

**St. Helen's Anglican Church  
1234 Prestone Drive  
Orleans, Ontario  
Annual Report for 2022**



## St. Helen's Anglican Church, Orleans - Annual Report for 2022

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### I Incumbent's Report

My contribution to this year's Annual Report is necessarily incomplete as I only joined St. Helen's in August of 2022. I know that the first half of 2022 was filled with challenges as you said good-bye to the beloved clergy team of the Venerable Susan Churchill-Lackey and the Rev'd Canon Peter Lackey, moved out of the COVID-19 lockdown, and moved through the process of calling a new incumbent (me!). I know, too, that you were ably served by the Rev. Kay Richardson, by your excellent lay leadership team, and by your shared commitment to being the Body of Christ in this place. The record of all this ministry can be found in the pages of this report.

Arriving in August provided me with a sort of "soft opening", with ample opportunity to meet people without the busy-ness of church programming. **Thank you all** for your enthusiastically warm welcome and for your patience as I began to learn the ways of St. Helen's. With the arrival of Autumn, we began a gradual return to a fuller calendar with the return of live music on Sundays, Bible study on Tuesdays, and Craft Group on Wednesdays and the addition of special events for St. Helen's Day (Sept 18), the Blessing of the Animals (Oct 1) and Orange Shirt Sunday (Oct 2), and a Board Game Night (Oct 28). As the weeks went by, and in a concentrated form at the Parish Day on Nov. 26, I continued to learn about St. Helen's – and St. Helen's continued to learn about me.

Advent brought two joyful changes to our community: the Rev. John Holgate began worshipping with us in anticipation of his appointment as Assistant Curate to begin on Jan. 1, 2023 and the people of St. Mary the Virgin, Blackburn Hamlet, began worshipping with us in anticipation of the amalgamation of our parishes to be finalized on Jan. 1, 2023.

Change and learning have clearly been the themes of 2022 and I fully expect they will continue to be the themes of 2023.

In her final report to the St. Helen's Vestry, the Ven. Susan Churchill-Lackey said: *In these liminal times, of such uncertainty and transition, my prayer for the parish of St. Helen's is that the Holy Spirit will inspire you to*

*engage in Kingdom work of all kinds, **for the common good**, and that you will fully support the new priestly leadership God will bring into your midst.*

I believe that Archdeacon Susan's prayer was answered and I offer it again for the coming year for we are still deep in a liminal time, filled with uncertainty and also with possibility. I am excited to live into our new identity as the parish for Orleans and Blackburn Hamlet. I am excited to celebrate John's ordination to the priesthood and welcome him into sacramental leadership in our midst. I am excited to explore the ways in which God is calling us out into our community to bear witness to the love of God in Jesus. I am excited to discover the ways in which God will deepen our faith and enliven our hope.

### **Thank you!**

I would like to offer particular thanks to Terry Leversedge for his gentle and generous administrative support; wardens Peter Humphrey and Jeff McRae and treasurer Kim Jones for answering my many questions; the members of parish council for their dedicated service as Pillar Chairs and synod members; and the music directors – Derek Reid and Emily Adams and Peter Humphreys – for working with me to shape our worship. The learning curve has been steep but, with your help, I think I'm still on track!

*Respectfully submitted, In Christ's Love and Service, by The Venerable Rhonda Waters*

### **II Wardens' Report**

"When the hay is removed and new growth appears and the grass from the hills is gathered in, the lambs will provide you with clothing and the goats with the price of the field." Proverbs 25-26

Dear Friends in Christ, as your Wardens, we ended last year's report with the above quote from Proverbs 25-26 as a message of hope that we would emerge from a tumultuous period tested and ready to continue our shared vision to be a Christian family, called by God to excellence, to be a community always known by its love, its inclusiveness and by the light, the peace, the hope and the grace of Christ shared freely.

Hallelujah! After a short period following our pruning, the hay has been removed, and we are witnessing the beginnings of new growth.

We are blessed with the appointment of the Venerable Rhonda Waters as our incumbent and Reverend John Holgate as our Curate. Additionally, we have seen the results of the Shape of Parish Ministry Consultation, whereby we have joined with the saints of Saint Mary the Virgin, Blackburn, and the exciting potential for increased membership in our Christian family and associated engagement with the communities of Blackburn and Orleans.

