



St. Anne's

BEWDLEY

Founded in 1901

Sunday Services 2:00 p.m.

St. Anne's Church, located on Pine Street in the village of Bewdley at the western end of Rice Lake, is the oldest structure of the three churches comprising the Parish of Perrytown.

According to the late Robert Hancock, a former lay-reader, the building was a former chicken barn from the property of Nelson McDonald (later the Halcot Benson farm) located on the east side of Main Street.

Sometime after the turn of the century, the barn was moved to its present site on property owned by Thomas B. Chalk, a prominent Port Hope carriage maker. The barn was renovated for use as a church by volunteer labour and donated material.

According to the Township of Hamilton L.A.C.A.C. files, the building was renovated "in the classical-revival style with a stepped front gable. Fluted pilasters support a plain pediment above the front entrance. A louvred belfry was built above the higher gable end. There are two flat, leaded, stained-glass windows in each side wall. The original clapboard cladding has been covered with aluminum siding." A stone fixed in the front gable reads: Bewdley Church open to all protestant denominations - 1901.

Clergymen of various protestant denominations took turns holding services until the early 1920s when it remained vacant for several years.

During the incumbency of the Rev. J.M. Crisall the building and property were acquired by the Anglican Church. Crisall was a young Anglican priest who had served at several missions in the Arctic. When he came to the parish in 1925, Crisall was still studying in Toronto. Every weekend he would commute by rail to the Campbellcroft Station and hitch a ride to and from Bewdley with local farmers hauling produce to the train.

According to the *Cobourg World*, the first vestry meeting was held 25 January, 1927. The first wardens of the church were

William Dixon and Frederick Rowson. Elmer Sidey was Treasurer, with S. Perrin as Superintendent, Secretary and Treasurer of the Sunday School and Mrs "Babe" Goss was organist.

On 24 February, 1927, Thomas Butterfield Chalk sold the lot on which the church stood to the Synod of the Church of England, Diocese of Toronto, for the sum of \$1.00. It was after this time the Bewdley Church was renamed St. Anne's in honour of the mother of the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Anne's Church, Bewdley, Worcester, England.

The deed stipulates that the property would revert to the Chalk family if the church ever closed.

Thomas Butterfield Chalk (1859-1931) was the founder of the Chalk Carriage Works, Cavan Street, Port Hope. He was a two-term mayor of the Town of Port Hope, a chairman of the Public School Board, member of the United Church and an avid sportsman. Known as the "lumber king", Chalk owned large tracts of land in the Bewdley area.

Over the years the small Anglican community struggled to keep the church open and in good repair. Various fund-raising projects included popular bean suppers held at the home of Cora Hannah. The proceeds from these well-attended suppers were used to purchase new pews, flooring and other appointments. A church bell was acquired from a locomotive retired from the defunct Port Hope and Peterborough Railroad. Marine services were sometimes held for boaters anchored at the government dock.

In the autumn of 1948, during the time of an unexpectedly high elementary school enrolment at the Bewdley school, the church was rented as an emergency school. The church building was raised and a basement built for the use of this sudden influx of primary school children. These students were mainly children of families brought to the area

to build the Army Ordinance Depot at Cobourg. The local school board funded the cost of the new basement as well as the purchase of desks and blackboards. The school operated until 1950 when a larger school was erected at Cavan Road and Northumberland Road 9.

Other fund-raising activities included the formation of a committee, spear-headed by Dora Holdaway, whose purpose was to raise money for the construction of a parish hall. The hall was designed as an addition to the church bearing the name Joseph Scriven Memorial Hall in honour of Joseph Scriven, author of the well-known hymn "What a Friend We Have in Jesus".

Joseph Medlicott Scriven (1819-1886) was born in Seapatrick, County Down, Ireland. He was graduated from Trinity College, Dublin at age 23. Scriven emigrated to Canada in 1845. As a member of the Plymouth Brethren sect, he often preached in the Port Hope, Bewdley and Rice Lake area. Scriven died under mysterious circumstances in the Sackville millpond east of Bewdley which belonged to his friend James Sackville Jr, also a member of the Plymouth Brethren.

The building committee managed to obtain a charter for this project and raised money from interested donors in Canada, the United States and Scriven's native village of Seapatrick, Ireland. Unfortunately, the plans had to be scrapped due to a lack of adequate funding.

In 1988, St. Anne's Church was designated a heritage building under the Ontario Heritage Act and the Township of Hamilton L.A.C.A.C.

St. Anne's continues to serve the growing Anglican community of the Bewdley area. Its recently rehung church bell once again rings out its call to worship.

MEMORIAL GIFTS

EAST WINDOW - In memory of the Rev Canon James Mordaunt Crisall. Born 10 August, 1891 in Middlesex, England. Died 4 December, 1953 in Port Hope, Ontario. Founder of this parish. Erected by the John Smith family.

ORGAN - To the Glory of God and in loving memory of Fred Forest Hannah. This organ was presented to the Church of St. Anne by his wife. January 1958.

FONT - In loving memory of Mr. R.S. Hancock. This font was presented to the Church of St. Anne's by the W.A. Ladies.

LECTERN LAMP - In memory of Myrtle.

COLLECTION PLATES - Evans and Edith Morrow. Presented by the Ladies Auxilliary, Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 577.

CROSS and CHANDELIERS - Presented by Charles Fillion in memory of his parents.

WASHROOM - Donated by the late Thomas Norton, Branch 577 Royal Canadian Legion in 1990.

CLERGY FOR ST. ANNE'S CHURCH

1927	J.M. Crisall
1930	W.R. Kingsford
1933	W.F. Payton
1938	Douglas Whatmough
1941	C. Allan Johnson
1942	Terrance Crosthwait
1944	Lloyd Delaney
1946	C.H. Boulden
1957	David H.K. Stiles
1957	Norman D. Martin
1983	Jeffry A. Kennedy

- Sources of Data:
- Cobourg World, 15 February, 1927
 - St Anne's Church Record Book
 - Register of Deeds, Registry Office for County of Northumberland, Cobourg
 - Township of Hamilton L.A.C.A.C. files
 - Charles Clay family papers

Local Interviews: Isobel Austin, Edna Barrowclough, Dave Benson, Bill Bullock, Glen Cole, Len Holdaway, Edna Little, Dorothy Locke, Catherine Milne, Mary Tolland.