

St. Mary Magdalene Church

Picton Ontario



Christmas 2021



O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree,
How lovely are your branches.
You do not fade with winter's snow,
But bloom with lights when cold winds blow.
O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree,
How lovely are your branches.

- from the German 'O Tannenbaum'

St. Mary Magdalene Milestones



Baptisms

In October we were pleased to baptize sisters: **Ava Iverson Anne Hugh** and **Norah Elizabeth Hugh** who live in Rossmore with their parents Claire and Caleb.

Deaths

We have been saddened this autumn by the deaths of **Helen Pinkerton** and **Bob Mason**. We also shared in the grief of Fran Langlois, whose mother died in November, and Kathy Condie, whose father died in early December.

May the stars carry your sadness away
May the flowers fill your heart with beauty
May hope forever wipe away your tears
And, above all, may silence make you strong.

- Chief Dan George

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Our Mission: As followers of Jesus, to be a loving, welcoming, joyful and caring community that reaches out to others and fosters spiritual development.

Our Rector's Message

O come, let us sing unto the Lord: let us heartily rejoice in the strength of our salvation. Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and show ourselves glad in him with psalms. If you



grew up with Sunday worship that included Morning Prayer from The Book of Common Prayer, then these words from the *Venite* are probably very familiar. They are taking new meaning for me this Advent season, because after 21 months, at long last we can together *sing unto the Lord*. The contributions of our Cantors and our Musical Director Michael Goodwin all through the pandemic have been very nurturing, and this Advent it has been lovely to welcome small choirs back to the chancel. Now we can again all raise our voices together in praise.

Being unable to sing together in church has been a source of grief for many in our worshipping community, so I am pleased we can sing in the second part of Advent, and even more delighted we can sing at Christmas. Christmas Carols are such a deep part of the Christmas season and Christmas worship, echoing as they do the multitude of heavenly host who sang praises for the newborn king: "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" The pandemic may still be with us, but this Christmas we can gather in worship, put to one side the fears and frustrations of the past year, and hear once again how "unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace". And then we can sing, renewing our desire to bring about the angel's message of peace on earth and goodwill towards all people. I look forward to joining you in worship this Christmas, as we celebrate the birth of Jesus, our Lord and King.



Yours faithfully, *Charles*.

Candlelight Service 2018

It Wouldn't Be Christmas Without ...

The Vine asked members of the Parish Advisory Committee to share their special Christmas moments, traditions, and memories with our readers. They responded with joyous, poignant, humorous and wistful stories. How would you complete the sentence, 'It wouldn't be Christmas without...?'



It wouldn't be Christmas without **Pulla**, a sweet cardamom-infused, braided coffee bread first introduced to our family by my Finnish paternal grandmother. This will be the first Christmas Dad won't be with us, but he'll be in our hearts as together we enjoy the delicious treat that he savoured every Christmas breakfast for nearly 90 years. - **Patti Abel**

It wouldn't be Christmas in our home without watching 'A Christmas Carol' - the 1951 version with Alastair Sim. - **Marie Connor**



It wouldn't be Christmas for me without a dentist appointment.

- **Herb Stone**

It would not be Christmas without Eggs Benedict for breakfast, washed down with a Gin Fizz.

- **David Sutton**

It wouldn't be Christmas without all the wonderful light displays that families put up.

- **John and Mary Brett**



It would not be Christmas without lots of Christmas Carols and lots of Christmas songs. - **Mike Langlois**



In my home, it wouldn't be Christmas without our Advent Wreath, Nativity Scene, and our Christmas Tree with ornaments from our travels and from our children and grandchildren when they were little. – **Charles Morris**

It wouldn't be Christmas without watching “A Christmas Carol” with Alastair Sim, and/or “A Child’s Christmas in Wales” with Denholm Elliott, but, we also have to have a traditional Christmas pudding, and before serving it, take a spoonful out of the top, pour brandy into the hole, light it, and spoon the flaming liquor over the rest of the pudding, while trying not to ignite the sprig of holly. Amazing! - **Janet Howes**



It wouldn't be Christmas without silly hats and hard sauce.

– **Andrew Innes** and **Don Watson**



For me, it wouldn't be Christmas without friends. Being alone without family during the holidays can be a very lonely time, and having good friends who look out for me makes all the difference.

– **Angela Adams**

It wouldn't be Christmas without opening stockings with my sister on Christmas morning.

