



September 2004

A Short History of St. Andrew's Anglican Church San Ignacio, Cayo

St. Andrew's Church, a part of the Anglican Diocese of Belize, has played an influential role in El Cayo's a rich history. Its mission and ministry have always been located in the downtown area of San Ignacio, with its first house of worship founded on Far West Street. The first priest was the Rev. C.G. MacArthur, serving from 1905 until 1907. In 1907 a vibrant, young Belizean by the name of William Robert Hope took over leadership as Deacon. Mr. Hope went on to become Canon William Hope, rector of El Cayo, and the first ordained Belizean priest in the Diocese of Belize. He faithfully served St. Andrew's parish from 1907 until 1918. With a land donation from Mr. John O. Waight, the church and congregation moved to its present location on Burns Avenue in 1918, and Canon Hope was called to serve another church in Gales Point. St. Andrew's worshipped in temporary quarters, until a beautiful wooden sanctuary was finally complete near year's end 1925 and consecrated by the Bishop on



Sunday, February 28, 1926. The Rev. Arnold Stackhouse was Priest-in-Charge at the time. This church became known as the second St. Andrew's Church. A rectory was soon built in front of the church, and an already existing school building (on the grounds of where the restaurant CafÈ Sol now stands) would receive renovations.



On Easter Monday, April 13, 1998, the second St. Andrew's Church was demolished, due to irreparable damage by termites. A new concrete sanctuary was built between April 27 and November 7, 1998. The enormous task of fundraising began in 1995 under the talented leadership of English priest, the Rev. Ian Hutchinson-Cervantes (1994-1997), and it continued with another equally talented and devoted English priest, the Rev. Mark Rogers from 1997 (1997-2000). Our beautiful sanctuary was designed by Bimco and constructed by Mr. Marcus Chen. It was dedicated to the glory of

Almighty God on November 8, 1998, by the Right Rev. Sylvestre Romero-Palma, the current Bishop of Belize.

It is interesting to note that throughout the Church's physical changes our altar has remained as the original centerpiece for worship. Canon Hope was instrumental in procuring a donation from England of three beautifully carved panels for the altar. The altar itself was constructed as a gift by Mr. James Massiah for the Church's consecration in 1926. The three carved panels display both grapevines (representing Communion wine and the Blood of Christ) and sheaves of wheat (Communion bread and the Body of Christ).

Beyond the wood and blocks and mortar, the strength of St. Andrew's Church is its people. Many families of El Cayo have faithfully worshipped in this sanctuary and then gone on to serve God by serving their neighbors near and far. St. Andrew's has a long list of distinguished service from priests. However, in most instances, a priest has not served longer than three to four years (one exception being Canon Leroy Flowers, current rector of St. Mary's Church, Belize City, who with his family served St. Andrew's and the Cayo District from 1980-1986). Thus, while priests have come and gone, the congregation and its lay leadership have brought the Church into the 21st century. St. Andrew's and its brother congregation, San Andres (an Hispanic worshipping

community), offers a vibrant ministry to all who pass through her doors, including a dynamic youth group, Sunday School, monthly bi-lingual worship, choir, regular school services and Family Sundays (where students themselves take leadership roles in worship), and an HIV/ AIDS outreach. Along with El Cayo's 100th Anniversary, we are pleased to announce that we will be celebrating our Centennial year, marking 100 years of ministry and service to El Cayo, 1905-2005.

All are invited to worship the Lord with us on Sunday mornings (7 a.m., Spanish, 8:30 a.m., English, except the 1st Sunday of each month which is a joint, bi-lingual service of both congregations, meeting at 8:30 a.m. The current priests are a husband and wife team from America, the Rev. Nancy Dixon Walton and the Rev. R. Lindsley Walton.



