, 1924.

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Assistant Curate—REV. W. J. M. SWAN, M.A.,
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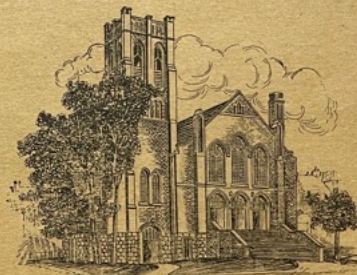
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St. John's Parish Magazine
WEST TORONTO.

Vol. 3

NOVEMBER, 1924

No. 5

Church Pews

Jesus was in the habit of going to Church. The Jewish Synagogue was the Church of His time, and it was said of Jesus that He entered, as His custom was, into the Synagogue on the Sabbath Day. Why should Jesus have gone to Church? We believe that He was the most spiritual man in all history. Why should this fine soul, so sensitive to Nature's every charm, so attuned to her every whispering voice, have shut Himself up within the four walls of a building to worship? It was because Jesus recognized that the Church was the unique custodian of the spiritual life. The Church has always been the guardian of the highest moral and spiritual values of the race. Through prayer and song and spoken word culminating in action, the Church sometimes feebly, sometimes heroically, but always has said that life is more than that which we touch and see and weigh; that life is more than the possession of things. Moreover, she has declared that you are not striving single-handed against the forces of evil, but the spiritual forces of the universe, God Himself, are on your side.

Because these things are so, the pews in our Churches are an interesting study. They look very much alike, but they are in reality widely different. They are representative of a type. Let us consider a few of them. For instance, there is the **critical pew**. This pew has ideals. Everything must come up to its standards. When all other pews are impressed it remains silent and unresponsive. It gives attention to the music and other features of the service and is somewhat hard to please. The sexton also comes in for his share of attention from the critical pew, for the building is always too hot or too cold, too stuffy or too drafty. Only once in a long time does the critical pew find things to its liking, and then, like every other chronic critic the world over, says never a word of praise or encouragement. A London paper gives an interesting account of a swarm of bees that for more than twenty years had had the possession of the roof of a church. Recently they abused their privilege, came down into the church itself and stung the minister and congregation. Some one who understood the handling of bees was called in, and now they have more suitable quarters in a hive and the church is at peace. The bee is a fine insect, and for centuries it has been commended for its industry. But for all that it is no model for the Christian and no fit member of a

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church. That is because the primary Christian quality is not industry, admirable as that is, but love, and in love the bee is sadly wanting. The critical pew may be likened to the bee, the church bee. Their unkind remarks, and fault-finding, tear down faster than their labour can possibly build up. They are bees, but their honey is bitter.

Then there is the **uncertain pew**. Sometimes it is full, sometimes empty. It is occupied when you expect it will not be, and deserted when you expect it will be filled. On special occasions you can safely count up its presence, but in times of unpleasant weather, no. Such church members are like the tourist who makes a hurried visit to a famous art gallery and in consequence carries away only a confused impression of many glorious paintings. If the tourist wants to get any real knowledge and benefit he must go to the gallery regularly day by day and absorb their beauty. So it is with going to church. It is only the regular attendant who knows what joy and strength the church can give. The blessing of God is for the man who dwells in God's house.

The third pew is the **light-headed pew**. It generally arrives late and sits in the rear of the church. It giggles, grows fidgety, whispers much, is not interested in the service. It thinks of nearly everything in creation but God.

Then there is the **pre-occupied pew**—those who are present in body but absent in spirit. It reminds one of a man who used to drive to church. One Sunday morning he started away in his buggy, but had forgotten to tie up his dog. The dog followed, and when the good man saw him he struck at him with his whip and ordered him home. The dog went back a short distance, but as soon as the buggy started on again the dog followed. After this had happened two or three times the man stopped, got out, took the dog by the collar, walked him back to the barn and tied him up. So quite often as we go to church we allow the thoughts of our worldly affairs to intrude themselves upon our minds. We make no effort to avoid thinking about them, to turn our thoughts into the channel of God. In fact, instead of tying up the dog of worldly thought we whistle for him to come with us all through the service. A man told his minister that though he had been going to church regularly for over twenty years he had never heard a single sermon through. The reason was that when the sermon began he immediately commenced a review of the business of the week. If you have been accustomed to do that, remember it is no use to send the body to church if the heart and mind remain in your business or your home. Give God His place and simply wait before Him until He reveals Himself to you, and until every thought of yours is taken captive for Christ and every energy of your being is consecrated to His service.

