



**St. Mary Magdalene
Church
Picton, Ontario**

CHRISTMAS 2024



Andrew Innes

**Christmas is
Tenderness for the Past,
Courage for the Present,
Hope for the Future.**

Agnes Pharo



St. Mary Magdalene Milestones

Members of the church were saddened to hear of the passing of **Patricia (Pat) Romkey**. Sincere sympathy to her family and friends.



**Blessings and
Special Birthday
Greetings to**



**Mary Folkard
98 years old!**



October Birthdays

David Gilbert,
Rev. Canon John Whittall

November Birthdays

Lita Field, Molly Lawson,
Mary Lou Champagne, Pat Brant



St. Mary Magdalene Anglican Church Contacts

The Venerable Rev. Dr. Bramwell Pearce 613-888 4172
Email: bram.pearce@gmail.com

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



Shirley Barnes, Parish Secretary
613-476-3303
Email: stmmmpicton@gmail.com

St. Mary Magdalene Anglican Church
355 Main Street, Picton, ON K0K 2T0
Telephone: 613-476-3303
Email: stmmmpicton@gmail.com
Website: stmmmpicton.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.

Our Rector's Message

Christmas: A Gift of Love



Rev. Dr. Bram Pearce

There is agreement among historians that, at the time of Jesus' birth, honour and shame were the currencies of social capital and a potent means of control. One's family and reputation were of the utmost importance, so families looked out for themselves and made room for each other. The family honour and, therefore, one's reputation depended on it. This fact is what makes Mary and Joseph's story so strange. Luke's gospel tells us that Mary "gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger because there was *no place for them in the inn* (Lk 2:7, my emphasis)."

What were these two doing in a stable with no bed for their baby but a manger, which is a polite word for a feedbox? Where were their families? After all, Bethlehem was said to be Joseph's ancestral home. If he were required to go to Bethlehem for a census, his brother and sisters, father and mother, and cousins would also be required to travel and would need rooms in Bethlehem. And once rooms were found and secured, the family had a duty, an obligation, to make room for Joseph and his new and so obviously pregnant wife. So why were these two said to be alone and in a stable?

It appears Mary and Joseph were sleeping in a stable because their families had rejected them and had probably done so because of Mary's untimely pregnancy. There was no room for them because no one, not even their families, would offer these two "sinners" a place to stay. They had marred the family name and should have known better. Thus, when the shepherds arrive, they don't find a grandmother or mother-in-law, an aunt, a cousin, or a sister knocking themselves over and trying to make better arrangements for the new baby. Instead, they discovered a young mother and father doing the best they could for their newborn baby amid very challenging circumstances.

This is the Christmas story, and we are told it is a story of good news and great joy. The angel says, "Do not be afraid; for see - I am bringing you good news of great joy for *all* the people: to you is

... continued next page

born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord (Lk 2:10-11).”

Good news for *all* people. The angel of the Lord is explicit about this truth. The coming of Jesus Christ is good news of great joy for everyone. It is not only good news for those surrounded by family throughout the Christmas season or those well-off enough to celebrate the season by exchanging expensive gifts. Christmas is good and joyful because, by coming to a couple who were themselves pushed aside and left out, God turned the world upside down and began ‘putting things to rights.’

In the Christmas story, we learn that God doesn’t rule our world through power or violence or by forcing us to conform to the whims and wishes of an impersonal god. Instead, the same God who created the universe has “moved into the neighbourhood (Jn 1:14, MSG)” and works in our world through a quiet, creative pattern of grace and love.

We see this theology present from the very beginning. Jesus was raised by Mary and Joseph – people with nothing but the love of God and neighbour to recommend them for the job. They had no status, power, wealth, or family support, but the one thing they did have was love. And having nothing to offer but love is precisely what the Creator of heaven and earth had in mind all along.

