

The Vine



St. Mary Magdalene
Anglican Church

Picton, Ontario

A Counting Rhyme

Count your garden by the flowers
Never by the leaves that fall,
Count your days by golden hours
Don't remember clouds at all,
Count your nights by stars, not shadows,
Count your years with smiles, not tears,
Count your blessings, not your troubles,
Count your age by friends, not years.
Unknown

David Gilbert Photo

Thanksgiving 2021

St. Mary Magdalene Milestones

Birthdays

Stan Whitehouse – 95 years Michael Calnan

Anniversaries

Mary Lou & Jim Champagne Loraine & David Gilbert (52)

Penny & John Kitchen Carol & Jack Lashley (35)

Wendy & Frank LeBlanc (55) Sandie & Jim Macgregor (53)

Joan McBride & Charles Morris (20) Carmen & Peter Mason (56)

Passing

Joan Mercer



St. Mary Magdalene Anglican Church

Archdeacon Charles Morris, Rector 613-503-0199

Email: charlesmorris78@gmail.com

The Rev. Fran Langlois, Parish Deacon 613-476-7988

Email: flanglois@ontario.anglican.ca

Martha Riddell, Parish Curate 647-462-4096

Email: mriddell@ontario.anglican.ca

Penny Kitchen, Parish Secretary 613-476-3303

Email: stmmPicton@gmail.com



St. Mary Magdalene Anglican Church

335 Main Street Picton, ON K0K 2T0

Telephone: 613-476-3303

Email: stmmPicton@gmail.com

Website: stmmPicton.ca

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:

Thanksgiving continues to be my favourite time of year. The weather is lovely, the colours are beautiful, and I look forward to good food and the chance to visit with friends and family. This is our second Thanksgiving muted by the effects of Covid on our personal and community lives, but my spirit is lifted all the same as pumpkins begin to show up at the roadside markets. Like most of us, I am weary of wearing a mask and resisting the urge to shake hands, but I know I need to keep at it for a while yet. Rather than focus on our difficulties, our scriptures encourage us to “rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances”.



As Thanksgiving Sunday approaches, I have a lot to be thankful for. I am thankful that Joan and I were both fully vaccinated in early July. What an amazing time we live in, with vaccines developed and deployed in huge quantities so quickly! I am thankful that participation has been very widespread: virtually everyone I know has been vaccinated, making all of us much safer. I am tremendously thankful for the community life of our Parish. Worship continues in person and online, and even more heartening is how our parishioners continue to support each other and others in our community. Some of our folks are dealing with Covid isolation, others are recovering from accidents, and others are coping with serious illness. In all these circumstances many, many parishioners have been providing all kinds of care and help.

I particularly rejoice in the appointment of our new Parish Curate, Martha Riddell. We have been planning, working, and praying for this opportunity for two years, and while Covid slowed us down, it did not stop us. On September 19th we were pleased to formally welcome Martha and install her in her new role. You can read more about Martha and her husband Jared elsewhere in this issue of *The Vine*, but here I want to underscore the encouragement they bring to our Parish. Their presence represents our intention not merely to survive, but to thrive, grow and expand our outreach.



David Gilbert

These encouragements give us all a lot to be thankful for. This Thanksgiving I look forward to joining you as together we celebrate them in worship.

Yours faithfully, *Charles*

Our New Parish Curate: *Martha Riddell*

On September 19th we installed Martha Riddell as our Parish Curate. Martha graduated with her M.Div. from Trinity College, Toronto last year, and was accepted by the diocese as a sponsored candidate heading towards ordination.

After Martha completed a few requirements this summer, Bishop Oulton appointed her to St Mary Magdalene as a Lay Pastoral Associate, with the intention, God willing, of ordaining her a Deacon a little farther down the road, and later, ordaining her a Priest. We expect Martha to be with us for a total for about two years.



Martha's Installation by Rector Charles

Martha is a committed, faithful, and enthusiastic Christian who has grown up in the Anglican

Church, particularly at St Mary Magdalene Church in Toronto. She has experience as a Child & Youth Minister at St Olave's Church in Toronto and supported several programs at St Bartholomew's Church in Toronto. In May of this year Martha married Jared Tomlinson, and in late August they moved to Picton.

