



## A Brief History of the Book of Common Prayer, Part 1



**King Henry VIII of England**  
*ar.inspiredpencil.com*

Four hundred seventy-six years ago, on June 9, 1549, the people of England found the services of their Church for the first time in the common language of the nation. At Matins they heard the psalms which had been part of devotional heritage since the days God called ancient Israel to prepare for the coming of Christ. They listened to the lessons of Holy Scripture read from the new English Bible which Henry VIII ordered for all the churches to be observed. At Mass, the priest opened his new service book to "The Supper of the Lord, and the Holy Communion, commonly called the Mass." The ancient liturgy which had formed the central act of Christian worship for fifteen hundred years was once again offered to God with no barrier of language between the people and the meaning of this act in which they joined in remembrance of their Lord and Savior. The erroneous doctrines and practices of the Middle Ages which had obscured the meaning of the Mass in the life of the Christian community had largely been cleared away.

Today, four hundred seventy-six years later, we still stand as they did, with The Book of Common Prayer in our hands. The richest common possession of Anglican Churches throughout the world, it is both the bond of unity among us and the charter of our continuity in the faith and worship of the Holy Catholic Church throughout all the ages.

Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury during the first decades of the English Reformation, was the chief architect of The Book of Common Prayer. Steeped in the New Learning of the Christian Renaissance since his student days at Cambridge University, he had long been an earnest opponent of Papal authority in England. The most serious spiritual impoverishment of medieval religious life was the inability of the ordinary person to take part in the chief services of his Church, the Holy Communion, or the Mass. Not only was Latin a real barrier, but also was the popular notion that the priest, on behalf of the people, was the sole recitation of the supreme corporate act. Although Henry VIII refused to allow his Archbishop complete freedom in the revision of the Church's services, Cranmer succeeded in persuading him to order the new English Bible to be set up in all the churches, and to require each parish priest to teach his people the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, in English. Work proceeded more rapidly following the King's death and as a result the Lessons of Matins and Vespers as well as the Epistles and Gospels of the Mass were ordered read in English.



**Archbishop Thomas Cranmer**  
*nationalgalleries.org*

In 1549 Cranmer's work came to fulfillment. He finished a complete version of all the old services, and the new Book of Common Prayer was ordered placed in use throughout England on Whitsunday of that year.

*Adapted from "The Struggle for the Prayer Book," The National Council, 1945.*





## St. John's Early Priests: The Rev. J. Fred Holmes

*By Elizabeth and Richard Barratt, St. John's Historians*

Because St. John's Chapel was initially intended for seasonal guests at the Hotel Del Monte, the beginning years saw no resident priest. As a result, the priests who conducted Sunday afternoon services were area circuit riders, acting as chaplains, who came over from St. Mary's-by-the-Sea in Pacific Grove. At times they also came from St. James in Monterey, with an occasional priest called to serve all three churches. Each of these men were distinguished, many-talented gentlemen, well-educated and well-traveled, functioning in several capacities over the years of their priesthoods.

One must first mention the rector of St. James, Monterey, who took a personal interest in St. John's Chapel, acting as on-site supervisor while St. John's was under construction. The Rev. J. Fred Holmes (1853-1916) graduated from the University of the Pacific in 1881, the same year he married Angelina Burns in Santa Clara. Ordained by Bishop Kip in 1886, he served at Trinity Church in San Francisco and at churches in San Jose until he arrived in Pacific Grove in 1888 to become the first missionary-in-charge of St. Mary's-by-the-Sea. From there, he was appointed vicar at St. James in Monterey from 1887-1893. It was during this period that he became devoted to St. John's Chapel and its completion, and doubtless was one of the several local circuit-riding priests who served the chapel during its infancy.

On December 21, 1889, the Monterey Cypress noted, "We are informed by the Rev. J. Fred Holmes that work will commence next week clearing the grounds and digging the foundation for the Del Monte Chapel which will be erected just across the county road from the Del Monte

grounds near the residence formerly occupied by H. J. Palmer. The site selected is a charming one, the grounds consisting of about one acre donated through the influence of Chas. Crocker just before his death."



