



St. Mary Magdalene
Anglican Church
Picton Ontario



Christmas 2022



Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plain
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains.

Gloria! In excelsis Deo!

St. Mary Magdalene Milestones

October Weddings

Frank Eldridge and **Angela Capone**

Michael Irving and **Kelley Lorene**

Deaths

Barbara Fraser



We regret omitting mention of Barbara's passing in the last edition of 'The Vine'. Barbara was a supportive and generous member of the congregation. Her daughter Cynthia worked with Deacon Fran in making a donation of some of Barbara's possessions to *Alternatives for Women*.

We remembered **Stan Whitehouse** during the October 30 service.



Our loved ones are always with us.

St. Mary Magdalene Anglican Church

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Our Rector's Message



Advent is a bitter-sweet season. It portends the end of the nicer weather, the end of the old year, and also leads us to the wonder of Christmas, the beauty of the first snowfall, and the possibilities of a new year to come. This year it carries an extra set of mixed emotions for me, as this will be my ninth and last Advent and Christmas season with you as your Rector. I have loved celebrating the seasons here at St Mary Magdalene, and perhaps Christmas most of all. The story of the birth of Jesus our saviour, of a new light from God coming into the world, always inspires me, renews my hope, makes me want to share it all over again. I am looking forward to that in the coming weeks.

But I am nine years older than I was when I arrived – I turned 65 last April. I love being a parish priest, and I could not have asked for a better parish than St Mary Magdalene. But the years fly by swiftly, the grandchildren grow astonishingly rapidly, and our sailboat Calvados' calls to come sail have frequently gone unanswered. My heart tells me it is time to retire.

And so my time as your Rector will conclude at the end of January. Joan and I will be staying in Picton: we love our home, and at this stage there is nowhere else we would rather live. And while we will need to stay out of the way for the next Rector, St Mary Magdalene will always be special to us. This is a solid community with a bright future. There are, of course, challenges and a lot of work to do, especially coming out of Covid. This Parish has always been up for a challenge, and we will be cheering for you.

I expect you know how important my wife Joan has been to me and to the Parish during our time here. She has given her creativity and energy to countless projects and her compassion and good humour to many. She has shared and supported my passion for parish ministry, and contributed to our community life in so many ways. Joan is the greatest friend and partner I could ever want.

We are both looking forward to sharing Christmas with you, as once again we will gather in a beautiful church, light our candles, and celebrate the birth of the one who draws us together. May you know the blessings of his peace and joy long into the New Year.

Yours faithfully, Charles.

Announcement from Our Rector

At the conclusion of the services on Sunday, November 6, 2022, our **Rector Charles Morris** delivered the following announcement which was later emailed to parishioners:

My dear friends,

Some of you know I turned 65 earlier this year. I have come to the decision that it is time for me to retire. It has truly been my privilege to serve this parish for nearly 9 years, and now it is time for someone else to take up that responsibility. I will be with you through Christmas into the New Year, and my retirement will start at the end of January.

Yours faithfully, **Charles.**



2014 *Charles inducted at St. MM*



30th Anniversary of Ordination

**2
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5**



Joan Serving Tea at Celebration of Queen Elizabeth's Reign



Presentation of Cope from Congregation



Blessing of the Fleet at PEYC



County Kids Read



Annual Christmas Tea & Bazaar



Food for Souls and Bodies



Coffee Hour via Zoom



Men's Prayer Breakfast

Best Wishes



Thank you, Charles & Joan!

Christmas in Finland - *Tuula Saunders*



Tuula's Mother –
Saimi Hynonen

At noon on Christmas Eve, Peace is proclaimed with a ceremony, dating back to year 1300, in Turku which is the former capital and the oldest city in Finland. This ceremony is televised and on radio, for all to see and hear. Earlier on Christmas Eve, the tree is brought inside for the family to decorate. In older times, the family would cleanse their bodies in the sauna, and dress in their festive clothes in preparation for Christmas dinner and festivities.

