

# St. John's Anglican Church

1858 - 1983

SHREWSBURY QUEBEC



INCUMBENTS OF LAKEFIELD PARISH SINCE 1851

Joseph Griffin	1851-1864
A. Oliver	1867
John Rollit	1868-1870
John Emson	1871-1872
Henry Kittson	1873-1876
L. O. Armstrong	1877-1879
C. Boyd	1880-1886
James Senior	1886-1887
Richard Irwin	1888-1894
Allan Mount	1895-1899
L. Foulkes	1900-1902
L. G. Miller	1904-1905
Allan Mount	1905-1909
William Garner	1909-1912
William Naughton	1912-1915
Allan Mount	1916-1917
Albert Lupton	1917-1920
James Lumdis	1920-1924
Allan Mount	1924-1927
Richard Fiander	1928-1931
Allan Mount	1931-1935
Cyrus Baugh	1935-1966
Ian Dodd	1966-1970
Nigel Scotland	1970-1972
Robin Guinness	1972-1974
David Yarrow	1975
Jacques Smith	1976-1977
Peter Prosser	1978
Philip Santram	1979-1982
Glenn Coates	1982-

Shrewsbury celebrates its 125th Anniversary this 1983. A great deal of planning and much effort has gone out to make it a "homey celebration" where one and all may come together and rehearse old days and times, and more especially, how God has worked in our Shrewsbury community over the years through St. John's.

In these days of insecurity and rapid transit it is good to have roots. We trust that you will see, appreciate, and enter into this communion of Saints - this well rooted society called Shrewsbury.

God bless one and all and especially Kathleen, Ken and Bonnie, and Don who have put so much into this event.

Sincerely,

*Glenn Coates.*



St. John's Anglican Church  
Shrewsbury 1907

1st row: Pearl Thompson, Katie Thompson, Grace Robinson  
2nd row: Albert Thompson, Morice Robinson  
Standing: Mary Robinson, Rachael Gain, ?, Schoolteacher,  
Capt. William Good, Samuel John Rathwell and his  
team of horses.

## A SHORT HISTORY OF SHREWSBURY CHURCH

If you wished today to travel from Lachute to Shrewsbury, you would have a choice of four routes. One would be by Lakefield, a distance of about fifteen miles; another would be by Dalesville and through Louisa and the Glen, which would be a seventeen mile journey. Or you could cross the iron bridge and take the Dunany route past the Dunany church, Clear Lake and the golf course and again through the Glen, a distance of fourteen miles. The fourth route would be the shortest, known as the West Gore road, and you would arrive at Shrewsbury church after travelling only twelve miles. This was the horse-and-buggy road, and this was the route taken by the pioneers one hundred and fifty years ago. But they didn't have a horse and buggy!

The pioneers were largely Irish and left their homeland, where poverty was rampant, and faced the perils of the Atlantic, a journey of six weeks or more. Many never arrived on Canadian soil but became victims of the dreaded disease, cholera. Those who arrived at Montreal came up the St. Lawrence by boat with their few possessions to St. Andrews and walked the twenty miles to Shrewsbury looking for a new home. Some say they were looking for the hills of Ireland; and they found hills all right and a wilderness that had to be tamed. They were a sturdy race and set about to cut down the forest and build log cabins for themselves. One of their early sources of income was potash, made from cutting down and burning the trees. The potash was transported to Montreal, sixty five miles away, which was a two days' journey.

Life was hard in those early days, but these people were a courageous lot and also had a strong sense of religion. About twenty five years after their arrival in Shrewsbury the pioneers had built St. John's church. That was in the year 1858 and, hence, in 1983 we are celebrating the 125th anniversary of our church, which is the original building. Prior to 1858 it is believed that some residents of Shrewsbury attended Divine Service at Lakefield, where a frame church had been erected as early as 1838, when the first Church of England clergyman, the Rev. William Arnold, came to Lakefield. The present church at Lakefield was built during the incumbency of the Rev. Joseph Griffin, who also was instrumental in having the church at Shrewsbury built. He came to the parish in 1851 and died at St. Andrews in 1867. He is buried in Lakefield cemetery.