Archdeacon Bram+
Season of Advent 2024

The Risk of Birth

This is no time for a child to be born,
With the earth betrayed by war and hate
And a comet slashing the sky to warn
That time runs out and the sun burns late.
That was no time for a child to be born,
In a land in the crushing grip of Rome;
Honour and truth were trampled by scorn -
Yet here did the Christ child make his home.
When is the time for love to be born?
The inn is full on the planet earth,
And by a comet the sky is torn -
Yet Love still takes the risk of birth.

- Madeleine L'Engle



(Submitted by Canon Fran Langlois)

COMING EVENTS @ ST. M M

Advent and Christmas Services at St. Mary Magdalene

Sunday, December 1 – First Sunday of Advent;
Nine Lessons and Carols Service at 10:00

Sunday, December 22 – Join Helen Cluett and Murphy Longley for a Carol Sing following the 10:00 a.m. regular service. (Contact Helen at hcluett25@gmail.com for carol requests.)

Christmas Eve (December 24)

- Beginning at 6:45 p.m. with a Carol Sing, the traditional Christmas Eve Service follows at 7:00 p.m.

Christmas Day (December 25) – Service at 10:00 a.m. using The Book of Common Prayer

Sunday, December 29 - Five Lessons and Carols with Communion featuring carol favourites

QUINTissimo
the sound of social change

Enjoy the talents of these young musicians in their
Showcase Concert on December 1 at 2:00 p.m.



A Warm Welcome to All!

More information at:

<https://commandperformancechoir.com>



The inaugural outing of St. Mary Magdalene's "On the Move" took place on Friday November 1st.

Barb Mowbray, Gwen Whitmore and Ian Morrison joined us for a trip to The Local Store during their special two-week pre-Christmas opening where we all enjoyed browsing the lovely and eclectic collection of art and goodies from local artisans. It was a great start to the holiday shopping season and, while a few of us came away with purchases, others started to make note of what might be useful when it's time to start shopping for family and friends.

After the Local Store we all went to North Docks in Wellington for a lunch with lots of chat and laughter. It was lovely to sit and talk, having seen each other in Church over the years but never having had the opportunity to sit down and really take the time to find out about each other.

Although we were a small group, it was a great trial run especially given the fact that we all emphatically agreed we should do it again.

Here's what **Ian Morrison** had to say about the event:

*A trip to **The Local Store** near West Lake. Lunch in Wellington at **North Docks**. Sounded like an interesting afternoon. Well, it was!*

Now shopping is not one of my favourite things to do, but lunch with the ladies, well, how could I refuse?

Gwen and I joined the outing and had an enjoyable few hours. You can, too!

Our first outing also gave us a chance to iron out some kinks. For example, we all don't have to meet at the Church. If you want to drive yourselves, we can meet there while continuing to offer rides to those who need them. And, from what we've heard since, we should have been clearer. "On the Move" is not part of the Magdalenas (as Ian proved). It's open to everyone, men, women, children, friends. Heck, maybe even a seeing-eye dog if you have one.

We're very much looking forward to the next outing of "On the Move" in February wherever it might be and to have the chance to get to know more of our church members in a relaxed and intimate setting. - **Angela, Maureen, Wendy**



NAME TAGS

Oh, dear, I've lost my name tag
I placed it safe somewhere
In the car? in a drawer?
Hmm - can't quite remember where.

I guess it doesn't matter
'Cause everyone knows me ...
Aah ... Aah...
You say that you don't know *my* name?
Oh - I get the point - I see ...

A name tag is for folks like me
Who want to know you, too,
I'll find it and I'll wear it
And ask the same of you.

'Twill be good to get to know you,
And maybe make a friend,
Guess name tags ARE important,
It's the message that they send

We want to be a friendly bunch,
Say welcome and hello,
So, let's all wear our name tags
Good for all of us, you know.

WHERE'S YOURS?

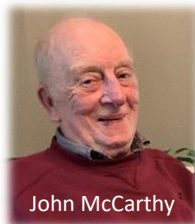
LET THERE BE LIGHT!