In Helsinki, the sun sets at 3 pm on Christmas Eve and one of the main streets will have been decorated and lit with lights. In rural areas, especially before radio and television, it was custom for a family elder to read Luke 2, 1-20 prior to eating the Christmas dinner which has been cooking all morning. The smorgasbord of cold appetizers is served first and is made up of pickled herring and salads. The main course is baked ham with casserole dishes of turnip, carrot, rice and potatoes. Desserts are baked goodies washed down with coffee. *Juleglog* (a spiced, mulled wine) is also popular.

After dinner there is a knock on the door and a booming voice is heard from the entryway. "Are there any well-behaved children in this house"? *Joulupukki* (Santa Claus) has arrived! He both delights and scares the young children, and as he delivers their gifts, he reminds them to be good next year. Another tradition is placing a lit lantern on the resting places of departed family members. It is an unusual sight to see the glowing light on the snowy ground.

In large cities, Midnight mass has the churches overflowing and the Dome church in Helsinki televises the service. Christmas day is a visiting day for family and friends. As a diplomatic gift, the City of Helsinki has donated the Christmas tree that stands in the Grand Plaza in Brussels, Belgium every Christmas since 1954.



While the times and the traditions are changing, particularly in the larger cities, the basic traditions persist and are passed on from generation to generation.

A Christmas Stocking Story – Elizabeth Cowan

Christmas stockings in our family always had a mandarin orange in the toe, which somehow tasted better than the identical mandarins in the box downstairs. Then came a net bag of chocolate coins and a roll of Lifesavers. Up the leg of the sock was always a candy cane, which again tasted better than the ones on the tree. The leg of the stocking was also the part with the surprise: one year an extendable back scratcher with a little pink plastic hand to do the scratching, and one year a Classic Comic (*A Tale of Two Cities*—a very good intro to Dickens).

The Magdalenas 2.0

The Magdalenas have a long and storied history at St. Mary Magdalene and have contributed much to the life of our parish. We are all grateful to the ladies of the church who have done so much work over the years to support so many events, fundraisers, and the general life of our church.

The pandemic put so much on pause as we took to our homes and lived life virtually. So much is different now, and life has changed, but with a gradual return to a new normal, the time seems right to resurrect the Magdalenas

We held our first get together on October 14th with 7 attendees. It was at this meeting we agreed there was solid interest in a new Magdalenas, built on the solid foundation laid by the past group of ladies. It was agreed that ***the mandate of the Magdalenas 2.0 is to gather in friendship and fellowship and to provide support for specific church events and for outreach.*** Meetings will be monthly, either hosted at a home or at the parish hall.

Our first two initiatives are well underway. The first is to support Janet Howes who leads up our Snowflake Program for Alternatives for Women. In Janet's absence we will work as a group to carry this project to the finish line and to deliver the gifts to AFW on December 19th. If you wish to make a financial contribution please see Maxine or one of the Wardens before December 19th.

Our second endeavor is to support Deacon Fran with her Outreach to our senior shut-ins. The Magdalenas have been shopping and baking to fill gift bags for delivery at Christmas to those who are not able to join us in person. We will be meeting at the parish hall on December 12th at 10:00am to assemble these gifts for distribution. Join us if you can for fellowship, tea and treats.

Magdalenas' meetings will be monthly, either hosted at a home or at the parish hall. You can call or email Maxine to Wendy if you would like to join us!

Our Christmas Stocking Stories are Overflowing!!



When I was growing up, we each had a Christmas stocking with our name on it. The rule in our family was that we could not go near the Christmas tree until my parents were up and the coffee was made. But somehow overnight on Christmas Eve a stocking appeared at the foot of each bed, and my sisters and I were allowed to open our stockings when we woke up. There was always a mandarin orange at the bottom of the stocking, some chocolate, and some small toys, or perhaps crayons or coloured pencils. I still have that stocking, and every Christmas Eve it still gets filled! - **Rector Charles Morris**

The Stockings Were Hung...



