

He resigned from St. Andrew's Church the second Sunday after Easter in 1860, having been ordained to the priesthood in April of 1860 in New London. By the following year he had moved to the Diocese of Massachusetts. There is no reference to visiting clergy to celebrate the service of Holy Communion. During Mr. True's tenure, we were united with Zion, North Branford.

The church by June of 1860, after fifteen years, needed a new furnace which cost \$115. Mr. True also reported fixtures for the chancel amounting to \$20. Unfortunately the "fixtures" are not specified.

.During the early 1860's we were a rectorless parish once again. Various neighboring ministers came to officiate at funerals, and so forth. By March of 1864 the Rev, S. M. Duffield was moderator at a special parish meeting. A few weeks later at the annual meeting it was voted to hire him full time for the next year, though probably he only worked half time. He was ordained to the Priesthood at Berkeley Divinity School, Middletown, on May 19, 1864. His cure consisted of the parishes of St. Andrew's and Zion, North Branford. He resigned from Northford on January I, 1865 to devote himself to Zion for three-quarters' time.

Mr. Duffield's report to the 1864. Convention states that our parish had had a minister for two-thirds of the past Convention year. He added:

For some time previous to May, 1863, it had lay services only. Since I took charge of the Parish, the ladies have organized a Benevolent Society, for the purpose of raising funds to repair and adorn the Church building.

This Society has, or will, realize some \$ 500 this year, for that purpose. Through the liberality of Alfred Todd, Esq.-- formerly a member of the Parish-- a beautiful stained glass window will soon be in readiness to be placed in the Chancel, now in process of building. "

At a special parish meeting on March 15, 1864, it was voted to “build a Recess chancel and Vestry-room, and make such other repairs on the Church as necessary, provided the Ladies Benevolent Society give the money raised for this purpose and further provided we do not run the society into debt.” A library room was also to be built with the Vestry-room and Chancel. One condition was that if Mr. Alfred Todd agreed to give \$100, “the Building Committee would commence next week.” Did he expect this?

This was a major remodeling proposition. As the Building Committee had been warned not to go into debt, and the total cost of this project was \$1,162.16 “as near as can be ascertained,” they elected to divide among themselves the excess costs of \$133.50. The Ladies' Benevolent Society contributed \$450 and Mr. Todd gave his \$100, as did also Mr. Ambrose Todd and Mr. Reuben N. Augur. This special parish meeting was held at the home of Mr. Augur. The church had seatings for two hundred, which presumably was after the remodeling of 1864. Mr. Duffield's report to the Convention of that year stated that there were thirty-eight families and sixty-two communicants in the parish. Bishop Williams came on October 15, 1864, to re-open the church “after enlargement and repairs.”

The next year the parish was again without a rector. Mr. John V. Lewis, reporting to the 1864 Convention for the Directors of the S. P. C. K. on the subject of missions, stated that

the Directors... urge upon all our Parishes a greater degree of zeal and earnestness in the Cause of Diocesan Missions. To send \$10,000 out of the Diocese, as we did in 1863, for Church purposes, is right, (would God it had been increased ten fold,) but to dole out \$3,000 to this Society, as was done in the same year, is wrong, And, viewing the two items of charity together, we have loved our neighbors better than ourselves, to a degree, which no precept of the Gospel will warrant.

Perhaps this is one of the reasons why our parish had such a struggle to hire and maintain a rector.

From parish account book reports, the Rev. Messrs , Simpson, Heal (?), and Gushee were paid anywhere from \$5 to \$20 during 1865 and 1866. , It was voted to pay Mr. Simpson \$5 an evening and expenses for his services, but for what type of service is unknown.

It was after this hiatus that the Rev. Sheldon Davis began in the summer of 1866. Shortly after his arrival, the acquisition of a parsonage was a major subject. The confusions which Mr. Davis and the vestry managed to make over the purchase, and restrictions thereon, of the parsonage required legal opinions in the 1940's when the building was sold. The house in question is that now known as the Rev. Warham Williams house, diagonally north across the street from the church and is one of the finest examples of architecture of its period. The Rev. Mr. Davis will be remembered now in the parish as he left money to the parish at his death which is known as "The Rev. Sheldon Davis Fund." Davis Fund. "

Mr. Davis remained our rector until he resigned in July, 1872. He was ordained to the diaconate by Bishop Brownell in, Waterbury on April 12, 1840, and then went to the Diocese of New York. Where previous rectors had lived while serving our parish is not known, but when the Warham Williams house was bought it was the first time that St. Andrew's Church possessed a rectory.

