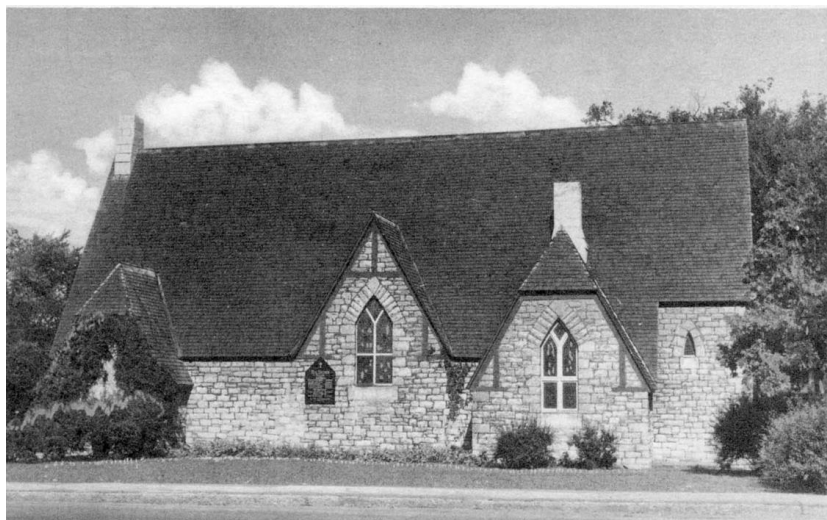


**Older than Westboro:
A History of All Saints' Westboro
Anglican Church
Since 1865**



All Saints' was originally a rural church, built for merchants and civil servants living along the Richmond Road outside the city of Ottawa. With the construction of a sawmill by James Skead in 1871, a few houses and businesses were built near the church. The settlement was known as Skead's Mills, and the name changed to Westboro in 1899. In 1905, the area acquired police village status, with a population of 500. Construction of homes continued as the population rose steadily.

Construction of the church began in 1865 on land provided by John and William Thomson of Maplelawn (now The Keg restaurant) for the nominal sum of "twelve shillings of lawful money of Canada". James Skead made a donation to cover the cost of construction.



The stone used to construct the church came from the quarry in Bell's Corners that supplied the stone for the Parliament Buildings. The cornerstone was laid in June 1865, but only the walls and floor were completed that year.

Work on the church stalled until George Jemmett was appointed Rector of the new Parish of Nepean (comprising All Saints' and St. Luke's) in 1872. The finished church was dedicated by Bishop John Travers Lewis in June 1873.



In September 1909, Richard Henry Steacy was appointed Rector of the parish of All Saints' and St. Stephen's, Britannia. He was to remain at All Saints' for thirty-seven years.



Under Steacy's leadership, the following developments took place: a rectory was purchased in 1911 on Main Street (now Churchill Avenue); the parish became self-supporting in 1912; St Martin's was built in 1924 for 45 families at the

western end of the parish; an All Saints' church hall was built in 1924, the rent on Beatty's hall which the church used having risen to \$600 per year; All Saints' became a parish on its own in 1927.

Steady was a colourful figure, an Orangeman, who took a keen interest in politics. His sermons were frequently reported in the press, and he is known to have written to Prime Minister R.B. Bennett to complain about the dearth of Anglicans in the federal Cabinet. During World War One, as a friend of Sir Sam Hughes, the Minister of Militia and Defence, Steady was appointed senior chaplain of the Canadian Expeditionary Force, serving as Director of Chaplaincy Services from 1915 to 1917.



Following the incorporation of western Nepean into Ottawa in 1950, the parish grew rapidly. By 1952, three Sunday services were necessary to accommodate the 450 families in the parish. Possibly inspired by the construction of the new

St. Matthias' Church in 1949, the parish decided to build a larger church. The firm of Burgess and McLean was hired to design a new building that incorporated the original church and hall.

The parish began the daunting task of raising the \$110,000 required for the construction with enthusiasm. The five ladies guilds and the men's club held countless card parties, rummage sales, bazaars, bake sales, and teas to raise the funds. To keep the parish up-to-date on funding, a parish magazine called *The Cornerstone* was started in February 1953. On Coronation Day in June 1953, the church even set up television sets, charging seventy-five cents per person so parishioners could watch the ceremony in Westminster Abbey on film flown over from England.



CBC television cameras also filmed the laying of the cornerstone of the new church by His Excellency Vincent Massey, Governor General of Canada. The first services

were held in the new church on June 27, 1954. The old church hall was renovated when the new church was built, but this proved inadequate for the needs of the growing congregation. A new two-storey hall, built in 1960, was named Steacy Hall in honour of the long-serving rector. Since 1955, the parish has been called All Saints' Westboro.



Following the construction of the new church, the original church was renamed the Chapel of the Holy Spirit. It was restored in 1960 with funds from a bequest, and care was taken to return it to its original condition. For some years, the chapel was used by Christ the Saviour Orthodox Church. Since 1998, the Chapel has been used as a centre of spiritual renewal and nurture, hosting activities such as Jazz Vespers, workshops, meditation, and art exhibits.

Features of the Chapel of the Holy Spirit

The architect of All Saints' was Thomas Fuller, who had come to Ottawa to work as Chief Architect of the Parliament Buildings, and was living along Richmond Road. Fuller is best known as the architect of the Library of Parliament and the original Centre Block (destroyed in a fire in 1916). He also built a number of churches in this diocese including St. Albans, Sandy Hill and St. James, Perth. In 1881, Fuller became Dominion Architect and was responsible for the design and construction of the Langevin Block, as well as countless federal post offices and courthouses.



