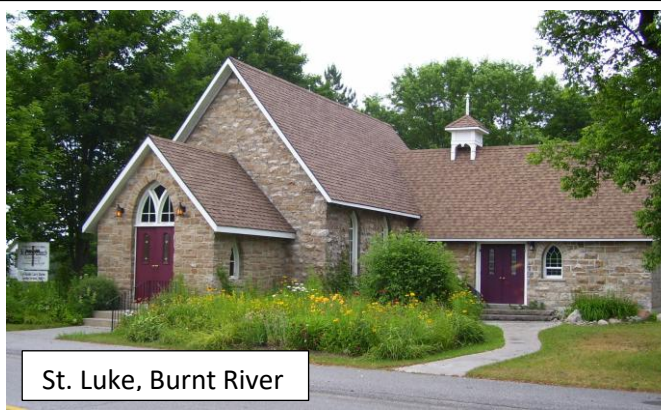


***Welcome to the
Anglican Parish of
Bobcaygeon, Dunsford
and Burnt River***



Parish Profile 2026

Parish Office c/o Christ Anglican Church,
43 Sherwood St., PO Box 133,
Bobcaygeon, Ontario K0M 1A0

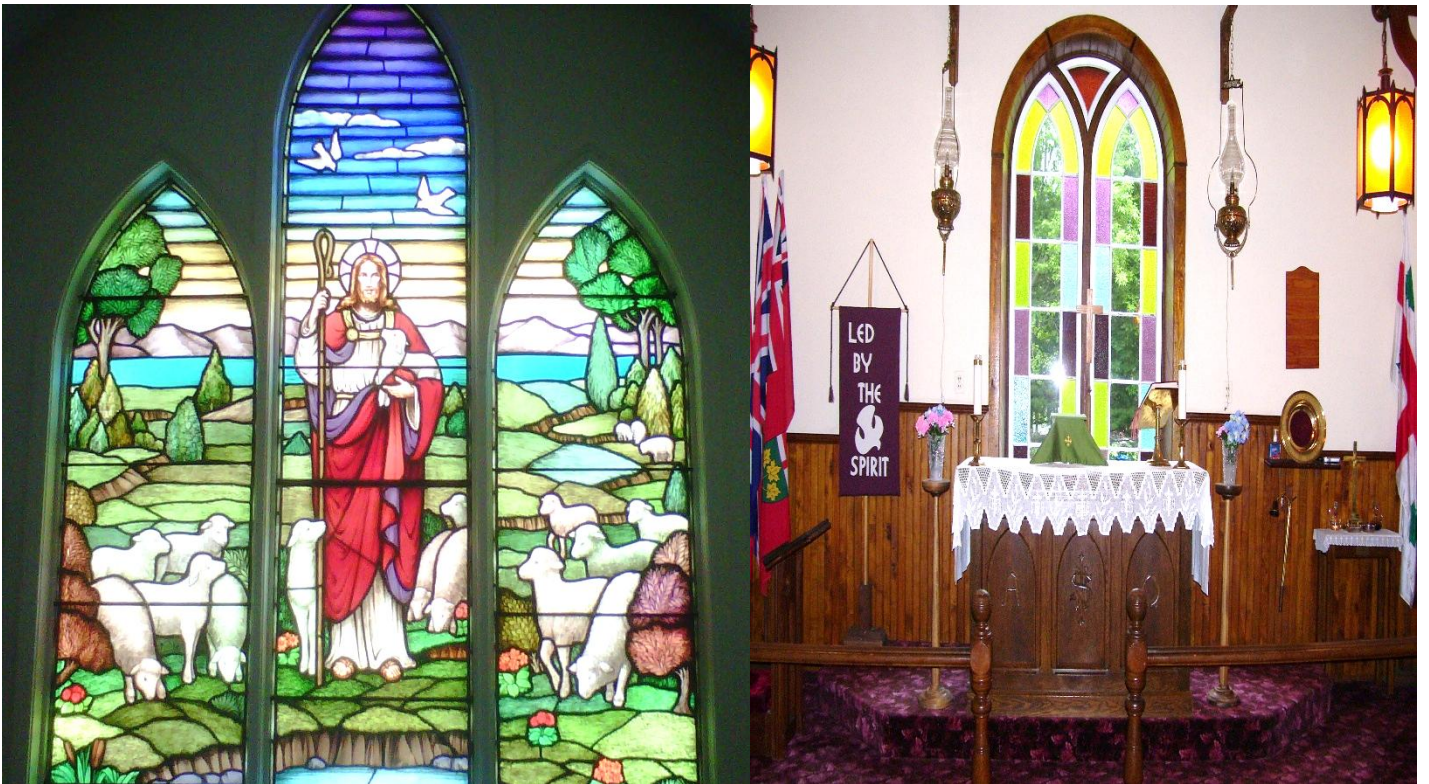
Tel: (705) 738-2415

Email:

christchurchbobcaygeon.office@gmail.com;

Website: www.christchurchbobcaygeon.com/;

Helping people find God in our welcome.



