

St. Mary Magdalene Church Picton



Easter 2025



Fair are the meadows,
Fairer still the woodlands,
Robed in the blooming garb of spring.
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,
He makes the woeful heart to sing.

(Anonymous; Translation by Joseph Seiss)

St. Mary Magdalene Milestones



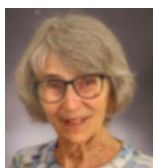
PASSINGS

St. Mary Magdalene parishioners were saddened to hear of the passing of longtime parishioner, Sunday School teacher, Parish Advisory Council and Magdalenas member **Myrna Martin**. Sincere sympathy to Myrna's family and friends.

Rev. Bill Kidnew died peacefully in March. A kind and gentle man, he will be remembered as a choir member and an associate priest here at St. Mary Magdalene. Condolences to Bill's wife, Myrna, family and friends.

Mary Folkard, a longtime member of St. Mary Magdalene, passed peacefully at the age of 98 in mid-March. She will be remembered for her love of a good chat and her remarkable knowledge of The County and its citizens. Thinking of Mary's family and friends and wishing them comfort.

FAREWELL



Our congregation bids farewell to longtime parishioner, Sue **Rowe**, as she leaves Prince Edward County to join her family in British Columbia. Thank you for your service as a member of the Altar Guild and the Magdalenas, and as a Greeter, Sue. Best wishes in your new home! You will be missed.



The congregation joined in celebrating the baptism of **Audrey Elizabeth Williams**, daughter of Anthony and Emma Williams, and welcoming her to the family of God.

In February, **Cameron Miller** became a big brother to his family's new baby, **Myles**, sons of Aaron Miller and Dominique Jones, and grandsons of Julie Miller.



A Message from Our Rector

The Way of Resurrection



As we begin the season of Easter, we are reminded of the life-changing reality of Christ's resurrection. The light of the empty tomb has replaced the darkness of the cross, and our hope has been renewed in the victory over sin and death that Christ has won for us. As we celebrate this great feast, let us take a moment to reflect not only on the joy of Easter but also on the implications of the resurrection for our daily lives as disciples of Christ.

In this season of resurrection, we are called to live in the light of Christ's victory. The resurrection is not merely an event two thousand years ago; it is a reality that shapes our present and points us toward our future. Rowan Williams, former Archbishop of Canterbury, has often written about the deep theological significance of the resurrection, urging us to see it as the transformation of our human experience.

These thoughts are particularly relevant in our own lives as we navigate the challenges and joys of our daily lives. The resurrection of Jesus Christ invites us to live as people of hope, knowing that the world is not left to its own devices but is being transformed by the power of God's love. As Rowan Williams writes in his book *Tokens of Trust*, "The personal and direct contact with Jesus that is there before the crucifixion is renewed in the resurrection; and it then taken to a new level as Jesus equips his friends to take responsibility for him and his Father, to be his body in the world."

As we reflect on this truth, let us also remember the call to live as a resurrected people who bring the way of Jesus into the world. We are Christ's friends, so Easter is not just a festival; it is a way of life. The resurrection challenges us to live differently, to embrace the new life that Christ offers, and to share that life with others. This new life is one marked by

forgiveness, reconciliation, and compassion, as well as by a commitment to justice and peace. The resurrection challenges us to reorient our lives in the light of God's kingdom, to live as though the reign of Christ is already among us.

In this season of Easter, may we be renewed in our faith, filled with joy, and empowered by the Holy Spirit to live as faithful disciples of Christ. Let us embrace the call to love one another as Christ has loved us and carry the hope of the resurrection into a world in desperate need of this hope.

May the peace of the risen Christ be with you all.

E. Bramwell Pearce +
Archdeacon Bramwell Pearce
Easter 2025



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

Thoughts on Easter and Optimism

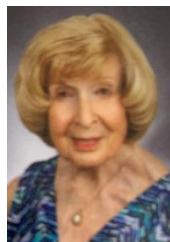
There are several points through the year where we hit an invisible “reset” button. It could be September, the back-to-school season, where for many, “life gets back to normal”. It could be January 1st, the start of a new year with all its resolutions and promises. For others, me included, it is Easter. It is a time of joy and celebration, the faintest whiff of spring is in the air, and it is a time to reflect on renewal and rebirth. As Easter and spring arrive, the sun will shine, the tulips will bloom, our plants will make their way out of their winter hibernation, and we shake off the chill and darkness of winter. We start again. It is a time to look forward to our future with hope and optimism.