Warden Kathy Condie noticed that the driveways alongside the Church and the parking lot behind the Parish Hall were very dark and that lighting was either non-existent or not functioning. New LED lights on motion-detectors were installed and the difference is amazing! Using this form of lighting is cost-effective and also much greener than the old incandescent lights. It also fits in – in a very small way, granted – with greening initiatives that are being promoted by the Diocese of Ontario. Read more about it at: <https://www.ontario.anglican.ca/creation-care/green-group>



A Conversation with John McCarthy

A recent conversation with John McCarthy at his home in MLP Residence ended with a quotation from his mother, ***'Be very careful how you treat people as you go through life. All people, no matter their circumstances, should be treated with respect.'*** John's life is a testament to his mother's words and, as he put it, his *'brilliant upbringing'*.



Born in 1938 and raised in Portsmouth, England, John's formative years were as a child of war, spending nights in the backyard bomb shelter with his brother, mother and members of her family while his father served in the Royal Navy. A special memory of John's dates from 80 years ago – the D-Day invasion. Canadian troops leaving from Portsmouth lined both sides of the road, sitting down with their gear, awaiting embarkation. John's mother treated the soldiers to tea and words of encouragement. A strong impression on a boy of his age.

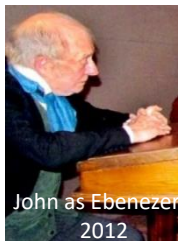
War was not yet over when he began school, but John made the most of his education, finishing as a senior prefect and head boy. At that time students took exams to lead them into their career choices. John chose the coveted five-year apprenticeship in the Royal Naval shipyards over becoming a solicitor's clerk! He describes his time there as *excellent* as he learned wood- and steel-working and reading and drawing plans. Only two years into his apprenticeship, John and his buddy, both 17 years old, attended an Ontario promotional movie enticing people to move to Canada. John was ready to leave right away but his Dad firmly told him to complete his apprenticeship first – a significant moment in John's life. At the same time, an advertisement from a professional theatre company offered part-time courses in theatre work; John eagerly joined in the weekend programs - another pivotal moment that played a role in his future.

Both Canada and his theatre interests would have to wait as John signed up for five years in the Royal Air Force and a career in air traffic control. His first posting – at the height of the Cold War - was to Hanover, Germany, control headquarters for all military air traffic in northern Germany, East Germany and West Berlin. Following that posting he became part of the flight planning and aircrew briefing team in Scampton, England - during the time of the Cuban crisis - where he received a commendation for his work. His commanding officer recommended him for officer training, but John had set his sights on civilian life. The words, *'You're a bloody fool, McCarthy, but I wish you all the best'* still resonate with John as he agrees he should have stayed in the RAF with its wide variety of people and work experiences, camaraderie and an exciting life. Civilian life could have led to an air traffic control career. But, surprisingly, the salary of an air traffic controller was poor at the time, and John turned to his interest in theatre, working backstage in Portsmouth for operas, ballets, and summer revues as well

as taking opportunities to act in community theatre. Augmenting his salary in theatre, he worked as a croupier at a roulette wheel in a casino where he loved the opportunity to dress up and to meet people!

In 1972 John responded to an IBM advertisement and soon became a purchasing manager procuring computer components. In 1978, a visit to his brother, Roger, who had moved to Cressy here in Prince Edward County five years earlier, convinced him to leave England. He remarks how he was impressed by such innovations as the 401 but it was the red-winged blackbirds and the loons of the Cressy marsh, the friendliness of the people, and the slow pace of life that made him write in a postcard home, *'I've landed in paradise'*. At the time, IBM Canada and other Toronto companies had no work to offer him and John tells of an epiphany he had travelling the 401. *'I live in an ideal place and why not go back to my roots as a carpenter!'* He began working on repairing boats, with the late John Clarke's beloved boat, The Avalon, being one of his first jobs. He moved on to trim work and furniture-making where he made a good living as a sub-contractor. He attributes his belief in producing quality work and being fair to customers (*'Never let a customer down!'*) to his time at IBM where he was schooled in how to treat people. But ... remember, John had already learned that lesson from his mother in early childhood! John retired at age 65.