The following information was found in the Archives at Anglican House regarding the building of Shrewsbury church: Deed of Sale - October 15, 1861, from Mr. John Chambers to the Rev. Joseph Griffin, Incumbent, and Messrs. Jacob Williams and Samuel Rathwell, churchwardens. The church is properly fitted up with all things necessary for the due celebration of Divine Worship. To the Lord Bishop of Montreal Frances Fulford. Deed registered in the Registry Office, County Argenteuil on January 13, 1863." And again: "Petition of consecration of St. John's Church, West Gore, by the Rev. Joseph Griffin, Incumbent, and Samuel Rathwell, Jacob Williams and James Good, signed August 4, 1864." A third passage from the archives concerning Shrewsbury cemetery reads as follows: "I hereby declare that I have given this piece of ground adjoining the church in Shrewsbury to the Bishop of Montreal and his successors for the use of the residents in the Mission of Gore, for the interment of the dead, according to the rites of the Church of England and that the deed of sale is in the Registry Office, St. Andrews." (signed) John Chambers. And the following: "We, Ashton Bishop of Montreal, do declare that the burial ground has this day been set apart forever for the decent interment of the dead and shall henceforth be used for no ordinary purpose." (signed) A. Montreal (Ashton Oxenden) October 7, 1877. The following is a quote from the History of Argenteuil: "There is a schoolhouse here and an Anglican Church building which was erected in 1858 during the Incumbency of the Rev. Joseph Griffin at Lakefield - the latter place being the headquarters of the mission." Apparently the church was built three years before the land on which it was erected was sold!



Pupils at Shrewsbury School

I have not been able to discover the date the school was built but the following note taken from a report of the Church and School society would be of interest here: "1858 -Gore- The interest taken in the schools by the clergyman gives good hope for these schools. There were four schools in the Gore by 1858 with 150 pupils under 16; 4 over 16. These schools are among the most useful in the diocese." One of these schools would be Shrewsbury.

What happened in the intervening years is not too clear since no record of vestry meetings is available until 1895. I do know that my grandfather, Samuel Rathwell, was people's warden during all that time, a matter of thirty years. Just how long Jacob Williams was rector's warden I have not been able to establish or when John Chambers took over that position. According to the vestry minutes of 1895, he was re-elected rector's warden. He probably had held the position for many years along with other prominent positions, for he was a leading citizen of Shrewsbury and Argenteuil. According to the History of Argenteuil, "He was largely instrumental in securing the erection of St. John's Church and was connected with Sabbath School work for a third of a century." Mr. Rathwell was also a prominent citizen, "being a school commissioner for some time and a member of the Orange Order for over fifty years and had held all the offices in his Lodge." Unfortunately, Mr. Chambers passed away in 1895, at the age of sixty three and at that time, too, Mr. Rathwell tendered his resignation at the age of eighty two.

At a special vestry meeting, held on December 13, 1895, following the death of Mr. Chambers, Mr. William Morrison was appointed rector's warden and Captain William Good was elected people's warden. George Robinson, son-in-law of Mr. Chambers, was to have charge of the heating and lighting of the church at \$2.00 per winter! Expenses for the year were \$9.60; receipts for the year were \$9.39; deficit for the year was 21 cents!

All through the years when the Rev. Allan Mount was incumbent beginning in 1895, there is an excellent and detailed account of what transpired at vestry meetings. They were held in the spring of the year rather than in January, as was the rule later on. Some excerpts from vestry minutes might be of interest here: "Mr. Andrew Rathwell, vestryman, was present at a meeting with Mr. Mount on September 7, 1895, replacing his father, when a complete survey of the parish was being done." April 27, 1896: Capt William Good and John Chapman were elected delegates to the Synod. George Robinson and William Clifford were appointed sidesman. A letter of regret at his departure and good wishes were sent to Andrew Rathwell at Arundel, Quebec.

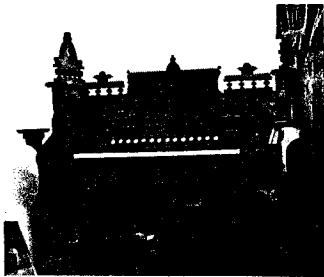
May 13, 1897: William Morrison and William Good were appointed a committee to arrange about an organ being sent on trial to the church.

April 11, 1898: It was moved by Capt. Good, seconded by William Morrison "that each member of the congregation give one day's time and 150 feet of lumber towards building a study in the north-west corner of the parsonage and also that \$7.50 in hand be given to the same ob-

ject." Edward Morrison and S.J. Rathwell were appointed lay delegates to Synod.