As a Curate, Martha has the dual role of learning how to be a parish priest while contributing to the work of our parish. She joins the team of clergy and laity who serve our church, contributing to our ministry and learning from all of us. Working closely with our Rector, Charles, she will be part of every aspect of the life and ministry of our Parish, leading worship, preaching, and making pastoral visits. She will also spend some of her time exploring how we can reengage with people when Covid restrictions finally end, and looking for ways to expand our outreach to younger families and to people moving into the new homes growing up all around Picton.

Martha's arrival marks an exciting and encouraging chapter in the life of our parish.

Welcome, Martha and Jared!

Getting to Know *Martha* ... in a fun way!

Q. What book are you currently reading?

A. *Big Sister, Little Sister, Red Sister: Three Women at the Heart of Twentieth-Century China* by Jung Chang.

Q. What is the best live show you've ever seen?

A. The last live show I saw was Mozart's *Don Giovanni* at Opera Atelier in 2019. It's too hard to pick just one, but this is a top contender.

Q. What is a talent of yours that surprises people?

A. Nothing comes to mind so either I'm not talented or I'm not surprising!

Q. Where do you get your news?

A. I read a handful of newspapers online.

Q. What is the top item on your list of guilty pleasures?

A. Reality TV

Q. What is your favourite outdoor activity?

A. Anything that includes a picnic

Q. What hymn do you love singing the most?

A. It's impossible to pick just one but *Alleluia! Sing to Jesus* (W. Chatterton Dix, 1866) is up there.

Q. Where do you go (or like to do) to get away from it all?

A. I always spend the summer in Alsace, France with my family. That's my happy place.

Q. What movie have you watched at least five times?

A. *Singin' in the Rain*

Q. What type of restaurant is your first choice?

A. Chinese food, preferably dim sum

The Vine put
Martha on the
spot!



Martha - unmasked!

Getting to Know Martha ... continued

This? or That?* for Martha

What do readers of *The Vine* have in common with Martha?

Fiction or **non-fiction** **Cycling** or walking

Chocolate chip or peanut butter

Summer or winter Dogs or **cats** Coffee or **tea**

Telephone or **email** **Night owl** or early riser

GPS or maps **Sweet** or savoury **Pen** or pencil

Attend a party or **host a party**

** Martha's choices are in red.*



Jared and Martha, married May 1, 2021

About Jared ...

Jared Tomlinson is a certified arborist and currently works with a company based in Kingston. He is working towards his Masters of Theological Studies at St Michael's, U of T. He is the composer of a number of award-winning and published choral works. Martha and Jared met at St Bartholomew's, Regent Park (Toronto) where Jared was a dedicated cantor, choir member, server, and head of the

Officiant's Guild. Jared is a faithful Anglican with a deep love of the the Divine Office.

... and a word to the Congregation from Martha:

'Jared and I are very grateful for the warm welcome we've received and we are looking forward to getting to know the parish and the wider community. I grew up at the Church of St Mary Magdalene (Toronto) and I feel very strongly that God's providence has brought me back under her patronage!'

A Page from Our History: Curate's House

You may not have noticed this simple little cottage located on the corner of York and Church Streets, and certainly our first Rector William Macaulay who served the congregation from 1823 to 1874 would



not recognize it today as the first (and only) **Curate's House** for St. Mary Magdalene Church. It was the home of the four Curates who served during Rev. Macaulay's tenure.

According to the book, '*The Settler's Dream*' by Tom Cruikshank and Peter John Stokes, '*Its date is unknown, but it may have been built just after the completion of the rectory [c1830]. The brickwork, now covered in stucco, had the same irregular yellow, brown and red hues as the sides of Macaulay House. Some say this characteristic masonry and its diminutive size, expressed specifically in the small window openings, could date the house to the late 1820s.*

The trustees of the Macaulay estate sold the house in 1904.



Curate's House 1967 before stucco

It has not had any tangible connection to Macaulay or the Anglican Church since, but still its historical name persists. The Curate's House is an integral part of William [Macaulay's] architectural legacy and a building that, despite alterations, contributes greatly to the harmonious scale of the built

environment around Macaulay Heritage Park.'