The library at the church must have been built, or at least some such space allocated, for on April 22, 1867, Mr. J. M. Page was elected Librarian. Two years later Miss Bertha Todd was voted Assistant Librarian. This was the

first mention of any woman holding a parish-elected office on the vestry or any church organization, other than the Ladies Benevolent Society, the earliest records of which no longer exist.

In 1871, it was voted that pew subscribers could "have the privilege of keeping them unless wishing to change." Previously all pews had been auctioned off to the highest bidder. These auctions were held in the church. About this time the Rev. Mr. Davis, in his parochial report to the Convention, listed an Estey Organ at \$280. Was this the first organ for the church, or was it a replacement? The records do not tell.

In a period of about twenty years" St, Andrew's had had seven rectors, without including "supply" ministers, before Mr. Davis arrived. In the six years that he was in charge of the parish, he must have grown fond of it A copy of his letter of resignation is entered in the parish minutes book, dated July 6, 1872.

Circumstances beyond my control having rendered it expedient for me to retire from this Parish, and having had the satisfaction of seeing your beautiful Parsonage and Glebe free from debt, and secured it is believed to the Church in perpetuity; I hereby resign my charge of the Parish in the earnest hope and expectation that you will be able soon to secure in my stead a zealous and faithful Pastor, to the good of souls, and to the building up of the Church.

Two months later the Rev, David H. Short, D.D. was called to the parish. At this September meeting the Treasurer was authorized to borrow money to pay Dr. Short to date. Issuing the call to him by the parish was contingent upon the church raising the sum of \$700. As Dr. Short presided at the annual Society meeting in January of 1873, he presumably accepted the call, remaining with us until 1875.

In April of 1873, it was voted at a parish meeting that any person who wished to build horse sheds on the church grounds could do so, and that the vestry was to be authorized to stake out the ground for the location of the sheds.

In 1874, Miss Eliza A. Williams left an unspecified legacy to the church which was deposited in the New Haven Savings Bank with the interest being added to the principle until otherwise authorized. At the July meeting, the By-Laws of the Diocese were adopted.

By April of 1877, the parish was again searching for a new minister. The Rev. Dr. Short had resigned during 1876 and died in Fairfield in January of 1877. Of his life, Bishop Williams said at the annual Convention, "...Short, the well read and well balanced theologian, so faithful to 'the Doctrine and Sacraments and the Discipline of Christ, as this Church hath received the same,'... had ceased from labors far beyond his strength only a few weeks before his death..."

On August 19, 1877, the Rev. John Coleman accepted the rectorship of St. Andrew's. He apparently did not last very long as the Bishop's report of 1880 lists him as having resigned from our church and St. John's, North Haven. The Diocesan Journal of two years earlier records that he was paid \$175 by the Diocese.

In April of 1878, a committee was chosen to build a fence around the parsonage "on the front and near the store." Also they were to make necessary repairs on the buildings. At this same meeting the pews in the church were to be rented and the vestry was instructed not to spend more money than was subscribed for the year.

By this time the Ladies' Benevolent Society had become the Ladies' Guild and contributed \$115.44 to the church. During this same time the parsonage was rented. For three months' rent, the church received \$18.75, and a year later \$37.50. The 1880 statistics show that there were thirty-two families and fifty-six communicants in the parish. The Sunday School had four teachers and eighteen pupils.

According to the Journal of 1881, the Rev. Clayton Eddy was Rector of St. Andrew's, Northford, but I have found no mention of him in the parish records. The number of families remained the same, but the communicants increased by three. In the 1880 census, the population of North Branford was 1,025, but ten years later it had dropped to about 825 persons. By the next Convention Mr. Eddy had resigned from Northford to go to Christ Church, East Haven.

The Rev. George Buck succeeded him. He was chairman of the annual parish meeting in April of 1882 and attended the convention that year. The parish paid him amounts varying from \$319.90 to \$413 in the years 1883-1885. He received \$192 for seven months' salary at Easter in 1886. At the November parish meeting to consider the Fowler bequest, he inquired what amount the parish would grant him from the income of this fund if he stayed after February 1, 1887, the date when the church would receive the bequest.

The Sunday School must have gone into an eclipse, as under the tabulation of parish statistics in the 1882 Journal is the note: "The Sunday-school was organized the 2d Sunday in Lent." Ten families had been added to the parish rolls, making forty-two families.