– **Martha Riddell**



It wouldn't be Christmas without baby Jesus, family, friends and good food but a magical Christmas, for me, is leaving the church on Christmas Eve to a bright, windless, serene night; a candle-lit walkway, and big, fluffy snowflakes falling. All seems right with the world. Silent night, Holy night, all is calm, all is bright. Christmas blessings everyone. – **Fran Langlois**

Synod 2021: Being Light, Building Hope

Tewathahita Yohahi: Yo Walking the Good Path Together

Synod brings together clergy and lay delegates from across the Diocese to worship, to share and learn from each other and to consider matters of governance, administration, and budget. This year we met in small groups and connected with each other virtually.



Bishop William Cliff from Manitoba provided the key teachings with a focus on the Church moving forward into a new world; a world facing many challenges such as the ongoing pandemic, the climate crisis and reconciliation. All unprecedented challenges with no easy solutions. He reminded us of God's provision for us. "Provision is made before the need is known. All the needs we have can be met in our midst." We are equipped to bring light and hope to others in our community.

Bishop Oulton, in his Charge to Synod, considered the Church at the edge of the unknown, the wilderness. As the Israelites were led by the pillar of cloud by day and fire by night, so we will be led by the presence of the living God.

To support local parishes, the Diocese has established Reach and Stretch Grants to fund and support new and innovative ministries.

We are not alone as we move forward to serve our community.

- Kathy Condie



The Flower of December

December's flower, the poinsettia, widely displayed at the Christmas season, is known to Mexicans as '*Flor de la Noche Buena*' (Flower of the Holy Night) because of its resemblance to the star of Bethlehem.

Colourful Christmas at St. MM



Our dedicated Altar Guild members under the direction of **Marie Connor** beautify our services year round with seasonal displays. Easter, Thanksgiving, Remembrance Day services are all memorably enhanced. This year the Christmas decorations are breathtakingly beautiful. Large wreaths with golden bells greet us at the doors which open

to a spectacular display of Christmas banners illuminating the Christmas story. Many of the banners, created by artist Anne Boyle, were donated to our Church some years ago; others are the work of parishioners in seasons past. People of all ages are drawn to the lovely figures in the crèche, a gift to the congregation from Helen Pinkerton and Nell Kottick, while the Advent Wreath reminds us of the Hope, Peace, Joy and Love of the season. Many thanks to our Altar Guild members for faithfully sharing their time and talents to the glory of God.



The Glow of Memories

Memories cast a gentle glow

To light the way to long ago,

To warm the heart and bring a smile

That lingers for a long, long while.

- Unknown

On the next two pages, enjoy memories shared by parishioners about special ornaments on their family Christmas trees. What are some of your favourite Christmas memories?



These two very different ornaments both hold meaning for me. The one on the left is from my sister who always brings me a present when she visits. The other, such a tender moment, is a precious gift from Mike.

- Fran Langlois



Kenny was my baby brother who died weeks before I turned seven. For over 50 years this ornament hung on my parents' tree and now it blesses ours.

Kenny was the happiest little boy despite his severe disabilities and he brought joy to everyone who met him. When I made the decision to follow Jesus as an adult, my very first thought was 'I will see Kenny again!'. From that moment on, my memories of him are only filled with joy!

- Patti Abel

This music box which plays Christmas carols was used for a business display. It is a reminder for us of how busy Christmas time was at department stores and our beauty salons in the USA. I can still hear the Christmas Carols played over and over all day, along with the shuffling of paper bags at the 45 cash registers in a row. Happy memories for both of us!

- Tuula and Ross Saunders



This Christmas ornament represents our first Grandchild Dustin Brophy.

Dustin was born a premature baby on October 13th, 2002 and passed away on November 11th, 2002. This ornament reminds us of how important life is and how with God's help we can understand how fragile it can be. Rest in peace little man.

- Helena and Gerry Martell



This isn't an ornament but for sure it is a Christmas favourite of ours. Dianne's sister, Deb Simpson, who lives in The County, gave it to us and we decided that over the fireplace was the perfect place for it. We have had a lot of pleasure admiring it.

- John and Dianne Hopper

Quite a number of years ago, when we lived in Toronto, we had just finished putting up our Christmas decorations and our tree. There was a knock on our door and our neighbours' daughter Gloria came over for a visit and mentioned that there was no tree top on our tree. My wife Loraine told her that sadly it was broken and we had to replace it. Gloria left and returned a few hours later with this lovely tree top that she had made for us. What a wonderful Christmas gift it has become for us from Gloria, our 13 year old neighbour.

