

St. John's Anglican Church

Location: Brussels, Ontario

Year built: 1948-9

THE PARISH OF ST. JOHN'S was born the summer of 1860, though missionaries had been conducting services at the Orange Hall before this time. John Wilton Kerr is credited with founding the church. He was an active lay leader and a prime mover in getting a church building built. He is said to have conducted Anglican services "according to the prayer book pattern."

The first St. John's Anglican Church was built in 1875. All but the bell tower was destroyed by fire in 1947.



Lot 109 was donated by John Manning as a church site. A little frame church soon appeared on the corner of Turnberry and Catherine Streets in 1864.

The first ordained minister was Rev. A.J. Lindsay who arrived in 1872. His tenure was brief—he died within months of his arrival. Bishop Isaac Hellmuth then appointed Rev. H. Cooper.

By 1875, the congregation had grown. Plans were begun for a new, larger church. The Italianate-style building, with its paired, round-arched windows and squared corner tower, was officially opened in August of 1876.

Rev. E.J. Robinson replaced Rev. Cooper in 1877. It would seem his stay was not a happy one; an exchange was negotiated with Rev. F. Ryan of Exeter in October 1878. With Rev. Ryan's arrival, several families who had left returned and rented pews.

Within a year of the 1947 fire that destroyed the first brick church, rebuilding plans were underway. The building was rededicated July 10, 1949. Collection plates carved of wood salvaged from a pew, were given to the church by Thomas Gamage. The Church was consecrated on July 8, 1962.
