

The Vine



St. Mary Magdalene
Anglican Church, Picton
200 Years

Winter 2023



Transitions
are a time for reflection, and
a time for looking forward.

- Roy Cooper

St. Mary Magdalene Milestones



Baptisms

Abbey Maw

Millie Mae Maw



Birthdays Mary Brett Sheila Hamilton

Relocated Long-time parishioner *David Sutton* has moved to Toronto to be closer to his family. We will miss his kind, outgoing, friendly nature and his dedication to the PWRDF.

Passings The congregation was saddened to hear of the passing of Helen Cluett's mother, *Thayer Cluett, Margaret Brister*, and Pat Brant's sister *Nancy Robinson*. Sincere condolences to families and friends.

St. Mary Magdalene Anglican Church

Rev. Jeff O'Hare, Priest in Charge 613-848-4411
Email: jeffohare5@gmail.com

The Rev. Fran Langlois, Parish Deacon 613-476-7988
Email: flanglois@ontario.anglican.ca

Martha Riddell, Parish Curate (on maternity leave)

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 for all.

A Message from Our Churchwardens

Welcome to the winter edition of *The Vine*.

These are times of change for us at St. Mary Magdalene. As we search for a new Rector for the parish, Rev. Jeff O'Hare will act as our Priest in Charge. In this role, Rev. O'Hare is responsible for ensuring a Priest is assigned to officiate at our services. As such, to ensure continuity of services and ministry, he, along with the Wardens and Deacon Fran Langlois, will develop a roster for the next 3 months. Rev. Jeff encouraged us to look forward to the change and reminded us that "where there is no vision, things perish". We can all be assured we are in good hands.

Our Annual Vestry meeting, led by Reverend O'Hare, was held on February 05, 2023, with a great turnout of parishioners. This is an important yearly meeting that confirms our budget and leadership for the next year. Kathy Condie and Herb Stone were confirmed as Wardens for 2023 while John Clarke, Janet Howes and Julie Miller will serve as Deputy Wardens. The five Churchwardens will work closely together to manage the financial and administrative affairs of the church as well as providing support to planning and visioning initiatives.



A Parish Selection Advisory Committee was also confirmed at Vestry. This group will meet with the Bishop on February 23, 2023, to begin the process of seeking a new Incumbent. This is an important position, and we are hopeful we are able find candidates that can meet our vision for the future. To that end, a congregational survey is underway to identify the key attributes and activities we believe are important in a new Incumbent. Please take some time to participate in this survey as we need to hear your voices. If you need a copy of it, please reach out to either of the wardens or Penny at the church office.

We have also set up a search committee for a new Music Director. Several potential candidates have been found and further interviews are scheduled over the next few weeks. Thank you to Murray Baer and Jim Macgregor for providing us with beautiful music (along with the choir!) in the interim.

2023 will prove to be a year of challenge, opportunity, and celebration as we mark 200 years of Christian ministry and service. We commit to keeping you all informed as we move ahead in this important year.

Please keep the Church and our people in your prayers as we seek the way forward.

- **Kathy Condie** and **Herb Stone**

A Note from Father Jeff

Dear Friends:

Thank you for making me feel so welcome and including me in your spiritual home and lives. The departure of a loved Rector after many years of fine service can leave a large hole in the life of any parish and the individuals who benefitted from his pastoral gifts and ministry. For some this will be a time of grief and anxiety as the search and selection for a new spiritual leader commences.



Rev. Jeff O'Hare

This may be compounded by the resignation of our Bishop as well.

There is no doubt, Rev. Charles has left St. Mary's in good order, and stepping in as 'Priest in charge' in the interim has been relatively easy because of this.

As always, there is ongoing work to do and whilst my role is not liturgical, it does entail making sure that the life here runs as smoothly as possible, that those who have the tasks of running the parish are supported and heard, and pastorally, that all members of the parish have the necessary support and care as needed. I am not the Interim, but I am responsible to see these things continue during this time of discernment; and with the expectation that at the end of this period, the joy of welcoming a new parish priest will bring renewed focus to this community of faith.

I will continue to be a presence here, and will be available as necessary whilst I also continue to be the Rector of Christ Church Belleville and St. Paul's Roslin. I will rely on the wardens and Penny to make sure our communication flows well, and of course in gratitude to the clergy who will look after you on Sundays.