In the years 1884-1886, petitions were sent to the Archdeaconry for

monetary assistance amounting to \$200 for two years and \$300 the other year. This presumably was a supplement to Mr. Buck's salary over and above what could be raised by the members of St. Andrew's.

By 1887, the Rev. Mr. Buck had resigned to go to Collinsville. The Rev. Mr. Robert Mathison was Minister in-Charge for the following year. He was Rector of Zion and St. John's, North Guilford. He does not seem to have officiated at St. Andrew's very long. He was the chairman of the annual meeting in 1887 and drew a salary for seven months amounting to \$192.

At this May annual meeting it was voted that a committee, to be appointed annually, tend the graves and headstones of Mr. and Mrs. William M. Fowler and family and also the lot of Maltby Fowler Sr. ' They were to "be kept in proper order in honor of the fund received from said persons." Douglas Williams was appointed the committee in 1887. This reference to the Fowlers is reflected in the 1888 Journal which includes \$3,500 as "Contributions to endowment for parish support."

By 1890 the Rev. Warren H. Roberts had been appointed Rector of St. Andrew's. The number of families had grown to forty, with two hundred individuals and fifty registered communicants. This must have been due to the influence of the small factories and mills which then existed in Northford.

Mr. Roberts presided at all the annual parish meetings for six years. During this time the parish statistics show little change in the total number of families, but the "Whole number of individuals" dropped to one hundred. Only forty-four received communion as reported in the Journal of 1896.

Mr. Roberts resigned on September 20, 1896, and the next Journal lists him

as living in Ohio. Apparently nothing took place at the annual parish meetings except the election of officers and vestry. Either the parish had no problems, or else they were dealt with outside of vestry or parish meetings.

On the resignation of Mr. Roberts, William G. Brewster of Hamden, "who had been reading for Mr. Roberts and was a candidate for Holy Orders was asked to take charge of the Parish. Mr. Brewster came and occupied the Rectory from October 1, 1896 and was ordained Deacon in St. Paul's Church, New Haven, January 25, 1897." A year later he was ordained to the priesthood. The following is also entered in the minutes book.

On Thursday, March 10, 1898, there took place a service in St. Andrew's Church, Northford, long to be remembered at which the Rev. Wm. J. Brewster was advanced to the Priesthood. The Sermon was preached by the Rev. J. D. S. Pardee of Saybrook. Mr. Brewster was then presented to the Bishop by the Rev. Joseph Hooper of Durham. After the service the Clergy and friends were invited to a colation prepared by the ladies at association hall a town building ? Tables were set for sixty at a time, and fully one hundred and fifty partook of the bountiful repast. It was indeed a day long to be remembered by Northford people and the friends who enjoyed the day with them. The weather was perfect and remarkable for the season of the year. There was no hitch in any of the arrangements. The ladies are especially deserving of praise for the manner in which they took care of so many. Such a service as this is seldom witnessed in the country parished.

Mr. Brewster remained in the parish until 1900. He was the brother of Chauncey B. Brewster, Bishop from 1897-1928. In 1938, at the time of our 175th Anniversary, Bishop Brewster wrote: "In your parish I have a special interest because it was there as the guest of my brother that I began my duties as Bishop"

Mr. Brewster was followed shortly by the Rev. A. P. Chapman, who was here for only six months, when his resignation was accepted unanimously. The

Rev. J. D. S. Pardee commenced his clerical duties in our parish in January 1901. He remained here until 1917, and some of our parishioners may well remember him.

Chapter 5

Highlights from 1900 - 1963

1901 January 20, the Rev. J. D., S. Pardee began his ministry in Northford.

1917 Resignation of Mr. Pardee.

1919 The Rev. Arthur F. Lewis, Rector.

1922 June, vestry voted to sell the barn on the parish property. The parish received \$90 for it the following year.

1923 November the Rev. Mr. Lewis resigned.

1924 The Rev. Francis J. Smith opened the annual parish meeting but was not listed as in charge of the parish. A few months later the parish called the Rev. Lee, Maltby of Fair Haven to become Rector and Mr. Smith to become Minister in Charge.

1925 Mrs. F. J. Smith reported at the annual meeting on the-work of the Girls' Friendly Society.

Henry Hull donated, \$500 to the church.

, The Church was redecorated at the cost of \$1, 236.75, of which the Ladies' Guild donated \$1,200.

1926 First mention, of an annual canvass, This was to replace pew rentals and the listing of subscriptions which had been the previous system to raise parish funds.

1927 The State Highway Department widened and eliminated a curve on, Middletown Avenue, for which the church received: \$800 for land on both sides of the road.