This is a recreated picture of my Christmas stocking. **BLACK?** I guess it must represent Santa's boots! I never did question it. It was filled every Christmas with an apple, an orange, nuts, socks, and depending on our age, a small doll, game, nail polish, brush and comb, etc. The top of the stocking always had a Christmas serviette filled with candies and always Bassetts' licorice. We opened our stocking on Christmas morning before breakfast. We continued that same tradition with our sons and they have carried on the tradition with their children - although their stockings are like 'gold mines' compared with what was in ours!! My daughter-in-law said it costs more to fill the stockings than the cost of the actual gifts!
- **Deacon Fran Langlois**

I remember the Christmas we had our first commercial stockings; I remember it because it had my name on it. Maxine is not a very common name and while all the Susans, Barbaras and Karens had their name on LOTS of things, it was hard to find a Maxine. I was thrilled.

Over the years with family changes and moves, my stocking went missing, however a few years ago I came into possession of my late brother's stocking as it was among my mother's possessions after she had passed. Since that time, this stocking is safely tucked under my tree every year; it is a little piece of my childhood.
- **Maxine Tiller**



When I was seven in 1950, when Canadian winters were colder and harsher, my English Mother wanted me to be warmly dressed. So I was to wear breeches. No other boy in town wore such odd clothing. Thanks Mum!
The breeches were of heavy wool, came to just below the knee and were tied tight with laces through eyelets. The breeches puffed out at the thighs similar to riding breeches. Long, heavy woolen stockings coming up to just below the knees covering the tied laces, finished off my winter outfit. They kept me warm with embarrassment.
My, I disliked those stupid breeches. Except at Christmas! Those long stockings were hung and filled to the brim on Christmas Eve. No other boy in town would have had Christmas stockings as big. When I grew out of them or, more likely, my mother had a boy's clothing epiphany, I kept the stockings to hang and to be filled for many more Christmas Eves. Thanks Mum! - **Herb Stone**



When our grown son moved out west for university, he was missing home and was looking forward to coming home for Christmas. We told him that we had decided to scale down gifts that year and that we planned to give each other stockings instead with smaller treats. I think he was a little disappointed but felt better when he saw the size of the stocking! - **Janine Dudding**



When I was a child, no stockings were used and usually a pillowcase would contain something to eat - fruit, orange or chocolate - and also something to keep us busy such as a book to read or game play with. This was my parents' way of trying to keep children in bed as the adults always went to Midnight Mass. It really didn't matter, we were always up early.

Santa's Sack - In my family we made our own bread and had large 75-pound bags of flour delivered. One of these flour sacks became Santa's Sack and had toys in it. The Santa Sack was used for many years. - **Mary Brett**

Peter and I always enjoyed filling stockings for our two children and each other. They hung on the fireplace on Christmas Eve and after bedtime, we filled them. Almost always, we over-estimated how much would fit in them and they were too heavy to hang. They just sat on the couch until morning. Chocolate seemed to always be a big feature of the stockings and when we got a dog, a cute little white Bichon Frise named Mickey we didn't think to put them safely out of reach. Predictably, he sneaked downstairs and got into the chocolate before morning. This is not good for dogs and his face was a mess, covered with chocolate. Luckily he was okay even though he ate quite a lot. What is astonishing is that we forgot several times after that and each time vowed to be more careful with the stockings. Luckily he survived many Christmases, several with a big mess and an unhealthy dose of chocolate. - **Janine Dudding**

... by the chimney with care

I knitted this stocking for my late husband Frank in 1969 and since then it has been filled with everything from his beloved chicken bone candies to lumps of coal. This year it will be filled with love and memories as we mark our first Christmas without him. – **Wendy LeBlanc**



My family, including five children, lived in the Rectory beside the church. On Christmas Eve, seven stockings hung from the mantel in the living room. They were a matched set, made from red flannel with white flannel tops bearing each of our names. To the left of the mantel stood a Scotch pine Christmas tree, with wrapped presents spilling out from below and always several smaller ones sitting in the branches above. On Christmas Day, the rule was no present opening until Dad got home from the 11 o'clock service. But we were allowed to open our stockings. Each one had a large navel orange in the toe, small packages of Christmas candies, and two or three small items individually wrapped in white tissue paper. I remember once getting a pocket knife and a small carved seal from the Arctic. In due course, we would gather to open our presents. That would always include two or three for each of us bearing cards saying To: James From: S. Claus. It took me a while to figure out who that was!
- **James Wright**