Who We Are

We strive to be a welcoming faith community, worshipping God with reverence and enthusiasm, while serving our neighbours. The parish of Bobcaygeon, Dunsford, and Burnt River is located north of Peterborough and east of Lindsay. Both Christ Church, Bobcaygeon and St. John, Dunsford are open year-round. St Luke, Burnt River is a summer congregation. These are the only Anglican churches in our communities.

Staffing and Physical Plant:

- Priest-in-Charge
- The Office Administrator/Bookkeeper
- The Organist/Music Director

Since 2016 the parish has been served by retired priests who have faithfully provided part-time ministry for Sunday worship and pastoral care. This has resulted in few ministry programs being offered and a shortage of clergy presence within our communities – both of which are core elements of vital small-town ministry. The impact of nearly 10 years of only basic pastoral support has seen a steady decline in attendance and regular givers. (See appendix)

We have now received a Ministry Allocation Grant, with we are grateful that we can now support a full-time clergy person. This grant was awarded to us by Synod Council to provide priestly ministry and leadership in our underserved and under resourced communities. Our Diocese is providing us with a coach to help us meet the requirements of this funding, which will include a six-month review and oversight.

Rectory: Our picturesque rectory is located near [Lock 32 of the Trent-Severn Waterway Historic Site](#) and is just a block north of the main street of Bobcaygeon. Over the last 3 years, many upgrades have been made in the rectory, preparing for our next cleric.



Worship, Liturgy and Music - Come as you are

Christ Church, Bobcaygeon

Worship Schedule: Sundays at 11 a.m. Second and Fourth Sundays Holy Communion
First and Third Sundays (Except Major Festivals) Morning Prayer



St. John, Dunsford

St. John's, Dunsford is located at 1948 Sturgeon Road in the Village of Dunsford (west of Bobcaygeon). Worship Schedule: Sundays 9:15 a.m. See their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/p/St-Johns-Anglican-Church-Dunsford-61551056942300/>;



Currently St. John's has a small but dedicated Church School with the average attendance in 2025 at four children on a Sunday.

St. Luke, Burnt River

The regular services are Holy Communion on first and third Sundays and Morning Prayer on second, fourth and fifth Sundays. The congregation of year-round residents is bolstered by cottagers from nearby Four Mile Lake. A community-wide Remembrance Day service is



held on the Sunday immediately before Remembrance Day at the cenotaph in the Burnt River cemetery, involving St. Luke's and the local Burnt River



United Church. St. Luke's is responsible for organizing and taking the lead with this service. An evening Christmas Carol and Lessons Service, preceded by a Potluck Dinner at the Burnt River Community Centre, is held each December to mark the end of the calendar year.

Learning and Spiritual Nurture and Development

- our new cleric will be passionate about Bible Study and bringing new Christian Education opportunities, seniors programming and informational seminars
- There are ecumenical Soup and Service services each Wednesday in Lent in Bobcaygeon, hosted by the six mainline churches including Christ Church



Mutual Support and Fellowship

- Coffee time after the services, where our great bakers offer welcome hospitality
- We all gather for coffee hour, strengthening connections
- Care for each other is through informal calls and cards for those on our prayer lists



Groups:

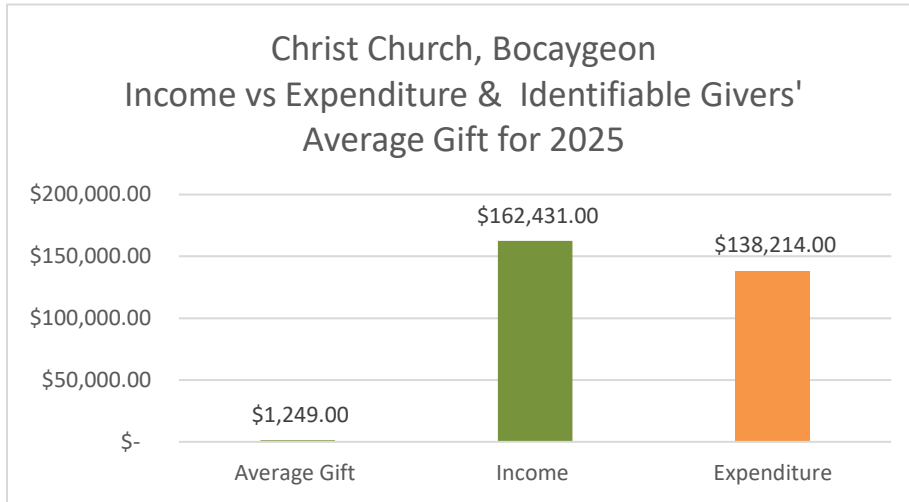
- ACW – In Bobcaygeon there is a Knitting Subgroup of the ACW
- Chancel Guilds
- Coffee Hour Teams
- Readers, intercessors, crucifers and servers
- Full complement of committed Churchwardens in all three churches
- Licensed Lay Readers who for the last 9 months have graciously led worship
- Choir at Christ Church that growing and with accomplished soloists
- The *Cageon Spice* music group do the service on the 5th Sunday of the month with guitars and lively gospel music at Christ Church

Pastoral Care Provision:

- The new cleric will develop a lay pastoral care team to augment priestly ministry
- Our ACW members make phone calls and send out cards for bereavements
- In the [West Street Retirement Home](#) retired Anglican priest, The Rev. David Peasgood, provides ad hoc pastoral care to his fellow residents, regularly leading worship for about

13 residents. Father David will play the organ for us to fill in when our regular organist is on leave. Other local Long-term Care Facilities that need ministry, include: [Case Manor Care Community](#), [Pinecrest Nursing Home](#) and [Aspira Kawartha Lakes Retirement Living](#).

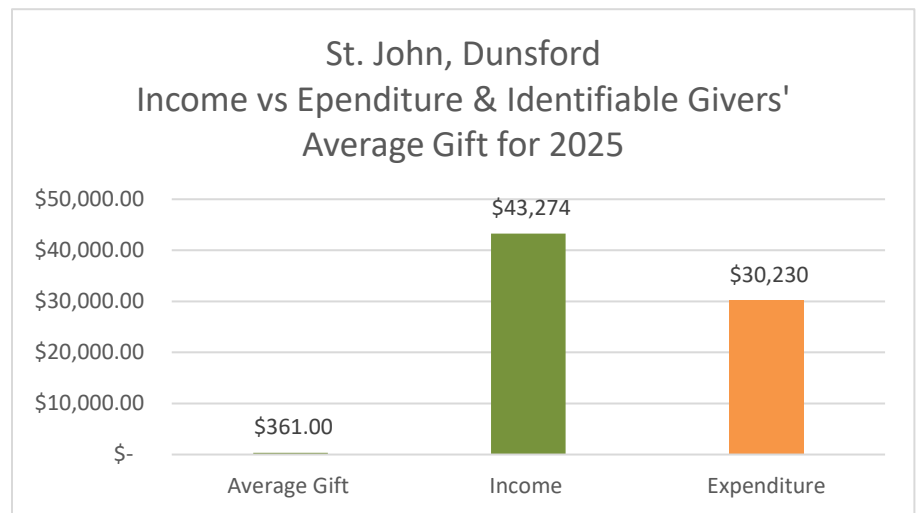
Financial Resources



In Christ Church, annual givings are carried by 10% of the congregation. Net annual revenues include \$18,000 from St. John's, and \$4,000 from St. Luke's. We expect that full-time clerical leadership will help expand our stewardship base.

Online Ministry and Use of Technology

During the pandemic we offered online worship and ministries. Through these years our attendance and givers grew substantially. We have lost this growth after discontinuing our online ministry. We are planning for the new cleric to assist us in relaunching this important tool for virtual connections.



Our Neighbourhood and Our Mission Field

Geography of Elections
Federal Electoral District Fact Sheet

✘ **Electoral District:** Haliburton—Kawartha Lakes

✘ **Province/Territory:** Ontario

- Population: **119,150**
- Area: **8,927 km²**
- Population density: **13.00/km²**
- Population change: **n/a**
- Average age: **48**
- Average income: **\$51,650**
- Voter turnout: **73%**
- Language spoken most often at home:
 - English: **115,060**
 - French: **225**
 - Indigenous languages: **0**
 - Most popular other language:
 - German: **175**
- All others: **1,340**



Haliburton—Kawartha Lakes is district number 35035 on the Federal Electoral Districts map.