1929 Voted to lease a "parcel of land to Edgar E. and Robert C. Johnson (Johnson Bros. for the purpose of maintaining a public drive leading from the State highway to Property of Johnson Bros." The lease was to be effective for ten years at the rate of \$6, per year.

1932 Parish, voted, to rebuild the old, spire which was in a dangerous condition.

1939 April 14, the 1845 church burned.

May 5, committee appointed to rebuild the church. Those appointed were: the Rev. Francis J. Smith, Chairman, George W. Cooke, L. M. Cooke, Stanley T. Williams, Charles E. Burton, Erwin C. Petry, Bert L. Williams, and Clayton L. Williams. The architect was Alfred, W. Boylen.

1939 October 1, ground broken.

December 10, cornerstone laid by Bishop Budlong.

1940 November 10, New church consecrated by Bishop Budlong,

1943 The Warham Williams house was sold.

1945 Sale of the Reuben Augur lot for \$300.

1951 Mr. Ernest L, Woliver donated a pair of five-branch candlesticks in memory of his wife, Lucile Gentile Woliver ~

Silver chalice and patten donated in memory of Robert F. and Helen P. Livingston.

The Messrs. Robert, Edgar E., and Arthur Johnson donated chimes to the organ in memory of their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Johnson.

Font cover and book shelf, gift of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Hadden in memory of their son, Thomas Hadden 3rd.

1952 June 8, Altar window dedicated to the memory of Donald H. Williams, given by his parents, Mr , and Mrs. Bert L. Williams.

1956 December 31. The Rev. Francis J. Smith retired, having reached the mandatory retirement age.

1957 The Rev. Francis J. Smith elected Rector Emeritus ,

First mention of an Altar Guild in parish records.

First mention of a Young People's Fellowship.

St. Andrew's Rectory built.

The Rev. Donald W. Greene, Senior Diocesan Missionary appointed as Priest in Charge of St. Andrew's, Zion, and St. John's Churches.

The Rev. Donald R. Salman called to the parish as an assistant.

1958 Two stained glass windows in the chancel dedicated. St. Andrew's window in memory of Stanley T. Williams, gift of Mrs. Stanley T. Williams and Leander F. Williams. St. Peter's window in memory of Cornelia Edna (Hine) Williams, gift of Bert. L. Williams.

1959 The Rev. Donald R. Salman appointed Vicar of St. Andrew's Church,

1960 Parish voted to become an independent church.

1961 First year of independence.

The Rev. Mr. Salman accepted the call as Rector. Resigned in September.

October, the Rev. Donald B. Pierce accepted the call to St. Andrew's Church.

1963 October 27 through November 3, celebration of our 200th Anniversary ,

Rectors of St. Andrew's Church

1768 - -----John Lyon
1775 - -----Bela Hubbard
1790 - 1791-----Edward Blakeslee
1794 - -----David Butler
1797 - -----Seth Hart
1802 - 1804-----Arnmi Rogers
1812 - 1818-----Elijah G. Plumb
1819 - -----BethelJudd
1820 - 1822-----Origen P. Holcomb
1824 - 1829-----James Keeler
1831 - 1832-----Edward J. Ives
1832 - 1835-----Charles W. Bradley
1835 - 1836-----Robert Shaw
1836 - 1837-----John W. Woodward
1838 - 1840-----Servilius Stocking
1840 - 1841-----Henry Townsend
1841 - 1842-----Morgan
1842 - -----Robert Shaw
1843 - 1849-----Henry Fitch
1849 - 1850-----Nathaniel L. Garfield
1850 - 1852-----Frederick Sill
1852 - 1854-----Alonzo G. Shears, M.D.
1855 - 1857-----Seth Davis
1859 - 1860-----Edward H. True
1864 - 1865-----S. B. Duffield
1866 - 1872-----Sheldon Davis
1872 - 1876-----David H. Short, D.D.
1877 - 1879-----John Coleman
1881 - -----Clayton Eddy
1882 - 1886-----George Buck
1887 - -----Robert Mathison
1890 - 1896-----Warren H. Roberts
1896 - 1900-----William,G. Brewster
1900 - 1900-----A. P. Chapman
1901 -1917-----J. D. S. Pardee
1918 - 1923-----Arthur F. Lewis
1924 - 1957-----Francis J. Smith
1957 -1959-----DonaldW. Greene
1959 - 1961-----Donald R. Salman

1961 - present Donald B. Pierce

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