I asked Loraine to give me a list of items for her Christmas stocking, which is what she did. Her thoughts were that I should pick a few to place in her stocking for Christmas. Well, here I have a list of items and because I was not too sure which items to choose, because the list was quite long. I decided to go for broke and buy them all, which is what I did. Well here I had a small problem with so many items there was not a stocking to be had that would hold them all. I thought about this very carefully and I took a pair of her panty-hose and every item fit into the two parts. The panty-hose were not used again as they were stretched too, too far to use. – **David Gilbert**



When I was asked for stocking memories from when Aaron was little it made me pause: I thought, 'Are we odd in that we still do them?' We have never gone crazy at Christmas, so stockings were a great way to extend the opening of gifts. Typically they spill over from the stocking except for the year my brother got him a 6-foot tall Toronto Maple Leaf sock! As he got older there would be one big gift but stockings were still eagerly anticipated. When Aaron was away at school the gifts were more utilitarian (and probably not as anticipated), like toothpaste, deodorant, and actual socks. This year we have decided to only do stockings and I'm excited to start shopping for them! – **Julie Miller**

RAINBOW RAILWAY Presentation



At the service on October 16, members of the congregation and guests welcomed Rainbow Railroad's Director of Program and Communications, Dane Bland, who spoke about the Railroad's successes in rescuing LGBT folk from countries where their lives are at risk. His presentation



By County artist, Daniel Fobert

was followed by a question and answer period. Rainbow Railroad is a global, not-for-profit organization that helps LGBTQI+ people facing persecution based on their sexual orientation, gender identity and sex characteristics.

St Mary Magdalene Church welcomes and supports the LGBT community locally. Internationally, it supports the Rainbow Railroad's important lifesaving work.

The congregation is grateful for the work of **Don Watson** and **Andrew Innes** in this important initiative.

A Page from Our History

In the 1950s there were Sunday School Concerts in the Parish Hall. Where the kitchen is today, there was a large stage taking up the width of the hall for concerts, visiting speakers and local dignitaries. Rows of chairs were set theater style in front of the stage for the audiences. At other times, tables and chairs filled the space for the Christmas Sugar Plum Tea, the congregation's potluck luncheons and community dinners.

There was a smallish kitchen downstairs where the County Kids Read is now. Food was prepared and plated there and sent up via a dumb waiter to serve a usually full complement of upstairs diners. The dumb waiter was situated about where the closet is in the CKR reading room, coming out at the top of the stairs to the right of the stage. The stairs are still there. The dumb waiter, as might be expected, was occasionally used for an illicit and exciting purpose by the younger boys of the Sunday School and the Parish's Wolf Cub Pack and Scout Troop. It was great fun to send up willing accomplices in the dumb waiter to emerge adrenalin fueled on the floor above, without being caught by the Scout Master or a Sunday School Teacher. - **Herb Stone**

And One More Stocking Story ...

After Jared and I married, my aunt made him a stocking to match the rest of the family's. She couldn't go out and buy fabric because of the lockdown so my uncle sacrificed a red t-shirt. She is now working on one for Lawrence (pictured here) -- the fourth generation to have a stocking made by my aunt! - **Martha Riddell**



Farewell to our Music Director

After 18 years, Michael Goodwin, St. Mary Magdalene's gifted music director, choir master, organist, pianist, composer and arranger, has retired. His many talents our congregation has enjoyed over the years are a small sample of the breadth of interests and accomplishments of this Renaissance man whose life is captured by his beloved Josie Farrar in the words below:



Michael and Josie

“Michael was born in London England before the Second World War. He remembers the various bombs which fell on London although his family lived in North London, mostly out of the fray. He took up piano (his dad had to mortgage the family home to buy one) and had a number of very good teachers. He took up the French horn at 14, and went on to study Horn and accompaniment at the famous Guildhall School of Music. He played Horn in several orchestras in England such as Sadler's Wells, BBC Concert Orchestra and the London Symphony. He drove around London going to gigs on his beloved Vespa with the horn on the back. Michael did his conscription with the Welsh Guards in the band before going to the Guildhall. He attended a conducting course in 1972 in Monte Carlo under Igor Markevitch.