This is true of our church life here at St. Mary Madalene. Through ups and downs, celebration and loss, life changes, opposing opinions, good times, not so good times, we still have promise and connection. There are so many reasons for hope and optimism. Our parish is a living breathing thing; it has ups and downs, challenges and successes. With the right care and attention, it can thrive. What makes us strong is not one single thing...it is the combination of little things. It is everyone who holds part of our church in their heart. This Easter season, we should embrace renewal and look forward to our future with nothing less than hope and optimism. – **Maxine Tiller**



“Part of being optimistic is keeping one's head pointed toward the sun, one's feet moving forward”. Nelson Mandela

A Conversation with Susan Steele



It was a beautiful sunny day in late winter, when I visited with Susan Steele in her lovely home on Lake on the Mountain.

Every view from the house was filled with natural beauty. The silhouettes of the deciduous and evergreen trees and bushes lined the shores of the still-frozen lake which Susan, with her son and grandchildren visiting from Welland, Ontario had crossed on foot just days earlier. It made me want to throw my head back and sing – such was the music that the scene evoked. And, indeed, music was the thread running through our afternoon's conversation as Susan described the captivating story of her life.

Born in Toronto, Susan was the only child of RAF (later RCAF) pilot Donald (better known as Ted) and Melba England. Her mother, a classically trained singer, passed on the love of singing to her young daughter when they lived in Kingston in Susan's early years. Later when the family was living in Ottawa, Susan, at an amazingly young age of 15, earned her ARCT (Associate of the Royal Conservatory of Toronto) diploma. Drawn to Prince Edward County by its natural beauty, Susan's parents purchased a cottage – now her current home following extensive renovations and additions - and finally retired to it in 1981. Melba was a beloved leader of choirs in local nursing homes including her favourites - Hallowell House and H.J. McFarland Home - and strongly believed in the power of singing. She encouraged her elderly choristers by telling them, *'Singing is better than medicine! Breathe deeply! Open your mouths! Put your energy into it!'* Melba moved to London to be near Susan and family following Ted's death, and was recognized in a ceremony at Queen's Park in 2005 for her work in Long Term Care homes after the age of 65 both in Prince Edward County and London. Such was the milieu that Susan grew up in – filled with music and singing.

So it comes as no surprise to hear that she met Bob Steele through their membership in the award-winning Acadia Chapel Choir when they both were attending Acadia University in Wolfville, Nova Scotia. Susan had chosen Acadia for its acclaimed music program and also because it was just far enough away from home that she could experience independence. Not only did they graduate with teaching degrees (and Susan with a Bachelor of Music), but they had fallen in love and were married in 1969 in the Acadia Chapel where they had sung so often with the choir. When their teaching careers took them to London, Ontario, Susan not only taught music in classrooms but also piano lessons where she was able to develop personal relationships with her students, many of whom she is still in contact with. Susan's passion for music and her empathy for her students were no doubt responsible for parents seeking her out as a beloved and appreciated music teacher for their children.

Bob and Susan's love of music was passed down to their own two children, Sherry and John. Susan quips, *'We believe in choirs in this family. The team spirit in choirs is as strong as it is in sports!'* Both children, talented in singing and piano studies, graduated with music degrees. Sherry performs and teaches in the University of Alberta and is the General Manager of the celebrated Cantlon Choirs in Edmonton and John made a different career choice as a consultant with the NeuroLeadership Institute. Susan speaks proudly of her two children, their spouses and grandchildren – Sherry's four and John's three, ranging in ages from 8 to 23. Sadly, Bob, the love of Susan's life, died in 2017.



