

HISTORY

In the early 19th century the Parish Minister in a report on his parish noted he had a number of Episcopalians resident in it. On July 16th 1880 the Reverend W M Ramsey incumbent of St. Ninian's Castle Douglas officiate at a service in the McRobert Hall of the Kings Arms Hotel and further services were held at monthly intervals for the remainder of that year when the congregation was given status of a Mission Charge within the United Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway. Reverend W M Ramsey was also responsible for other Mission Charges viz New Galloway; Dalbeattie and Kirkcudbright and used a pony to take him on a round trip of 30 miles each Sunday in all weathers! His visits to Stranraer were mainly on Fridays. In 1885 the Reverend H F Riley was in charge of the Mission, followed by Reverend N H Barr in 1886 and the Reverend W R Barber in 1887. St. John's the Evangelist Church was erected 1892, the Reverend Samuel B Bleau became Priest-in-Charge in 1896; there was a congregation of 85 members of whom 43 were Communicant members. The original building of St. John the Evangelist fell into disrepair during the early 1990's and at that time Safeway's food store was looking for premises in the town. The Scottish Episcopal Church agreed to the church building being deconsecrated and destroyed and a new church for St. John the Evangelist congregation being built above the new library in North Strand Street. The new versatile building was consecrated in February 1995 by Bishop John with Rev Eric Kerrin as the non stipendiary Priest-in-Charge. After Rev Eric's retirement Canon Lionel Burke from the West Indies took the ministry who was followed by the Revd Canon Robin Underhill who returned from California; Rev Beth Tugwell, who served with Canon Robin, and took the incumbency until the spring 2010, and during interregnum Canon Nigel Newton is the present interim priest in charge.

Revd. Michael Buchanan Hills became our priest in Charge in October 2013.