

ST. GEORGE'S
ANGLICAN CHURCH
Moncton, New Brunswick

HISTORY OF THE MEMORIAL WINDOWS

With text from

THE VENERABLE J.J. ALEXANDER
THE REV. CANON D.E. MERCER
THE REV. CANON C.G. VANBUSKIRK



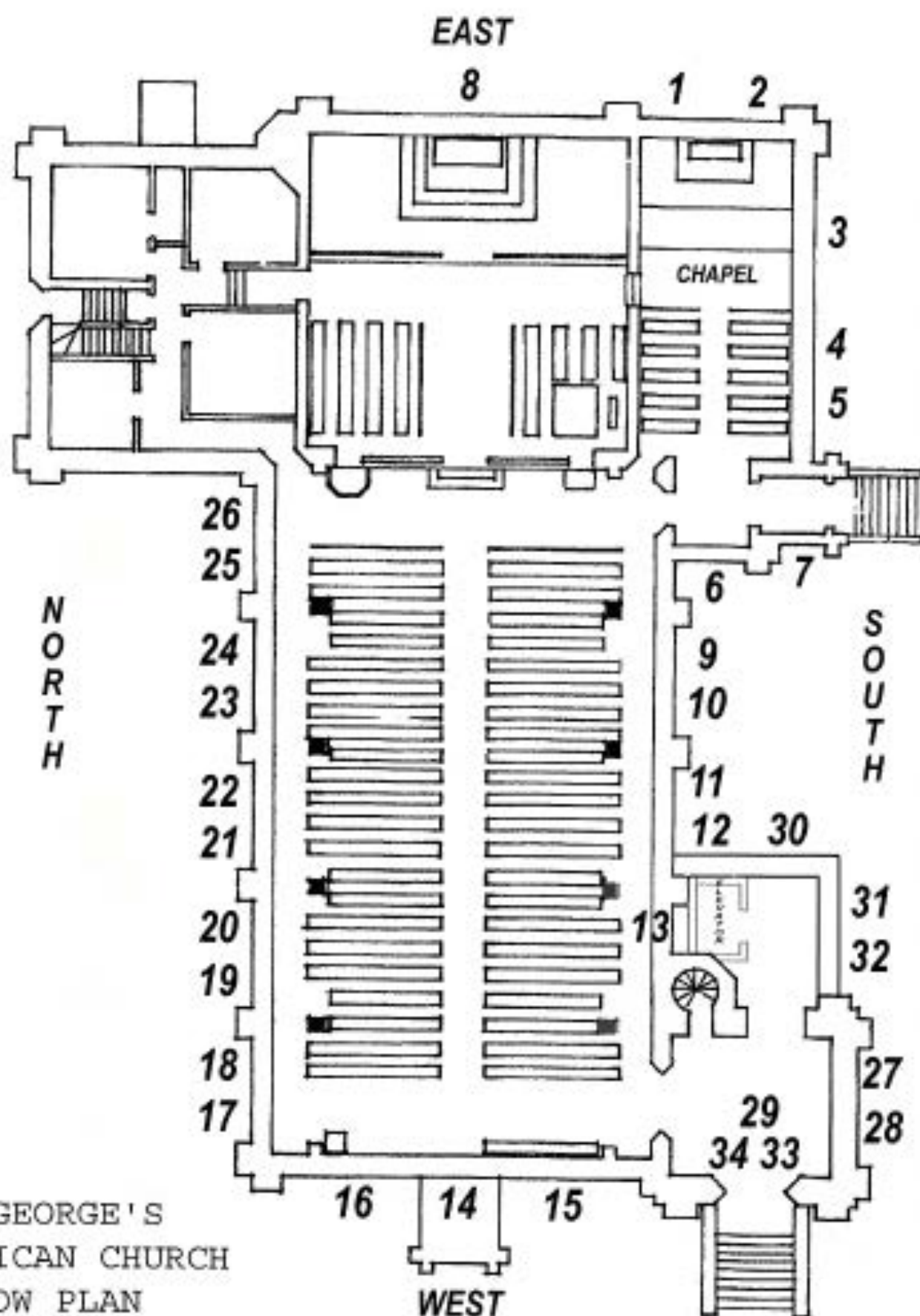
ST. GEORGE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

MONCTON, NB

The present St. George's Church was opened on Tuesday morning June 18, 1935, with a celebration by the Rector, Rev. J.J. Alexander

Since this beautiful building means so much to all of us who worship here, it was decided that we should ask Archdeacon Alexander to describe the windows in the Church telling why each was chosen, the scriptural thought behind, or reason for, each memorial window.

He suggested we start in the Chapel, for in the chapel we have the two oldest windows anywhere in the building. They are the windows on either side of the Chapel Altar.