We share the Federal Riding data (shown to the left), for your interest. As a whole, our area has experienced a 5% demographic growth since the last census in 2021. Newcomers tend to be both a) older retirees who have moved to the area from larger towns or smaller cities. and b) newly retired couples with a middle-level income.

New subdivisions are popping up on the outskirts of the Town of Bobcaygeon, attracting younger families. Our parish lies within the Kawartha Lakes Regional District. Visit their [website](#) for more demographic information.

Key Statistics and Demographics

Population Growth

Kawartha Lakes has **83,000** residents (2023), with growth expected to reach **117,000** by **2051**.

Workforce Participation

The labour force totals **41,613** people.

Education Levels

57% of adults aged 25–64 have post-secondary education, primarily **college diplomas or trades certificates** (54%).

We have a rich local cultural life. See tourism pages for [Bobcaygeon](#). In Bobcaygeon you

will find a popular [yarn shop](#), an excellent [bakery](#), [Kawartha Dairy](#) and even a famous local department store, [Bigley's](#). Summer cottagers bring a bustle to the town that quiets in the winter months. There are many opportunities to enjoy outdoor sports year-round.

The nearest hospital is located in Lindsay and there is a Community Ambulance service located in Bobcaygeon. Bobcaygeon has just recruited a new family physician from the UK. His spouse is also a doctor, and she expects to receive her certification this summer and join the practice. There is a public school in Bobcaygeon and an elementary school in Dunsford. The public secondary school is located nearby in Fenlon Falls, while the nearest Catholic School is situated in Peterborough.

Outreach and Evangelism

We have a popular Community Clothing Giveaway program which is run in partnership with the local Presbyterian church and staffed by volunteers. We also participate in a Christmas Day community meal and support the Bobcaygeon Helps community food security program which began as an outreach project of our church. There is a local ministerial group that meets once a month. Our Anglican priest usually leads this cooperative group that also serves as an important professional support.

Present Reality and Future Vision

The following represents our vision for future ministry. With the assistance of our new cleric, we will be working to create a strategic plan for implementing this vision.

- **Worship:** explore new forms of worship that will better connect with people. Our vision is to review different expressions of church such as dinner church or Messy Church and pilot those that best suits our context.
- **Online ministry:** reconnect with people who joined us online during the pandemic. We will reboot our online ministry by sharing our worship services, adding online bible studies or fellowship gatherings, and expanding our social media presence.
- **Outreach:** the parish is committed to serving the community. We often work with ecumenical partners to expand our reach. Our vision is to continue to seek partnerships within our 3 communities for opportunities to provide loving service to those in need of support.
- Another opportunity for outreach is Christ Church itself, a beautiful large building. Our vision is to optimize the use of the church for community functions and income generation to support our mission and ministry.
- **New member ministry:** We want to help people to find God in our welcome. We hold a number of events that are well attended by the community. Our vision is to use these events to purposefully meet people and share information about the church with them. We will create an attractive promotional package for the churches on paper and online.
- **Pastoral care:** the communities within the parish are attracting new retirees from the GTA. This is particularly true for Bobcaygeon. We have a high value for caring for people through visits in seniors' residences, private homes, and hospital. Our vision is to grow this ministry through the support and growth of our lay pastoral visitor team and our priest.

- Bible study, book clubs and other programs: With the leadership of our priest, we will begin regular programs of study and spiritual growth in person and online. We have ideas for Bible and book studies, knitting group, musical events, and seminars on issues of interest to seniors. These will be promoted widely in our communities and used as opportunities to meet people and share our church with them.
- Regional Ministry: Creating sustainable ministries in the rural areas of the diocese in this day and age involves reviewing the sustainability of multipoint parishes and developing closer relationships with our Anglican neighbours. Our vision is to participate in regional ministry conversations in our area, and participate in developing short- and long-term plans for flourishing small town ministries.
- Our short-term plan is for our 3 congregations to increase our coordination and cooperation by pooling our resources and working more closely together as a unit in ministry.

