

250 YEARS YOUNG! 1760-2010

by Christine Lynch

The Parish of Cornwallis will celebrate two milestones in 2010 - the 250th anniversary of Parish worship, and the 200th anniversary of the erection of the new and second St. John's Church.

Services have been held at St. John's Cornwallis continuously for 200 years and the Parish of Cornwallis has sent Delegates to the Diocesan Synod every year since 1855. The present Wardens are closely connected to the founders of Cornwallis Township and the Parish of Cornwallis.

One is a descendant of Hezekiah Cogswell, one of the original Planters from Connecticut who settled Cornwallis Township with Major Starr. From the time of their arrival, the Cogswells established themselves as one of the foremost farm families in Kings County.

The other is related to St. John's first Warden-Colonel John Burbidge-a founding member of Cornwallis Parish. By the time St. John's Cornwallis was opened for worship in 1810,Colonel Burbidge had already served as Senior Warden of the Parish and at St. John's Fox Hill for 40 years. He died in 1812 in his 96th year and is buried at Fox Hill Cemetery.



The first St. John's Church built at Fox Hill in 1770 is still in use today. It is a charming garden house on a property on Church Street west of the present Parish Hall.

A New and Expanded History will be available in 2010 !

A small group has been busy for the last two preparing to publish a new history of the Parish and St. John's, Cornwallis. The impetus has been the joint anniversaries the Parish will celebrate in 2010. The upcoming history will have a wealth of new material, pictures, portraits, and a map or two, a treasure trove of stories about the Missionaries and Rectors from the early days of the Parish-and the independent Planters whose stamp on the Parish is still much in evidence today, information on prominent people who have been associated with the Parish, and the impact that the first Bishop's arrival had on parishes in Nova Scotia, including Bishop Inglis's disappointment with the state of affairs he found in Cornwallis on his first visit after his arrival.

Many significant accomplishments of the parish are included. The new history is the story of our people-all those hardworking, faithful, caring parishioners-who have dedicated themselves to strengthening the Anglican presence in Cornwallis and

maintaining the legacy left by past generations as a mark of gratitude for the many blessings bestowed on the Parish over the last 250 years.

In addition to the launch of the Parish History, Parish has plans for several celebratory events in this anniversary year as follows:

Archbishop Fred Hiltz, Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada, will be visiting our Parish 2010

1. A series of four Choral Evensongs through Lent:
 - **March 7th** – Choir: Pereaux Baptist church under the direction of Tony Stephenson. Preacher - the Rev'd Dr. Mark Parent.
 - **March 14th** – Choir: St. John's Anglican , Port Williams with guest members of St. John's Wolfville. Preacher - the Rev'd Dan Gibson: In tribute to the Church of England origins of the Parish and its 250th Anniversary, the entire music program will be by English composers, spanning the period from John Hilton (1608), through Crotch, Attwood, Walmisley, Naylor, Parry, Stainer, Faulkner and Havergal, to present-day composers, Martin How and Richard Sheppard.
 - **March 21st**, Passion Sunday – The Elastic Millennium Choir. Nova Scotians of the 1700s and 1800s rebelled in chorus when they couldn't sing their favourite hymns in church... When some ministers banned their music from services because they considered it too boisterous and joyful, Maritimers took to learning this spirited music at singing schools instead...The Elastic Millennium Choir, based in Halifax, specializes in shape-note singing, a system developed around 1812. Its inventors described it as an improved way of instructing those with "even the weakest capacity for music." Triangle, oval, square and diamond symbols represent musical notes, allowing singers, including those who were illiterate, to rely on written music rather than memory. Preacher: Archdeacon Lynn Uzans.
 - **March 28th**, Palm Sunday - Kings College Chapel Choir. Directed by five-time Grammy winner Paul Halley, the King's College Chapel Choir is one of the oldest organizations of King's College. Preacher - The Rev'd Gary Thorne.

AND for a change of pace – The Spinney Brothers will be performing Easter Sunday, April 4, 7 pm at St. John's with a "Meet and Greet" after the concert in the Parish Hall. Tickets \$15 each in advance or \$20 at the door.
2. **May 9th, 2010**: Bishop's visit and visit of the Gospel Book, a beautifully handbound copy of the Holy Gospels. This book and its handmade box with the 2010 logo has been travelling through the Diocese so that it can be seen and the

Gospel proclaimed in every parish. Its travels will begin and end in Annapolis Royal where the Anglican church became established in 1710.

3. **Jun. 19th** weekend: Church and Cemetery crawl
4. **Sun. Jul 4th**: Fox Hill Service (rain date Jul. 11th) followed by a Garden Party at Prescott House.
5. **Aug. 12th**: Garden Party at St. Thomas'.
6. **Sept. 29th**: St. Michael's Day - a special celebration.
7. **Fall 2010** - a dedication of a Path through the Church lands woods to the Rectory.
8. **Thur. Nov 11th, 2010**: Remembrance Day Dedication of a memorial to parishioners lost to War, particularly George Price and Mark Clerk Peake. Private George Price, 28th Canadian Infantry Battalion was killed by a German sniper northeast of Mons just two minutes before the Armistice on 11 November 1918, and the last Canadian to be killed in battle during WWI. He was a son of parishioners James E. and Annie R. Price. Mary Clerk Peake of Port Williams, (wife of BGen Geoge Goodwin King Peake), who volunteered with the Women's Transport Service in London and was killed in 1942 driving a transport in London during a blackout. She is believed to be the first Canadian service woman killed in WWII:
9. **Sat. Dec 25th, 2010**: Christmas Day - Anniversary marking 200 years of services at the present St. John's Church building.

Plans are subject to change .You can keep abreast of events as they develop on the Parish of Cornwallis website: www.parishofcornwallis.ca