ST. GEORGE'S
 ANGLICAN CHURCH
 WINDOW PLAN

WINDOWS IN THE CHAPEL



#1 & #2

It was in the year 1873 that the original St. George's Church burned. The morning after the fire, some ladies of the parish gathered small diamond panes of glass, as well as bits of fragment and broken glass, on the spot where the Chancel of the Church originally stood. These glass fragments were sent to a glass company in the city of Saint John. There they were pieced together into two windows, the windows that you now see on either side of the Chapel Altar. In the second St. George's Church, these two windows were on the north side of the nave. Their present position in the sanctuary seems to be a very fitting place for these particular windows. The cluster grapes and the stocks of wheat suggest the bread and wine which Jesus used as symbols of His Flesh and Blood. They direct our thoughts to the events in the Upper Room or remind us of the words of the apostle of the Gentiles, "As often as ye eat this bread and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till He comes." (1 Corinthians 11:26)

You might be interested to know that a representative of McCausland Co., who arranged many of the windows in the Church, was in Moncton in connection with the enlarging of our Chancel window. I asked him at the time if he would look over some of the windows in the Church and asked particularly about these two windows. He examined them very carefully and turning to me said, "Those are burnt glass". Of course, knowing the history of the fire, I couldn't help but smile.

He went on to say the colour in the windows was put in there some way by fire, but the art of making that type of window had been lost. He said, "These two windows are priceless. Don't let anyone ever remove them from their present position". They are the only two articles in the Church from the first Church built in the Parish in 1852.

FIRST AND THIRD WINDOWS ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF THE CHAPEL

The two windows in the south side of the Chapel, one near the entrance and the other near the Altar rail, are in memory of William John Weldon and his wife, Laura Jane Weldon, and were given to the Church by their son, Douglas. Douglas' two sisters, Mrs. Alex Creighton and Daisy Weldon, were members of the Altar Guild and all three members of the family were present at the dedication of the windows. It was my privilege to dedicate them.



#3

This window depicts the Resurrection Angel and the text, “The Angel said, He is not here, He is risen” (Luke 24:6) It is to the glory of God and in memory of Mr. Weldon.



#5

The text, “The Angel said unto her, Fear not Mary” (Luke 1:30) depicts the Annunciation Angel announcing to Mary that she would be the Mother of the Christ. This window is to the glory of God and in memory of Mrs. Weldon.

The Annunciation Angel proclaims the humble beginning of our Christian religion while the Resurrection Angel proclaims the fact that all that Jesus taught and did was vindicated by the fact that He rose again from the dead, which puts the Father's stamp of approval on everything that Jesus did and taught.

CENTER WINDOW OF THE CHAPEL



#4

This window is in memory of Lynds Armstrong Piers who was one of our original choir boys. He was a marvellous little Scout and one of our first servers. I often took Lynds with me on trips into the country, along with the other Scouts. He was killed in action in the Second World War. I remember going to see his parents at the time and also some time after when they wished to put in a memorial window to their son. They wondered when I showed them the sketch of Christ with the Chalice if that would be suitable as a War Memorial. It seemed to me a most fitting memorial for one who had sacrificed his life in the War: Christ lifting the Chalice. Christ's Blood was shed for us and His legacy was peace to the world. Lynds, likewise, laid down his life for his friends in the world's struggle, which he hoped would bring peace and goodwill to our earth.

WINDOW OVER FONT IN THE CHAPEL



#6

The window over the font at the back of the Chapel is in memory of Ellen Henry, the wife of the late James H. Henry, who was a manager with the T. Eaton Co. The Henrys were transferred here from Toronto when Eaton's opened in Moncton. Shortly before coming they had lost two children – boys around the ages of 11 and 12. One death was rather tragic. He was accidentally scalded and died as a result of the scald. After Mrs. Henry's death, when Mr. Henry came to me and wanted to put a window behind the font, I realized at once why it was connected with the font. It was in memory of those two children. So I showed him this picture which you see in the window, Jesus with the children, with the text, "Suffer little children to come unto Me" (Mark 10:14). When Mr. Henry saw the picture he said, "It's exactly what I want". Every time I look at this particular window I think of the faith of those two people who knew that their children were safe in the arms of Jesus.