The past year tested many of us to our limits and beyond. Some parishioners chose to move on. Others rose to the challenge, so we are uniquely positioned to nurture the potential new growth. This positioning would not have been possible without the multitude of your individual and group efforts. Many individuals and teams continued to organize and support the kingdom work in Orleans and Blackburn Hamlet. Lots of behind-the-scenes activities in administration, technology, and generally helping with organizing have been enabled by many parishioners volunteering their time. As always, this service is greatly appreciated.

Financially, due to concessions by the diocese and continued support from parishioners, we have exited the tumultuous period of the COVID-19 pandemic with balanced accounts. However, giving is down, and as we

move into more active engagement within the parish and community, we will all need to reassess our level of financial support via regular tithing.

The physical plant is in good condition, but given the pandemic hiatus, we have lost momentum in completing the work to optimize the church hall and grounds for parish and community engagement. The church hall needs acoustic tuning, and the interface between the church hall and outside spaces needs work. Plans are afoot in both these areas.

We continue to be blessed to be part of the parish of St Helen's and its leadership team, and we delight to share in your walk with Christ and our Kingdom work. Yours in Christ,

*Respectfully submitted by Peter Humphries (Rector's Warden) and Jeff McRae (Peoples' Warden)*  
*Thank you to Peter Humphries and Jeff McRae for their leadership in Governance at St. Helen's!*

### **III Associate Incumbent**

The Associate Incumbent position was vacant for the bulk of 2022. Consequently, there is no report for this year. The Rev. John Holgate's appointment to the position of assistant Curate late in the year was, however, welcome news for the parish.

### **IV Worship** *Praising God in Community*

Worship in 2022 began online as a wave of COVID-19 once again prevented us from gathering in the church building. Sadly, this meant that the final service of the Ven. Susan Churchill Lackey and the Rev. Canon Peter Lackey, on January 30, could not be celebrated in person but the previous years of experience with on-line worship and St. Helen's excellent tech equipment and team stood everyone in good stead.

On-site worship began again on February 20 with the Rev. Kay Richardson providing priestly services. Services of Holy Eucharist were held at 8am and 10am every Sunday through to the end of the year, with the 10am service being livestreamed to YouTube. During the summer, music at the 10am service was supplied by recorded videos previously created by either Emmaus or the St. Helen's Choir. Outside of the summer months, Emmaus and the St. Helen's Choir alternated leading the music at the 10am service.

My arrival in August eventually led to a few changes as I shaped aspects of the service in keeping with my own practice (and vice versa!). I would like to say a particular thank you to the altar guild, servers, and tech team for their flexibility as I rearranged the space and the choreography of the service, sometimes with very little warning!

In October, Emily Adams stepped down from the role of choir director after 18 years of service and passed the baton to Peter Humphreys. Emily was celebrated by the choir and the whole parish at a reception on Oct. 23 and everyone is thrilled to have her rejoin the alto section of the choir!

It was a source of particular joy to be able to celebrate Holy Week, Easter, and Christmas on-site after two years of on-line only services. Pandemic accommodations were required and thanks are due to Debbie Tweedle and the altar guild for their ingenious solution to the problem of extinguishing candles while wearing masks (we dunked them in bowls of water!).

Sunday attendance remained lower than before the pandemic, an experience that is shared across the Church. In particular, children, youth, and their families have not returned to worship which is a source of concern and disappointment. Rebuilding our ministry to these groups will be a priority but I would counsel patience. For now, the new children's corner offers a sign of hospitality and is certainly well-used by those children who do come to services.

Worship is the heart of parish life. Thank you to all of the servers, readers, intercessors, sides-people, communion administrators, altar guild members, musicians, counters, techies, and coffee hour hosts! You are a blessing to this parish and I pray that your service is a blessing to you.

Please read the remaining individual reports provided herein

*Respectfully Submitted by The Venerable Rhonda Waters, Incumbent*

**Altar Guild** St. Helen's started the year with online services led by Susan+ and Peter+ and no Altar Guild duties. On February 20<sup>th</sup>, we returned to full time Altar Guild duties and what a pleasure it was to be back serving at the altar! We had the privilege of working with three priests this year. Kay Richardson led us in worship until the end of August when Rhonda Waters took over as our full-time priest. Shortly there after we welcomed John Holgate our new Assistant Curate.