(From: *The Settler's Dream*; Cruickshank and Stokes: 1984)

I was born and raised on a 5th generation farm south of Ottawa, near Winchester during WW II. I had two younger sisters and because it was difficult for Dad to get hired help at that time, we girls and Mum were his daily assistants

There was rationing during the war- sugar, butter, meat, gasoline, nylon stockings and other textiles and not much money. We kids didn't mind because all of our neighbours were in a similar situation. Although my parents were probably often stressed they didn't show it to us; and never in all of my life did I hear a cross word or reaction between them.

Every morning right after breakfast, and before leaving for school, my family knelt by our chairs, around the breakfast table, where my father and mother would pray for us and always for 'the King, Queen and all the Royal Family'. Hanging above a door in the kitchen was a familiar motto: "*Christ is the head of this home, an unseen Guest at every meal and a silent listener to every conversation*"

My parents have been gone for many years but at this Thanksgiving time 2021, one of my greatest blessings, is the blessing of the memories I have of a loving family who taught us to love and serve God.

So - even in these unusual times, may I wish you all "*Happy Thanksgiving.*" – **Donnie Wilson**



Bountiful

I started out giving thanks for small things,
and the more thankful I became,
the more my bounty increased.

Oprah Winfrey

Blessings



Will and Colin

As we all know, grandchildren are a special blessing and our two little boys, Will and Colin, fill us with a sense of gratitude, hope and awe. This is one of our favourite photos from our time together in August.

And, there is nothing like experiencing the beauty of a trail at Sandbanks or Macaulay Mountain through the eyes of the family dog. Our Byron is such a wonderful dog... a big strong boy with such a sweet nature. He loves charging into the lake and just sitting down...pure joy!! He takes his stuffed toys with him about the house and into the yard and always brings his favourite toy to his bed at night...sweet!

- **Kathy Condie and Jay Crockford**

It's true that the more we give thanks the more we discover we have to be thankful for. It's so easy to take things for granted. Thank you for this day. Thank you for this food. Thank you for my health. Thank you for my family and friends. So much to be thankful for. I do, however, often find myself giving a quiet thank you when I look at the sun peeking through a cloud, butterflies nestling into a bloom, tiny sprouts fighting their way up to sunshine in my garden, my husband reaching out and holding my hand in his sleep, our daughter's gracious heart and her healing gift of music, seeing a smiling face behind the steering wheel of a car when you let them in traffic ...

We all could write a book on thank yous.

It's so important to take that one tiny moment and give a smile of thanks and yes, we get it back two-fold every time.

- **Penny Kitchen**



One of the greatest blessings of my life is time. All the seconds, minutes and hours that are offered to me to devote to family and friends, gardening, walking, enjoying the outdoors, reading, writing and more are joyful gifts that I deem to be both lifesavers and life-savers. I value the time I have, recognizing that it is not only bountiful but also that it is finite.

Carpe diem!

- **Wendy LeBlanc**



Thoughts for Thanksgiving

“Tis the season to be...thankful.” ...‘Jolly’ comes a few months later! Yes, as the autumn chills and shorter days set upon us, we shall be challenged to count and celebrate our blessings; they are many indeed.



Peter Mason

People will give thanks for the good land of Canada; they will extoll the beauty of sparkling lakes, purple-headed mountains, and crimson maple trees. They will fill up grocery carts with the fruits of an abundant harvest, and wrap themselves with a new fall wardrobe, confident that our comfortably heated homes will protect us from the worst that winter can throw against us.

Such expressions of thanksgiving, though laudable, are imperfect, provisional, and risky. Far too often the blessings we enjoy have come at the expense of other people. This good land of Canada has not always treated its indigenous and minority groups justly. The climate we usually enjoy has become increasingly threatened by man-made forces for which we share some responsibility. Our food supply depends in some instances upon dubious labour and production practices. You can add your own examples of brokenness in an otherwise good land.