During their 40 years in London, Bob and Susan attended St. John the Evangelist Church, and when they moved to her parents' home at Lake on the Mountain in 2014, St. Mary Magdalene was the natural choice, as it was also Susan's parents' spiritual home here. Susan notes that, *'We knew right away we were in the right place. Everyone was so friendly.'* Susan has been a choir member since 2016. When asked what keeps her coming to St. Mary Magdalene, she adds, *'The choir, of course, and the Parish family, but also the two Rectors we have had. We've scored twice with them!'*

For someone whose life is music, I was hesitant to ask about her favourite hymns and Susan replied after a few moments, *"There are some that move me to tears: 'Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending', 'Love Divine', 'Be Thou My Vision', 'For All the Saints' and 'Let Streams of Living Justice'.*

Like many Baby Boomers, Susan isn't ready to slow down yet! As well as being an active member of St. Mary Magdalene's choir, she still serves as a theory examiner for the Royal Conservatory of Music and volunteers for the Prince Edward County Chamber Music Festival writing artists' biographies and program notes. She continues to study the music of Bach whose compositions number over one thousand and admits to enjoying reading new music and *'trying to play with perfection'*. She writes daily in a hand-written diary *"to maintain the fluidity of the written word and thought"*. And, to start off each day she works out for 20 minutes using the DVD program, 'Aging Backwards'.

A decade or so ago, Susan asked herself why she taught music. And she answered her musings in this way: *"I hope learning music will help put each student in touch with his/her 'soul' – to become a compassionate human being who truly cares for their fellow man."* Susan's goal with teaching music to students is one she has already reached herself. It was an honour to speak with such a remarkable person who truly exemplifies the ethos of making a positive difference in people's lives.

Wendy LeBlanc

COMING EVENTS @ ST. MM

County Reads Debate

Thursday, April 24, 7:00 PM at St. Mary Magdalene Anglican Church.

5 local residents each present the one Canadian Book you should read.



On April the 28th, the **Sultans of Swing** perform for the secondary students of PECl here at St. MM. Sponsored by the County Chamber Music Society, the program is designed to enhance music appreciation for students in Grades 9 to 12.



Quintissimo is a free after school program to empower children to achieve their full potential by using music to inspire positive social change.

The **STUDENT SHOWCASE CONCERT** takes place on Sunday June 8 at 2 p.m. at St MM. Come and support theses young musicians and their teachers!

SAVE THE DATE!

Fathers' Day Weekend

Saturday, June 14

Watch for details!



Services at St. Mary Magdalene

Sundays – Choral Eucharist – 10:00 a.m.

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

Wednesdays – Bible Study - 10:45 a.m.



It *IS* Easy Being Green!

By Deputy Warden Julie Miller

I am writing this in the middle of the late March freezing rainstorm! It's supposed to be spring, with **green** everywhere: but certainly not outside! And while Lent is represented by **purple**, St. MM is very **green** Church! Did you know Bishop Cliff has tasked us to look at our carbon footprint throughout the diocese, and I am delighted! ***It starts with small steps, as most initiatives do.***

If you leave a space, turn off the lights.

We unplugged a fridge and freezer in the parish hall kitchen that were basically empty. When needed, for instance for a funeral reception, they are plugged back in, they cool quickly but then are shut off again after the event. Both appliances are old energy guzzlers, and since October have only been used once.

The coffee cups we use are compostable and are sent to the green bin after Sunday services. The little cups on the water cooler are plant-based, not plastic, and can be dumped into the green bin.... although this has been difficult to make clear to the congregation.

I am working to get most of the paper products used in the washrooms set aside for the green bin, but this hasn't been terribly successful. I need everyone in the church to help push **green** initiatives!

In the bigger picture, we are looking at replacing the screens in the inner doors at the front of the church with something that would stop the cold pouring into the church in the winter. As well, the doors in the small chapel need weatherstripping, which will happen soon.

The wardens are also weighing the merits of adding heat pumps to our system, in both the church and parish hall. Some of the advantages include reducing our reliance on fossil fuel, lowering our overall gas bills without increasing our hydro dramatically, and if added to hall system we would have the bonus of air conditioning, which the hall currently doesn't have. This would possibly make it easier to find new user groups.