Given the logistics of making sure we have Worship every Sunday, for the time being, we will have only one service on Sundays at 10:30 a.m. as some clergy are travelling significant distances to be with you.

Please don't hesitate to be in touch with the wardens, the office, or me if you have any concerns. Pray for those who serve and lead in their various capacities in the parish, particularly the committee who have oversight of the search and selection of the one is to come to you. Remember it is Christ himself who is with us always and who will support and sustain you over these months. Make sure you love them as Christ loves you.

With every blessing, *Fr. Jeff O'Hare +*



It *IS* Easy Being Green

by Julie Miller

St. Mary Mags vs. Plastic Bags

I DO NOT LIKE Plastic!

Wait...I love my i-phone, my i-Pad and my air fryer. What I don't like is single use plastic!

I especially despise that we drill oil, create plastic molecules, ship to factories, mold a plastic fork, encase it in yet more single use plastic (for sterility), ship to cities so some uninformed person can use it to eat their salad, throw out after ten minutes use, and feel like they're saving the world with their choices.

When did we get so lazy? Did our grandmothers rely on plastic wrap? Of course not.

What happened to Tupperware parties, where we could find every storage container known to woman and could transport everything from devilled eggs to veg/dip to an aspic salad (although why would you?)? We can find all sorts of items to swap from the many single use plastics we have in our homes. I have not used a piece of plastic wrap in over four years, and the only bags I use are re-used bread wrappers.

The government recently implemented mandates that will eliminate plastic grocery bags, cutlery, straws, and plastic take-out containers. A great first step, but far from all-encompassing. You will continue to see some of these products in stores until their existing supplies run out.

Strong lobbying from powerful groups made sure the biggest culprit, plastic water bottles, are stillS available! These bottles are NOT recycled, use incredible resources to create, and eventually end up in landfill or are ground into micro plastics and leach into our water or our bodies!

Here is the ask! In the time between this issue of *The Vine* and the next, **let's all choose one single use plastic product and swap it out with a reusable one...each journey begins with a single step!**

Let us know what steps you have taken in your home to do your part! Please send your plastic swap ideas (photos are welcome) to me at jamiller@sympatico.ca.

Centre – Farewell to Charles

centre

Memories of St. Mary Magdalene

St. Mary Magdalene holds special memories for Debbie Rankin, a long-time friend of our church. Her parents Helen Andrews and Frederick Rankin were married by the Reverend W. G. H Swayne at St. Mary Magdalene on April 30th 1950, and Debbie was baptized there on February 15th, 1953



While her parents did not attend church regularly, Sundays were a very special time for Debbie and her grandmother Kathryn Rankin. It was their time together to attend church. Sunday morning started with Sunday School at 10am followed by the service at 11am. Debbie sat next to her grandmother, fidgeting as young children do, crawling under the pews, and being fed peppermint candies from her grandmother's purse. She was also able to recite the 10 Commandments with a lot of help from her charm bracelet with its 10 charms, one for each commandment!

During Sunday school, the children would practice the hymns and songs they would present to the congregation monthly. One she remembers particularly well:

*God sees the little sparrow fall,
It meets his tender view
If God so loves the little birds,
I know he loves me too.
He loves me too, he loves me too,
I know he loves me too;
because he loves the little things,
I know he loves me too.*

Debbie recalls after service on Sundays, lunch was at her grandmothers; just the two of them. Kathryn was a long serving parishioner of St. Mary Magdalene and was a member of the Alter Guild. She would take the soiled linens home to launder, starch and press until they were pristine, to be returned to the church for next service. The connection is even deeper, as Debbie's aunt, the late Faye Andrews was a fixture at the early service until her passing in 2022.

Thank you to Debbie for sharing these memories with us!



EXTRA! EXTRA!
READ ALL
ABOUT IT!

Hot Topics Spice Up Vestry

St. MM 2023 Meeting Tame Compared to Past

Pew Rentals Date to 1830

‘With the completion of the church, the church wardens were empowered to let or sell pews in the Parish Church in order to raise funds for the finishing and repairing of same.’ Thus started the often contentious issue – described in 1917 as ‘the thorny old question of pew rents’ - that finally ended in the Vestry meeting of 1937 when the pews of the Church were ‘declared free and unappropriated.’ 107 years of controversy!