List of Anglican Priests & Other Religious Persons Who Served In Cayo

Date	Name of Priest	Status
1906 – April 1907	Charles G. McCarthy	Rector of El Cayo
May 1907	E.C. Robinson	Dean
October 1907 -1918	William Robert Hope	Rector of El Cayo
March 1908	Archdeacon Murray	
May 1909	E.C. Robinson	Dean
1916	F.R. Murray	Archdeacon
1918- 1919	A. Warsfold	
1923 & 1924	Arnold Stackhouse	
1926	P.A. Matthews	
1927 &1930	D.B Lewis	
1928	W.R. Livingston	
1928	C. E. Rjecart	

Date	Name of Priest	Status
February 24, 1929	Appearance of an undeciphered signature.	Performed some baptisms in the 1930s mostly in Baking Pot
1929	Canon Thornton	
July 1929	The Bishop and Arthur Honduras	
August 1929	Rev Stephen L. Criager	
June 1930	Gerald Fairweather	
January 1931	R. Pratt	(Traveling Missionary Priest)
August 1931	John Knott	Rector St Mary, Belize City
1932	Canon Thornton	
January 1933	Arthur Honduras	
July 1933	Charles Raymond Barnes	
November 1934	Hilda Sans	
January 1935	Arthur Honduras	
September 1935	Redsfin W. Moody	
March/Sept/ October 1936	Redsfin W. Moody	
February 1936	Arthur Honduras	
May & January 1937	Redsfin W. Moody	
February 1937	G. Rodwell Hulse	
April & September 1938	G. Rodwell Hulse	
January 1939	Bishop Douglas Wilson	
June 1939	V.H. Thomas	
September 1939	G. Rodwell Hulse	
March & April 1940	G. Rodwell Hulse	
June 1940	S.J. Beresford	Catechist
June 1940	Bishop Wilson	
February 1941	E. P. Hissoch	
April 1941	Douglas Wilson	
April 1941	A.L. Bowie	Catechist
October 1941	Leigh Richardson	
1946	G. Fairweather	
1947	SK Cumberbatch	Rector of Christ the King Church, Stann Creek
1947	A.H. Musa	
1948	Rowland Taylor	Archdeacon
April 1948	J.G.A. Stamp	
1948	R.R. Persico	Priest
1948	J. Rodwell Hulse	Vicar General
1948	Allan Russell	Dean of Belize
1949	J. Rodwell Hulse & Douglas Honduras	
November 1949	Rev. Boyd	

Date	Name of Priest	Status
February 1950	Douglas Honduras	
July 1950	Ivo Boyd	
February 1951	Hubbard	
1970	Fr. Demery	
1971 – 1973	J.M. Tavant	Priest in-charge of Belmopan
1973 – 1974	Fr. Robert Demery	
1974 – 1975	J.R. Ley	
1976	William A. J. Wells	
October 1976	Fr. L. Henry	
1976—Oct 1978	Fr. L. Henry	
Nov 1978—1979	Fr. WAJ Wells	
1979—1980	Fr. L Anthony	
1980—June 1986	Fr. Leroy Flowers (now Canon Flowers, oversees the north and Belize City area churches)	
July 1986—Jan 1990	Fr. E. Richards	
Jan 1990—March 1990	Fr. Alton Stinns	
March 1990—April 1990	Fr. Frank Demery	
May 1990—June 1990	Bishop Desmond Smith SSJ	
June 1990—Sept 1990	Fr. Robert O. Johnston	
Oct. 1990—Jan 1991	Fr. Robert A. King	
Jan 1991—March 1991	Fr. John R. Edwards	
May 1991	Fr. Jerris Valentine (now Canon Valentine, oversees the South and West area churches)	
June 1991	Fr. Shaw	
July 1991	Return of Fr. E. Richards	
1992	Mostly led by Lay Minister, Mrs. L. Simmons	
Feb 1993—March 1994	Fr. Philip Wright (now Canon Wright, oversees the Anglican Theological Institute and Christian Education/ lay leadership programs)	
March 1994—July 1997	Fr. Ian C. Hutchinson-Cervantes	
July 1997—July 2000	Fr. Mark Rogers	
July 2000—Dec 2000	Fr. Ron Attley	
Jan 2001—Oct 2001	The Rev. Ilona Smiling	
Nov. 2001—April 2002	Fr. Robert Carlson	
Aug 2002—present	Fr. Lindsley Walton & the Rev. Nancy Dixon Walton	

Note: A.G. Fairweather entered a baptism officiated by Dean E.C. Robinson on April 30, 1887.

Reference: found in the historical files at St Andrew's.

