

Church of the Angels

Stained glass window tells miracle of Easter

"He is not here. He is risen." These few words, possibly spoken by an angel sent to announce the miraculous news of Christ's defeat of death and escape from the tomb, reveal, in eloquent simplicity, the meaning of today's joyous celebration of Easter.

Those words are also to be seen on a stained glass window on the west facade of the Church of the Angels at 1100 Avenue 64 in Pasadena which has recently been selected a cultural heritage, landmark by Pasadena's landmark committee. Located just over the city line from Highland Park, is the only church so designated among the 15 cultural landmarks in Pasadena.

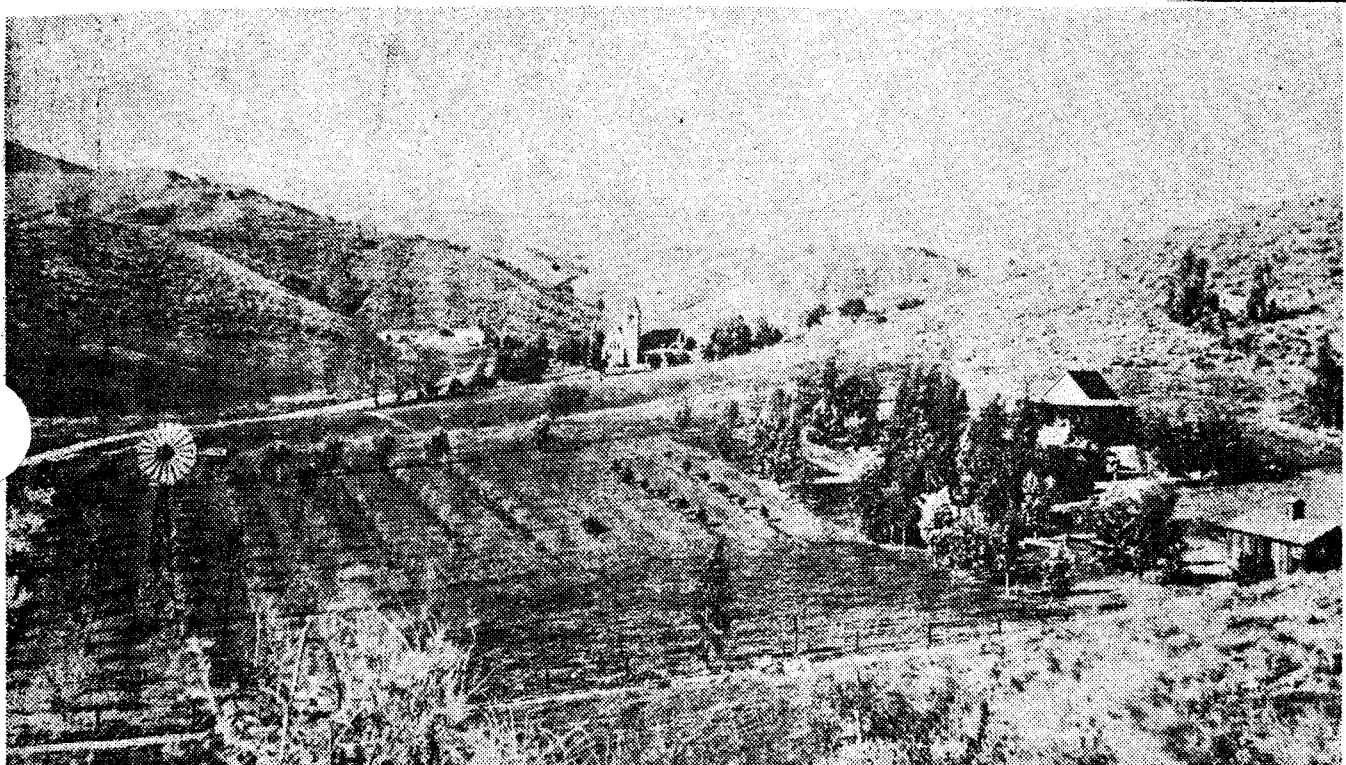
The Easter window was dedicated in 1889 by Mrs. Frances E. Campbell-Johnston, founder of the church, to the memory of her husband, Alexander Robert Campbell-Johnston.