John's work as a carpenter led him to meeting the love of his life, Carol Newland. She owned a home that needed work done and the two quickly became an item! Together for 28 years, John and Carol are now, sadly, separated as Carol's struggle with Parkinson's disease became too much for John as caregiver. She is now living in Brampton at Dufferin Long Term Care Centre. *'I still love her and miss her. She's in a right place. I'll never stop loving her,'* John says softly. They chat regularly and see each other thanks to modern technology. Members of St. Mary Magdalene for over a decade, they came to the church with *'a belief in God but not as an adherent to religion'* and stayed because of the friendly congregation who care for and about each other.



Tying together all the ends of John's amazing life story, I asked him about his theatre work here in Prince Edward County. He tells how he started in 1981 in small productions at the Regent Theatre, recounts working with Phil Robbins when the Prince Edward Arts Council presented 'Desert Song' and ending with his final show, 'The Rocky Horror Picture Show', in 2016. John comments that acting involves communicating with and listening

to others and reacting to them. *'It is a responsibility to be honest with yourself, your fellow actors and your audience and to never let any of them down'*. Now, that's a worthy philosophy of life, both on- and off-stage. Starting with his mother's words so many decades ago, it's a philosophy that has served John well for his 86 years. It was a pleasure to speak with this remarkable person – truly a man

for all seasons. - **Wendy LeBlanc**

HANDMADE CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS

How do you decorate for Christmas? Does your tree include handmade or ornaments of special significance? Perhaps ones your children or grandchildren made? Are there stories to share about them? We asked some of the Magdalenas to tell us more!

This photo of my two granddaughters, Lauren and Kaelyn, shows them proudly displaying their gingerbread houses. For at least 16 years our family has made either gingerbread houses or gingerbread men – no matter where we have gathered for our Christmas celebration. Even though Lauren is now 20 and Kaelyn is 18, they still love being together and decorating their annual gingerbread houses. - **Sue Rowe**



I made this front entrance decoration this year. It took many tries to make the big bows!

- **Janine Dudding**



This sweet little angel was given to me about 20 years ago by my friend Suzanne. I believe she made it herself. I usually display it on an end table at Christmas. – **Nell Kottick**

I recall the beautiful little Christmas elves sitting on swings and antique glass ornaments twinkling on our tree each year. Sadly none of the decorations my family grew up with are in existence anymore. My mother was never fond of 'old things' so she tossed them all away and bought new ones from the newly-opened Sears Store. - **Maxine Tiller**



Our grandson, Braden, made this ornament for us when he was in Kindergarten or Grade One. He's now 28. We have two sets of Christmas ornaments – one vintage (the ones from when I was growing up) and the other sort of modern which I keep adding to. I alternate them each Christmas but the one from Braden goes on the tree every year.

- Fran and Mike Langlois



Our neighbour made this lovely ceramic Christmas tree for my mother-in-law over 30 years ago. We put it out every Christmas. It is like she is there celebrating with us.

Mary Lou Champagne

Everyone was making Christmas Card Holders in the 1960s and '70s. You wrapped yarn around an empty 48 oz. can with both ends off it. You finished off the top with felt wrapped around one of the ends and added a Christmas decoration. Then you slipped your cards into the yarn. –

Lorraine Gilbert



Living in Germany in the late 1960s, we had little extra money to spend except for travel. We bought an inexpensive artificial tree and Frank decorated it with ornaments he made out of meringue. We still have the tree and make new meringue ornaments every year and add felted red ornaments and gingerbread men. **-Wendy LeBlanc**



These are the only homemade decorations I have. Very special and they go on the Christmas tree every year. Our grandsons made them at a very young age. – **Margaret Hards**



Continued



I tried making this Christmas door swag for the first time and was pleased with the results!

My Neighbour and I took lessons on how to make a Father Christmas, hence the small one. The next year we undertook to do the bigger Father Christmas using a tomato cage. This memory of our creating, laughing and having fun making it, I treasure, as she has now passed away and each Christmas now I remember the whole experience.