May 15, 1899: Gordon Ascah (student) in the chair due to illness of Mr. Mount. Moved by George Robinson, seconded by Edward Morrison that the wardens be given authority to reinsure the church and horse shed.

At this time Mr. Mount resigned due to failing health. During his incumbency of the last four years the Gibb Parish Hall was built, new lamps installed at Shrewsbury and a new Bell Organ costing \$80.00 was bought and paid for. Mr. Mount gave music lessons and among his pupils was Miss Sarah Morrison, who was Shrewsbury's first organist.



New carpet for the chancel end of the church was obtained, the church was painted without and tinted within at a cost of about \$100.00. A font was presented by Mr. Earnest Mount of Westmount. The above information was obtained from a Parish History of Lakefield, as was the following: During the incumbency of L.O. Armstrong (1877-1878) Dunany church was built, as were the sheds at Lakefield and Shrewsbury. At the time the Rev. C. Boyd (1883-1886) was the clergyman, forty prayer and forty hymn books were given to the church in Shrewsbury. During Richard Irwin's incumbency (1888-1894) a substantial and commodious parsonage was erected to replace the old one. Mr. Irwin formed a branch



of the Women's Auxilliary in Shrewsbury. The Rev. I. Foulkes, who followed Mr. Mount, sent out, during his time of two years, at least 2500 bottles of "medicine" to the people of the Gore, Shrewsbury, Dunay and Mille Isles!

At A.V.M. May 6, 1900: George Robinson was instructed to repair the roof and plaster before the winter. \$2.00 to be paid for insurance on Lakefield parsonage.

May 8, 1904: Rev. L. T. Miller in the chair. The church wardens, Capt. Good and William Morrison wishing to retire and hand over their charge to younger men, Messrs. Samuel John Rathwell and Richard Morrison were chosen as people's warden and rector's warden respectively. Thanks was tendered to past wardens. Delegates to Synod were Edward Morrison and Samuel Rathwell. A Special V.M. was held on November 24, 1904, to discuss a new fence- a Frost Wire fence -around the burying ground. Richard Morrison to see about posts.

Stipend account for 1905: Collected \$50.00; paid to Synod \$50.00

Special Vestry Meeting: October 30, 1905 with incumbent Allan Mount in the chair. People's warden to renew insurance policy. Vestry to buy from S. J. Rathwell 1600 ft. of lumber at \$8.00 per 1000 ft. to be paid within twelve months, and proceed at once to the completion of a stall for the clergyman's horse.

At a vestry meeting held on July 15, 1907, a motion was passed "that this vestry desired to place upon record its deep sense of loss at the departure of Samuel John Rathwell from this district and its best wishes follow him and wife to their new home." (Arden, Manitoba.) Mr. John Good was elected to replace Mr. Rathwell as people's warden.

October 12, 1908: George Robinson, sexton, was to receive \$6.00 per year "on condition that he sees to the cleaning of the church as well as his other duties." \$5.00 to be given towards painting the parsonage.

During the spring of 1911 the church shed completely collapsed with the heavy snow and over \$200.00 was raised by the congregation to rebuild the shed and do repairs to the church, including woodwork, new plastering inside and re-roofing the galvanized sheet shingles.

May 13, 1913: Thirty six new hymnals were acquired for the church. Walter Scott was re-elected people's warden. A "bee" was called to clear the cemetery.

During these years collections were small but attendance ranged from twenty two to fifty three which was good considering the dwindling population. A survey taken in 1915 showed the number of people in the township of Gore was less than half what it had been twenty years previously. People were moving to greener pastures in western Canada,

particularly Manitoba, and, of course, to Lachute and Montreal. Many had gone earlier to Arundel and the Eastern Townships.

June 29, 1916: Edward Morrison was appointed rector's warden to replace his brother, Richard Morrison, who was serving overseas with the armed forces. There was a memorial service held on November 25, 1917, for the late Private Thomas Copeland, killed in action at Passchendale, France, during the First World War.

During the summers of 1916-1918 and perhaps longer, Sunday School was conducted by George and Hattie Lester (nee Good) and the congregation was augmented by the Lester, Horwood and Buck families from Montreal during many summers.

