

The Christ Church History and Archives committee has been formed to collect, document and preserve the material and social history of the Parish and to encourage participation and involvement of all parishioners.

The Music of The Anglican Parish of Christ Church, Elbow Park

Music has been an important part of our life, since the very beginning in 1913. Ours is essentially classical music, in the English cathedral tradition, which complements the liturgy and the beautiful church, in creating a place where one feels the presence of God.

The basis for this progress has been a succession of talented organists / choir-masters. Their skills in selecting the music, directing the choir, and playing the organ and piano, have supported our music program for over 106 years. Margie has been our musical leader for the last 50.

Indeed, the choir has faithfully led our worship and enriched our lives with anthems and concerts, for over a century. Many members have sung for decades, three for almost fifty years. Boys have sung at CC since the very beginning and a girls choir is mentioned as far back as 1963. They merged as the Children's Choir in 1998. The musical and religious education provided through our junior choirs have greatly benefited generations of young people.

We have had three organs since the beginning. A foot-pump harmonium was purchased in 1913 for the cost of \$106.25 for the first service in the basement church, continuing in the new church built above it in 1921. In 1930, a new electric Casavant pipe organ was obtained for around \$5,000. Its pipes were located in what is now the Coop room, and the organist sat at a console facing the choir, then located in the chancel. Margie played it after arriving in 1969.

By 1978, the Casavant was not up to modern performance standards. It was replaced by a Kney, tracker organ in 1978. Its mechanical-action gives the player more control over the instrument. This organ has been the anchor of CC music ever since.

Initially, the new organ was placed against the East end of the chancel and this required moving the altar out from its traditional place on the east wall, and relocating the Horne window to the Baptismal area. Subsequently, it was found that the chancel was becoming too crowded and the sound transmission poor. Therefore in 1994, the choir and organ were moved to an enlarged balcony at the West end of the nave, with the organ against the West wall. This necessitated moving the Rose window, to its present place, at the East end.

Christ church's musical reputation is well known in the city. It has attracted talented choristers as well as instrumentalists. The excellent acoustics, quality Kney organ and Steinway piano attract many concerts.

Parishioners are invited to contact John Mendham (jhmendham@telus.net) or other committee members, if they would like a longer historical article on this subject, or if they have oral or tangible records they would like to donate.

Over /...



Horne window at E end, likely in 1950's



Kney organ at E end after 1976



Our choir in 2018

Monthly history article #4. Published May 2019.

Horne	1913 – 1929	Tatchell	1966 – 1980	Tucker	2005 – 2015
Luxton	1930 – 1933	Curtis	1980 – 1983	Belcher	2015 – 2016
Kemp	1933 – 1944	O'Driscoll	1984 – 1992	Pickett	2016 – Present
Crump	1944 – 1960	Boyles	1992 – 1993		
Dowker	1960 – 1966	Pike	1993 – 2003		