- Lynda Hopkins



DRIED ORANGE SLICES

Dried orange slices make beautiful Christmas tree ornaments tied with a ribbon and cinnamon stick.



Thick-skinned navel oranges are best. Slice oranges into 1/4" slices and pat each slice with a paper towel to soak up excess juice.

If using a dehydrator allow 8-12 hours until translucent. Remove from dehydrator and lay in a dry place until cool and dry.

If using an oven, preheat to 190 degrees. Lay slices on a baking sheet. Bake for 2-4 hours. Flip once after an hour. Once dried, remove from oven and cool on a rack.

The dehydrator method produces a brighter orange slice, while the oven produces a dark more antique effect. **-Marie Connor**



In my home as a child in Finland, we put up our Christmas tree early each year and decorated it with real candles!! It's a miracle we all survived, and the house never burned down.

- Tuula Saunders

Christmas and banana in the same sentence? **Well, yes!**

It was August and I went west to visit the family. I left a banana in a small basket on the kitchen table. Humidity and heat must have been ideal to desiccate the banana.

That Christmas I took it to my daughter's place and as joke hung it on her tree. It has become a family tradition for her and me as I now look for it every Christmas. For us, Christmas and banana do belong in the same sentence.

- Ian Morrison, Gwen Whitmore



A Message from Our Wardens and Treasurer

As we enter the season of Advent and Christmas, we are reminded of the need to be patient as we await the coming of the Lord. Patience is difficult for most of us. We want things done now, wrap it up, complete it, or as Star Trek Captain Jean Luc Picard said, "Make it happen".

2024 has required us to be patient, stay the course, and continue our efforts in all aspects of our ministry as people of faith confident in God's Guidance.

We began the year with a projected deficit of \$59,765. With your continuing generous support and faithfulness, we have reduced the deficit projections and by year end, we will be in a better position financially than projected.

Thank you for your support which has allowed the Church to continue in the areas of Ministry that we identified as important to us: ***Faith and Worship, Community Engagement and Stewardship.***

Blessings, ***Kathy, Jules, Helen, Janet and Angela***



A WARM WELCOME to St. MM!



On a sunny mid-November day, the elves took advantage of the good weather to place welcoming lights around the front door area of the Church. Many thanks to Julie Miller, Aaron and Cameron Miller, Dominique Jones, Cindy Jones, Deb Hedges, and Colin Davies.



Remembrance Sunday at St. Mary Magdalene

Each year St. Mary Magdalene takes time to pause and remember those who served, who were affected, and for those that gave their lives, in the pursuit of freedom. This year the service was held Sunday, November 10th. and opened with the singing of the Canadian National anthem in both official languages.



There were so many contributors to the service. The Reverend David and Rowena Hawkins reverently placed the wreath at the foot of the altar while Thomas Pearce gave a very stirring reading of "In Flanders Fields". The church was very still through two minutes



of silence, a very poignant moment in the Remembrance Service. Jay Crockford followed by reading the Act of Remembrance.

*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.*



Major Marc Ruban played a moving rendition of 'The Flowers of the Forest' as he slow marched up the center aisle of the church. The Lament symbolizes the sound of spouses and children crying over the fallen.

For those in attendance, it was a hauntingly beautiful service with so many of our congregation contributing. While the service was led by Reverend Bram, Helen Cluett gave a very touching sermon. And of course, the beautiful sounds of the choir with music by Jim Macgregor, filled the church and reached up toward the sky.

The flowers in the church were given by the parish in memory of our dear friend George Wright who graced our church for many years. And there were flowers given by Kyrene Tripple in memory of all who lost their lives serving our county.

In the Lady Chapel (so named because all the stained-glass windows in the chapel are all of women), there was a very impressive display of historical photographs of those who served and those they loved, copies of newspaper reports, personal letters and other memorabilia supplied by



members of our parish and the community. This served as a tribute to the men of the Church of St. Mary Magdalene and of Prince Edward County who served.

