



The Vine December 2022
St. Helen's Anglican Church
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Office: 613-824-2010
Clergy: The Ven. Rhonda Waters

A Message from the Venerable Rhonda Waters

"Home is the place where, when you have to go there, they have to take you in." – Robert Frost

Sometimes, when we call the church a family, we imagine something intimate and familiar; a place where everyone is known and so everyone belongs. But the household of God is bigger and wilder than that. We don't get to choose who shows up. We don't get to decide who belongs. We don't get to decide who is welcome. All of God's children are our brothers and sisters and siblings and so everyone belongs – which means we have a responsibility to get to know one another.

This month, as we begin to live into the amalgamation of St. Helen's Orleans with St. Mary the Virgin, Blackburn with St. Helen's, Orleans, let us all make a special effort to connect with people we don't know (including people we suspect we are supposed to know). Use a nametag when you are at church and be quick to introduce people to each other. Be generous in sharing your own stories and gracious in receiving those of others and rejoice in your membership in the wild and wonderful family of God!

Christmas & Epiphany Services

Christmas Stories and Songs - Dec 18 at 4pm - Come hear the story of Christmas, told through an original script by Rhonda with carols and songs shared by St. Helen's Choir, Emmaus, and others! Stay for cookies, hot chocolate, and other Christmas treats in Trinity Hall.

Quiet Christmas – Dec 20 at 7pm - Christmas is not always merry. Bring your sorrows to God during this quiet service and find a moment of peace in the midst of Christmas chaos.

Christmas Eve:

4pm – A short communion service designed for children and their grown-ups, with storytelling and familiar carols led by Emmaus.

7pm (with Emmaus) & **10pm** (with the choir) – Two joyful Christmas Eucharists that proclaim the good news of Jesus birth and then send us out into a candlelit night, filled with awe and gratitude that God is with us.

Christmas Day – 10am - an intimate and informal Christmas communion

January 1 – 8am & 10am

Feast of the Epiphany – Jan 6 - Eucharist at St. Mary the Virgin, Blackburn followed by a potluck party at St. Helen's - **Watch for details to come later this month**

Epiphany Sunday – Jan 8 - 8, 9:15, & 11am at St. Helen's - You are welcome to bring any donations you have collected over the month to be blessed before distribution to the Food Bank and Day Programs.

Upcoming Worship Schedule

- **Sunday, December 4 - Second Sunday in Advent** - @ 8 & 10 am Holy Eucharist;
- **Tuesday, December 6 - Celebration of New Ministry** - @ 7:00 pm
- **Sunday, December 11 - Third Sunday in Advent** - @ 8 & 10 am Holy Eucharist;
- **Sunday, December 18 - Fourth Sunday in Advent** - @ 8 & 10 am Holy Eucharist; + **Christmas Stories & Song @ 4:00 pm**
- **Tuesday, December 20 - Quiet Christmas @ 7:00 pm**
- **Saturday, December 24 - Christmas Eve** – Services @ 4:00, 7:00 and 10:00pm
- **Sunday, December 25 - Christmas Day** – One service @ 10:00 am only
- **Sunday, January 1 – Naming of Jesus** - @ 8 & 10 am Holy Eucharist
- **Sunday, January 8 – Epiphany Sunday** – Three Services @ 8, 9:15 & 11 am Holy Eucharist

Appointment of an Assistant Curate at St. Helen's On Sunday, Oct 23rd, it was announced that Bishop Shane has appointed John Holgate to the position of assistant curate at St. Helen's, starting on January 1st. John was ordained to the transitional diaconate on November 19th at 11am at Christ Church Cathedral, and we are looking forward to receiving his gifts for pastoral ministry, administration and community building.

New Service Schedule for Epiphany Season Starting on the Feast of the Epiphany (which we will celebrate on January 8th) and going until the Sunday before Lent (Feb 19th), we will offer three Sunday morning services, adopting the familiar schedule of 8:00, 9:15 and 11:00. The 8:00 service will continue unchanged. In January, the 9:15 service will have music led by Emmaus and the 11:00 service will have music led by the choir. In February, that will flip to the choir at 9:15 and Emmaus at 11:00. For the season of Lent, we will return to two services on Sunday at 8:00 and 10:00 and take some time to discern how to organize our worship from Easter onward. There will be ample opportunity throughout this process to provide feedback and maybe even dream up brand new possibilities for the future.

Choir The choir is excited to have a full season of music ministry ahead. New members are always welcome. Talk to any choir member, or just come out to a Thursday evening (7PM) practice!

Chair of Worship: The Venerable Rhonda Waters

Discipleship

Bible Study – Tuesdays, 9:30 – 11:00: Has now resumed with an informal time of conversation on the coming Sunday's Gospel reading, led by our priest, Rhonda.

Daily Readings Two devotional series are available in the front foyer for your use, *Day by Day*, and *Our Daily Bread*. Your \$2 donation covers the costs. 2023 Church Calendars are also available in the Church office at a cost of \$6.00 each.

Chair of Discipleship: Jeff McRae

Stewardship

Finances - Pre Authorized Remittance Even with the cuts to the budget this year we are still substantially behind in income. Please consider PAR. A call to the church office (613-824-2010) or an e-mail to finance@sthelens.ca will facilitate any changes you wish to make. A pamphlet describing this programme and how to increase your gift on a regular basis is available. If you are already on PAR, please raise your monthly amount as you are able.