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4

The pew that holds the greatest power of all is the prayerful pew. God soon fades out of the life of the man who ceases to pray. Prayer in its highest forms is not a petition but communion with God. God is always near us, but we do not realize His presence. In prayer He is not only near us—we draw near to Him. To get the greatest amount of service from the telephone we must use it not only in emergencies but in all the minor ways that make the work of home and office a hundred-fold easier. And so we are not getting the most out of prayer unless we pray not only in time of trial or temptation, but in the everyday duties that come to us. Because the prayerful pew realizes this it spends some time on its knees before it comes to church. Secular thoughts are banished and cares are left behind. It comes to worship and brings with it the spirit of worship. It comes early to God's house and enjoys the quietness and peace of that sacred place. When the service begins that pew is ready. It sings heartily and hears the message of the Gospel prayerfully. It prays for sinners and for saints, for our own church and for all churches, for our own land and for every land. It prays with a power that brings the blessing down. A great preacher of the recent past used to say that the secret of his success in preaching for souls was that he was always supported by a band of praying people who carried him and his work to the throne of grace. Which pew do you occupy to-day?

The Bulletin

Sunday Services—

December 7th—1st Sunday in Advent.

11.00 a.m.—Holy Communion—The Rector.

4.15 p.m.—Holy Baptism.

7.00 p.m.—Evening Prayer—The Rector.

December 14th—2nd Sunday in Advent.

8.00 a.m.—Holy Communion.

11.00 a.m.—Morning Prayer—Rev. W. J. M. Swan, M.A.

7.00 p.m.—Evening Prayer—The Rector.

December 21st—3rd Sunday in Advent.

11.00 a.m.—Morning Prayer—The Rector.

7.00 p.m.—Evening Prayer—The Rector.

December 25th—Christmas Day.

8.00 a.m.—Holy Communion.

10.30 a.m.—Morning Prayer and Holy Communion.

December 28th—Sunday after Christmas.

8.00 a.m.—Holy Communion.

11.00 a.m.—Morning Prayer—The Rector.

7.00 p.m.—Evening Prayer—Holy Communion—Rev.

W. J. M. Swan, M.A.

5

The Sanctuary

A SIMPLE PRAYER FOR EVERY DAY.

"Lord, we bless and praise Thee that we have wakened to the light of another earthly day; and now we will think of what a day should be. Our days are Thine, let them be spent for Thee. Our days are few, let them be spent with care. There are dark days behind us, forgive their sinfulness; there may be dark days before us, strengthen us for their trials. We pray Thee to shine in this day—the day which we may call our own. Lord, we go to our daily work; help us to take pleasure therein. Show us clearly what our duty is; help us to be faithful in doing it. Let all we do be well done, fit for Thine eyes to see. Give us strength to do, patience to bear; let our courage never fail. When we cannot love our work, let us think of it as Thy task; and, by our love to Thee, make unlovely things shine in the light of Thy great love. Amen."—George Dawson.

ONE ACT OF KINDNESS.

Might we not all resolve that every day we will do at least one act of kindness? Let us write a letter in such terms that the post will bring pleasure next day to some home; make a call just to let a friend know he has been in our hearts; send a gift on some one's birthday, marriage day, or any day we can invent. Let us make children glad with the things they long for but cannot obtain, and a thousand other things which we could do within a year, if we had eyes to see, and a heart to feel, and had the will to take some trouble.—

—Ian Maclaren.

The Children's Corner

BE HAPPY.

Work a little, sing a little,
Whistle and be gay;
Read a little, play a little,
Busy every day.

Talk a little, laugh a little,
Don't forget to pray;
Be a bit of merry sunshine
All the blessed day.

6

Parish Notes

The Anniversary Services are being held on Sunday, November 23rd. It is always an inspiration to remember God's wonderful blessing over this parish in celebrating the 43rd anniversary of its founding. It is likewise significant this year because it marks the first anniversary of the building of the new church. Rev. Dr. Renison will be the special preacher at the morning service, and the Rector will preach in the evening.