We welcomed Tracy Charles, our student at St. Helen's, as a guest member of our Altar Guild so that she could learn Anglican practices in the context of the Altar Guild. We also welcomed Caroll McRae to the Guild. Three members have chosen to step down from the Guild in 2022 – Carole Perks, Debbie Tallack and Verlie Nauffts. Each has made a significant contribution to the Altar Guild and will be sorely missed.

With the return to supporting two services, each Altar Guild Team determined how best to prepare for the services on their weekend given changing needs. We met with Rhonda to introduce ourselves and determine how best to support her as our new Priest.

The Annual Diocesan Altar Guild meeting was held at St. John the Evangelist Smiths Falls in September and the next meeting will be at Christ Church Bells Corners in October.

I would like to thank my friends -- Penny Burgess, Sandra Clark, Joy Dorff, Maxine Schatz, May Woods, Shelly Yerburgh, Bev Hatt, Carol Danson, Audrey Coupland, Johanna Mulder, Pat Jamieson, Connie Thurlbeck, Leslie Henderson-Whynot, Tracy Charles and Caroll McRae-- for their faithful service.

In closing, we would welcome anyone who would like to join the Altar Guild.

Respectfully submitted by Debbie Tweedle, Altar Guild Chair  
*Thank you to Deb Tweedle for her leadership of the Altar Guild!*

**Contemporary Music Ministry** We were so happy to see a return to in-person worship early in 2022 and gradually, but ever surely, a sense of community that came with it. During the pandemic, we greatly missed the opportunity to gather weekly for worship, as a community. Recently, while speaking with members of our group, I commented about how wonderful it was to hear the congregation singing again. Our ministry is to lead you in song, as one of the many ways through which we worship God each week, and it is our privilege to be able to do that.

We give thanks for the commitment and dedication of Reni Gauthier, Ian Kelly, Rachel Matthews, Kim Jones, Henry Giroux and Glen McIntyre as they give of themselves to our contemporary music ministry. Over the past year we were very happy to welcome several new members to our group; Shelly Yerburch, Sylvia Glenn, Carol Fairbrother, and Lisee Kiar. Kevin Piccott has joined our group to provide audio technical support at rehearsals and during services as needed. We thank all members of our group for all that they do in support of this ministry and we give thanks to their families and loved ones who support them in this commitment. Glory be to God.

Respectfully submitted by Derek Reid, Contemporary Music Director  
*Thank you to Derek Reid for his leadership of Emmaus!*

**Choir Music** At the beginning of 2022, the choir was practising regularly, but attendance limits meant that only a small group actually presented at Sunday services. The choir and Emmaus shared Music Ministry at the 10am services. Congregational singing was permitted by the diocese in mid-February; the choir began to return to its full numbers in May and June, when the choir and Emmaus alternated serving at the 10am services.

As a result of the pandemic and Emily Adams' efforts, we have a healthy library of choral recordings, and we used recordings during the summer to support Kay's services when live music was not part of the programme.

In January, we said goodbye to our accompanist of the past two years, Cheng Hu. In February, we welcomed Michael Darling to the position. He has proven to be a wonderful addition to the choir, playing with energy and also singing, on occasion.

Emily Adams, Choir Director for 18 years, retired in October. The choir is blessed that she decided to join the ranks of our singers, supporting the alto and tenor sections, as needed.

Alternating services with Emmaus, choir members enjoyed presenting service music and anthems in the fall and during Advent. The opportunity to sing at our "Story & Carols" event and at Christmas services was welcomed by all. I would like to thank all choir members for the boundless enthusiasm for our Music Ministry. I would like to thank our musicians: Val Guest for filling in on piano as needed when Michael was unavailable, John Leech and Jane Rowland for percussion additions throughout the year and Randy Bird for his trumpet at Remembrance Day.

Respectfully submitted, Peter E. Humphries, Interim Choir Director  
*Thank you to Peter Humphries for his leadership of the choir!*

### **V Discipleship** *Growing in Faith and Witnessing to Christ*

"Then Jesus said to his disciples, Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me." Matthew 16:24.

