

# ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST ANGLICAN CHURCH - 1906

## TWO CHURCHES SINCE 1861

### Original Church

Prior to the 1850s, Church of England residents of Coley's Point had been served by churches at Harbour Grace, then Port de Grave and finally Bay Roberts. By 1854 with an increasing population on the Point, a church was needed. Wood was cut and hauled out for its construction. On October 29, 1861 the first Church of St. John the Evangelist was consecrated. Built by Samuel Batten of Bareneed, it accommodated 256 people and was to serve the congregation until almost the end of the century.

### The Current Church

In 1898, the decision was made to build a new church for the Coley's Point/Country Road congregation and a committee was formed to raise funds and develop plans. The old church was torn down and for a time the Orange Lodge was used for services. On November 24, 1898 the men of the congregation met to dig the foundation. That spring John French and Isaac Mercer built the foundation. For the next 3 1/2 years construction continued under master builder Jonas Earle. On Thursday October 25, 1906 the new Church of St. John the Evangelist was consecrated by Bishop Jones.

### Fire

In May 1943, on a Sunday afternoon, fire broke out damaging the roof of the church. When the blaze was discovered, the bell was rung to summon the men who were able to extinguish the fire before too much damage was done.



Early photo of current church

SOURCE  
"THE HISTORY OF THE CONGREGATION OF ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST"  
BY ALBERT FRENCH  
THE BAY ROBERTS HERITAGE SOCIETY



To raise money to build the church, pews were "sold." The initial fee was \$18 for a front pew, \$16 for a middle pew or \$14 for a back one. Then they paid an annual pew fee (30 cents in 1904). In 1958, ownership of pews was abolished.



In 1931 this stained glass window was donated in memory of Capt. John Dawe



Before the Church was finished, additional pews were required, so construction of a gallery was approved. The gallery, the tower and the staining and varnishing of the interior were completed after the church was consecrated. When finished, the church could seat 700 people.



Altar installed April 29, 1932 in memory of Philip and Susan Goosney. The altar and most furniture was built by Samuel Greenland.



The pulpit was given by the Church of England Women's Association in 1928 in memory of Rev. W.C. Shears, rector of the Parish of Bay Roberts during much of the planning and construction. Shearstown is named for Rev. Shears.



### Church Bell

In 1902 a Church Bell was purchased from Meneely & Co. of New York at a cost of \$130.00. It included "one bell, 424 pounds, also the complete mountings and ringing and tolling ropes".