The social evening in connection with the anniversary will be held on Thursday evening, November 20th, at 8 o'clock, in the Church Hall. This is the actual date of the founding of the parish of St. John's, and should be a happy occasion. This year we are anxious to have every worshipper present so that we all may know each other. There will be a good programme and refreshments will be served.

At the present time there is being formed a Men's Association, and this should provide a field of work and stir up a sense of fellowship among the men of the Church. It would be a splendid organization if every man would take a part in this new feature of the Church's work at this time. The Men's Association was a successful organization in the past and many interesting evenings were spent. It is hoped to make it an even greater success and every man ought to become a member.

The Women's Guild sale of work will be held on Thursday, November 27th. The ladies have been making great preparations so that this undertaking may be a decided success. This is a splendid opportunity to do your Christmas shopping.

The Kiselo Class are holding their annual sale of work on Saturday, December 13th. Many beautiful articles are being prepared which will make very lovely Christmas gifts. Tea will be served in the afternoon, and the occasion should be a successful one.

The Woman's Auxiliary in its various branches will hold their annual corporate communion at the morning service on Sunday, November 30th. The service will be of a distinctly missionary character. The Rev. J. O. Walton, who has spent many years doing missionary service in Labrador will be the special preacher. It is to be hoped that there will be a large attendance and that all the Auxiliary members will come to the Lord's Table.

On Sunday, October 26th, an impressive memorial service was held for the most Rev. Archbishop DuVernet, a former rector of St. John's. The Rev. Canon Bryan was the preacher, and the choir rendered appropriate music.

7

THE CHOIR.

Owing to the decease of Archbishop DuVernet, music Sunday which was to have been held on the 26th inst. was necessarily postponed to the following week, namely November the third. Sunday, Oct. 26th, therefore took the form of a memorial service, with appropriate music at both services.

During the past month the choir have shown marked improvement in their work, having gotten back into their usual stride since the summer months, at the same time we are still in need, like nearly every other voluntary choir, of more good voices in all sections.

The choir intend to give a secular concert sometime in the near future, similar to the concert given last February, which was such a splendid success. This will be in aid of the new church building fund, to which the choir has undertaken to contribute five hundred dollars. We trust the congregation and their friends will keep this in mind and respond cheerfully when the date and fuller particulars are definitely settled and announced.

Practice of special music will commence at once for the anniversary service which will take place on the 23rd of November, also preparation for the Christmas services. We anticipate excellent results this year in our work, with the splendid spirit and talent existing in our choir.

Victor Arlidge, Musical Director.

The Woman's Auxiliary

During the months of October the various threads of our work were picked up, and a promising enthusiasm was stirred up. A good start was made in the mission study, the subject for this year being "The Church and the Newcomer." At the first meeting there was a talk, based upon the first chapter of our study book, on "The Newcomer of Yesterday," which was followed up by four short review papers, read by members at this second meeting. We hope to make this our working plan for the year.

Our subject is one which requires much individual thought and study, if we have the sort of patriotism which makes us proud of Canada's past, interested in her present, and ambitious for her future, the question of the newcomer in relation to the Church must be one of live interest to us. What Canada stands for is what Canada is. Writing about Belgium early in the war, Abbé Noël said: "What constitutes a nation is the community of sentiments and ideals which result from a common history

and education." We have in Canada a heritage of sentiments and ideals of which we are justly proud. These ideals have been jeopardized by the great influx of people from the countries of central Europe, which resulted from the open-door policy which formerly prevailed in Canada. Among those who came were some who brought with them the vicious traits inherited from centuries of vicious living; there were others who brought with them their false religions, whose false doctrines are to-day being spread in our country. There were the Asiatics who came to British Columbia, which has made a serious problem for that province. The Dominion Government has done much in the way of Canadianizing these foreign races by providing schools and teaching English and British ideals to the rising generation. The Church has done very little for the newcomers; even those of British stock have been neglected. The Canadian Anglican Church has felt that her first duty was to care for the aborigines. She has lacked money and missionaries for work among the white settlers. We can make ourselves ready for the great work before the Church by learning what we can about the immigrants, their needs, our resources for helping them, what has been done in the past, what we can do now and in the future. Ignorance means indifference.