Dear friends in Christ, I have had the honour and pleasure to act as the Chair of Discipleship for the past year. The goals of the Discipleship Pillar within St Helen's are threefold:

1. Develop a full and integrated discipleship program clearly rooted in the Gospel message.
2. Encourage both individual and group initiatives and commitment by parishioners to Discipleship.

### 3. Continue to provide a wide variety of programs for parishioners of all ages.

It has been a challenging year working to meet these goals as we exit many of the constraints needed to adapt to the COVID-19 pandemic, which saw the church building closed for most of 2022. Yet despite the challenges resulting from the public health measures, there has been a steady response to Discipleship and innovative growth that will stand us in good stead as we move forward. We have maintained a bible study opportunity and with the arrival of our incumbent and curate have seen growth in this area. Discipleship opportunities continued to be offered online, in mailouts, or in-person, as allowed.

Should you feel called to ministry in this rewarding area, there are many available opportunities. See the February Vine for details or speak to me.

Respectfully submitted by Jeffrey McRae, Chair of Discipleship.

*Thank you to Jeff McRae for his leadership in Discipleship Ministry!*

**Church School** The COVID-19 lockdowns effectively prevented any activities from occurring at the church for the young ones in either Church School or the Nursery and both have been in a hiatus, although some at home packages were mailed out to families.

**The Branches** Similarly, the COVID-19 lockdowns effectively prevented any activities from occurring at the church for the Branches youth members.

### **VI Stewardship** *Looking After the Gifts that God Gives Us*

With a return to in person worship, things have returned to normal. Outside, the Quiet Garden continues to provide a reflective space with memorial stones and whose ongoing maintenance under the steady guidance of John Leech and his support team. Final landscaping, grass, and possibly a patio area for barbeques and outside gathering area remain a future option.

Here are a few highlights of other things completed, those on-going, and/or still to be addressed:

**Upkeep of our Building and Grounds:** Stewardship relies heavily on our many volunteers to keep our facility in good shape and keep our operating costs as low as possible. Bev Hatt and Diane Dodd and their helpers Norm Dorff, Norm Crosswell, Lesley Whynot, Debbie Tallack, Katherine Wiltshire, Sharon Tremaine, Peter McQueen and Victoria Reesor-McQueen who have all worked to keep our interior space clean, sanitized and presentable. Given the minimal usage from the previous year, the floor was not resurfaced this summer and was only buffed as required during the year. Optimum, Chubb, and Henderson continued to provide HVAC, Fire Safety, and Security services respectively. Only minor repairs were required throughout the year, however, St. Helen's has not escaped some vandalism with a broken window that was quickly covered and then repaired thanks to Peter Humphries and Dan Boehner. A truck also carelessly damaged the portico roofing this fall and at some point the Grace Room AC unit suffered some significant blows. Both of these will require repair in the spring.

Our small but mighty outdoor crew looked after grass cutting and grounds upkeep again this year. Thanks to all who pitched in. Dan Boehner led a team that not only cleared significant yard waste, and finished 'weed-proofing' the areas around the enclosed HVAC units. This year the overgrown cedar hedges were finally removed from the parking lot islands in preparation for future eco-friendly plantings.

The groundsman (and woman!) cutting, bagging, window washing (Norm and Dan again!), hauling rocks and other sundry duties included: Dan Boehner, Al Burchill, Louis and Peter Garrahan, Dave Jones, Norm Crosswell and Peter McQueen.

Thanks to Peter Humphries and the POG (“Putting Out the Garbage”) team, this necessary duty is realized, with the additional support of the Administrative Assistant and the clergy.

Terry Leversedge is playing a key role in monitoring some of the routine maintenance and being there when contractors are called. We thank him for his support.

We continue to work closely with our snow contractor to make sure our parking lot and pathways are clean and safe. Thanks also to Peter Humphries, salt and sand boxes are replenished regularly so feel free to use them if you see an issue.

Stewardship is truly a leadership role in our Church. Our main task has been to guide our many volunteers and provide them with the tools to get things done. We are always open to support from any and all who wish to step forward. It has been a rewarding role these past five years and I look forward to supporting the new chair whenever possible.

Respectfully submitted by Colin Taylor, Chair of Stewardship

*Thank you to Colin Taylor for his leadership in Stewardship Ministry!*

### **Treasurer's Report to Vestry**

As always, I begin by thanking God for the generosity of this Parish. Finishing again in the black (so far in the black that red is a point on the distant horizon), despite COVID, is such a blessing!