So, there are many things we can do to be a greener church, but it takes a village to implement some of these changes: don't be afraid to help each other out, or to pass along other suggestions to me.....we're always learning! Jules (jamiller@sympatico.ca)

The 5 **Ws** of Vestry



Who Attends?



The Rector, Wardens,
Treasurer & Parishioners

Declaration of Quorum –
27 needed; 33 attended.

What is Vestry?



The Vestry Meeting is the Anglican word for a General Meeting, to which all members of a church are invited to have a voice and a vote.

When is Vestry?

It is mandated by our wider Anglican church structures that such a meeting be called at least once a year, before the end of February

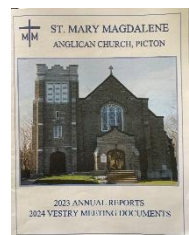
- St. Mary Magdalene held their annual Vestry on February 23rd

Where is Vestry held?

- St. Mary Magdalene Church

Why Vestry?

The primary role of Vestry is to protect the stated vision of the parish. The meeting takes a look backward at the previous year and takes a look forward and plans for the coming year. It is at this meeting that annual reports are presented from the different areas of the church. The budget, auditor's report, and financial statements are presented and discussed to provide transparency to everyone. Appointments and Elections are held.



What Happened at Vestry?

- Vestry Clerk Julie Miller recorded the minutes of the meeting.
- Warden Kathy Condie provided a thorough review of the 2025 budget and the treasurer's report addressed many questions from the attendees. Thank you Kathy!
- Wardens named: Kathy Condie (Rector's Warden) + Julie Miller (People's Warden)
- Assistant Wardens named: Wendy LeBlanc + Janet Howes
- Delegates to Synod: Helen Cluett + Kathy Condie



Parish Advisory Council (PAC)

What is the PAC?

The PAC is "a group of parishioners who advise the Rector and Wardens on parish planning, needs, and priorities, helping to guide the parish's mission and programs"

Who are the Members Nominated to PAC?

John Brett Kathy Condie Marie Connor Helen Cluett
Janet Howes John Hughes Andrew Innes Canon Fran Langlois
Nell Kottick Wendy LeBlanc Jim Macgregor Deb McCallum
Julie Miller Maxine Tiller Maureen Townson

PAC Chair (Elected): Helen Cluett

PAC Secretary (Elected): Deb McCallum

A Page from Our History

According to A. R. Capon who wrote our history 'A Goodly Heritage', the Vestry meetings in the past were held at Easter and much time was spent on the issue of pew rentals – whether or not to charge pew rents, charge by the year or by the week, and allowing rental of half pews! Believe it or not, these discussions lasted over 100 years from the 1830s to 1937 when the practice of pew rentals was finally ended.

Shrove Tuesday '25

When Julie Miller takes on a project, everyone knows that it will be a success. So, no one was surprised when our Shrove Tuesday 2025 Pancake Supper was a well-organized, well-attended, and all-round successful event. Julie views the evening as a time for the church and community to come together, share a meal, mark a special day, and simply enjoy a centuries-old tradition.

There was, of course, a sense of needing to get the job done in the kitchen, but the comradery, good humour, and team spirit made everything from stirring up the batter and flipping the pancakes to washing up the stacks of dishes, fun! The 15+ volunteers all left the Parish Hall with a sense of accomplishment and grins on their faces. And, the 65+ diners also left with smiles and full tummies.

'The evening wasn't meant to be a fundraiser,' noted Julie, but indeed it turned out to be as over \$600 was raised.

Many thanks to Julie and her crew for filling the Parish Hall with laughter and conversation, our spirits with joy and a sense of unity, and our bodies with a traditional Shrove Tuesday treat.



A Welcome and a Farewell -

Our New Treasurer:

We are pleased to welcome Andrew (Andy) Mackenzie as our Church Treasurer. Andy holds an MBA from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University at Chicago. As a CMA he had many years of experience in senior finance positions with large US corporations.

Andy is retired and lives in Wellington where he is currently the Treasurer of the Wellington on the Lake Residents Association.

Welcome, Andy!