June 17, 1918: It was decided to have Holy Communion once a month (weather permitting) Mr. Lupton, the incumbent at this time, was very weather-conscious and had many remarks in the church register such as: "Huge snowstorm, roads impassible, service cancelled." or "only four present, 46° below zero." And it was true; there were some very severe winters at this time, and services were held only fortnightly during the winter months. Mrs. Robinson spoke of the necessity of a new carpet and new hangings for the pulpit and reading desk and it was decided to have the carpet down before the Bishop's visit in three weeks' time and the hangings as soon as possible. A "Harvest Home" was to be held in the fall.

October 27, 1918: All churches were closed by order during the influenza epidemic.

May 10, 1919: Ven. Archdeacon Robinson was a guest at the annual vestry meeting and spoke regarding the inclusion of St. Aidan's church in Louisa with our Mission of Lakefield, Shrewsbury and Dunany. Louisa church was built in 1895 and, up to this time, had been joined to the Parish of Lachute. It officially became part of the Lakefield Parish on July 1, 1919.

At this time of Bishop Farthing's visit to the church on July 13, 1919, an honour roll was dedicated to the following members of the district who served in the armed forces during World War I: Richard Morrison, Nelson Morrison, Fredrick Chapman, and Perry Chapman.

The Rev. James Lummis was our minister from 1920-1924. Unfortunately there is no record of vestry meetings. A Memorial Tablet to the memory of Private Thomas Copeland was dedicated by Henry Jekyll on November 6, 1921. Extensive repairs to the church porch were carried out in 1924. An Orange Parade was combined with the service on July 11, 1920, and there were other Orange Parades in subsequent years. Mr. Lummis, himself, was an ardent Orangeman.



Orange Hall

At this time I might mention the importance of the Orange Order in Shrewsbury. There was a fine Orange Hall here, probably built in the latter part of the 19th century, and most of the men of the district belonged to L. O. L. No. 716, which was a very active one. The picnic and dance held on July 12 each year was the social event of the season and people came from the district round about, sometimes as far away as Lachute and Morin Heights, to enjoy the day. Dances in Shrewsbury Hall were held fairly frequently and were very popular and well attended. We had many good fiddlers over the years but, as my Aunt Sarah used to say, "There was no music sweeter this side of heaven than Jack Good's fiddle!" The 1920's was a happy time in Shrewsbury.

During the summer of 1924 we had a student minister, W.R. Allen, and Mr. Mount returned on October 5. We had student ministers assisting Mr. Mount at this time during the summer months, especially Herbert Secker in the summer of 1926 and E.H. Waters in the winter of 1927. We had A.E. Hawes and Winston Kerr during the summer of 1932 and Herbert Doody in the fall, J. Hill in 1933 and R.G. Stewart in 1934.

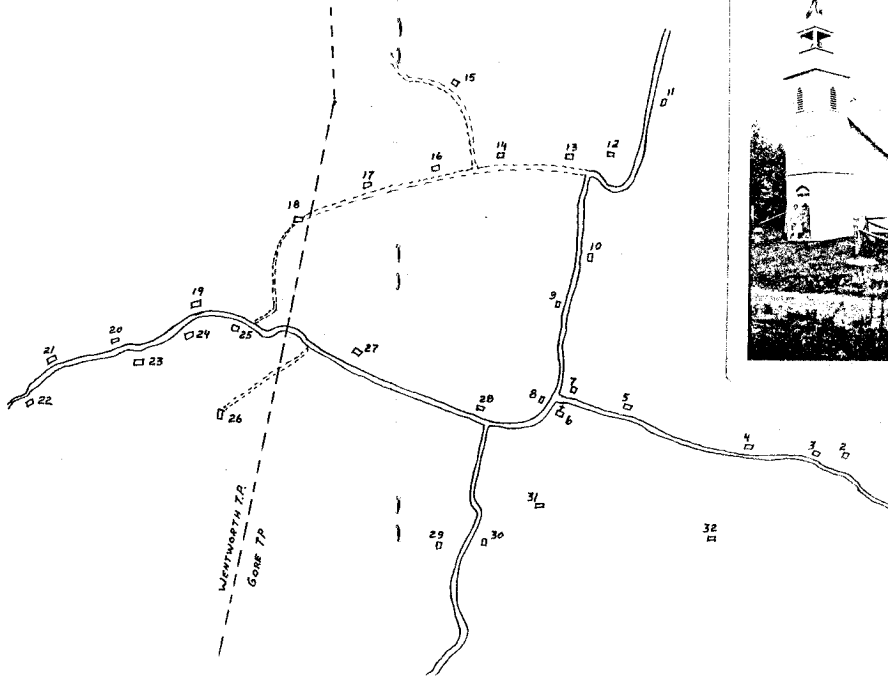
A Special Vestry Meeting was held on February 1, 1925, with Mr. Mount in the chair (vestry meetings now seem to have been moved to January instead of the spring). A report of extensive repairs to the church, including the foundation, in 1924 was given at a cost of \$96.20. A campaign had been conducted to collect this money.