He emigrated to Toronto in 1966 with his wife and young son and was able to take advantage of Centennial year with lots of gigs, and a time with the Boss Brass. He accompanied the National Ballet Company under Celia Franca, and had his first church organist job. He played Horn at the National Arts Centre orchestra and stayed for four years before moving to back to Toronto and then to Kingston where he taught at Queens and Ottawa U, and played in a wind quintet. He went to and fro from Ottawa to Kingston, creating and conducting the Ottawa Winds.

As a boy Michael spent summers on a farm and never forgot the beauty of that experience. He longed to have a farm and in 1985 he bought a farm near Morrisburg where he raised sheep, had a large garden and a house in need of renovation. He became a proficient farmer and had upwards of 50 ewes. A skilled carpenter, Michael succeeded in creating a lovely small holding and was supremely happy there for 14 years. He conducted the Cornwall Ecumenical choir, founded and conducted the Seaway Valley Singers and a small a cappella group, the Renaissance Voyces. He was also organist and choir director at Lakeshore Drive United Church.

A move to a wild property north of Kingston necessitated selling the beloved farm, but this time to move into the forest on 15 wooded acres. Michael accompanied the Queen's vocal students and substituted as organist where

needed. He sang in various groups around Kingston. Then a move to Picton and to the church. While here, Michael founded the PEC Ecumenical Choir and the County Chamber choir, which he said was the best choir he was ever to conduct. He organized a number of years of noon hour concerts with proceeds supporting local charities and conducted the early music baroque ensemble now known as FourPlay. Michael's passion and strength is with choirs. He gets the very best out of each and every singer, and has had his choirs sing some of the finest choral music ever written."



From all of us at St. MM,
'Thank you, Michael, and best wishes!'

You May Have Been Wondering ...

How do we find a new Music Director?

After 18 years of wonderful service to our community, Michael Goodwin retired this year as our Music Director. The Parish advertised the position and interviewed two candidates, but did not offer it to either of them. We have been very blessed by Jim Macgregor and Murray Baer who will be supporting us through the end of April. In the meantime we are tweaking how we advertise the position and spreading the net a bit wider, hoping to attract some new candidates early in the new year. If you know anyone who might know someone, please make sure to let them know we are looking.

How do we find a new Rector?

Lots of people have asked how finding a new Rector works. As we are an Anglican church, the Bishop is the key player, and the usual pattern will be for him to appoint a part-time interim priest-in-charge – some will remember Peter Mason filled that role before Charles came to be our Rector. A Vestry Meeting will elect a *Parish Selection Advisory Committee* – “Advisory” because it advises the Bishop. The committee consists of the two Churchwardens and four to six other members, and they will develop a “Parish Profile”, a document that describes the Parish and the qualities the Parish is looking for in a new priest. The Bishop will publish the fact the Parish is looking for a new Rector, and will share the Parish Profile with possible candidates. After the position has been posted for a while, the Bishop will ask the Committee to interview candidates on behalf of the Parish, and to make a recommendation. It is a process that can take a little while, and one that folks are encouraged to pray for often, asking God's help so that the Bishop and the Parish together will find the right person to join in the next chapter of our Parish.



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

I'm Dreaming of a **GREEN** Christmas!