So I'm focussing my thanksgivings in different directions this year, where there are fewer downsides. I am incredibly grateful for the relationships I enjoy with so many 'significant others' at the moment. Carmen and I have just celebrated 56 happily married years – just ask her! Our kids, sibs and cousins are a constant source of joy... not perfect, but still cause for gratitude. Add to this list are neighbours, friends and fellow Christian believers, many of whom over the years have acted as mentors, examples, and encouragers along the journey.

And I am grateful for the innumerable women and men whose creativity have brought beauty, truth, love, and hope into this world with their God-given talents...Mozart, Helen Mirren, C. S. Lewis.....

Above all I give thanks that our very existence – the good and broken – is undergirded by the infinite personal God who is supremely encountered in Jesus of Nazareth, the God who loves, forgives, restores and holds us in his sure care.

So by all means let us enjoy plump turkey and fine wine this Thanksgiving, while seeking ways to remember the poor, the sick, and the forgotten. And let our little thank-yous become a prelude to “Thanks be to God!”

- Peter Mason

Beautiful and Bountiful ...

As it has for more than a century, **St. Mary Magdalene Church stands as a welcoming beacon at the entrance of our community.** Its presence today just steps away from Shire Hall in a district of heritage homes is as strong as in years gone by thanks to our dedicated volunteer gardener, **John Hughes.**



John recalls that he 'inherited' the job when he was a Warden in 1995. [Editor's Note: Who knew that gardening was part of the Wardens' job description some 25 years ago!?] For certain, he truly did inherit a green thumb from his mother as he skilfully and lovingly works in the gardens surrounding our church.



Several years ago, the flower beds needed rejuvenating and thanks to donations from **Nell Kottick, Brian and Kirsteen Etherington, Lorraine Hyatt, and Marie Connor,** John created and now maintains the lovely displays of hydrangeas, carefully-clipped boxwood, spirea, hostas, and

colourful flowers that set off our church building so beautifully.

John dedicates his time to tending the gardens three or four times a week, 'between golf games,' he jokes, noting that this is his 65th year of golfing. He is also known to have a score matching his age! Whether it's putting on the golf green and puttering in the garden, John enjoys his time in the fresh air and devotes his talents to both pursuits. *Many thanks, John!*

Update: The ROC Weathers the Pandemic

As the year 2020 began, the ROC was making plans to celebrate 20 years of operation, including a major fundraiser at the Regent Theatre. And then COVID came and everything changed.

Prior to COVID, the ROC recorded 5,265 visits to the Youth Centre between September 2019 and March 2020. With the pandemic, the Youth Centre was forced to close so the priority has been to stay connected with youth by modifying programming and services and by introducing new approaches to address emerging youth needs.

The ROC staff have seen an increase in youth-reported challenges including difficulties with: academics, conflict with the law, self-harming behaviour, suicidal thoughts, family conflict, mental health, abuse in the home, substance abuse, and food insecurity.

Launched in 2019, the **Youth Inclusion Program (YIP)** provides zero-cost academic, social and mental wellness support for at-risk youth in Prince Edward County. Agency referrals have doubled in the past year, bringing the program to 66 participants. The program is based on individualized action plans and targets specific risk factors. Youth are matched 1:1 with a staff mentor and work to find the incentives and motivations to engage youth to meet their goals. This important program has continued to operate with Covid protocols in place.

With funding from the The County Foundation and community partners including **St. Mary Magdalene Church**, the ROC has been able to respond to the needs of youth and their families by launching two new programs, the Neighbourhood Outreach Response (NOR) and the Youth Support Navigation Service (YSNS).



The **Neighbourhood Outreach Response** project has provided youth and their families with curbside delivery of basic food and hygiene kits. Staff used these opportunities to offer mental health support to youth through meaningful conversations and the sharing of community resources. Staff

receive direct requests from parents for curbside visits for their struggling children, and one-on-one visits with ROC staff.

The **Youth Support Navigation Service** provides one-on-one support for youth who are not in school, with trained staff helping youth navigate community resources and access support services. Staff travel to neighbourhoods or community settings to meet with individual youth.