January 10, 1926: Sexton's salary was raised to \$12.00 a year. Mr. Mount thanked the wardens, sexton and organist and all who had helped in making 1925 such a successful and happy year in Shrewsbury.

# SHREWSBURY

1860 - 1925

- 1) Albert Chapman
- 2) Walter Scott
- 3) Anthony Copeland
- 4) Capt. Wm. Good
- 5) George Robinson
- 6) Shrewsbury Church
- 7) Log School
- 8) Orange Hall
- 9) Sarah McCullough
- 10) Hance McCullough
- 11) James Curruthers
- 12) Richard Thompson
- 13) Maggie McCullough
- 14) Samuel Rathwell
- 15) James Morrison
- 16) Jacob Williams
- 17) Wilkinson
- 18) William Morrison
- 19) Charles Currie
- 20) Thomas Morrison
- 21) Henry Morrison
- 22) James Morrison
- 23) William Clifford
- 24) Sammy Lister
- 25) Henry Morrison
- 26) Edward Morrison
- 27) Hugh McKnight
- 28) McKnight
- 29) James Good
- 30) Michael Good
- 31) William Brown
- 32) Henry McDonald



January 16, 1927: John Good was asked to supervise the restoration of the hangings for pulpit and prayer desk. Thanks was extended to wardens, sexton and to Mrs. George Robinson for her painstaking care of the alter linen and vessels, to Mrs. John Good for her faithful and efficient services as organist and to the people for their sympathy and help in many ways during the past year.

January 20, 1929: Rev. Richard Flander in the chair. Regret was expressed at the passing of the late Jessie Chambers, wife of George Robinson, who died January 4 and "who for many years laboured earnestly and zealously for this church."

January 10, 1932: Mr. Mount in the chair. John Good read the complete financial report as follows:

Bal. on hand (1931) \$25.68	Open offerings \$35.40
Sub. to guarantee \$50.00	Raised for budget \$20.00
Raised for Mid-west \$12.00	Graveyard fence \$40.45
Transport. for clergy \$10.00	Organist \$5.00
Sexton \$12.00; Wood \$2.50	Bal. on hand \$10.63

George Robinson, who had so very faithfully looked after St. John's church for many years then said that he felt compelled to resign the office of sexton. His resignation was accepted with much regret by the meeting. Mrs. Anthony Copeland then consented to accept the office. It was moved by John Good and seconded by Edward Morrison that a grant of \$10.00 be made to the minister for transportation. The clergyman then expressed his gratefully appreciation of the efforts of the people of Shrewsbury "to maintain the services of the church and for their splendid showing in spite of fewness in number, for their care of the churchyard, to Mrs. Good for her faithful and able help as organist and to Mr. Robinson who, for so many years, had the church so comfortable and to the wardens and all helpers."

June 2, 1935: Mr. Mount's last Sunday.

June 23, 1935: Rev. Cyrus Baugh's first Sunday.

Tragedy struck our little community of Shrewsbury in 1935 when the old log schoolhouse, a treasured landmark, was burned down. In December of that same year our long-time postmaster, George Robinson, passed away after forty years of faithful service. For a time the post office was moved to the home of John Good but shortly afterward rural delivery was instituted from Dunary and the post office was no more. Also in December of 1935 another long-time resident of Shrewsbury died, in the person of Anthony Copeland. And in 1940 we lost our beloved organist, Mrs. Good.



Schoolhouse

Tragedy struck again in the summer of 1942 when the Orange Hall was burned to the ground and the records lost. This was a real blow to Shrewsbury for it, along with the church, was the mecca of social life here. The members of L. O. L. No. 716 continued to meet in the new Orange Hall that had been built in Lachute, but things were never the same.