Our Church Secretary is Retiring:

We are sorry to say goodbye to Shirley Barnes who has become such an integral part of our Church life. Her welcoming smile, happy demeanor, and incredible work ethic will be only a few of the things we will miss. Very best wishes, Shirley!

A Special Message to the Congregation

How can I say 'So long' to a community of folks who have been nothing but kind and supportive to me? This was truly a bittersweet decision for me and the pull to spend more time with my family ultimately won the tug of war. I want to thank you all for all of the little things that made coming to work so enjoyable. The sweet treat left on my desk, a latte when I needed it most, a wave and a smile through the office door, a good talk, a hug, and a visit with Finn. I plan to stay in touch via the Reception Team and may even see some of you in the kitchen washing teacups or setting up tables ;) It has been a pleasure.



Thank you.

Shirley Barnes, St. Mary Magdalene Secretary

On the Move!



We held our second **On the Move** get together at The Saylor House Café where Susan Little and her crew treated us to wonderful food and great service as attested to by the empty lunch and dessert plates. We are in her debt.

We took up every table in the house and the chatter, stories and laughter going on at each was so good for all of us. You could feel the warm sense of community. Couldn't have been better.

Christina Hoyer, Diabetes Nurse Educator, addressed us after we'd finished eating and, in a half hour or so, gave us an exceptionally clear overview of diabetes, answered our questions and gave us lots to think about. She has our thanks.



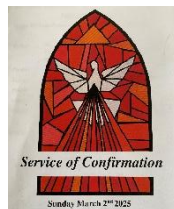
All in all, it was a great party and we're so grateful to all who joined us. Stay tuned for our next **On the Move** in May.

- Wendy LeBlanc and Maureen Townson



Confirmation Service

As parishioners and visitors entered the sanctuary on the cold, sunny second day of March, they were immediately struck by the magnificent reds of the altar draperies and carpet, the service bulletin cover, and even the icing on the cake ready for coffeetime - all bathed in the brightness of a winter sun.



And when Bishop William Cliff appeared, resplendent in his red cape and gold mitre, carrying his crozier, we knew for certain that this was not going to be an *ordinary* service. And indeed it was a very *special* celebration as Thomas and Rowan Pearce were confirmed in front supportive well-wishers, proud parents, godparents, family members and the congregation. Bishop Cliff, speaking directly to the two younger Pearce boys, had a strong and moving message for all who were present: *in this time of chaos, unrest, poverty, hunger, homelessness, God provides us with a strong foundation to support us all as we face an uncertain future, a home built on a rock as the Gospel reading of the day proclaimed.*

Following the moving service, everyone gathered in St. Mary Magdalene's traditional manner of celebrating with cake, fruit, and beverages as the conversation centered on the inspiring, thought-provoking words of the Bishop's sermon to our newly-confirmed.

Congratulations to Rowan and Thomas!



L-R: Rev. Bram, Wesley and Thomas Pearce, Bishop Cliff, Rowan and Anita Pearce

The Magdalenas' Corner

There is more to the Magdalenas than a sandwich lunch! We are busy group of very industrious women who enjoy each other's company and who make a solid contribution to the life of our parish. So, what are we up to?

Our most recent meeting was on Monday March 17th and, most in attendance were sporting their best St. Patty's Day fashions! It would have to be said that Loraine Gilbert was the most interestingly attired with her interpretation of Irish spirit. Sadly, there is no photo evidence to share.

At this meeting there was a presentation from the Prince Edward County group studying Senior Safety and Well-Being. We were asked about what matters most to us about our safety and well-being as PEC residents, to suggest specific actions that can be taken to enhance feelings of safety and well-being, and to identify what challenges and opportunities there are for PEC to become a place where seniors feel safe and well. There were many interesting and useful comments and ideas shared by our members both spoken and on questionnaires.

We also said a fond farewell to Sue Rowe who has been with us for many years and has dug in and helped with many of our initiatives. We will miss her!

Next up on our agenda? Our third annual bake sale – this year's edition, to honor Father's Day, will be held on Saturday June 14th and once again at the front of the church. What is better than dads and fresh baking? So, we are calling on all bakers, donors, and volunteers to help support this cause. All funds collected will be donated to the church. A sign-up sheet



will be at the entrance of the church in the coming weeks. Let's all band together to make this year's sale a tremendous success!