“FOR YOUR TOMORROW, WE GAVE OUR TODAY”

I think one of the key insights from our Remembrance Day service at St. Mary Magdalene is how engaged so many people are in our church, how many take the time to contribute in meaningful ways, and how we come together as a parish family to mark these special occasions. The friendships and strengths built in this parish over the years are strong and are testaments to the sacrifices of those that gave their lives and for that we are grateful. – **Maxine Tiller**



The Magdalenas' Corner

It has been a busy year for the Magdalenas. We continue to grow our little group and are now enjoying the company of about 27 ladies at our once a month luncheons. This is a 'no pressure' membership where engagement is completely voluntary, and one can contribute when and however they can. Having said that, we have been busy! So, what have we been up to you may well ask!

We align to assist with some of St. Mary Magdalene's activity at **Alternatives for Women**. Along with Janet Howes, Tuula Saunders and Mary Lou Champagne are helping to coordinate and use cash that has been raised by our parishioners to purchase gift cards. There is still time to contribute; you can pick an envelope off the tree at the rear of the church or via email to the church office with your donation marked "For Alternatives for Women". Let's help make Christmas a little brighter for the women in their care and their children.



Our 2nd annual summer **Bake Sale** was a success again this year. It was aligned to take place on the same day as the **County Kids Read Book Sale**, so attendance was strong. There is nothing like the Magdalena's Bake Sale – a wonderful time to pick up a fresh homemade pie or cookies! All in, we raised approximately \$2000 that was donated to the

Church to help offset our projected deficit. In addition, the Magdalenas contributed another \$300 from last year's bake sale that had been held in reserve as well as a further \$200 from our lunch fund. We are proud to have contributed this \$2500 to help our church.



As we know, Canon Fran heads up our **Seniors' Ministry**. To that end, the Magdalenas help to provide contributions for the gift bags that Fran delivers to our shut-ins, and those without family over the holiday season. At our December meetings (this year held on December 16) we gather over lunch and have a lot of fun stuffing the bags and tying up the ribbons and the bows. We know they are appreciated and enjoyed by our seniors!



And what can we say about **the ROC**? Spearheaded by Warden Kathy Condie, we have been participating in their lunch program over this last year. From cooking and freezing casseroles, making and donating sandwich platters and the ever so delicious cookies from Wendy LeBlanc, we are fortunate to have found a place with this wonderful organization. We have committed to several more lunches over the coming months and all are welcome to participate.

There is no commitment needed to be a Magdalena. Our mandate is to share friendship and fellowship and to assist with church programs where we are able. It is so satisfying to see this group of women meet. Some have known each other for almost a lifetime, and some for just a matter of months. It is a pleasure to be part of it. - **Maxine Tiller**



'Tis the Season to be Jolly!



Jay Crockford and other members of St. Mary Magdalene were some of Santa's little helpers who spread warmth and good cheer at the Santa Claus parade on November 24th. The hot chocolate and cookies were a hit with kids of all ages. People also dropped off Food Bank donations. A great time of community spirit and fun!

St. MM Offers a Warm Welcome to All

On a sunny fall afternoon, October 3rd, St. Mary Magdalene held its second annual **Blessing of the Animals** on the front lawn of the church. This event is held to celebrate the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi (the patron saint of animals), and to honor the special connection between people and their pets. We had repeat visitors this year (Sadie, Scout, Cooper, and Zoey among others) but we had some new pups as well – all lined up to be blessed by Reverend Bram and then provided with a treat from Deb Hedges! Tails were wagging!

PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS



Deb MacCallum's
dog, Dewy

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace,
Where there is hatred let me sow love.
Where there is doubt, faith.
Where there is despair, hope.
Where there is darkness, light.
And where there is sadness, joy.



Maxine Tiller & friends

Such a lovely community event hosted by our parish! We will see you next year!

Choral Evensong

The best way to describe the atmosphere inside the church for the Choral Evensong held on Sunday November 24th was one of peaceful stillness and calm. Held at dusk, traditionally at 4 pm, the moment seems even more insular and allows time for reflection and meditation. Many may find it highly emotional. There were many familiar faces and some new faces in attendance to enjoy; it truly is a music lovers' delight.