Nevertheless, Shrewsbury lived on through the church in spite of its dwindling population. There was a real exodus from the area in the 1940's and by the late 1950's only one all-year-round family, the Goods, remained. All through the years the Edward Morrison family, though living in Lachute, Montreal and Ottawa the greater part of the year, made a considerable effort to be present at most of the services, but I think it is only fair to say that it was through the loyalty and perseverance of the Good family that the church remained open.

As early as 1952 Mr. Baugh held some services in the home of the Good family during the winter, and this continued till 1958, when winter services were discontinued and were held in the church from May or June to October or November, depending on the weather. At present services are held from June to Thanksgiving.

In 1961 a complete restoration of the cemetery was accomplished due chiefly to the efforts of Patricia and Clarence Good, with assistance from Stanley Joyce. A money-raising campaign was organized and a total of \$1806.00 was donated by members of the community. Men of the area were employed to perform the very difficult undertaking of refurbishing this old cemetery. After expenses, \$1200.00 was deposited with the Synod and the interest from this amount is used for the upkeep of the cemetery in perpetuity. Donald Joyce, Bonnie Donaldson and Robin Good now form the Cemetery Committee and attend to these matters.

Mention must be made at this point of the long service rendered to the parish by the Rev. C.W.P. Baugh. He was with us for thirty one years and, no matter what the weather, he was always there, arriving by horse and buggy or being driven by car, cheerfully serving his flock. As he used to say himself, "I never take a holiday!" His two wardens, Edward Morrison and John Good, surely deserve long-service awards for tenure of office for forty eight and forty six years respectively. Samuel Rathwell seems to be a runner-up in this department also, having served as people's warden for thirty seven years in the church's early days. To this list must also be added the names of two other faithful servants of the church: George Robinson, who was sexton for thirty seven years, and Mrs. Emily Good, who served as our organist for almost thirty years. Other organists to the present day have been Mary Brown, Laura Clifford, Mrs. Baugh, Mrs. Dodd, Dorothy Ford and Bonnie Good Donaldson.

New life blood has been added to the church in the latter years by the presence of a considerable number of summer visitors. Mr. Dodd made a real effort to attract more people during the years 1966 to 1970 and this has continued through the efforts of subsequent clergy and congregation since. A complete face-lift was given the inside of the church in the summer of 1968 by a group of young people from Lake Hughes and their parents. The Ford, Nicholson, and Rowell families have been attending our services ever since. Kathleen Morrison donated twenty new prayer books in 1968 and 1970 in memory of her parents, Edward Morrison and Catherine Rathwell, and Kenneth Nicholson gave a gold cross for the altar in 1972. Much earlier, Mrs. Kathleen Earle did a beautiful painting depicting a scene from the life of Christ which was donated to the church.

Mention should be made here of the contribution of Sydney and Shirley Brown who served us well as people's warden and treasurer for

ten years, during a difficult transition period. We are most grateful to them for their services. At this time, too, we had Mr. Edward Morrison Jr. and Mr. Clarence Good for rector's wardens. Mr. Good held this position for eight years till his tragic death in 1975. He had faithfully served the church throughout his life-time and had contributed in so many ways to St. John's. Mr. Good's wife, Patricia, our talented Shrewsbury artist, did some beautiful sketches of the Parish churches which were used on Christmas cards, sold to augment our finances. Mrs. Good also did sketches for hasti-notes whose sale added to our revenue.

We were most fortunate to have Andy and Linda Foot with us as people's warden and secretary-treasurer for a matter of eight years. We appreciated the fact they travelled all the way from Montreal for our services and we especially appreciated Linda's conscientious and capable work in preparing reports for our annual vestry meetings. We had two building fund campaigns conducted during their time with us which were responded to very well. They served faithfully and well and we are richer for their presence amongst us. We are the richer, too, for having such devoted members as Harold and Muriel Smith who have been with us now for many years. Muriel has faithfully supplied flowers to grace the alter table and assisted with the communion vessels and Harold has always been willing to help in so many ways.