Our New Priest

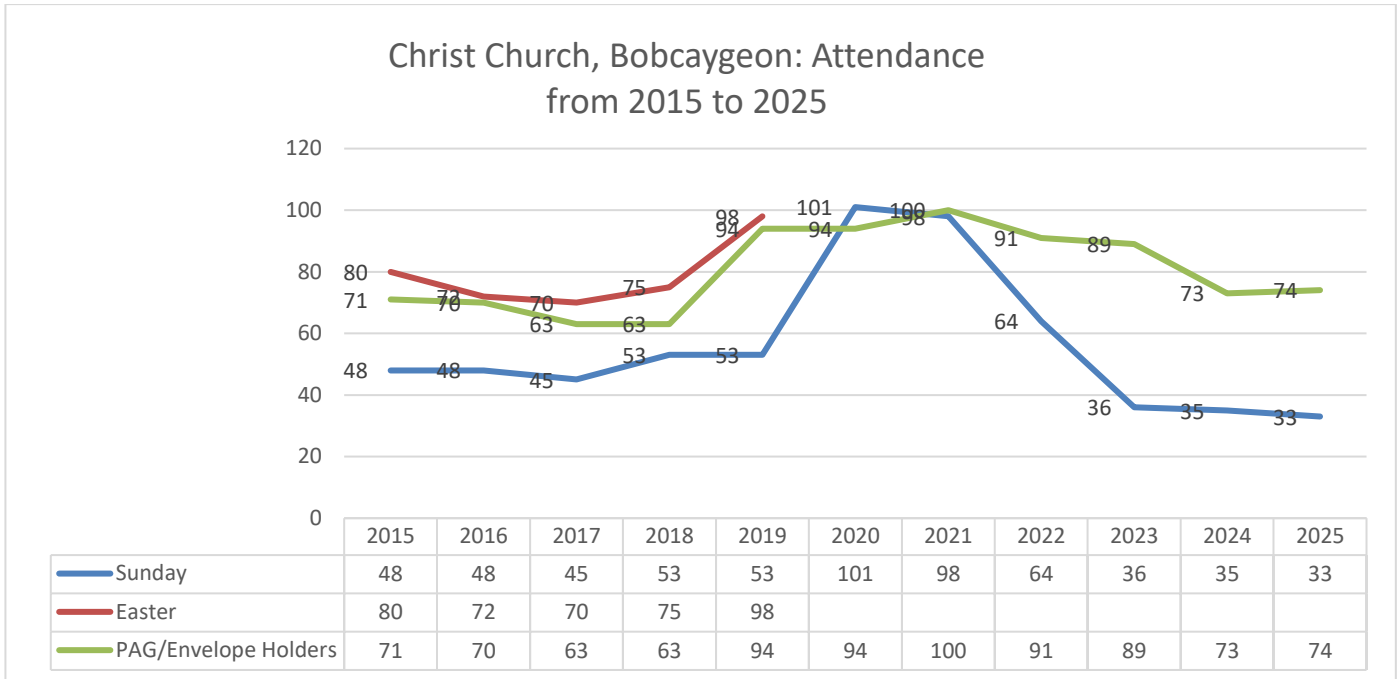
In order to implement our plans we are seeking a fulltime priest who is able to become known in our communities and who will, with our support, lead our growth to sustainability. We will work together to create a plan with goals and evaluation measures, setting priorities to support our vision.

We recognize that this will be hard work and requires time and energy, and we know that persistence is a strength of our congregations. When we make a plan we carry it through. We have a history of initiating and running successful programs such as the foodbank and the Clothing Giveaway.