Throughout the world's history there has been no human instinct that has had such far-reaching results as that of migration. In sacred history we learn how God used it in the carrying out of his purposes. The Anglo-Saxon race has resulted from the blending of the races that came as immigrants, one after the other, to Britain's shores. Emigration out of Britain has built up the British Empire. The great problem before Canadians to-day is to so use this instinct of migration that there may be built up a great Canadian nation with British institutions and British ideals. Of all the overseas Dominions, Canada is the most accessible to Great Britain, and is most favored by British emigrants. She has everything to attract the right sort of immigrant. She has a vast extent of territory with boundless resources. Her farm lands, forests, fisheries and mines are sources of colossal wealth. Canada could probably support 250,000,000 people. Our present population is about 9,000,000. Sir Wilfred Laurier knew whereof he spoke when he said: "The twentieth century belongs to Canada." The possibility of national greatness, if our unoccupied lands are settled by the right sort of immigrant, must be apparent to the most superficial thinker. But much will depend upon our attitude towards the newcomers. We must try to secure their peaceful progress and happiness, to make them feel that they are fellow-citizens, and equally interested with us in making our Dominion the Dominion of our Lord.

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Junior Auxiliary

The Junior Branch of the Woman's Auxiliary meets every Monday afternoon at 4 p.m. in the Church Hall. The object of this organization is to teach the juniors of our Church to pray for Missions, to give to Missions, to work for Missions.

The work is carefully supervised by Mrs. W. Richardson and a capable staff of co-workers. All the parents should take an interest in this work by encouraging their children to come. Every mother ought to be sufficiently interested in the means of spreading the Kingdom of God to send her children to the meetings on Monday afternoon.

A special meeting for Juniors will be held in the Church Hall on Monday, December 8th, at the usual time in the afternoon. All members are invited to come and bring their mothers. An interesting programme is being prepared. The Diocesan Junior Secretary is expected to be present and will give an address on the missionary work that is being done by the Juniors. It is hoped that all mothers of the Juniors and others interested will remember this date and plan to be present.

St. John's Women's Guild

Our annual sale of work is to be held on Thursday afternoon and evening, November 27th. Tickets for admission have been printed and may be obtained from any of our members, the price for same being ten cents.

The price of the supper has been changed to 35 cents this year, and we do hope all members of the congregation will come and have supper at the sale. The women are working very hard, but you must do your part in patronizing us to make our annual sale a success.

"The Guild Booth" this year is in charge of Mrs. J. Miller, and we feel sure you will find what you want here.

Mrs. Millard is the convenor of the "Fancy Work Booth." This is the booth that will meet all your ideas for your Christmas gifts.

"The Domestic Booth" is a tempting one. Mrs. Bolton and her assistants will be delighted to look after your orders.

"The Touch and Take Booth" proved a big success last year. Mrs. Needham and her helpers have been working hard all summer getting articles ready. You touch and we promise you will take something worth the price of twenty-five cents.

Everyone visits the "Candy Booth." Don't prove an exception. Mrs. Stott is the convenor of this booth.

Mrs. Wilks is in charge of the "Handkerchief Booth." The handkerchiefs are dainty and pretty. You can get just what you want.

11

"Afternoon Tea." Be sure and come and visit here before going home. Mrs. Cowan, with her assistants, will be ready to serve you with a delicious cup of tea and ice cream. Bring your friends in for a chat and refreshments.

Mrs. Elliott has charge of the supper room. This is a big undertaking, so come and make it a success. Our President, Mrs. Harry Fell, and every member of the Guild has been working for this "great day" for a whole year, so you can just imagine what lovely things will be displayed. All your Christmas shopping can be finished on Thursday afternoon, Nov. 27th, after visiting us.

Our Sunday School

Our Sunday School these days is the scene of unusual activity owing to the campaign we are carrying on on behalf of the New Church Building Fund.

It is interesting to notice what can be done by the children encouraged and supported by their parents and friends. Some of the smallest children are having the largest success. Everybody is watching the mercury as it gradually approaches the \$500 mark. At the time of going to press the financial thermometer registered \$272.

Now children! for a long pull, a strong pull, and a pull altogether and we shall have won the victory.

Our thanks are due to all those who are helping in this campaign. Perhaps few realize the great benefit to the children in encouraging them in such a worthy effort, and the satisfaction of something accomplished, something done.

There's not a child so small and weak
But has his little cross to take,
His little work of love and praise
That he may do for Jesus' sake.