EASTER DAWN

The memorial window was designed and executed by the firm of Cox, Buckley and Company of London. The Rev. Dr. Haskins, writing in the Los Angeles Churchman of October, 1889, says of the stained glass creation:

"It is 15 feet in height, and the subject is the Easter Dawn. The supreme moment chosen is when the three Holy women, bearing spices and precious ointment, find the sepulchre empty. An angel is

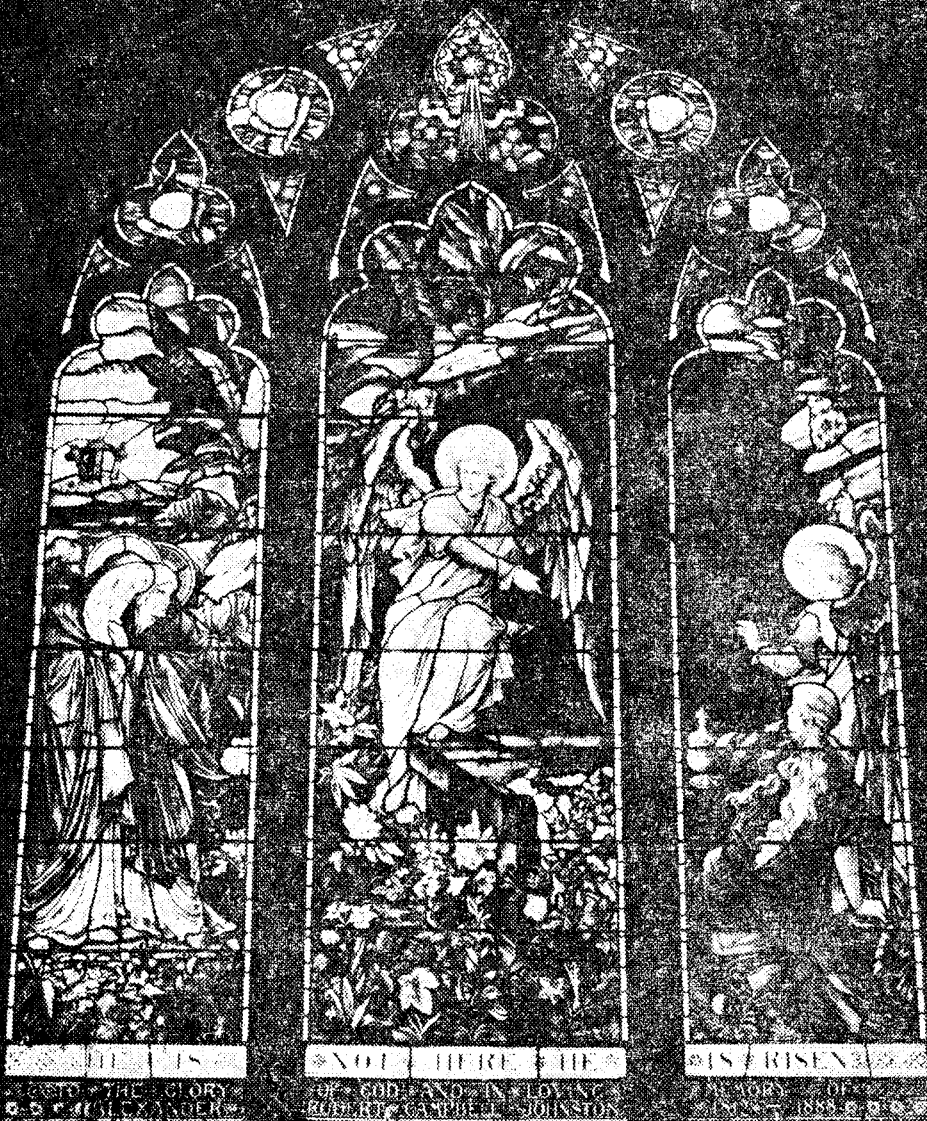
seated on the stone, which has been rolled away from the door, on which also are resting the crown of thorns and grave clothes. Another angel, standing by, is pointing upward. Mary Magdalene kneels in front. In the distance is seen the place of crucifixion with its three crosses, and the sun's rays, advancing behind them, presaging the morn, and casting a grey light over the scene. In this beautiful group, all the figures were taken from living models."