WINDOW IN ENTRANCE TO THE CHAPEL



#7

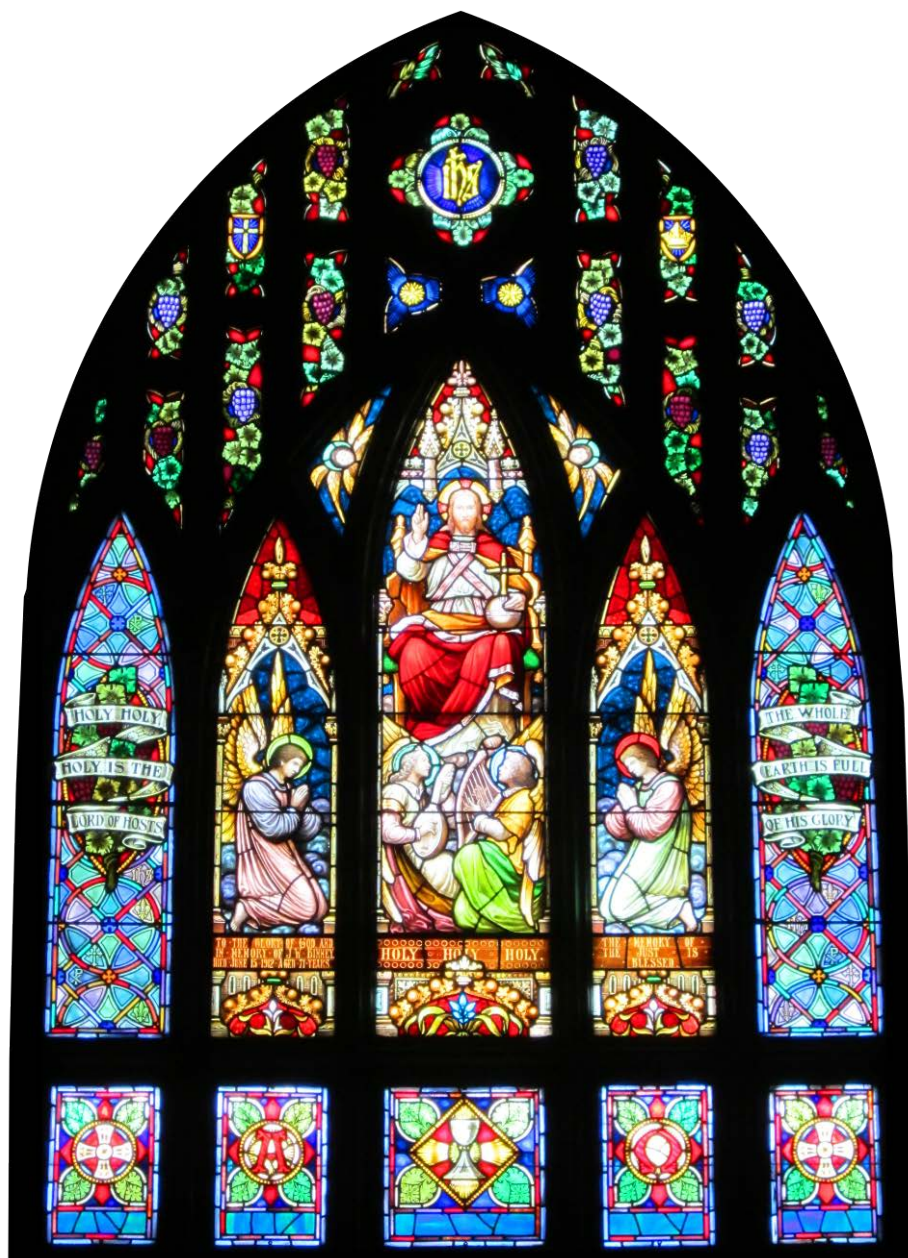


Albert Bruce Cuthbertson

The window at the entrance of the Chapel is in memory of Albert Bruce Cuthbertson. Bruce was drowned in Jones Lake when his car slipped on the ice. It was a very sad happening. He was one of our choir boys and a server at the Altar. Bruce played the trumpet, so his mother picked this particular window, the Angel Gabriel, holding the trumpet as a memorial to Bruce. It is a fitting memorial to one of St. George's fine young boys.

This completes the windows in this section of the Church.

CHANCEL WINDOW IN THE CHURCH PROPER



#8

The Chancel window is in memory of Jacob W. Binney who died in 1912 and was placed in the Church by his widow, Mrs. Binney.

The three center panels you will recognize, I think, as representing the lesson which we read on Trinity Sunday morning, Isaiah 6:1-3: “In the year King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple. Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings”. You

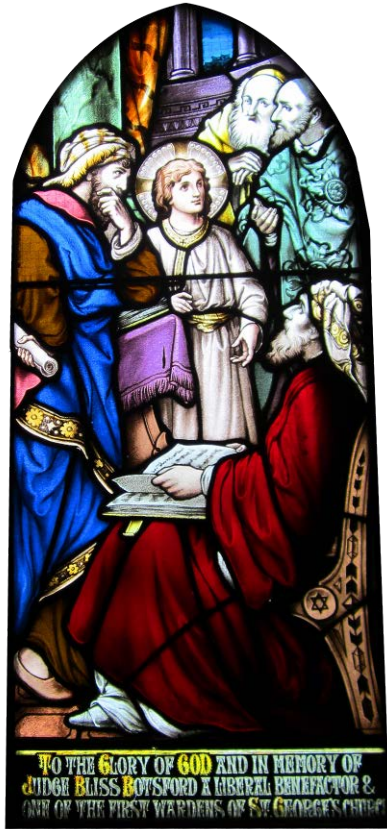
will see the seraphim at the top, each having six wings. You'll note other Angels kneeling at the base casting their crowns and you'll see the three crowns before the Lord lifted up. These three center panels were the original Chancel windows in the second St. George's Church which was taken down to make place for this Church. It was far too small for the present Chancel of St. George's.