Looking for a way for your highschooler to fulfill their 40-hour community service commitment? We could certainly use some young blood (figuratively, not literally!) working on grounds maintenance next spring/ summer! Starting in May we would love to have some young people riding the tractor, guiding the self-propelled lawn mower, or saving the planet with electric weed trimmers. Please reach out to Colin Taylor at colinangelataylor@gmail.com, for this great opportunity.

Chair of Stewardship: Colin Taylor

Outreach

Many thanks to all who have donated items for the Food bank, for *The Muffins Made with Love* for the Well and for the ongoing collections of men's socks, underwear and toiletries as well as gift cards for St. Luke's. St. Luke's main priority currently is large underwear for men and socks, mitts, and hats, and the gift cards are much appreciated. And, as we have the Advent collection challenge coming up, that will also be our collection for December. Pamphlets on this are available at the church.

Mission Thrift Store partnership: if you know of anyone in need, please let us know and Outreach chairs will arrange a visit to the store to assist in meeting needs for household goods.

Stay tuned for our St. Helen's and St. Mary the Virgin parish page for donations towards the Bells Corner's Housing Project. This will be set up both on their webpage and a link will be available on St. Helen's webpage.

Chairs of Outreach: Sharon Tremaine & Barb Porter

Community



On Monday morning, November 14, I sent out over 50 emails to local artists inviting them to participate in our third Fine Art Fair. By 1PM that afternoon I had received five commitments to join our Art Fair, and by the end of the week, five more commitments. Four of these artists have submitted their first pieces of artwork which are now on display on our website. I would say we are off to another fully booked Fine Art Fair – only five more spaces available as of November 19. I have already approached a few people to assist with the Art Fair, but to be sure, I will be seeking many

more volunteers in the new year. If anyone has connections with the local media, or knows someone who has, and might be interested in promoting our Fair, please let me know.

Brian Glenn, Art Fair 2023 Coordinator
sthelensartfair@gmail.com
613-327-9384

The **Ladies' Craft Group** is ongoing on Wednesdays, @ 9 AM - New members and ideas welcomed!

Coffee Hour Coffee, tea, juice and fellowship available after the 10:00 am service. Please come to Trinity Hall and join the chat! Volunteers welcome! Sign up and full instructions are available in the servery. Coffee, tea and juice are all supplied by the church.

St. Helen's Christmas Bazaar



We would like to thank everyone for their participation in this year's bazaar. They say it takes a community to raise a child; well, it also takes a community to hold a parish bazaar. Many folks worked throughout the year, especially St. Helen's craft group, making items that filled our tabletops. Our parish has an abundance of talented sewers, knitters, crafters, quilters, and carpenters; all contributing their time and materials in a display which we were proud to share. As the summer ended, parishioners transformed fruits and vegetables into jams, jellies, chutneys, pickles and more. Closer to bazaar day, kitchens were filled with the aroma of home baked breads, cookies, pies, squares, tarts, loaves and candy; which made their way to our Bake Table. We also acknowledge the family members once again who watched the goodies go out the door on route to the church ☺. We were pleased to have members of St. Mary the Virgin, Blackburn, join us. They took orders for their wreaths & centre-pieces, and tourtières, beets, cakes & cookies. These have been a long-standing tradition within their community, and we can look forward to it continuing within St. Helen's. Two of our successful endeavours, contributing to the recycling effort – Used Jewellery and Attic Treasures were once again very popular. Thanks to Lorna, Dayle and Nancy who arranged to so nicely display the many items that were contributed. An enjoyable part of our customer's visit was a delicious stop at Le Café. Due to an effort to still maintain a safe distance apart, our seating capacity was limited and we decided to only serve drinks and cake and cookies. A number of visiting youngsters had fun making crafts available at the Children's Corner. The festive spirit was abundant throughout with wonderful live Christmas music provided by our own Joyful Noise. Some of the behind-the-scenes efforts which aided our success were the Outdoor Sign coordinator, financial counters, setup and take-down helpers. On top of all the efforts to be "ready" when the doors opened at 9:00am were all those who bought the many items which caught their fancy. Our total to date is over \$18,000. This includes Johanna's year-round sale of Infinity Scarves. Mark November 4, 2023 on your new calendars and help us to start planning for next year. We welcome your comments and suggestions for making next year's bazaar another memorable one. Thank you all for making the job of coordinating the Bazaar a pleasure.

Helen Giroux and Sandra Clark

Pastoral Care

Prayer Chain We understand that our God walks with us on every step of Life's journey, in relationship with us whether we are aware of the presence of the Holy One or not! St. Helen's 'prayer warriors' are prepared to offer intercessions on behalf of others for God's blessing upon any number of concerns, needs or issues. Often we pray for healing; we can do that for you and your loved ones, *if you let us know!* To request prayer support please e-mail the church office at office@sthelens.ca or Maggie Lorimer at: mlorimer@rogers.com

Chair of Community: Lorna Ponting

Administration

Please note the following email addresses for contact purposes:

- Rhonda - rhonda@sthelens.ca
- Peter - rectorswarden@sthelens.ca
- Jeffrey - peopleswarden@sthelens.ca
- Financial Ministry Team – finance@sthelens.ca
- Administrative Assistant (Terry) - office@sthelens.ca

Please also note that the previous email address st.helen@on.aibn.com is *no longer in service*.