If you have any questions regarding the on-going ministries of St. Andrew's, please contact the Waltons at 824 2453.

INVOCATION PRAYER

On the Occasion of El Cayo's Centennial

Deacon Don Kostecki

DEAR FATHER GOD, WE ARE GATHERED HERE TODAY TO CELEBRATE-TO REMEMBER-OUR PEOPLE, OUR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS, THOSE WHO HAVE GONE BEFORE US, THOSE WHO ARE HERE WITH US NOW EITHER IN PERSON OR IN SPIRIT, AND THOSE WHO WILL FOLLOW. WE ARE FILLED WITH ADMIRATION AND GRATITUDE, DEAR LORD, FOR THE VISION, COURAGE, HARD WORK AND PERSEVERANCE OF THOSE WHO SETTLED IN THIS PLACE WE AFFECTIONATELY CALL OUR HOME.

EL CAYO, AS IT WAS FIRST CALLED SOME 100 YEARS AGO, HAD BEEN THE HOME OF ANCIENT PEOPLES BEFORE, AS IS EVIDENCED BY THE REMNANTS AND RUINS OF STRUCTURES AND ARTIFACTS FOUND THROUGHOUT THIS AREA. WE THANK YOU, FATHER GOD, FOR THE ANCIENT WISDOM OF THESE EARLIEST SETTLERS THAT REMAINS WITH US EVEN TODAY.

WE ARE GRATEFUL ALSO FOR THE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF THE VARIOUS PEOPLES WHO SETTLED AND CULTIVATED THIS AREA AND BROUGHT INTO BEING THE THRIVING CENTER OF COMMERCE, CULTURE, AND RECREATION THAT TODAY IS THE TWIN TOWNS OF SAN IGNACIO AND SANTA ELENA.

WE ESPECIALLY THANK YOU, LORD GOD, AND CELEBRATE THE FAITH IN YOUR LOVING PROVIDENCE THAT WAS BROUGHT TO US BY CHRISTIAN MISSIONARIES, MOST NOTABLY THE SOCIETY OF JESUS -THE JESUITS. IN NO SMALL MEASURE, THEY ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE NAMING OF EL CAYO AFTER THEIR FOUNDER, SAINT IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA. THEY, AND OTHERS WHO FOLLOWED THEM, HAVE KEPT FAITH IN YOUR GOODNESS AND LOVE ALIVE IN THE MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN WHO LIVED AND REMAIN WITH US TODAY.

WE ARE REMINDED OF, AND GRATEFUL AS WELL, DEAR LORD, FOR THE NATURAL BOUNTY AND BEAUTY THAT PERVADES THIS AREA, PROVIDING RESOURCES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR LIVELIHOOD TO OUR PEOPLE.

ON THIS SPECIAL DAY, WE THANK YOU LORD FOR THE VISION AND DEDICATION OF THOSE WHO ESTABLISHED, BUILT, AND EXPANDED OUR COMMUNITY, MAKING ROOM AS THEY DID SO FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS OF RESIDENTS AND CITIZENS WHO DESIRE TO LIVE AND WORK AMONG US.

WE TAKE THIS OCCASION TO PETITION YOU, GRACIOUS GOD, TO SEND ANEW YOUR HOLY SPIRIT TO GUIDE OUR LIVES AND LIVE WITHIN OUR HEARTS. CONTINUE TO BLESS US WITH WHATEVER WE NEED TO MAKE THIS PLACE, OUR TOWN, A COMMUNITY OF LOVE, A PLACE OF PEACE AND TRANQUILITY, AND A LAND OF OPPORTUNITY. MAY WE CONTINUE TO GROW MORE AND MORE INTO THE PEOPLE, THE COMMUNITY, THAT YOU CALL US TO BE.

WE MAKE THIS PRAYER, AND ASK YOUR FAVOR IN ALL THINGS, IN THE NAME OF JESUS, OUR SAVING LORD. AMEN.

EL CAYO'S AREA REPRESENTATIVES

WE SALUTE OUR MAYORS

We recognize our Area Representatives:

Patrick Gray

Harrison Courtnay

Enrique Sandino Depaz

Hector David Silva

Joseph Stanislaus Andrews

Assad Shoman

Salvador Fernandez

Hon. Ainslie Leslie

Eduardo Juan Jr.

