



Ellis Memorial Chapel

St. Saviour's Anglican Church was built by Tom and Wilhelmina Ellis in 1892, the first Protestant Church in the Valley. It was a "Thanks to God" for the escape from death of himself and family in a carriage accident which occurred on their way to Kamloops. The Church was a five minute walk from their ranch house. A cemetery was also started close by the church in 1892, where Ellis' son was buried.

The little church was designed from a sanctuary in Ireland. It was a Gothic Style with diamond paned leaded windows; the interior woodwork was finished in dull varnish; the Nave had well-made seats for 40 worshippers, but with no pulpit; a rail separated the sanctuary from the Nave and housed a polished oak lectern and prayer desk.

Ellis retained possession of the church and property for many years so it could be used for travelling missionaries. The Methodist and Presbyterians also used the church. They were allowed to use the Nave but not the Sanctuary.

Reverend Thomas Greene was the first Anglican Priest sent from Missionary District of Qu'Appelle, SK. He was then offered the job by The Bishop of New Westminster when he

arrived in Penticton. The Parsonage wasn't ready so he was a guest at the Ellis Ranch House until it was completed. (His wife and baby followed later.)

Reverend Thomas Greene quoted these three things about the little church:

1. This little Church was the only Church in my large parish and was a little oasis in which, after my journeys I could return for spiritual refreshment.
2. It was built by Tom Ellis as a gift of Thanksgiving to God for saving his family from a carriage accident.
3. Quote "I loved the little Church and it was the happiest years of my Ministry."

As the Town expanded, a new St. Saviour's Church was built on Orchard Avenue and Winnipeg Street. In 1934 the small church was moved to the south side facing Winnipeg Street. It has its own sidewalk and entrance. It may also be entered by the main Church. It was given a veneer of stone masonry to match the new church.

It was dedicated September 23, 1934 as the Ellis Memorial Chapel in memory of Tom and Wilhelmina Ellis and Alfred Wade (her brother).

This is a part of Penticton history.

The interior has had very little change made to it. When entering, it feels like you step back in time.

The leaded stain glass windows are well made, strong and beautiful. They have done well to escape any damage in 121 years (1892-2013). Older stained glass artwork is irreplaceable because the formulae for some of the colors have been lost.

Captions have been added at the bottom of each window to commemorate the passing of the Ellis family members.

The chapel is used all year round on Wednesday noon for the Order of St. Luke's healing services and laying on of hands. Many prayers have been answered there. It is a peaceful and spiritual place. I know. I attend services most Wednesdays during the winter.



Stained Glass Window above the Ellis Chapel Altar

Gene Rabeer