One of the side panels, together with a photograph of the whole window was sent by the Corporation to the McCausland Glass Co. of Toronto. They made a sketch of a larger window and when it was completed, it was returned to me for the approval of the Rector, Wardens, and Vestry. The sketch that came back had in one of the side panels, the font and in the other, the Greek letters. It didn't seem to be at all fitting for the Chancel window. We already has the same thing in the west window of the Church. I gave it some consideration, considerable thought, and I wrote to the company suggesting that since the window represented Isaiah's vision, why not have the anthem sung by the seraphim in the two panels, dividing it. Thus you see, "Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord of Hosts" on one side; and on the other, "The whole earth is full of His glory" (Isaiah 6:3). That was the song of the seraphim in Isaiah's vision. I suggested that they carry the vine, the symbol of Israel, up through and into the top of the window, so you see the vine going up through the text and the bunches of grapes at the top – a very lovely symbolism in the window, to be places over the Altar. "I am the Vine, ye are the branches", said Christ, John 15:5. The vine also represents the communicant, or rather the branches do, while the vine, the bunches of grapes, the Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ which we receive in Holy Communion.

The five bottom sections were put in as ventilators and they need no explanation. There's the cross in the two outside ones, the letters, Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, in the next two and in the center, the Chalice. So fitting – over the Altar.

WINDOWS ALONG THE SOUTH AISLE OF THE NAVE

The Pair of windows nearest the Chancel are to the Glory of God and in memory of Judge Bliss Botsford and his wife, Jane Botsford.



#9

The window in memory of Judge Botsford shows Jesus sitting in the midst of the doctors both hearing them and asking them questions, St. Luke 2:46. That is the subject of the window and a very appropriate memorial to a wise benevolent Judge.



#10

The window in memory of Mrs. Botsford, depicts Mary, the sister of Lazarus, sitting at the feet of Jesus which speaks for itself, a tribute to a very gracious Church-woman.

In the inscription, you will note the word “benefactor”. That word is well chosen in this particular memorial, for Judge Botsford gave to the Parish, and to the Anglicans of Moncton, the land on which the Church and rectory were built.

Judge Botsford was one of the first Wardens of St. George’s Church. After that Church was destroyed by fire, these windows were given by their descendants

and placed in the second St. George's Church. If for some reason, the Church ever moved from this particular corner, the land would go to the descendants of Judge Bliss Botsford and of his wife, Jane Botsford. This is recorded in the Deed held by the Church.

WINDOWS ALONG THE SOUTH AISLE OF THE NAVE

The center windows are in memory of Annie Adelia Thompson and Frances I. Jones. They would be relatives of former Mayor, Mr. Leonard Jones. These windows were in the second St. George's Church and were dedicated in 1924, eight years before the Church was demolished.



#11

The window in memory of Adelia Thompson shows the Blessed Mother of our Lord standing at the cross looking up on her son dying upon the Cross of Calvary.



#12

The window in memory of Frances Jones depicts Christ as the Good Shepherd with the lamb.

I think that they speak to us of the faith of these who in the resurrection and of eternal life.