Early days of Church of the Angels

Green rolling hills surround the Church of the Angels in this picture taken in 1892 when the landmark church was three years old. The photo was taken looking north from Easy Street and Pickwick Avenue (then Garvanza). Avenue 64 runs across the center

of the photo, with Burleigh Drive to the right of the church. Mrs. Frances Campbell-Johnston, who founded the church in the memory of her husband, died in England in 1893.



An Easter message

An angel points to the empty tomb and tells gathering women that "He is not here. He is risen" in this stained glass window in the Church of the Angels, 1100 Avenue 64 in west Pasadena. The window is in the memory of Alexander Robert Campbell-Johnston, whose widow, Frances Campbell-Johnston, founded the Church of the Angels.

Mr. and Mrs. Campbell-Johnston visited the west coast in 1883 and purchased 3000 acres of an old Spanish land grant in the Garvanza area. The couple soon returned to

England, leaving their sons to farm the land and develop a ranch.

HUSBAND DIES

They returned in 1888 to check on progress at the ranch but Mr. Campbell-Johnston suddenly took ill and died. Mrs. Campbell-Johnston returned to England to bury her husband and it was there that she decided to build a church on the Garvanza land to his memory.

She again visited Garvanza and selected the current site of the church, purchasing the one and a half acres from the estate. Back in England, Mrs. Campbell-Johnston commissioned Arthur Edmund Street, the son of Sir George Edmund Street, to design the church.

In January of 1889 she returned again to Garvanza to oversee construction of the church and took up residence in a building built by her sons at the corner of Pasadena Avenue and Mountain Avenue (now Avenue 64).

CORNERSTONE

The cornerstone was laid April 20, 1889. In the following months Mrs. Campbell-Johnston paid daily visits to the construction site, taking a personal interest not only in the church but in the workmen and their families. Prior to completion of the church she hosted the workers and their wives and children at a special service of thanksgiving, asking Christ to preserve them from accidents.

The Episcopal church was consecrated on Sept. 29, 1889 by the Rt. Rev. John Henry Ducachet Wingfield, D. D., Missionary Bishop of Northern California. With the completion of the memorial church, Mrs. Campbell-Johnston returned to England where she died Nov. 21, 1893. Her sons, acting as trustees of the church, purchased from the estate an additional 14 acres of land and commissioned the construction of a family memorial at the south approach to the church grounds.

organization wherein the congregation has the power to elect a rector and to hold real property. The Bishop of the diocese is rector of the Church of the Angels and appoints a vicar to look after parochial duties. The church continues to be known as the Bishop's Chapel.

MISSION

The church continued to grow and prosper. In 1901 it was decided to form a mission to bring the church into "ecclesiastical union" with the diocese. Horace Leonard was elected warden and Robert Lindsay was elected treasurer of the Mission of the Church of the Angels.

A son, Alexander Napier Campbell-Johnston died in 1907 and in 1915 another son, Conway, and his wife died aboard the ship Lusitania when it was torpedoed by the Germans off the south coast of Ireland. Conway Campbell-Johnston was on his way to England to report for service in World War I.

The sole surviving son, Augustine, died in 1920 in Pasadena, leaving Bishop Joseph Johnson as the only trustee of the church. The property then passed to the jurisdiction of the Bishop of the Diocese.