Thomas Fuller – Architect (Wikipedia)

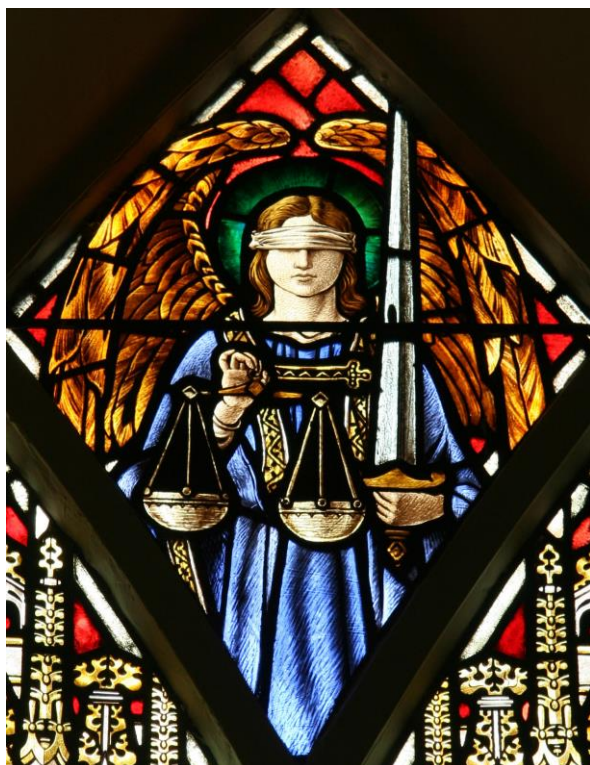
The corbel arches, stone construction, exposed timber framing of the ceiling all mark the Chapel as a Gothic Revival church. Fuller's original plan included a spire with belfry, which was never built. The stone arch at the entry to the chancel was intended to support this steeple. The doors are original with diagonal planking reminiscent of the roof timbers.



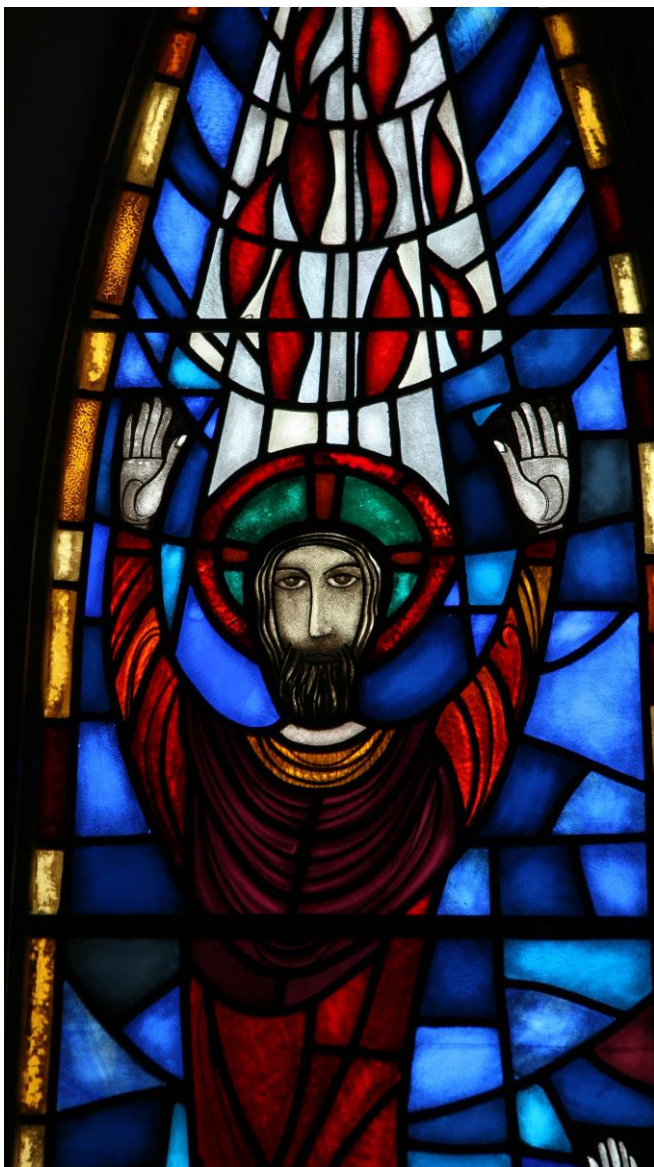
The first windows imitated leaded glass windows, with diamond-shaped panes of glass held together with putty. Over the years stained glass windows were installed to replace the original windows. The east window over the altar is a memorial to the Heney family, who were original settlers in the area.



On the south side, there is a window in memory of William Joynt, a magistrate and reeve.



On the west wall, there are two more modern windows designed by Gerald Mesterom, a stained glass artist trained in the Netherlands.



Few of the interior furnishings are original. The parish still owns a Bible and Prayer Book presented by the Bishop of Ontario in 1873 when the church was dedicated. The lectern and prayer desk may be the oldest items in the Chapel. They were given by the Sunday School in 1890 in memory of George Jemmett, the second rector of the parish. The plaque dedicated to the "Boys of Westboro", which records the names of the 129 men of the parish who enlisted to fight in World War One, was a gift of the Sunday School in 1918.



The pews have been in the Chapel since at least 1900, and may be original. The hymn board was given in memory of William Joynt at the time of his death in 1930. The sanctuary lamp was installed when the Chapel was restored in 1976.



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