The term "choral evensong" refers to a service where almost everything is sung by the choir and the officiant. It originated with the Church of England in the sixteenth century, though its roots go considerably further back. It is still celebrated throughout the Anglican Church.



There is a specific structure to Choral Evensong with up to seven musical elements. The Introit, Preces and Responses, Psalms (read my Michael Korn) Canticles, the Anthem, and Hymns. Following prayers and the dismissal, Musical Director Michael Goodwin performed the Organ Voluntary which was met with enthusiastic applause.

Thank you to Music Director Michael Goodwin, Helen Cluett, and the members of the choir and clergy for their hard work in organizing this service and indeed the entire musical life at St. Mary Magdalene. – **Maxine Tiller**



It *IS* Easy Being Green!

By Deputy Warden Julie Miller

We **SHOULD** sweat the small stuff!

I sometimes forget that not everyone lives the green lifestyle as naturally as we do. For us, reducing and reusing is just how we live. I love when a parishioner tells me some of their everyday hacks, especially when it's a new one to me!

But I also realize it can be a daunting prospect to change to a greener footprint so I thought I would mention a few simple and easy changes that will absolutely make a difference. **Every change makes a difference, no matter how small so try your best.**

- * Purchase larger quantity items instead of single serving one, and take the four seconds to dish out the amount you desire.

- * Use parchment paper instead of waxed paper. Parchment is compostable, where waxed paper is recyclable if clean, garbage if dirty...and our goal is always to compost instead of recycling or trash

- * If you're leaving food out for a period of time use a tea towel and not plastic wrap to cover it

- * Use a rag instead of paper towels! I always have a large bag of rags available for any use... and yes, my family makes fun of me because I'm always foisting rags onto them

- * It's almost impossible not to accumulate plastic bags but reuse these as much as possible. Better yet get the sturdier plastic containers that can be used over and over .

- * Please use your own coffee cup instead of getting a take-out one.

- * Buy refills for common items like hand soap, dish soap, shampoo. Sure, they also come in plastic, but they will last way longer.

- * And lastly, and timely, use gift bags instead of wrapping paper! Christmas paper isn't recyclable, but gift bags can be a gift that keeps on giving.

Small steps to be sure, but every journey begins with a single step.

From the St. MM Bulletin Board



NEW
LOGO!



Remember when... all
ladies in the 1950s and
'60s wore a Christmas
corsage on their coats?

CONGRATULATIONS

It was a very good year!
1944 was the birthyear
of Jim Macgregor,
Maureen Townson, Jay
Crockford, Mary Lou
Champagne, Rev. John
Whittall and Loraine
Gilbert.

Happy 80th Birthdays!



Christmas Simmer

Here's a simple, inexpensive and eco-friendly alternative to home fragrance products. Use ingredients you have on hand – feel free to modify the recipe!

In a small pot, place 1 teaspoon of 2 or 3 of the following spices – whole cloves, whole allspice, coriander seeds, chopped fresh ginger or ¼ tsp. ground ginger, nutmeg or cloves. Add your choice of cinnamon stick, pine needles, lemon and/or orange peel. Cover with 3 cups of water and bring to a simmer, adding more water as necessary.

Regular Services at St. Mary Magdalene

Choral Eucharist - Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

Silent Meditation - Tuesdays at 3:30 p.m.

Bible Study – Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m.

(NOTE: Bible Study will resume on January 8, 2025)

Parishioners are reminded that the first Sunday of each month is Food Bank Sunday. Please bring your non-perishable or monetary donation to assist with this very important mission.



The wonderful front cover watercolour painting of a Christmas ornament was created by talented artist and parishioner, Andrew Innes.

The Vine Newsletter

Editor: Maxine Tiller 647-296-9317 maxinetiller10@gmail.com
Production: Wendy LeBlanc 645-2001 wendyjleblanc@gmail.com
Printer: Printcraft, Picton

 **St. Mary Magdalene**
Anglican Church, Picton