In 1928 it was decided that efficient operation of the church dictated establishment of a parish and election of officers of the vestry. Due to the fact that the gift of the Church of the Angels was under the administration of the bishop of the Episcopal diocese, it was necessary to depart from the normal structure of parish.

HISTORY OF THE CHURCH OF THE ANGELS

The Church of the Angels is one of the most historic and beautiful churches in the western United States. It was built by Mrs. Alexander Robert Campbell-Johnston as a memorial to her husband and as a place of worship for the people of the village of Garvanza.

The cornerstone was laid Easter Eve, April 20, 1889, and the church consecrated St. Michael and All Angels Day, September 29, of the same year. What was then the Mission of the Church of the Angels became a parish of the Diocese of Los Angeles on June 19, 1901.

The Church of the Angels, which served the Bishop of Los Angeles as his pro-cathedral until St. Paul's Church was constituted, was designated the Bishop's Chapel on November 29, 1889, a "chapel-of-ease" to the pro-cathedral. Since that time, the Bishop of Los Angeles has served as rector with his chaplain appointed vicar in charge of all services.

The church is patterned after Holmbury St. Mary's Church, near Dorking, Surrey, England, although it is not an exact copy. It is set in a garden of three acres and is faced with sandstone which was hauled from quarries in the San Fernando Valley. The San Rafael Ranch, of which Garvanza was a part, supplied the red stone which was incorporated into the structure. A 44 foot stone tower, characteristic of the eleventh century, houses an eight day Seth Thomas clock which denotes the hours by striking a bell suspended in the belfry. The stone sun dial and its landscaped heart shaped setting is a memorial to Mrs. Campbell-Johnston donated by her sons.

The interior walls of the church are of red pressed brick, and the ceiling is of redwood, both of which have mellowed through the years to give the soft warmth of feeling. Near the main entrance is the baptistry in which stands a font of Mexican alabaster with a figure, carved from Italian marble, of a child angel kneeling at the base holding a cross. The font was a gift from the workmen engaged in the building of the church.

The magnificent memorial window, which depicts the discovery of Jesus' open tomb on Easter Morning, was designed and executed in London and is said to be one of the finest examples of stained glass in America.

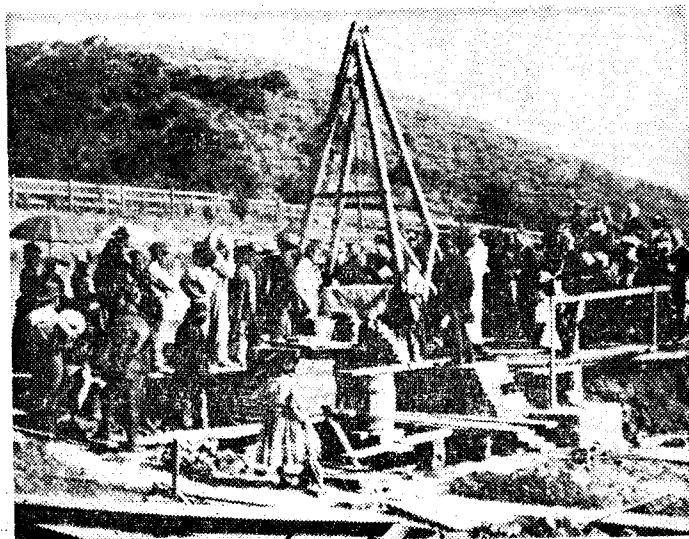
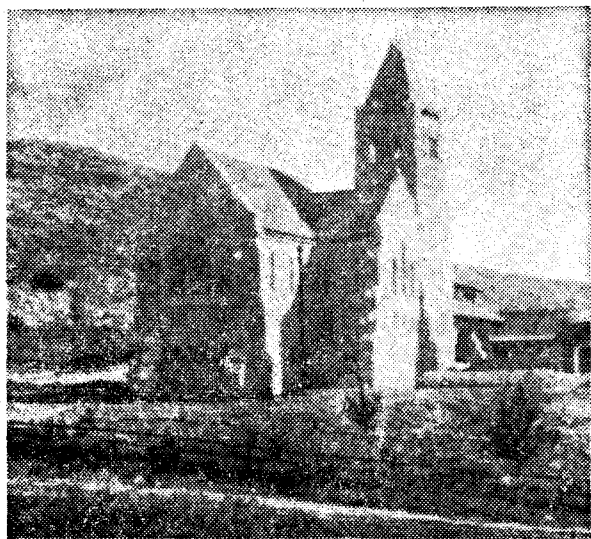
The altar and chancel furniture are veneered with olive wood donated by the Franciscan Fathers from the grounds of the Mission, San Gabriel. The Lectern, exquisitely carved in the form of St. Michael the Archangel, was designed by the eminent English sculptor W.R. Ingram and executed in a carving school in Belgium. The body is made of one solid piece from a Bog oak tree which was over 400 years old. The carved pulpit is of English oak with white Portland stone base. It was erected at the 40th anniversary of the opening of the church.

