



The Vine January 2023  
St. Helen's Anglican Church  
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Email: [office@sthelens.ca](mailto:office@sthelens.ca) Web site:  
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Office: 613-824-2010  
Clergy: The Ven. Rhonda Waters  
John Houlgate

## *HAPPY NEW YEAR!*

### *A Message from the Venerable Rhonda Waters*

#### **Chalking the Door**

Blessing the home on or near the feast of Epiphany, in remembrance of the hospitality of the Holy Family when the magi visited their home to pay homage to the Christ Child, is a tradition that dates from the Middle Ages. Using chalk (which may be blessed for the purpose), mark your doorway with the inscription **20+C+M+B+23**. The numbers indicate the year, containing crosses for Christ and the initials of the traditional names of the magi, **C**aspar, **M**elchior, and **B**althazar. The letters also stand for *Christus mansionem benedicat*, (May Christ bless this house).

We will bless chalk at the Eucharist on Jan 6 and use it to mark blessings on our church homes at St. Mary the Virgin and St. Helen's. You are invited to pick up a piece of this chalk and a copy of the prayer below, on either the 6<sup>th</sup> or on Sunday the 8<sup>th</sup>, to mark a blessing on your own home as well.

#### **Home Blessing Prayer**

*Standing on your doorstep*

The Lord be with you (*or, if alone*) In the name of the Holy Trinity:  
**And also with you**

The wise ones followed God's star to Bethlehem, seeking the saviour.

**I will follow the star.**

They found Jesus in Bethlehem and knew they had found the one they were seeking.

**I will seek to recognize Jesus.**

They fell down and worshipped him, offering him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

**I will offer my gifts to the Lord.**

*The door is marked **20+C+M+B+23** while you say:*

Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar followed the star of God's son who became human two thousand and twenty-three years ago.

May Christ bless this home and each person who lives or visits here.

Holy God, watch over *my/our* going out and *my/our* coming in throughout this year.

Fill *me/us* with the light of Christ that *I/we* may grow in love, in wisdom, and in faith. **Amen.**

*A special thank you to everyone who assisted with the Advent and Christmas worship services, with decorating and baking and for your ministries throughout the season*

### ***Worship Schedule***

- **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
- **Sunday, January 15 – Baptism of Jesus** – Three Services @ 8, 9:15 & 11 am Holy Eucharist
- **Sunday, January 22 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany** – Three Services @ 8, 9:15 & 11 am Holy Eucharist
- **Sunday, January 29 – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany** – Three Services @ 8, 9:15 & 11 am Holy Eucharist

### **Special Events**

**Feast of the Epiphany – Jan 6** - Eucharist at St. Mary the Virgin, Blackburn followed by a potluck party at St. Helen's

**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.

**New Service Schedule for Epiphany Season** Starting on the Feast of the Epiphany (which we will celebrate on January 8<sup>th</sup>) and going until the Sunday before Lent (Feb 19<sup>th</sup>), 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.

**Annual Vestry** – Please note that the annual Vestry meeting will occur on February 26 after the 10 am service. Annual reports are due not later than February 12.

**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 (7 PM) practice!

Chair of Worship: The Venerable Rhonda Waters

### ***Discipleship***

**The Story at Home** - For a number of years, Rhonda prepared a weekly email resource called *The Story at Home*, offering activities and guided reflections on one of the upcoming Sunday's Scripture readings, as well as some extended learning resources. After something of a break from this work, she is ready to begin again. If you would like to receive *The Story at Home*, you can subscribe to Rhonda's mailchimp newsletter here: <http://eepurl.com/ihpmND>.

**Ministry with Children** - Join a working group to pray, dream, and plan about how St. Helen's can best minister with children. Contact Rhonda to sign up or for more information: [rhonda@sthelens.ca](mailto:rhonda@sthelens.ca)

**Bible Study – Tuesdays, 9:30 – 11:00:** Gather for an informal time of conversation on the coming Sunday's Gospel reading, usually led by one of our clergy, Rhonda or John.

**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.

Chair of Discipleship: Jeff McRae

### ***Stewardship***

**SMTV Upkeep Option** Beginning in January of 2023, parishioners who wish to direct their donations to the upkeep of the St. Mary's properties can do so by marking "SMTV Upkeep" on their donation envelopes. You will also be able to carry out this direction via PAR (by sending a note to [finance@st.helens.ca](mailto:finance@st.helens.ca)) or via Canada Helps where you will be able to choose the SMTV Upkeep fund. If you have any questions, please contact us at [finance@st.helens.ca](mailto:finance@st.helens.ca).

**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@st.helens.ca](mailto:finance@st.helens.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](mailto:colinangelataylor@gmail.com), for this great opportunity.

Chair of Stewardship: Colin Taylor

### ***Outreach***

Many thanks to all for the very generous donations for St. Luke's and, presently, for the Advent at Home project which provides food for the Foodbank and personal items for those in need in our communities under the care of The Well, St. Luke's, and Centre 454. A bin full of mitts, hats, and scarves was also donated after the bazaar, thanks to the craft group! Muffins Made with Love for The Well is ongoing and VERY well received by the participants there! Thank you, bakers, and to Arch for deliveries!

**Advent at Home Project** - Monday, Jan 9<sup>th</sup> at 9am - come help sort the Advent at Home collection. Extra delivery volunteers also most welcome over the following week!

**Mission Thrift Store partnership** any parishioner, who knows someone in need, is invited to let us know so we can take them to the store for assistance.

**January collection for the Foodbank:** canned salmon, ham, turkey and chicken

**Bells Corners Hollyer House** Our contributions to the Bells Corners Hollyer House affordable housing project have passed our goal of \$1000 – but that's not reason to stop!

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](mailto:sthelensartfair@gmail.com)  
613-327-9384

**Coffee Hour** Coffee, tea, juice and fellowship available after the 9:15 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 again 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. 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](mailto:office@sthelens.ca) or Maggie Lorimer at: [mlorimer@rogers.com](mailto:mlorimer@rogers.com)

Chair of Community: Lorna Ponting

### ***Administration***

Please note the following email addresses for contact purposes:

- Rhonda - [rhonda@sthelens.ca](mailto:rhonda@sthelens.ca)
- John- [john@sthelens.ca](mailto:john@sthelens.ca)
- Peter - [rectorswarden@sthelens.ca](mailto:rectorswarden@sthelens.ca)
- Jeffrey - [peopleswarden@sthelens.ca](mailto:peopleswarden@sthelens.ca)
- Financial Ministry Team – [finance@sthelens.ca](mailto:finance@sthelens.ca)
- Administrative Assistant (Terry) - [office@sthelens.ca](mailto:office@sthelens.ca)

Please also note that the previous email address [st.helen@on.aibn.com](mailto:st.helen@on.aibn.com) is *no longer in service*.