WINDOWS ALONG THE SOUTH AISLE OF THE NAVE

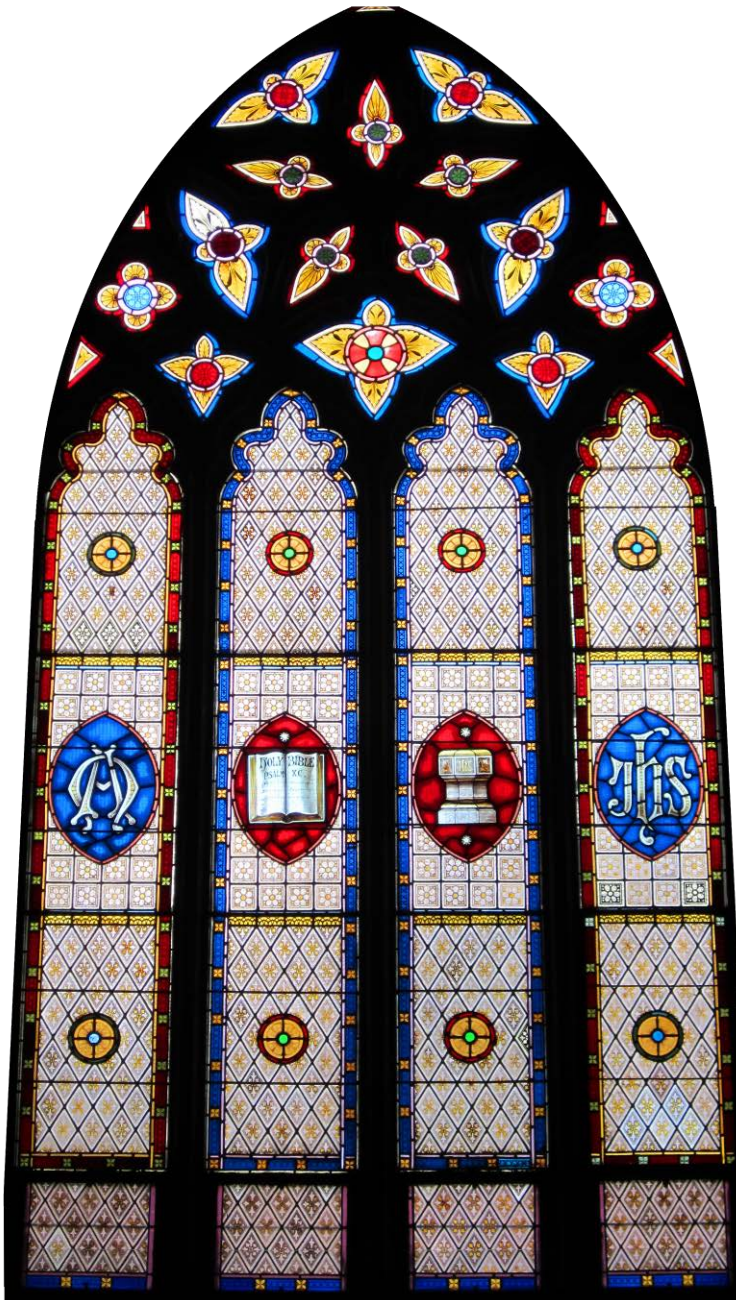


#13

The first window in this aisle is in memory of Edith M. E. Pitfield and it was given in 1901 by her sister, Mrs. Gertrude McCully. It is Saint Paul, Apostle to the Gentiles.

I believe it was made by a glass company in the City of Saint John.

WEST WINDOW OF THE NAVE



The large window at the west end was in the nave of the Church that was demolished before the erection of the present building. It was given by the members of the congregation and is not in memory of any particular person or group of people. The four ventilators at the bottom were added and were made to harmonize with the rest of the west windows. The colours in the window are very lovely and in order for one to see the real beauty of this window, one should come in the Church in the late afternoon on a sunny day.

#14

WEST WINDOWS OF THE NAVE



#15

Elizabeth Anne Wheeler



#16

John Wheeler

On either side of the west window there are two windows with an Angel in each. They were put in the Church by Mr. Ambrose Wheeler at the time the Church was built, one in memory of Elizabeth Anne Wheeler, the other in memory of John Wheeler, his parents. Both Mr. and Mrs. Wheeler died subsequently to the opening of this Church and after their deaths, Mr. Wheeler had a brass plate placed under each window, inscribed just with their names. I have lovely memories of these two kind, old people. They were Newfoundland church people and they don't come any better than the Newfoundlanders. Both loved the Church as did their son who built it.

WINDOWS ALONG THE NORTH AISLE OF THE NAVE

The first pair of windows on the north side of the nave were in the second St. George's Church and they represent a very definite period in the making of stained glass windows. They are different from any other window in the Church. They are very beautiful and according to the expert who examined the windows, they are very valuable.



#17

This window is in memory of William Stevens, one time member of St. George's Vestry. The figure in the window is St. James the Apostle.



#18

This window is in memory of Thomas W. Byers and this possibly is Mary, the mother of St. James, and was given by his widow, Mrs. Florence Byers.

WINDOWS ALONG THE NORTH AISLE OF THE NAVE



#19

The next memorial window is in memory of the boys of the congregation who were killed during World War I. You'll notice it is a stem of lilies surrounding a scroll bearing the name of each of the boys who laid down their lives. I presume that the lily is to suggest the Easter Story, reminding us that these men who died share the fruits of the resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

WINDOWS ALONG THE NORTH AISLE OF THE NAVE



#20

This window depicts St. George. It is in memory of Charles Tupper Busby and was given by his two sisters, friends and comrades. Charles Busby was killed in action in the South African War.

WINDOWS ALONG THE NORTH AISLE OF THE NAVE



#21



#22

The next two windows were placed in the Church by Mrs. Julia Stuart Hunter. They could really be passed as one memorial. The giant window is a beautiful representation of the Christmas Story. In the one we read “And the Word was made flesh”. If you examine them closely you’ll notice in the next one the words “And dwelt among us” (John 1:14). The first window shows the adoring shepherds, and the other window, the Holy Family; the Blessed Virgin, St. Joseph, and the Child, Jesus. Note the animals in the background, the manger, the very complete representation and the lovely colours of the birth of Jesus. These windows are to the Glory of God and in loving memory of William E. and Mary Grace Hunter, husband and daughter of Mrs. Julia Stuart Hunter.