How many times have you caught yourself going 'over-the-top' at Christmas time? So easy to do, isn't it, to buy just one more present or another pretty bauble for the tree. Extras quickly add up not only financially but also on their environmental impact. Here are a few suggestions for making your Christmas a little **GREENER**:

Buy Smart and Buy Less – Consider making or buying hand-made presents; they can be unique and personal and they haven't travelled halfway around the world to get here. Shop locally and support local businesses and everyone wins including the environment with less impact from transportation-related pollution. Avoid buying plastic or battery-operated gifts. Commit to purchasing fewer presents; plan ahead with friends and relatives before you make the change! Consider gifts based on recycled products and – speaking of recycling – re-gifting presents in new condition is a win-win.

Wrap Less and Wrap Green – Did you know that the annual waste from giftwrap and shopping bags in Canada equals about 595,000 tons? The sky's the limit when it comes to alternatives for giftwrap – cloth bags, newspaper comics and pictures from old calendars, reused brown wrapping paper and bags decorated by the kids, wrap containing recycled materials, tea towels, napkins and other fabric gifts used as wrap, and reused wrap from past gift-giving.



Avoid metallic or plastic wraps and tape. Save bows, ribbons and carefully folded wrap for next year's use.

Decorate Smart and Decorate GREEN – Unless you plan to use an artificial tree for at least a decade, it is much more environmentally-sound to use a live tree. Avoid plastic ornaments – try homemade ornaments such as gingerbread dough cut-outs, treasures from recycled materials or natural items such as pinecones, or knitted and fabric ornaments.



Save energy and money by using LED lights and put them on timers both indoors and out. Look for soy-based candles as a greener alternative to petroleum based candles.

Have a Merry and **GREEN** Christmas!

● From the St. MM Bulletin Board ●



Be sure to mark
your calendar!

This lovely hanging of poppies hand-hooked by the late **Gerry Wheeler** was displayed on the altar at the annual Remembrance Day service on November 6th. A stunning and moving sculpture created by **Andrew Innes** enhanced the personal mementoes on view in the Chapel.

PULLING OUT ALL THE STOPS!

In Celebration of
St. Mary Magdalene's 200th Anniversary!

Organist – Murray Baer

Sunday March 26, 2023 at 2:30 p.m.

Featuring a fun mix of your favourite tunes from the Movies,
Broadway, Pop, Rock and much more!!

Imagine how *Rocky*, *James Bond*, *Over the Rainbow*,
Saturday in the Park and even *Bohemian Rhapsody*
might sound on a Pipe Organ!



St. Mary Magdalene
Anglican Church
335 Main Street
Picton

Come and join us!

*"We're going to have
a rockin' good time!!"*

– Murray Baer

Donations Welcome

Christmas Worship Services at St. MM

Christmas Season services begin on Sunday, December 18th with a traditional ***Service of Nine Lessons and Carols*** at 10:30 a.m.

On **Christmas Eve** we will sing some well-known Christmas Carols starting at **7:15 p.m.** Our traditional Candlelight Communion service begins at **7:30 p.m.**

On **Christmas Day** we will have a lovely Christmas morning Choral Communion service beginning at **10:00 a.m.** Note that even though Christmas falls on a Sunday this year, we are following our usual custom of having the Christmas Day service at 10:00, and **not** 10:30. There is no early service that morning.

New Year's Day also falls on a Sunday. We will have one service only at 10:30 a.m. on January 1st.

Christmas Radio Broadcast

Once again this year the PEC Ministerial Association (which Charles chairs) has collaborated with the local radio station 99.3 *County FM* to produce a Christmas Eve broadcast called ***Celebrate Christmas.*** Bringing together contributions from 18 different churches, the programme features Christmas music, readings from scripture, and greetings from around The County. Our choir has contributed to the programme which will air at 7:00 pm Christmas Eve. You will miss that broadcast if you are coming to church for our 7:30 service, but it will repeat at noon on Christmas Day.



The hand-crafted and much-loved angels pictured on the cover of this edition of The Vine come from the collections of St. Mary Magdalene Church, Mary Brett, Wendy LeBlanc, Marie O'Connor and Maxine Tiller. Marie's angel with its ping-pong ball head at the lower left corner of the cover collage is over 70 years old



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