*The Rev. J. Fred Holmes (1853-1916) oversaw the construction of St. John's Chapel. (photo courtesy of St. Mary's-by-the-Sea)*

The Crocker family's gift property lay adjacent to the hotel and located just across the carriage drive that passed alongside the maze garden to the southeast of the hotel. Initial fundraising to build the chapel itself was initiated by Charles Crocker's daughter, Harriet, and her friend and sister-in-law, Emma Rutherford Crocker. Parishioners of St. John the Evangelist Church in San Francisco, under the encouragement of their rector, Dr. E. B. Spalding, also contributed. Soon donations came from other sources as well. Monterey residents added to the building fund, as did other Del

Monte Hotel guests, individuals and companies. Another contribution came from the new housing development next to the hotel grounds, as reported in the July 5, 1890, Monterey Cypress, "Today the great sale of lots in the Oak Grove tract takes place. The proceeds of the first lot will go toward completing the Del Monte Chapel. It is expected that a large crowd from San Francisco will be in attendance."

By early 1890, the chapel's construction was in progress. Lest there be any doubt as to ownership, a notice was published in the March 15, 1890, Monterey Cypress, "The general impression has prevailed that the new chapel under way near the Del Monte was being erected by the P.I. Co. [Pacific Improvement Company], for the especial use of the guests of the hotel. Such is not the case, [both] the chapel and land are the exclusive property of the Protestant Episcopal Church, the land having been deeded absolutely to the church by the P.I. Co., and the only conditions made were that a church should be built within two years, which conditions are being complied with. The chapel,

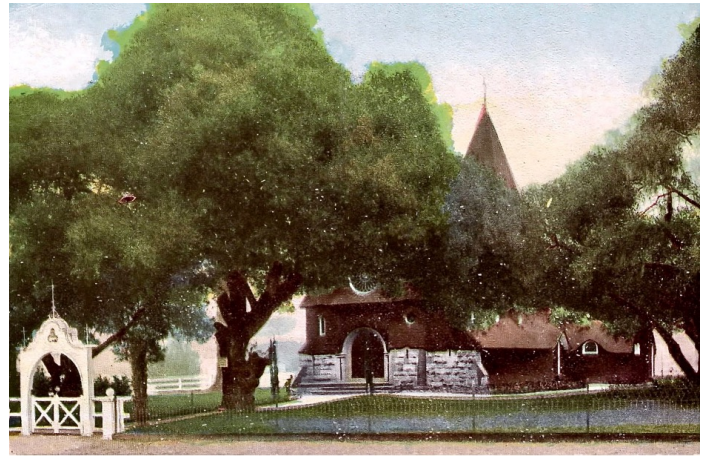
*Continued on page 3*

### Early Priests: *Continued from page 2*

when completed, will cost about \$8,000.”

The following month a lengthy description in the April 12, 1890, Monterey Cypress reported, “The Del Monte Chapel, now in the course of erection, will be when completed, one of the prettiest and most unique places of worship in the state. The site selected is a lovely spot a few hundred yards east of the hotel and here, almost hidden by mammoth oaks and lofty pines, the little structure is slowly but surely showing itself above the shrubbery.” The exterior walls were described as finished in both Pacific Grove granite and the same Santa Clara sandstone that was used at Stanford University. Front steps were of granite, with fancy shingling wrapped above the front entrance, which was to enclose a rose window. The interior was designed with a central aisle leading to one center space opening beneath the steeple. A choir stall and organ were planned for the left of the altar, while a vestibule was to sit on the right side. Norman windows in the roof were to cast light on the altar.

The Rev. J. Fred Holmes, at the time vicar of St. James Church and formerly of St. Mary’s-by-the-Sea, was credited with overseeing the details, with overall construction supervision by Mr. J. Norris (Monterey Cy-



*St. John's Chapel in the early years sat on oak-studded grounds, with a footpath leading to the nearby Hotel Del Monte.*

press, March 29, 1890) and plastering by C.D. Casper (Monterey Cypress, May 9, 1891). Seating was designated at 130.

“The Chapel will, as a matter of course, be of greatest convenience to Del Monte guests,” the March 15, 1890, Monterey Cypress concluded. By December 6, 1890, the same newspaper announced that the chapel was near completion, noting, “The beautiful little Episcopal chapel near the Del Monte has been enclosed and will soon be finished.... the religiously inclined will have only a few steps to walk to the cutest little chapel in the state.”

### **St. John's Chapel, Del Monte & Our Military Connection**



David Jones, longtime member of our congregation, is undertaking the daunting task of chronicling the members of St. John's who have served in the military. Our connection to the military goes back even before the US Navy acquired the Del Monte Hotel. David is asking everyone in the congregation to search their memories and provide him with names and any history you might have. He can be reached at [davediane1@comcast.net](mailto:davediane1@comcast.net), or you're welcome to chat with him during "coffee hour" after service on Sundays.

