

thanksgiving celebration at St. Mark's; mortgage-burning signals debt-free parish



PARTICIPATING IN ST. MARK'S MORTGAGE-BURNING CEREMONY ARE, FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: NORMAN BIRD, RECTOR'S WARDEN; BISHOP GOODMAN; REV. PAUL YIP, RECTOR; MRS. JACK ROUTLEDGE, WIFE OF PEOPLE'S WARDEN; AND MRS. JANE BIRD.

Forteen years is not a long time and yet it is not in the history of a 63-year-old parish. It took 14 years of hard work and financial support by the parishioners of St. Mark's, Calgary, to clear the last debt on the gymnasium and parsonage built in 1960. The parish has long since paid the church and rectory

and has, this year, reached the moment of being debt-free.

The heartfelt occasion was marked on Sunday, Nov. 3, with a Thanksgiving Eucharist celebrated by Bishop Goodman, assisted by Rev. Paul Yip, the rector. This was followed by a fellowship gathering and a roast beef supper. The Bishop spoke

his words of encouragement at the supper and Mr. Ray Kingsmith, the rector's warden at the time of building of the hall and now a member of another parish, was invited to be the guest speaker. Mr. Kingsmith's humorous recollections of the older days kept his audience of 170 parishioners and friends in fits of laughter, making it a very joyous occasion.

The burning of the mortgage was followed by a meaningful symbolic gesture in which the older generation who built and paid for the church property and who were represented by Mr. Bert Mould, charged and handed over the property to the younger generation, represented by Mr. Richard Savage, who accepted the charge of maintaining and

supporting the church in the future.

Thus, a happy milestone is passed in St. Mark's 63-year history which began on Oct. 6, 1912, when Bishop Pinkham dedicated the small wooden church.

The new church was built in 1952, the gymnasium and hall complex in 1960, and the present rectory was purchased in 1962. One can notice that major spending fell in the last 22 years, during which time the unity of St. Mark's people enabled the parish to become debt free. Fellow Anglicans throughout the Diocese will join them in saying, "further us with Thy continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued and ended in Thee, we may glorify Thy Holy Name. Thanks be to Thee, O Lord."

The Sower

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