Assad Shoman

Daniel Silva Jr.

Hon. Mario Castellanos

1. *Hamid Musa*
2. *Hector David Silva*
3. *Santiago Perdomo*
4. *Domingo T. Espat*
5. *Armando Sabido*
6. *Eduardo Luna Jr.*
7. *Gabourel Roches*
8. *Francisco Bautista*
9. *Joseph Stanislaus Andrews*
10. *Teodocio Ochoa*
11. *Alberto Montero*
12. *Domingo Cruz Jr.*
13. *Rene Moreno*
14. *Eulogio Cano*
15. *Domingo Cruz Sr.*
16. *Salvador Fernandez*
17. *Alvaro Palencia*
18. *Victor August*
19. *Martin Galvez*
20. *Marconi Matus*
21. *Luis Manzanero*
22. *Albert Bradley*
23. *Desmond Berry*
24. *Orlando Habet*
25. *Alfonso Cruz Jr.*



EL CAYO CENTENNIAL

1904 – 2004

OCTOBER 19

Celebrating our People, History, Culture & Natural Wonders!

- 1st October **Radio Message** by *Mr. Alfonso Cruz, Mayor of San Ignacio and Santa Elena*
- 1st October **Launching of Centennial (October) Activities:**
Students from Eden 7th Day Adventist College, St. Ignatius College and Sacred Heart College.
Assembly at Sacred Heart College at 8:00 a.m.
Heralding our 100 Years of History: *Hector D. Silva*
Synopsis of Our History: *Alfonso Tzul*
Guest Speaker: *Yasser Musa*, President
National Institute of Culture & History NICH
Tribute to our Fore-parents: *Elias A. Awe*, Chairman,
Centennial Celebrations Committee
- Planting of Mahogany & Sapodilla Trees: *Yasser Musa*, President of **NICH** & *Elias A. Awe*, Chairman **CCC**
- 10th October Church service in Thanksgiving for our 100 Years of peaceful co-existence
- Grand concert at Octavia Waight Centre featuring young Francia Ortiz & her magical organ.
- Bicycle Race:** San Ignacio – Benque Viejo – San Ignacio
- 12 October **El Cayo Canoe Safari:** S/Lookout – Sta. Familia – Calla Creek Cycling.
Running from Calla Creek – Benque Viejo & canoeing from Border to San Ignacio: Belize Canoe Association

- 13th October *Rt. Hon. George Price, Father of the Nation*, accompanied by Minister of Education and Area Representatives including NICH representative to visit Schools in Santa Elena & San Ignacio
- 17th October **Cultural Festival:** Music, Dancing, Poetry: Columbus Park commencing at 6:00 p.m.
- 18th October Assemble at Columbus Park around 6:00 p.m. for Centennial Vigil
Sacred Heart Junior College - Power Point Presentation
Welcome & Remarks: Mayor of San Ignacio/Santa Elena
Exchange of Torches: San Ignacio & BV del Carmen
Grupo de Baile Folclórico de México: Mexican Embassy
Music: Mr. Peters Boom & Chime Band, Sunset Band, Marimba
Messages of Felicitation: Mayors and Community Leaders
Tribute to our fore-parents: *Elias A. Awe*
A Toast to El Cayo: *Hector D. Silva*
Patron's Message: *Hon. Said Musa, Prime Minister of Belize & distinguished son of San Ignacio*
- 19th October Belize Archives Department Display in conjunction with the National Institute of Culture & History NICH
Official opening by Mr. Alfonso Cruz, Mayor of San Ignacio/Santa Elena
Brief Notes on El Cayo: *Elias A. Awe*
Launching of Commemorative booklet: National Institute of Culture and History NICH

Tourism in Cayo: Past, Present & Future, Burns Avenue Sponsored by members of BTIA Cayo
- 19th October Assembly at the Macal Park
Ceremony & Inauguration of Commemorative Monument by the Hon. Said Musa, Prime Minister & Patron of the Centennial Celebrations
Monument sponsored by the Atlantic Bank Ltd.
Citizens and Schools Parade
Scouts, Pathfinders, Guides, Clubs
Jump Up!