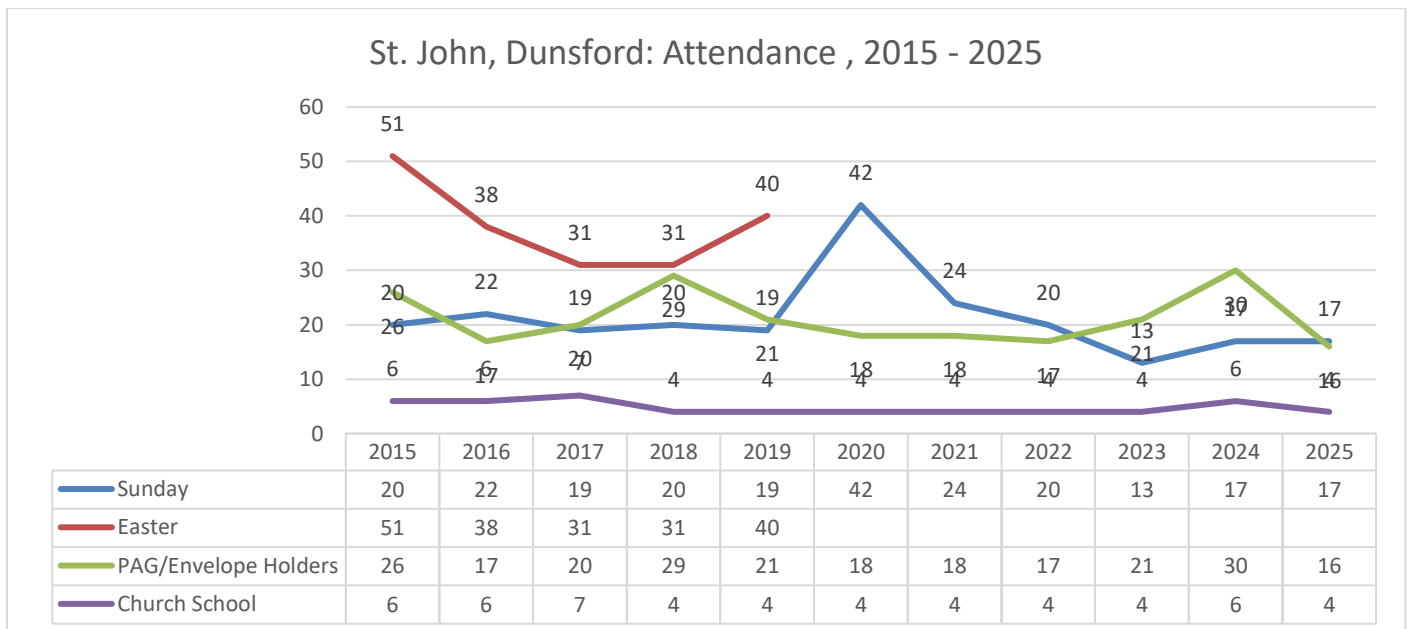
We look forward to having a priest join our churches who will develop our lay leadership and grow our parish, numerically and spiritually. We are seeking someone who is outward looking to increase our community connections. Together we can be a healthy and sustainable parish in our response to where God wants us to be.

Appendix: Attendance & History

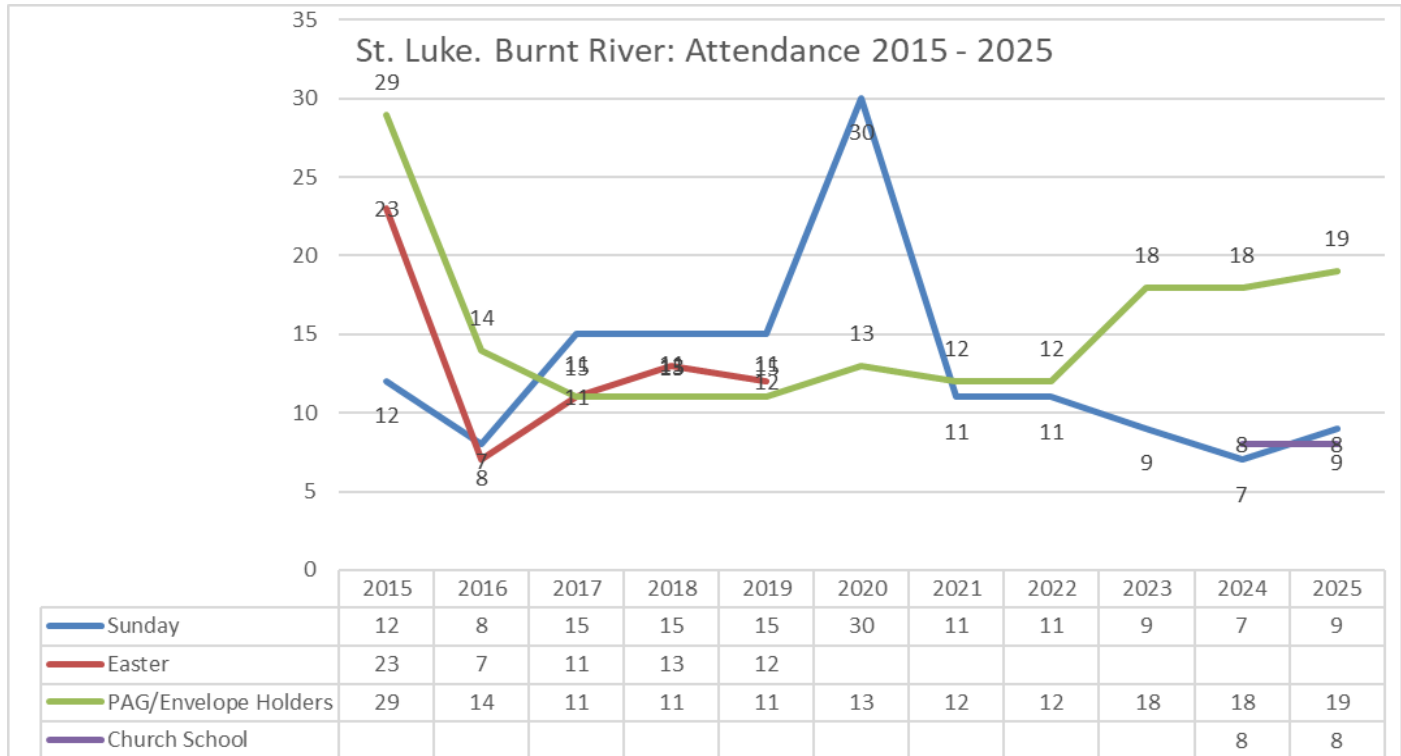
Christ Church, Bobcaygeon.