GROUNDS for STRIKE?

“Does it ever occur to the congregation to wonder who changes the hangings, who buys or collects and arranges the flowers, who launders all the altar linen, and who sweeps and dusts the Chancel? **The Chancel Guild.**’ These forthright remarks were contained in the annual church report of 1922 and were made by the president of the Guild, Mrs. D. J. Shannon.

Never-Ending Construction Co. of Yore ...

Pre-1912 photo of Parish House (later Parish Hall) before being moved back on rollers to make room for new Church. Note: Rectory on right.



In 1924, ‘Attention of the Vestry Council was drawn to the neglected condition of the Parish House.’ It was also recorded that funds from the Church’s Centennial Celebrations were devoted to repairing the Rectory.

Getting Better by Change Not Chance!

At 1976’s Vestry, Rev. Robert Stewart comments re the ‘Ecclesia Anglicana: Liturgical Reform: “People are understandably perplexed and distressed by these thoughts and actions.”

Celebrating our 200 Years and Beyond!



2023 marks the 200th anniversary of the Congregation of St. Mary Magdalene, our beloved Parish.



At a Parish Council meeting in late 2022, a committee was assembled tasked with planning for the anniversary in 2023. As we formally kick off the 9-month celebration this month, the team has wonderful events in the planning stages:

- February - Evensong at Macauley Museum (the original home of St. Mary Magdalene) Feb 24th @ 4pm
- March - Pulling Out All the Stops with Murray Baer (Organ Concert) March 26th at 3pm (See poster next page)
- April – A County Wine and Cheese Social (Details and ticket sales to be announced)
- May – Celebration Garden Planting on the Church Lawn.
- June – Dedication and Installation of a memorial bench on Church Lawn
- July – Community Kids Picnic & Sundae Sundays
- August – A Month of Music at SMM
- September – Songs of Praise + Shout Sister Concert
- October - Service of Celebration and Thanksgiving (Sunday October 8th)

As we complete the plans for these events and others, the team is open to ideas and volunteers are welcome! We want to celebrate our church and the wonderful community in which we live. Join in, bring your family, invite a friend. Let's make this year special and look to our future.

A Page from our History 1823 – The Parish of Hallowell, later the Parish of Picton, was established with William Macauley appointed as Rector. During the year, preparations were commenced for the building of the Anglican Church; the building was to be of red brick. Mr. Macauley donated the land and promised to finance the building of the church out of his personal funds. He also had a beautiful rectory built and a house for the curate at the corner of York and Church Streets. The Church was completed in 1827. (From 'A Goodly Heritage')

● From the St. MM Bulletin Board ●

Thinking of returning to Church?
We'd love to see you!

Please spread
the word for this
special
200th
Anniversary
event!




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

There was a good-humoured response to Rector Charles Morris's choice for **the final hymn** at his Farewell Service. Unknown to most, the congregation appreciated the words to Verse 5 which Charles had drawn attention to:

*Christ be with me, Christ be in me, Christ behind me, Christ before me,
Christ beside me, Christ to win me, Christ to comfort and restore me,
Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me, Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.*

Services at St. Mary Magdalene

Sundays - 10:30 a.m. only, until further notice

Tuesdays – 3:30 p.m. – Silent Meditation in the Church

Please note that wearing masks is preferred but not required.

Food Bank Sunday has resumed and as always is held on the first Sunday of each month. Non-perishable items and monetary donations are taken to the Picton Food Bank by John Hughes. *If you need grocery bags to carry your donations, pick them up at the back of the Church.*

A Page from Our History - 1821 - William Macauley

was appointed by the Bishop of London as a missionary to Hallowell Bridge, He wanted to establish an Anglican Church here and first erected a small building on one side of his property at the corner of what is now Church and Union Streets. This building later became the first school building in the Town of Picton as well as being used for church services on Sundays.

The accompanying photograph is of the original meeting house and school built just south of the churchyard. It is now incorporated into a house.

(From 'A Goodly Heritage' by A. Capon)



The Vine Newsletter

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

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

Printer: Printcraft, Picton



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