

Remembering Bishop Charles Inglis, UE

By Brian McConnell, UE*

During the American Revolution Charles Inglis, while living in New York, spoke out in favour of Loyalists and published articles siding with the British Crown. He is remembered in the city from which this happened. Born in the north of Ireland, after moving to America in 1756, then training to be a priest with the Church of England he was appointed the Rector of Trinity Church on Long Island in New York City. During the third week of May, 2025 I visited there and had the opportunity to see the Church and view a plaque to him on one of the walls inside.

Inglis, while in New York, also served as Chaplain to a Loyalist Regiment, the New Jersey Volunteers. Trinity Church was destroyed during the Great Fire of New York in 1776, and subsequently Inglis led services in St. Paul's Chapel. When the City was evacuated at the end of the American Revolution by the Loyalists he went to England. The Church of England appointed him the first Bishop in North America in 1787 at the time he was made Bishop of Nova Scotia which also then included responsibility for modern - day New Brunswick, Quebec, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland, and Bermuda.



Trinity Church at 89 Broadway, New York City

When Inglis died in 1816 he was buried in the crypt under St. Paul's Anglican Church in Halifax, Nova Scotia where he is remembered well with plaques on the wall and floor. The plaque in Trinity Church in New York City is located in a hallway off the back of the building and I was pleased to have the photo taken below of it with me wearing my UELAC hat.



The plaque reads:

- In Memory of -

1754 Charles Inglis 1816

1777 Rector of Trinity Parish 1785

1787 Bishop of Nova Scotia 1816

First Colonial Bishop of

The Church of England

- Brian McConnell is a Past President of the Nova Scotia Branch of the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada. He is also an historian and author of 14 non-fiction books.