St. John, Dunsford



St. Luke, Burnt River



History

Quoted from the City of Kawartha Lakes Facebook page- 4 January 2025

“Christ Anglican Church in Bobcaygeon was constructed between 1870 and 1871 with its first service held on Christmas Eve 1870. The church was designed by Peterborough-area architect John Belcher, who became one of the most well-known ecclesiastical architects in Central Ontario in the late nineteenth century.

Belcher came to Canada in late 1869 or early 1870 after he married Clementina MacDonald, the niece of Bobcaygeon lumber baron Mossom Boyd. The Belchers lived in the Boyd house in Bobcaygeon for the first several years of their marriage.

Christ Church was one of the first two churches that Belcher designed, along with St. George’s Anglican Church in Haliburton, and launched his career in Canada as an architect and engineer.”

From the 2013 Parish Profile

The true history of Christ Church, Bobcaygeon is not just the history of its structural beginnings and changes to the buildings over time but the history of its congregation over time beginning

with the first settlers to the Bobcaygeon area who came from England, Scotland and Ireland. As a result of their immigration to Bobcaygeon, we have a rich history of churches in the area over the past 175 years. In particular Christ Church's history is closely linked with the Boyd and Need families. Thomas Need opened a church in 1836 which disappeared, but when he sold his land and grist mill to Mossom Boyd in 1844, there was a three-acre piece of land reserved on the island for Christ Church. In 1863 the land for the church was deeded to the diocese of Toronto. The name Christ Church was selected by Thomas Need and given when the cornerstone was laid. The church was designed by John Belcher, an Irish architect, who laid out the design in 1869. Mossom Boyd was elected to chair the construction, and the first wardens were W. B. Read and W.E. Sherwood. The first service was Christmas Eve in 1870. The church was dedicated by Bishop Bethune in 1871 when the church bell arrived.

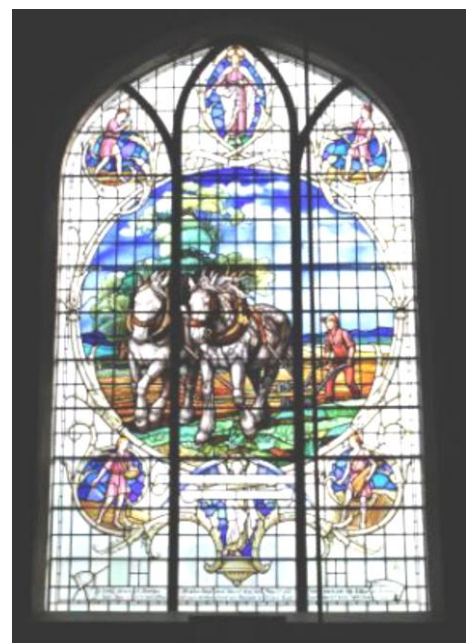
The first rectory was also designed by John Belcher and resembled the board and batten design of the church itself. Later a "more ugly" design was built for \$8,500 but kept the rector warm.

The parish hall, which was funded by the efforts of the Ladies' Guild, was showing signs of collapse when the Reverend P.C. Howard arrived. A new roof and other restorations to the building were commenced including to the interior of the church with improvements to the chancel.