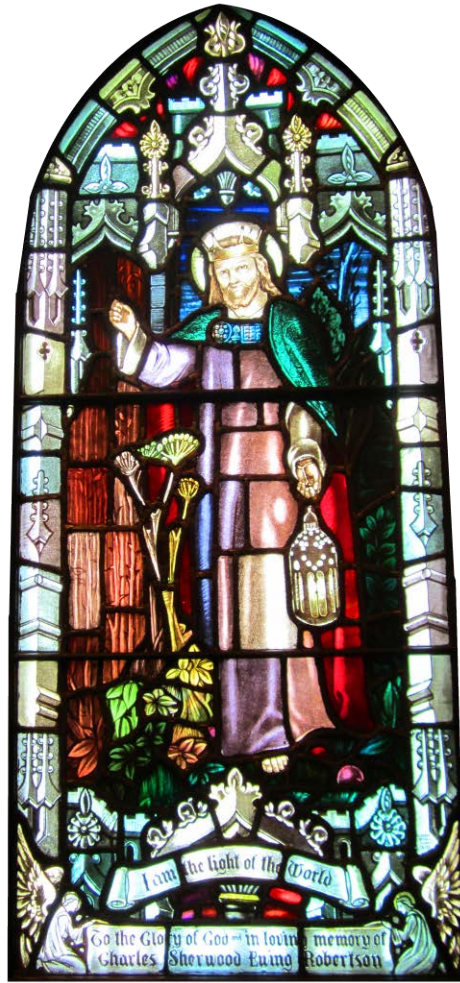
WINDOWS ALONG THE NORTH AISLE OF THE NAVE



#23

This window is in memory of Edwyn Trevelyan Sayre Pentreath who was the infant son of the Rev. Mr. Pentreath a former Rector of the Parish 1874-1882 and Mrs. Pentreath. It is Jesus, our Lord, with the lambs – “The Good Shepherd”. A very fitting memorial to one of God’s little ones. I wonder, did this window comfort the parents, reminding them of the words of Jesus “Suffer the little children to come unto Me” (Matthew 19:14).

WINDOWS ALONG THE NORTH AISLE OF THE NAVE



#24

This window is in memory of Charles Sherwood Ewing Robertson, one of the Wardens of the Church when the present Church was opened. He was a very faithful member of the Vestry throughout his whole life after moving from the City of Saint John to the Parish of Moncton. He was on the Vestry, served as Warden served in other capacities, and on the building committee. This is a very appropriate memorial – “I am the Light of the World” (John 8:12), because Charles Robertson did his best to shed, both by his life and by his words, the light which came to the world with the coming of our Lord and Saviour.

WINDOWS ALONG THE NORTH AISLE OF THE NAVE



#25

This window – The Choir Boy, is in memory of the organist, Alfred Armitage Woodhouse who served the Parish for 25 years. Mr. Woodhouse came to Moncton from England. He met Mr. Joseph Wran at the railway station. Joseph Wran was a member of the Vestry. He was a railway employee and got in conversation with Mr. Woodhouse. He learned that Mr. Woodhouse was an organist. St. George's was, at that time, without an organist, so Mr. Wran took him to the rectory and introduced him to Canon Sisam. They had, apparently, known each other in England. Mr. Woodhouse became the organist and served faithfully in the Parish.



#26

This window, the Ascension of our Lord into Heaven – was given by the congregation in memory of the Rector whom I succeeded, the Rev. Canon Wm. Bernard Sisam. He was Rector of the Parish for 25 years also – 1907-1932.

He was beloved by everybody, not only the people of St. George's Church, but throughout the City – a kindly English gentleman. It seems so appropriate that the two associated in the Church of St. George's for 25 years, should have a sort of joint memorial.



Dr. Alfred A. Woodhouse

The Choir boy was from an etching of a boy chorister which I had in my possession. When we were contemplating these memorials, I sent the etching to the McCausland Company. Mr. Woodhouse's favourite hymn was "O Come All Ye Faithful". I suggested to them that because of the long association with St. George's Church, the theme of the Christmas story expressed by "O Come Let Us Adore Him, Christ the Lord" should make a connecting link between the two windows. The window depicting the choir boy has the words "O Come Let Us Adore Him, O Come Let Us Adore Him" and the window depicting the ascension, which is in memory of Canon Sisam, has the words "Come Let Us Adore Him, Christ the Lord". I might also add when speaking of these two windows, that Mr. Woodhouse suggested that his son John play the organ at his funeral service. One hymn was "O Come All Ye Faithful", I was with Mr. Woodhouse at the time of his death and John came to me afterwards and said, "Dad wants me to play at his funeral but I don't think I can". I said, "Oh John, I know you can and I know you will. Just forget it, but come into the Church at the time of the funeral, go straight to the organ". John did so and played beautifully and musically as his father always had done.