- David and Loraine Gilbert



A Festive Treat from Newfoundland

My mother made this steamed pudding for Christmas every year and it continues to be a tradition in our family. The fragrance of cinnamon and molasses always brings back treasured memories. From "Our Favorite Recipes" by the Anglican Church Women's Association in St. Phillips, N.L. - **Maxine Tiller**

SAILOR'S DUFF

¾ cup butter or margarine	1½ cups presifted flour
¾ cup brown sugar	¼ tsp. salt
½ cup molasses	1 tsp. baking powder
1 egg, beaten	½ tsp. soda, dissolved in
2 tblsps. milk	1 tblsp. boiling water
½ cup boiling water	

Combine or sift together flour, salt, baking powder, cream butter, sugar, molasses, egg and milk. Add baking soda, dissolved in 1 tablespoon of boiling water. Combine liquid and dry ingredients. Add ½ cup boiling water. Blend in. Place in well-greased mould. Cover. Steam 1½ hours. Ginger to taste, and 1 cup of raisins make a pleasing addition.

½ tsp ginger 1 tsp Cinnamon
1 tsp Nutmeg



A Page from Our History

1978 - A congregational pot luck supper was held on the Sunday evening after the Epiphany in early January. Following the supper, there was an Epiphany service of Carols and Lessons in the church. This service included some of the carols which were to have been sung at the Christmas service of Carols and Lessons the previous month [Dec. 1977]. Unfortunately, a bad ice storm forced the cancellation of the Christmas service.

(From 'A Goodly Heritage' by Alan Capon)

SHARE YOUR FARE!

Most families have special food treats that they enjoy at every Christmas Season. We'd like to hear about yours – sweet or savoury. This year, please take a photo of your family's beloved dish or of your family enjoying it and send it to us with a short write-up about it and even include the recipe if you wish. We'll share it in next year's Christmas edition of **'The Vine'**.



St. MM Mourns Two Church Family Members

Helen Pinkerton

Members of St. Mary Magdalene were saddened to hear the news that **Helen Pinkerton** died on October 15, 2021. A



Thanking Helen for Altar Guild Service

longtime member of the Parish in numerous different roles, including leading the Altar Guild and serving as one of the hospitality leaders at many Parish events. Helen was a good friend and encourager to many. We will all miss her lovely

smile. Following a lengthy illness that she faced with inspiring grace, Helen died peacefully in her home surrounded by her family. Our prayers and condolences are with her husband Brian and sons David and Michael.



An Always Cheerful Helen

Robert 'Bob' Mason



Lay Reader, Bob Mason

Our Rector Charles shared the news that **Bob Mason** died on November 2, 2021. Bob and his wife June moved away from The County last year to be close to family. Bob was an active parishioner, a longtime member of Parish Council, who played a key role in St. MM's Ministry to Seniors, as well as serving as a Lay Reader, a dedicated member of the Parish's

Prayer Chain group, a supporter of PWRDF (donations from the congregation to PWRDF in Bob's memory amounted to over \$2000), and a participant in the Bible Study Group. His death was sudden and unexpected, and comes as a sad shock to us all. We share his loss with his wife, June, and their family.



Bob and June with Granddaughter Layla



St. MM Goes Green ...

...to strive to save the integrity of Creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

A Canadian Anglican Mark of Mission

These days we are all focused on reducing or eliminating waste and taking steps to improve the health of our planet. We do this in our homes every week by recycling papers, plastics, tins and glass and placing it curbside for pick up. It is a small but very important step. In our town, many of the downtown businesses are also committed to a waste reduction strategy. The retail

THE
MERCHANT

industry is particularly rife with excessive packaging; this is to protect the goods during shipping. Both "**The Merchant**", and their next-door neighbour, "**Gilbert & Lighthall Marketplace**" are committed to doing our part to reduce, reuse and

recycle. Cardboard shipping boxes are broken down and recycled or used for storage. Plastic bags can be re-used for household use or for cleaning up after our pets! Paper bags and tissue paper are used to wrap in-



store purchases, thereby eliminating the use of a plastic shopping bags. We also encourage our suppliers to consider bulk shipments or elimination of extraneous packaging to reduce the amount of material ending up in landfills. These are simple steps, but they can go a long way to protecting our world.