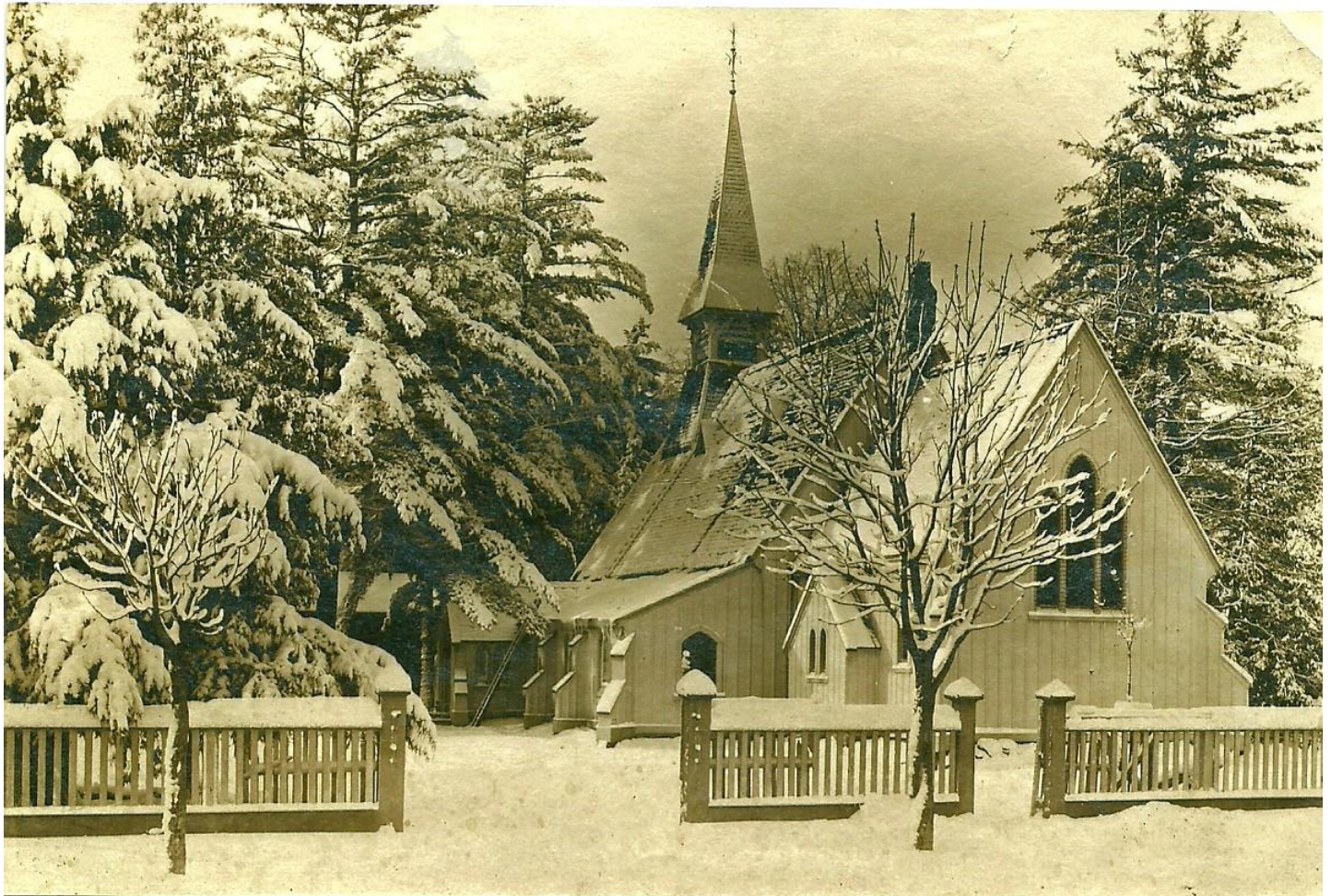
Christ Church and neighbouring St. John's, Dunsford were both consecrated on 13 September 1881.

The real history is the families then and now who have been baptized, confirmed, married and buried from the church.

They, as well as the early Ladies' Guild and Women's Auxiliary started a tradition of giving and fundraising to build and furnish our present-day church, parish hall and rectory. The fruits of their labour include the donation of the pulpit, lectern and Bible; the Bell, a tapestry fabric from the Coronation in Westminster Abbey in 1937; the altar, credence table and brass altar cross, and many stained-glass windows.



The tradition carries on over the years to celebrate the life of a dear one or to honour the memory of family. For instance we see the addition of the narthex with a new stained-glass window to honour the memory of Ernest James Turner. The dedications are too numerous to count but if you walk through the church you will find the plaques. It's like walking back in time with our former congregations and some ancestors who came to Bobcaygeon, built and worked for the continuation of Anglican Services which have continued in much of the same fashion for the last 175 years.



Helping people find God in our welcome.