It is always a joy to me to look upon these two windows and to think of the life and service of these two Christian gentlemen. Wonderful to have them associated in death as well as in life.

PORCH WINDOWS



#27



#28

The two windows in the south side were given by the John Alexander Club and are most appropriate for the Church porch. I like the word “porch”. It is an old English word for the entrance of a Church. So many of these newfangled words that they use in connection with so much connected to the Church seem meaningless to me – no history. Looking at these two windows, in one is the text “Let thy Priests be clothes with Righteousness” and in the other “And let thy Saints sing with joyfulness” (Psalms 132:9).

I think that the priest should read those words every time he comes into the Church and that the congregation should read the other “let thy Saints...”, because they are the saints according to the New Testament. If they read this as they come in the Church and as they go out of the Church, perhaps they would show forth their thankfulness for the wonderful Saviour and for the beautiful Church in which to worship.

WINDOW OVER THE CHURCH DOOR



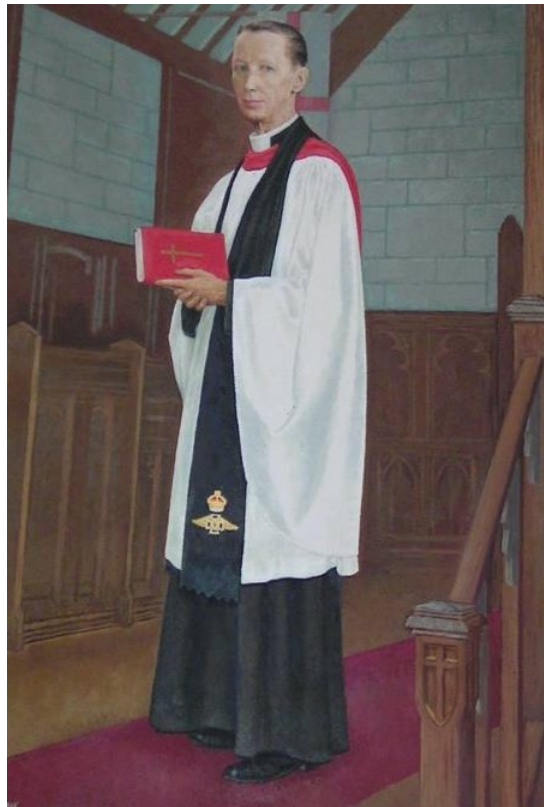
#29

The final and last window to be erected in the Church is over the main entrance with the inscription "To the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of Ambrose Wheeler 1885-1962, given by his wife and family". In very lovely and vivid colours – you see our patron Saint, Saint George, kneeling in prayer, keeping his vigil on the night before his investiture. Note the helmet, the sword and the shield – the helmet of salvation, the sword of the spirit, and the shield of faith (Ephesians 6:10-18). The text on the left side is "Watch ye: stand fast in the faith" (1 Corinthians 16:13) and on the right side, note the words of Jesus, "My House is the House of Prayer" (Luke 19:46). This window has a definite message for all who enter here and is worthy of a close study. It seems to me a very fitting memorial to Mr. Wheeler both in subject matter and in it's position over the Church entrance. He served the Church faithfully as Warden, Vestryman, and as the contractor who built this House of God; he served the Parish well. Through Mr. Wheeler's personal effort we have a stone Church in place of brick. The specifications called for brick because the congregation did not feel they could afford stone. Mr. Wheeler contacted Mr. Smith, the owner of a quarry in Shediac, who offered to give him, if he got the contract stone in the place of brick at the same price. We have Mr. Wheeler to thank for this and also for the enlarging of the Chancel window. His special hymn was, "We Love the Place, O God, Wherein Thine Honour Dwells" and I am sure that he had a reason to love this particular House of God in which he put so much time and so much thought and to which he gave such faithful service.

*We love the place, O God,
Wherein thine honour dwells;
The joy of thine abode
All earthly joy excels.*

Hymn 466

The history of these memorial windows was given by The Venerable
Archdeacon J.J. Alexander in May 1976



WINDOW AT EAST END OF THE LADIES PARLOUR



This window was dedicated August 29, 1993 in memory of Mrs. Jean E. Balloch given by her family.

Karen (Balloch) Tremblay, daughter, designed the window which shows sunlight shining through the descending dove in full flight.

The dove is a universal symbol of peace and love. This dove is representative of the Holy Spirit coming down to earth: Galatians 5:22-23. The background lines form a cross, so you have the hope of the dove and the strength of the cross.