Some changes and improvements were made during the years 1973 to 1982. A new fence was constructed around the cemetery. In 1977 a campaign was conducted to raise money for painting the church roof and the sum of \$528.08 was obtained. D. & D. Landscaping were employed at a cost of \$502.26 and they also replaced stove pipes and the chimney and replastered part of the ceiling. In 1978 repairs to the foundation of the bell tower were done by Mr. Jean Louis at a cost of \$214.67. Fire insurance cost \$294.00; public liability \$125.00

In 1979 Mr. Santram instituted Parish Council meetings and a monthly newsletter which was greatly appreciated. Bonnie Donaldson and Kathleen Morrison were elected to the Parish Council representing Shrewsbury. The wardens were members "ex officio". In 1980 a vote of thanks was tendered to Ken Donaldson for putting a new floor in the bell tower at his own expense. In 1982 insurance coverage on the church was for \$27,500 for fire and theft and \$5,000,000 for public liability. With the resignation of Andy and Linda Foot, two new members were elected to the corporation: Donald Joyce as secretary-treasurer and Kathleen Morrison as people's warden. In 1982 it was decided to change the time of services from 2:30 p.m. to 11:30 a.m. beginning August 1.



Our collections have increased ten fold over the past fifteen years and attendance has also improved. The following is a list of collections and contributions to Synod with average attendance for the years indicated:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Collections</u>	<u>Synod</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
1967	\$ 138.60	\$ 90.64	11
1968	228.07	130.64	11
1969	218.76	148.48	25
1970	382.91	246.00	25
1971	440.60	346.00	27
1972	509.95	396.00	23
1973	324.15	451.00	14
1974	483.14	527.00	16
1975	764.87	605.00	12
1976	713.69	677.00	14
1977	628.45	706.00	10
1978	958.80	726.00	14
1979	977.26	726.00	10
1980	1089.30	798.00	13
1981	1375.26	915.00	9
1982	1797.01	921.00	16

This bodes well for the future. A large part of the credit for this must surely go to the capable and devoted clergy the Bishop has been sending us beginning with Ian Dodd and continuing with Nigel Scotland, Robin Guinness, Jacques Smith, Philip Santram and now our newest and youngest, Glenn Coates. We were also happy to have with us for shorter periods, David Yarrow, Peter Prosser and Lettie James, who celebrated her first communion in our little church at Thanksgiving 1978, after being ordained the first woman priest in the diocese of Montreal in Christ Church Cathedral.

There have been many baptisms, confirmations and marriages over the years. Bishop John Farthing was a frequent visitor to our church during the years from 1913 to 1938, having made a total of twelve visits, Bishop John Dixon came in 1944 and Bishop Kenneth Maguire in 1972. Weddings that come to mind are our most recent one of Bonnie Good and Kenneth Donaldson in December of 1978 performed by Lettie James and four years earlier that of Linda Smith and Andy Foot performed by Robin Guinness in October of 1974. To go back further, we remember the happy wedding of Minnie Clifford and Leonard Gain in September of 1941 and that of Milda Swail and Norman Boyd in September of 1916, when a

huge reception was held afterwards in the Orange Hall.

Delegates who have attended Synod from our church since 1876 to the present day with number of times in brackets are as follows: John Chambers (10), Capt. William Good (5), Thomas McNeil (1), John Chapman (1), William Morrison (8), Edward Morrison (11), Samuel John Rathwell (3), Richard Morrison (5), Edward Morrison Jr. (2), Kathleen Morrison (9).

We were deeply saddened by the sudden and tragic death of our rector's warden, Clarence Good, in 1975 and by the serious illness of his wife, Patricia, and her subsequent death in 1977. It seemed as though Shrewsbury had been struck a mortal blow again. But we had Bonnie and now she and her husband, Ken Donaldson, serve us well; she as organist and sacristan and he as rector's warden.

We give thanks for the early pioneers who founded St. John's and for those who have laboured through the years to keep it alive. What does the future hold for Shrewsbury? We cannot tell, but there is a spirit here that will live on by the Grace of God.

Kathleen Morrison  
People's Warden

Acknowledgements: A considerable portion of the above information was obtained from a church register, a vestry book and a History of Lakefield Parish by kind permission of the archivist at Anglican House.

## THE SHREWSBURY MAIL

The mercury sinks in the thermometer low,  
And blizzard winds do frequently blow,  
The snow's piled high o'er the cedar rail,  
As you start again with The Shrewsbury Mail.