**Altar Flowers: The Flower Chart is in its usual place in the Parish Hall. Reserve those important dates now. Costs are \$30.00 for regular seasonal flowers, greenery and candles, OR \$40.00 for roses.**

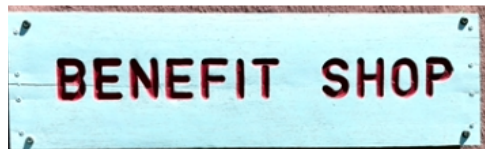




# St. John's Chapel, Del Monte

## AUGUST 2025 Schedule

Date	Activity	Notes
<b>AUGUST 3</b> Trinity 7	<b>10:00 AM - Morning Prayer</b>	<b>Licensed Lay Reader Conducting</b>
<b>AUGUST 10</b> Trinity 8	<b>10:00 AM - Holy Communion 11:30 AM – Vestry Meeting</b>	<b>Fr. Rick Miles Presiding Centennial Hall</b>
<b>AUGUST 17</b> Trinity 9	<b>10:00 AM – Holy Communion</b>	<b>Fr. Rick Miles Presiding</b>
<b>AUGUST 24</b> Trinity 10	<b>10:00 AM - Holy Communion</b>	<b>Fr. Rick Miles Presiding</b>
<b>AUGUST 31</b> Trinity 11	<b>10:00 AM – Morning Prayer</b>	<b>Licensed Lay Reader Conducting</b>



### THE BENEFIT SHOP ACCEPTS

Clean, gently used clothing  
Clean, working small appliances  
Clean Kitchen items  
 Chinaware, Glassware  
 CDs and DVDs  
 Knick knacks and bric-a-brac  
 Small furniture items in good condition  
 Art and Art objects  
 Holiday items  
 Jewelry

### WE DO NOT ACCEPT

ELECTRONICS: such as MEDICAL EQUIPMENT, PRINTERS, COPIERS, LAPTOPS, CELL PHONES, TELEVISIONS, OR COMPUTERS.  
 Soiled or worn-out clothing or shoes  
 Cassettes or VHS videos  
 Non-working small appliances  
 Broken, chipped, or cracked items  
 Worn kitchen ware  
 Broken jewelry or watches

*Please Note: We do not have the woman-power to dispose of unsaleable items.  
 Please do not leave items at the gate, it is unlawful.*

### St. John's Chapel Current Financial Encapsulation





<b>Income (1/1 - 6/18/25)</b>	<b>\$ 69,647.29</b>
<b>Expenses (1/1 - 6/18/25)</b>	<b>\$101,949.58</b>
<b>Bottom Line (+/-)</b>	<b>\$ 32,302.29</b>

### Volunteers Needed for All Ministry Areas

We need help in all ministry areas including acolytes, altar guild, lay readers, and ushers. If you're able to assist even one Sunday a month please contact the Church Office at (831) 375-4463



And, in case you were wondering, here's your meteorological timeline for the near-future:

Current Season	Next Season		
			
<b>Summer 2025</b>	<b>Autumn 2025</b>	<b>Winter 2025-2026</b>	<b>Spring 2026</b>
<b>Start</b> (June solstice) Jun 20 7:42 pm	<b>Start</b> (September equinox) Sep 22 11:19 am	<b>Start</b> (December solstice) Dec 21 7:03 am	<b>Start</b> (March equinox) Mar 20 7:46 am
<b>Duration</b> 93 days, 15 hrs, 37 mins	<b>Duration</b> 89 days, 20 hrs, 43 mins	<b>Duration</b> 88 days, 23 hrs, 42 mins	<b>Duration</b> 92 days, 17 hrs, 38 mins

Countries [define seasons differently](#). This calculator refers to [astronomical seasons](#), not meteorological seasons. All times are local time for Monterey.

### Editorial Policy

The *St. John's Chapel Newsletter* is published by St. John's Chapel, Del Monte, 1490 Mark Thomas Drive, Monterey CA 93940, a 501(c)(3) non profit, tax exempt organization. It is published monthly for the benefit and edification of its parishioners and the general public. The advertisements appearing in this publication do not reflect an endorsement by St. John's Chapel, Del Monte.

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Cynthia Brown - Chapel Administrator  
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