



The diamond quarrel windows in St. Luke's Anglican Church, Lyndhurst, each with a central medallion



The altar window is a simplified triptych of square quarrel design with medallions

HIDDEN IN PLAIN SIGHT

A Gift of Stained Glass to St. Luke's Anglican Church

By Lorraine Payette

Summer of 1981 was glorious. Not too hot, not too wet, just right for accomplishing a dream long held by the parishioners at St. Luke's in Lyndhurst. In preparation of their 100th anniversary on October 18, 1982, they had decided to fix everything up and make it glorious – and that included repairing and restoring all of the stained glass windows in the church.



One of the original windows restored with pieces cannibalized from a single window

This would be a massive project, and committees were formed well in advance to raise the necessary funds. Whitby Gather Studio in Kingston had said they could do the job for \$5,000 (equivalent to \$13,703.65 in 2016), and it would take a mighty push to bring in that kind of money. There were bake sales and rummage sales and car washes. Donations of all kinds were accepted, and in the end, they were able to pay for the job.

The crew from the studio came in and surveyed the project. They could see the hope in the members' eyes, feel their dream, but could it be done?

Each window was carefully removed from its frame to be taken back to the studio. Clear glass was fitted into the holes in the walls to protect the building while the work was done, and the job commenced. It would take between three and four months to complete, and everyone was eager to see the end result.

Meanwhile, back at the studio, the crew faced a challenge. A large number of pieces were broken in most of the windows, and many were a particular shade of aqua that had been commonplace when they were made but which could not be matched a century later. They were also painted with an elaborate design which would need to be reproduced over and over again.

Close is never good enough, and they knew how hard the church had worked to achieve this dream. A decision was made to do the job and make a gift to the church at the same time.

The majority of the windows were made in a diamond quarrel pattern with identically shaped and sized pieces. One window was located near a large bush which shaded it and disguised its true colour. The crew cannibalized this window, using the pieces to replace the broken glass in the other windows throughout the church.

Their painter then created a silk screen to reproduce the painted pattern and, using a modern glass that was similar in colour to the original, they built a brand new window for the church that would be installed next to the bush. The shade would disguise the colour and no one would ever know about this secret gift to St. Luke's.

Installation was completed in the early fall of 1981, well in advance. The centennial saw all of the windows glowing like new and the church looking better than it had since it originally opened. As the congregation lifted their voices in song, no one noticed the new window.

However, time marches on. A severe storm killed the bush and it had to be removed. Yet, amazingly, no one noticed the difference in this one window. They were so accustomed to it that it was as if it had always been there.

To this day, the window hides in plain sight at St. Luke's, a silent testament to the determination of a congregation and the generosity of the studio that believed in their dream. **LH**