This year our financial statements show that we are awakening after the long COVID sleep. We’ve also had some BIG leadership changes that are reflected in the statements.

We saw a significant drop in our regular offerings...but this was not unexpected. Often with a change in leadership there can be such a drop. However, we did see a big increase in the Bazaar revenue which is only slightly lower than our 2019 level. (We’re Baack!)

With the retirement of Susan+ and Peter+, the ministrations of our Interim Priest, Kay+ and now the arrival of Rhonda, our Governance expenses dropped significantly leading to some rather large savings.

We did begin spending in other areas again...and Praise be to God we are over budget in some! Why do I rejoice at being over budget? I rejoice because it means that ministries are awakening again! Children’s ministry, Hospitality, Outreach, Communication, were all overspent!

All this to say, that after we paid all our expenses and our mortgage, we had more than \$50,000 left over.

Your Financial Ministry Team bought new Square devices to make it even easier and more cost effective to take payments at events. We continue to avail ourselves of Canada Helps and PAR to help make it easy for people to donate. Speaking of PAR, we have now streamlined to three categories of giving on that route.. General, PWRDF, SMTV Maint and upkeep.

We’ve integrated our [finance@sthelens.ca](mailto:finance@sthelens.ca) email address into our operations. Feel free to use it for any of your financial queries.



I would like to express my deep appreciation to everyone who contributes to our Parish finances. Thank you to counters and card reader operators, and to Lynn and Paul who do so much of the day to day running of the church finances. We are truly blessed by all their service.

Respectfully submitted by Kim Jones

*Thank you to Kim Jones for her leadership in Financial Ministry!*

## **VII Outreach** *Servant Ministry: Caring for the World God Loves*

There were ongoing food stuff collections in January, February and March for the Food Bank. “Muffins Made with Love” were able to be resumed for The Well after Covid restrictions lifted. Both collections continued in April, May and June but were then paused for the summer. They resumed in September and October but the collections for November and December switched to items in support of St. Luke’s such as men’s toiletries, underwear and socks, and gift cards.

We also began a partnership with the Mission Thrift Store, in which anyone identified by a parishioner as being in need could be accompanied by an Outreach Chair to the store for assistance.

Plans for the winter included free library and pantry boxes to be built and hopefully installed in spring on the church premises.

For the Advent season, an “Advent at Home” project collected a variety of items for diocese communities in Ottawa and the local Food Bank; parishioners were encouraged to participate in the “reverse” advent calendar, collecting an item a day over Advent to donate. Large boxes were filled in over Christmas and New Years. A group of volunteers then assisted in sorting and preparing these boxes for delivery to The Well and the Food Bank.

Both St. Helen’s and St. Mary the Virgin church members were also invited to contribute to a fundraising project for affordable housing in Bells Corners. A page on the parish website was set up under Canada Helps for this and the first goal of \$1,000 was quickly surpassed. The goal for the new year is to raise the bar to \$2,000. Finally, our thanks to Arch Campbell for the “Muffins Made with Love” deliveries and to all those parish members who contributed so generously towards each of these projects

Respectfully submitted, Sharon Tremaine and Barb Porter, Co-chairs Outreach

*Thank you to Barb Porter and Sharon Tremaine, for their leadership in Outreach ministry!*

## **VIII Community** *Sharing in Christ’s Fellowship*

Unfortunately, 2022 began with no in-person worship as COVID protocols continued. As a result, there was no Valentine’s Day Ladies Breakfast nor Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper.

On Mother’s Day, female members of St. Helen’s were treated to some “Lindt” chocolates, presented in a small cellophane bag tied with a pastel-coloured bow and tag, and which also included a Bible verse. The recipients were very pleased with this memento.

The **St Helen’s Fine Art Fair** took place in late May 2022. Thanks to the 22 fantastic volunteers who helped stage the one-day gallery sale, the Art Fair was very successful. There were 163 original works of art exhibited

by local artists, of which 33 were sold for a total of \$3,554.50. Eleven of the sixteen artists earned \$2,791.50. As a result, St. Helen's was able to contribute \$1,287 to the PWRDF's Initiative E+ Campaign to support Ukrainian civilians displaced by the war. Planning for the 2023 Art Fair event has been underway since November 2022. Thank you to Brian Glenn for his excellent organization and coordination of this event.