You pass the Hall and Church so still  
The horse takes the strain up Concession Hill  
The trees in the dark take ghostly shape  
As they're painted white by the falling flakes.

Now there's a brooding silence you almost can feel  
Only broken by the crunch of the runner's steel  
There's not a track on the white forest trail,  
As you flounder along with His Majesty's Mail.

Soon the shadows retreat and the dawn comes on  
Relieved by a snatch of the chickadee's song  
Old landmarks take shape from out of the murk,  
On a stump there's a woodpecker early at work.

On the trail in the woods where the bush comes near,  
You see signs of life in the tracks of deer  
Their dainty prints left here and there  
As they nip the boughs of the cedar bare.

But in the open the going is harder, you find,  
The road's piled high by the driving wind,  
As you face the trail you're feeling blue  
But you recall the oath, the mail **MUST** go through.

Your heart sinks low as you see those drifts  
And the horse his fore-feet grandly lifts  
Then with panting breath and heaving flanks  
He bravely tackles those huge snow banks.

Then you "cuss" the men who, for money's sake,  
Take miles of the road they're supposed to break,  
But the morning's cold and they're still in bed,  
So there's no welcome sign of a plow or sled.

Now the going is better tho' your troubles not ended-  
Some neighbor wants wool most fantastically blended,  
Another lady wants hairpine, molasses, or cheese-  
So you try to be nice tho' your hands nearly freeze.

At last the good sight of a snow-plow you meet,  
The black steeds come trampling the snow 'neath their feet  
You struggle in the drifts to give them the way  
And they leave a good road where deep snow lay.

You're about to resume - but, darn the luck  
For now - B-Y H-E-C-K - your horse is stuck!  
As he struggles, the snow comes nigh o'er his back,  
The bending sleigh shafts now almost crack-  
With a shouted curse and the whip as a goad  
One more gallant effort, and you'll be back on the road!

The frosty breath from your horse's head  
Turns white on that old hide that once was red  
The cutter tilts - you groan and fret-  
And then - B-Y G-O-S-H - you are upset.  
So you mend up a break in that darned old harness.

The white frozen lake goes gliding by  
You pass the school house with a sorrowful sigh,  
Then you collect more mail at Dunary P.O.  
As you drive extra miles in a wide detour.

You now proceed with a trotting and jogging  
And you pass French teams intent on their logging,  
You get a sour look as on the road you stay  
But they forget - the Mail has the right of way.

You take a short cut - North River you cross  
Lose the road in the drifts - and darn nigh the "hoss",  
You know, where you're sleighing, they cut recent ice,  
And a dip in the water would not be so nice!

Lachute! - and your horse turns his head up the "Main"  
Thank the gods, tho' you're weary - you're still just sane  
You're relieved of the bags, and the feeling's real fine  
When the postmaster says - "Ha, you're always on time."

"Le Sauvage " (E.O.H.)

Just as I am, without one plea  
When Sunday comes to Shrewsbury  
Shall gather flowers for St. John's  
Shall fetch cool water from the ponds.

Should God permit and health remain  
Perhaps it shall be done again  
To carry on shall yet agree  
Just as I am, without one plea.

Jessie Muriel Smith

### WARDENS OF SHREWSBURY CHURCH SINCE 1858

Jacob Williams	Rector's Warden	1858- ?
Samuel Rathwell	People's Warden	1858-1895
John Chambers	Rector's Warden	1876-1895
William Morrison	Rector's Warden	1895-1904
Capt. William Good	People's Warden	1895-1904
Richard Morrison	Rector's Warden	1904-1915
Samuel John Rathwell	People's Warden	1904-1907
John Good	People's Warden	1907-1911
Walter Scott	People's Warden	1912-1922
Edward Morrison	Rector's Warden	1916-1964
John Good	People's Warden	1922-1964
Edward Morrison Jr.	Rector's Warden	1964-1967
Sydney Brown	People's Warden	1964-1974
Shirley Brown	Treasurer	1968-1974
Clarence Good	Rector's Warden	1967-1975
Andrew Foot	People's Warden	1974-1981
Linda Foot	Sect'y-Treas.	1974-1981
Patricia Good	Rector's Warden	1976-1977
Kenneth Donaldson	Rector's Warden	1978-
Kathleen Morrison	People's Warden	1982-
Donald Joyce	Sect'y-Treas.	1982-