EAST WINDOW IN PORCH



#30

This window honours Saint George who is the patron saint of England. Saint George stands for the victory in Christ of good over evil. The canopy at the top represents the Kingdom of Heaven. Saint George is dressed as a Roman soldier of the period and is seen doing battle with the dragon that represents evil. The clasp that holds Saint George's cape in place has on it a red cross. This cross is his symbol; it represents his Christian witness. He is able to be victorious over the dragon only by the power and grace of Christ.

This window comes from Schella Glass Studio and is given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of George T. and Blanche K. Leighton by Jean and Keith Leighton and their family.

SOUTH WINDOW IN PORCH



#31

This window commemorates the life of Saint Elizabeth of Hungary. The canopy at the top of the window represents the Kingdom of Heaven. We see Elizabeth dressed in a very simple garment to illustrate her humility. She holds in her right hand the basket with the loaves of bread being transformed into roses. Bread for the poor, roses for the miracle and the purity of her heart. Behind her on the bench we see the royal robe and the crown of a queen that she had set aside. In her left hand we see the robe of the Franciscan Third Order. On either side of Elizabeth in the banding by her head we see two more crowns. Her symbol is three crowns; the first because she was born to a royal house, the second because she became a queen by marriage, the third because she is now by her obedience to Christ, a Saint.

This window comes from Schella Glass Studio and is the generous gift of Claudia and Robert Radford and their family. It is given in memory of Thomas Baden and Jean Marion (Graves) Radford and to the Glory of God.

SOUTH WINDOW IN PORCH



#32

This window is given to commemorate the life of Saint Hugh of Lincoln. The canopy at the top of the window represents the Kingdom of Heaven. Beneath the canopy we see the Bishop himself dressed in full Episcopal Eucharistic Vestments holding his pastoral staff and giving his blessing. On the left we see the monastery that he founded and left to become the Bishop of Lincoln. On the Bishop's right we see a Jew. He represents the Jews Hugh protected and the poor of his Diocese for whom he had such love and care. At the Bishop's feet we see the child who represents the children Hugh enjoyed so often having left the councils of the King. Finally on the right we see the famous tame swan that followed the blessed Bishop wherever he went in Lincoln.

This beautiful work of art comes to us from Schella Glass Studio and is the generous gift of Pat Crossman, Diane Mugridge and their families. It is given in memory of their parents, Owen and Dorothy Branscombe and to the Glory of God.

WEST FRONT DOOR – LEFT PANEL



#33

The left window is dedicated to the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of Ralph M. Steeves (1925-2000), a loving child of God.

The glass itself depicts Saint Gabriel in the left side of the panel. Gabriel is one of the Archangels who are entrusted as a messenger on a number of occasions in the New Testament. He is sent to Zachariah to foretell the birth of Saint John the Baptist. It is Gabriel who visits the Blessed Virgin at the Annunciation. He also warns both Joseph and the Wise Men of the impending danger from King Herod.

In the center of the same panel, we see the Blessed Virgin Mary holding roses, one of the traditional flowers, while about her feet we see the other flower that is her symbol, the lily. In this depiction we see Mary as a much older woman. She is marked with the sorrow that Saint Simeon tells her that she will suffer because of her Son, our Saviour.

Next to Saint Mary we see Saint Martin of Tours. He was a soldier who gave up the life of a soldier that he might fight for Christ. The window depicts an event in his life. Here he is offering a beggar a part of his cloak. After he has given the beggar the gift he recognizes him as our Lord. Such should be the joy of charity in our lives that we see Christ in the lives of others.

WEST FRONT DOOR – RIGHT PANEL



#34

In the right hand door in the glass, which is dedicated to the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of George Arthur Douglas (1904-1999) and Alexis Saunders (Cliff) Douglas (1907-2002) given by John Lingley, we see on the right side the Archangel Michael. Michael is the warrior prince that we meet in the Book of Daniel and in the Book of the Revelations of Saint John. It is he who leads the angels of God in the great battle that drove Satan out of Heaven. Next to Michael we see Mary of Magdala. It is Mary who washes our Lord's feet and is accepted by him, although she had been up to this point, a prostitute. As Saint John tells us, because of the love that Christ shows her, she repents. Together with Matthew and her brother Lazareth they open their home to Christ. It is important to remember that she is the first witness to the Resurrection and it is Mary who carries this wonderful news to the Apostles.

Finally in the third panel we see Alban who as a Roman Soldier gives shelter to a Christian priest. This act of kindness costs him his life. He is the Proto-Martyr of England. The great Cathedral of Saint Alban stands on the sight of this martyrdom. His death in the third century makes him the earliest known martyr in England.

We give thanks to the Almighty God and to those who have given these gifts. These wonderful gifts add to the beauty of this Holy place. The lives of the Saints depicted in these doors should help us see that the struggles in this life, if embraces with the love of God, will strengthen us. The lives of the Saints call out to us to love Christ and serve him. Let us pray that we will do that very thing every day of our lives.