As always, there is no commitment needed to join the Magdalenas. Our mandate is to share friendship and fellowship and to assist with church programs where we are able. This is a lovely group of women, some life-long friends. All are welcome to join us by contacting Wendy or Maxine. - **Maxine Tiller**

Wardens' Wands

Have you ever wondered about the two wooden brass-topped staffs attached to the pews on the rear left side of the Church? Well, it just might a good idea to know what they are intended for to save yourself some possible embarrassment!

The wands, or staffs as they are also known, are meant to be carried by Church Wardens as symbols of their office and particularly as they process ahead of the Bishop visiting the Church.

In times gone by, the Wardens' Wands took on other purposes. As it was one of the duties of Wardens to keep the peace in the congregation, the wands were used to **put a stop to rowdiness** or to lightly **tap or poke** (it depends on what historical accounts you read) **parishioners who were nodding off** during the service. One account tells of tickling females awake with a feather attached to the end of the wand!



If you look closely at the brass tops or finials, you will see a mitre on one, and a crown on the other. The Rector's Warden carries the wand with the mitre, and the People's Warden, the one with the crown.



Kathy – Rector's Warden

Have a look at our Wardens' Wands and admire them for their lovely brass finials. But be warned – stay awake during the services and contain any thoughts of disruptive behaviour – *or else!* There are wardens on duty!



Jules -People's Warden

Editor's Note: Nothing is known about the history of St. MM's Wardens' Wands. Our parish history, *A Goodly Heritage*, by A.R. Capon, does not mention the wands nor their donors. If you have any knowledge about them, please let us know.)

This is the day that the Lord has made,
Let us REJOICE and be glad in it!



RE-AWAKEN



RENEW



REVIVE



REFRESH

Reprinted from The Vine Spring 2019.
Photographs clockwise from top left Julie Miller, two by David Gilbert,
Wendy LeBlanc, Maxine Tiller, David Gilbert

From the St. MM Bulletin Board

*Thank you to the
anonymous
donor of the new
furniture in the
children's area!*



St. MM's
Youngest
Volunteer

Three-year-old Cameron Miller set up the train table then checked out the new chairs. APPROVED!



Newly-confirmed Thomas and Rowan Pearce ready to celebrate the event with cake!



Alice Davies, Rev. Bram and Deacon Fran burning last year's palm crosses for Ash Wednesday 2025 following the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS



DECEMBER: Carmen Mason, Geneva McNeil, Tuula Saunders, Annette Kroupa

JANUARY: Rowena Hawkins, Tuula Saunders, Mike Langlois, Jay Crockford

FEBRUARY: Mary Brett, Josie Farrar

MARCH: Barbara Mowbray, Herb Stone, Kathy Condie, Gary Rorabeck



Easter Services at St. Mary Magdalene

Palm/Passion Sunday, April 13th, 10:00 am

Holy Communion with Liturgy of the Palms (procession)

Organist - Jim Macgregor

Choral Anthem – "My Song is Love Unknown" by John Ireland

Maundy Thursday, April 17th, 7:00 pm

Holy Communion for Maundy Thursday with Stripping of the Altar

Organist - Murray Baer

Choral Anthem - "Remember Me" by Robert Lau

Good Friday, April 18th, 10:00 am

Good Friday Service (no Holy Communion) with Meditation on the Cross

Organist - Michael Goodwin

Music for reflection after sermon: soprano/alto duet, "Den Tod" by J.S. Bach*

Choral Anthem: "There is a Green Hill Far Away" (by Michael Goodwin)

Easter Sunday, April 20th, 10:00 am

Holy Communion with Baptism

Organist - Murray Baer

Choral Anthem - "Awake! My Soul and Sing" by John Purifoy

Happy Easter

The Vine Newsletter

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Production: Wendy LeBlanc 645-2001 **Printer:** Printcraft, Picton



Be sure to join our Facebook page **Church of St. Mary Magdalene** and
SHARE our posts. A great way to spread the news about our Church
and its programs and special events!