Over its now 21-year history, the ROC has established itself as an important and integral part of the youth services network in Prince Edward County and it has earned the trust and confidence of parents, caregivers and community organizations. Community partnerships are vital to the success of the ROC and **St. Mary Magdalene Church** has been one such valued partner. For more information, you can visit theroc.ca - **Michael and Pauline Smith**

Honouring a Beloved Parishioner

A name familiar to the parishioners at St. Mary Magdalene Church has recently appeared on Loyalist Parkway in Picton.



George Wright Boulevard has been named in honour of the late, beloved George Wright who was an active member of our church until his passing in December 2018 at the age of 98. He was a distinguished WWII veteran and a member of the legendary "Devil's Brigade", a specialized assault force composed of the most elite American and Canadian soldiers. It was in 2016, at St. Mary Magdalene, that Mr. Wright was awarded the French Legion of Honor, which is the highest national order of France for his contribution to the liberation of France.

Mr. Wright was a member of the Picton municipal police force for decades, and the naming of this street is a wonderful tribute to his contributions to our country and to our little town of Picton. To those of us who knew him as a member of our church, we remember his gentle demeanor and his beautiful smile sitting quietly in his pew on Sunday mornings. We smile, and remember, when we see his name as we drive past.



George Wright

● From the St. MM Bulletin Board ●



A Note of Thanks and Thanksgiving ... I am so incredibly thankful to have my son and his wife living close by, and we are able to see them often. Planning a baby shower (yes, they're expecting!!), I have been so blessed to have the St. Mary's family as a fantastic resource. From booking the hall, to sorting tables and linens, negotiating insurance issues and getting access to the hall, it's been a smooth process. Many thanks to Penny (who is a delight to email with, you can hear the smile in her words) to Kathy, Nell, John C., Herb, Wendy and Charles who have all been so very helpful and made me feel such a special part of the St. Mary Magdalene's family.

Julie Miller

THANK YOU ...

... to the 43 parishioners who assisted at the services between June and September – too many to list individually! These dedicated people are the Wardens, altar guild, greeters, readers, prayers of the people, powerpoint and livestream operators, cantors and musicians.

...MUCH APPRECIATED!



Parish Hall's new steel roof as a work in progress!



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

A Cup of Tea and a Cookie

When my dad was an old man he said grace for every occasion – having a cup of tea and a cookie would set his hands and heart in motion. It was a simple thank you for what he considered a bountiful repast. Cultivating appreciation for what we - the individual in the moment - have is nurturing for the spirit.

Abbess Hildegard of Bingen (1098 – 1179) had a good take on the concept of bounty. In Hildegard's view, a beam of sunlight, the fragrance of a flower, or the graceful movement of a swan were all participants in the holy chorus of creation. "*Creation is the song of God,*" she said.

Many of us find fulfillment in God's bounty of the garden, harvesting tomatoes and squash and leeks, for the winter. Some of us try to have a diet that is seasonally and locally focussed, drawing on the book, "The 100 Mile Diet". That means not buying asparagus in October, or corn in February. We can try to eat food that is grown close to us. Being mindful of the seasons and what is currently growing here, in our small corner of the world, just makes sense and perhaps brings us closer to the song of God that Hildegard describes.



*Tomatoes and Basil
by Veronica Cluett*

If we are to protect the Creator's earth, we need to be in harmony with the earth, to be less wasteful and wantful, and to find bounty in a cup of tea and a cookie. We can think of our old clothes and furniture as bounty, and repair instead of replacing. It's a shift which might help us to enjoy mindfulness and simplicity in a complex world, while reducing our footprint in the Creator's world.

- Josie Farrar

Worship Services

Sunday: 9:00 and 10:30 a.m.

10:30 a.m. View livestream service via stmmPicton.ca

Tuesday: 3:30 p.m. Silent Meditation (please enter via rear door)

Wednesday: 10:30 a.m. Zoom Bible Study

Please note that COVID-19 protocols are followed at all services. If you do not receive COVID-19 update emails from St. MM, go to the bottom of the webpage to find out how to subscribe.



David Gilbert Photo

The Vine Newsletter

Editor: Maxine Tiller 647-296-9317 maxinetiller10@gmail.com

Production: Wendy LeBlanc 645-2001 wendyjleblanc@gmail.com

Printer: The Print Practice