(Note that the proprietors of these environmentally-conscious businesses are members of St. Mary Magdalene, Maxine Tiller and Alexandra Bake.)

*Brown paper packages tied up with strings
These are a few of our favourite things!*



1000 Books *Before* Kindergarten!

We parishioners of St. Mary Magdalene can be proud of our wide outreach into the PEC community. From our Seniors Ministry to our support of Alternatives for Women, the ROC, County Kids Reads, the Food Bank and more, we cheerfully and generously fulfil our Mission Statement of *'reaching out to others'*.

In October, the Picton Public Library was pleased to accept a substantial donation of \$3000.00 as part of St. Mary Magdalene's outreach program in support of the Library's *1000 Books Before Kindergarten* initiative. Accompanied by members of St. MM including Deputy Warden **Janet Howes** and photographer **David Gilbert**, Curate **Martha Riddell** presented the cheque to Barbara Sweet, CEO of the Prince Edward County Library. While we make donations as a congregation, we are also encouraged to make private donations to this worthy cause.



L-R: Martha Riddell, Barbara Sweet, CEO of PEC Library, Janet Howes, Devon Jones, Chair of Library Board (*David Gilbert Photo*)

Our Rector Charles received a letter of thanks for the donation from Library CEO Barbara Sweet. She noted that the help of the St. Mary Magdalene congregation is extended to many worthwhile community organizations and that the Library was honoured to be included. *"Our Public Library has identified early learning and children's services as a priority focus."* she wrote, *"Good library skills and exposure to an array of ideas through books contributes to success and helps develop an empathy for others."* Materials purchased with the St. MM donation will be enjoyed by children across Prince Edward County.

St. MM is a Music Venue Once Again!



Our beautiful sanctuary was filled with wonderful music during the Chamber Music Festival held in November, a first since the pandemic struck in March 2020.

On the PEC Chamber Music Facebook page, we were delighted to read: *"We've had a busy few days basking in the afterglow of our successful return to live performance with an exceptional series of concerts over the last two weekends. Thank you to our artists who brought their excitement to our stage, to our volunteers who kept things moving, and, especially, to you, our audience, who demonstrated that Zoom just can't replace the experience of live performance by filling our hall for all concerts! See you next year!"*



Kathy Condie's daughter sent her this photo last Christmas as her then two and five year-old little boys set up their family Nativity scene. Her daughter's comment was, *"All the regular characters, right Mom?"*

● From the St. MM Bulletin Board ●

STAMPS for OXFAM

Fran Langlois has volunteered to continue the project of collecting stamps for Oxfam that was coordinated by Helen Pinkerton for many years. Please save stamps by cutting the corner off envelopes including the cancellation stamp. Place them in the collection basket located in the Church. Oxfam works to build lasting solutions to poverty and injustice worldwide with a focus on improving the lives of women and girls.

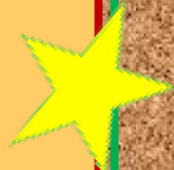
Ron Howes, Angela Adams, Don Watson, Martha Riddell, Jared Thomlinson, Leonardo Spadafora and Jill Hart handing out Hallowe'en treats.



Now the Work of Christmas Begins

When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and princes are home,
when the shepherds are back with their flocks,
the work of Christmas begins:
to find the lost,
to heal the broken,
to feed the hungry,
to release the prisoner,
to rebuild the nations,
to bring peace among the people,
to make music in the heart.

- Howard Thurman



Christmas Worship Services at St. MM

To maintain the safest environment possible as the pandemic continues, for all services proof of vaccination is required for ages 12 and up, and everyone is masked and distanced in the church. We are limited to 75 people in the congregation.

Dec 24th, 4:00 p.m. **Family Service**. A celebration of Christmas for all ages, and no prior church experience required!

Dec 24th, 7:30 p.m. **Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service**. As we are limited to 75 people in the congregation, we recommend you go to our website stmmpicton.ca, or call the church office (613-476-3303), to reserve a space for this service.

Dec 25th, 10:00 a.m. A lovely **Christmas Morning Choral Communion Service**.

Dec 26th, 10:30 a.m. **First Sunday after Christmas**. There is no 9:00 a.m. service.

Jan 2nd, 10:30 a.m. **Epiphany Sunday**. There is no 9:00 a.m. service.

Merry Christmas & A Happy New Year



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