The pipe organ, housed in the north transept, was built and installed in 1889. The mellowing of the pipes through the years has given a beautifully rich tone to the instrument.

The building and grounds were designated an Historical Landmark by the Pasadena City Directors on January 6, 1971.

The earthquake of February 9, 1971 damaged the tower and required that it be shortened eight feet. The design is now more like the original plans. The cost of the repairs was \$12,000. The only other major repair to the building has been the replacement of the wooden parquet floor of the nave, which became unsafe. We are indeed thankful to Almighty God for the preservation of this church from physical harm through the years. We pray that for generations to come parishioners and visitors alike may find it truly the House of God.

ON THE MEND . . . Seriously damaged in the temblor of Feb. 9, the fabled Church of the Angels is being painstakingly repaired (by skilled masons) and quite symbolically will open its doors for a "new life" on Easter Sunday.



CHURCH OF THE ANGELS . . . in February of 1889 . . . standing alone on a landscape now lush with trees and homes. At the right is the historic laying of the cornerstone by Mrs. Francis E. Campbell-Johnson. The church has withstood many natural disasters, including three major earthquakes, the last of which put the structure in temporary peril.

Legendary chapel lives on

Church wins battle with earthquake

By Nelda Thompson

It was on Feb. 10, 1889 that the Church of the Angels, one of the earliest and the most picturesque churches in Southern California, held its first service.

Eighty-two years minus one day (on Feb. 9, 1971), the church, a replica of an English Village church built by Mrs. Alexander Robert Campbell-Johnson as a memorial to her late husband, had a narrow brush with extinction.

The church which had seen almost a century go by, felt the wrath of the mammoth earthquake that shook the area.

First reports were glum. Perhaps the efforts of dedicated workers who made a shrine on the old Spanish Ranch had served their purpose and time had run out. Perhaps the Church of the Angels would have to be leveled.

Fortunately early reports proved exaggerated. The church could be repaired . . . although it would take the work of skilled brick masons who understood the painstaking old-world process of re-build-

ing English style.

It will continue to be one of the most beautiful landmarks of old Garvanza, part of a Spanish land grant named for the "pink pea," a flower that grew profusely in those early days when sheep roamed the hills and the dinner bell sounded its call. (The same bell occupies a historic niche on the park-like grounds of the church.)

It isn't the first time that earthquakes have interfered with services at the church. In the Long Beach quake of 1933, damage (not as severe as in-recent disaster) caused temporary concern.

Coming to the rescue at the time were the "Brides of the Church of the Angels," which is an organization almost as unique as the structure. The women who had taken their marital vows at the altar of the Church of the Angels helped to provide the funds for repairs at that time.

Work is now almost complete on the tower damaged Feb. 9, and quite symbolic of its new "life," the church will be re-opened for services on Easter Sunday.

Re-opens Easter Sunday

4/4/71