W. S. Pocknell, Superintendent.

The "Fahelo" Girls' Bible Class

We have recorded another red-letter day in our class Year Book. On Thursday, October 23rd, the class held its first banquet, which was in the form of a mother and daughter banquet. About seventy-five persons were present. We were extremely pleased to have with us on this occasion our former teacher, Miss C. La Venture.

Miss G. Story, of Humberstone Collegiate Institute, was the speaker of the evening. Her talk on "The Two Ways of Life" was exceedingly interesting and beneficial to all.

We wish to take this opportunity to thank our friends who took part in the program, and also to the girls of the Kiselco Class, who so willingly aided in the important service of waiting on the tables.

On Thursday last, October 30th, about twenty-eight of our girls entertained the girls of St. Faith's Lodge, where Miss La Venture is the Assistant Superintendent. A very nice program of both games and refreshments had been arranged, and everybody had a most enjoyable time.

Our class has done another thing which has been heard said "is a girls' trick anyway"—that is "changed her name." We are now "Fahelos," which means that we have as our standard Faith, Help and Love.

We now meet at two-thirty in the Church. If you are a 'teen age girl and would like to join us, we would be only too please to have you. If you do not care to come alone the first Sunday, just telephone the Secretary (Jct. 4152) and she will see that someone will call.

The Kiselco Senior Girls' Bible Class

The past month has seen the class make rapid progress. A number of new members have joined during the last few Sundays and a splendid spirit of enthusiasm and optimism prevails in all the work.

Two very successful class meetings have been held during the month. The first was held at the home of Miss Juliet Birrel and the second at the home of Miss Elma Boyle. These girls very kindly opened their homes to the class. These meetings are held so that the girls may have their work prepared for their sale on Saturday, Dec. 13th, at 2 o'clock, in the Church Hall. An hour of social fellowship is also spent and the occasions are very happy ones indeed.

The sale of work will present a selection of dainty Christmas gifts, as well as many useful articles. There will also be homemade cooking and candy. Afternoon tea will be served in the tea-room, which should prove most attractive.

The girls are doing this work so that they may meet their objective for the New Church Building Fund. Every one, therefore, ought to keep this date open and give their assistance by being present on Saturday, December 13th.

The class is always ready to receive new members, and all the young ladies of the Church are invited to join any Sunday afternoon in the Church, at 2.30 p.m.

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St. John's Cubs and Scouts

On Tuesday, Dec. 16th, the Troop and Pack are holding a concert in the Church Hall. This concert, which will be in accord with the Christmas season, is in aid of the Troop and Pack Fund. Our camp work has been handicapped during the past year owing to lack of finance, and as the Troop is self-supporting it is hoped that the many friends of the boys will turn out and help make this night a success.

The Scoutmaster leaves for Ottawa on Nov. 24th as the Toronto District Officer, at a special course for Scout and Cub Officers to be given at the Government House under the personal direction of Lord Byng, Chief Scout for Canada, and Mr. Rodney Wood, Dominion Camp Chief.

On Saturday, Oct. 25th, members of the Cubs and Scouts, along with their friends, were entertained at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Elliott, the entertainment being in the form of a Hallowe'en masquerade party.

Tuesday, Oct. 28th, the Cubs were at home to their mothers in the Church Hall, when a very enjoyable Hallowe'en masquerade party was held. The Scoutmaster and his two assistants, Harold Hawkins and John Lemon, had a very difficult task in judging the costumes. Some very original and perplexing disguises were to be seen. After an evening of games and contests, refreshments were served by the S. and C. M. A. About eighty-five boys and their mothers were present.

The Troop has secured the use of "Humber-side gym" for two nights per month—first and third Mondays. Mr. W. Gibbs, late of University of Pennsylvania, is to be basketball coach and gym. instructor.

The Alert Young Men's Bible Class

The first anniversary of the Alert Class has just been celebrated, and in looking back it can be said the past year was a decided success. But we want to keep going forward in numbers and in good work done, and we need the help of all.

Our class activities are being carried on as usual, and we are expecting to have many pleasant and helpful evenings during the winter. At present the bowling league is in full swing and there is very keen competition.

We are indebted to Mr. E. T. Needham for the gift of a very handsome challenge trophy for the cross-country run, which will be held every autumn. This trophy will be competed for by the members of the class. It will be presented at our banquet in the near future.

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