In early June, a retirement celebration was held in Trinity Hall to honour Susan+ and Peter+ in appreciation of their 20+ years of dedicated service to St. Helen's. It was a wonderful and joyous afternoon with over 120 guests present. Thank you to Judy Lutes and Kathy Pearce for their enthusiastic and generous support in making the event such a success.

On a bright Saturday afternoon on the first day of October, our first ever **Blessing of the Animals Party** took place, attended by approximately 150, including parishioners, families of parishioners and neighbours of St Helen's. While many animals were blessed, everyone also enjoyed lawn games, face painting and refreshments. The highlight of the afternoon was the sixty-minute interactive presentation by Little Ray's Nature Centre, which was enjoyed by all. \$185 was collected and donated to the Ottawa Humane Society.

**St Helen's Annual Bazaar** took place on Saturday, November 12. It was a busy day attended by many from the local community and beyond. The event was very successful with over \$19,000.00 raised. Thank you to the craft group and to all those who contributed items for the bazaar, as well as to all those who helped set up, worked during the day and gave so freely of their time throughout the year in preparation. A huge thanks to those who once again responded to our request for baked goods, always a huge success! An enormous thank you, once again, to Helen Giroux and Sandra Clark for their superb organization of this event and for continually updating and renewing various aspects of our very successful annual bazaar!

Our Senior's Lunches were not organized in 2022. There were, however, several opportunities for parishioners to meet during other events late in 2022. Hopefully, 2023 will see these delightful lunches resume or perhaps a similar event in another format.

During 2022, St Helen's **Pastoral Care Team** continued to be very proactive by initiating and maintaining contact with parishioners who required comfort, kindness, sympathy and empathy. The team was diligent in keeping in touch and allowing others within the congregation to be informed of those needs. Thank you to Maggie Lorimer and her group for their on-going dedication.

The **Celebration of New Ministry** service, which welcomed Rhonda and her family to St Helen's, took place on Tuesday, December 6, The Feast of St Nicholas. The service was led by Linda Hill, with Rev. Dr. Canon Hobbs preaching the homily. Members of St Helen's Parish Council actively participated in the service. Following the service, many guests enjoyed a lovely reception in Trinity Hall.

On Sunday afternoon, December 18, a week before Christmas, St Helen's presented **Christmas Stories & Songs** to a large group of parishioners. All the stories and songs were well presented and enjoyed by everyone. Following the service, attendees met in Trinity Hall to enjoy hot chocolate, tea, coffee and Christmas goodies. The service set the tone of giving thanks for the blessings we have and to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas. Thank you to all who helped in the serverly and those who generously contributed refreshments.

The **Quiet Christmas Service**, a service of healing and hope, took place on Tuesday, December 20 at 7pm, followed by an opportunity to meet for refreshments. This meaningful service was well attended. Thank you to all those who made it a success!

With the return of in person worship earlier this year, coffee hour resumed following the 10am service and recently, after the 9:15am service (prior to the 11am service). This resumption was greeted with enthusiastic response especially with the tables and chairs in Trinity Hall set up which has encouraged groups to stay a little longer and chat with fellow parishioners. Thank you to all those who sign up regularly to prepare the coffee (and tea) and a special thank you to Lynn Glenn for overseeing this activity. Thank you also to Judy Lutes for keeping the server fully stocked with all the supplies needed for coffee/tea all year.

As we begin 2023, St Helen's looks forward to exciting changes and challenges with our new clergy, Rhonda Waters and John Holgate, as well as many new faces on Parish Council. The amalgamation with St Mary The Virgin will encourage new ideas as St Helen's continues to share fellowship with each other and those in our community.

As I step down after seven years on Parish Council as Chair of Community, I would like to sincerely thank all those who were so accommodating and generous with their continuous support of all the events that have taken place over these past many years. The kindness and cooperation of everyone made my role easy and I sincerely thank all of you!

Respectfully submitted, Lorna Ponting, Chair of Community  
*Thank you to Lorna Ponting for her leadership in Community ministry!*

**St. Helen's Pastoral Care Team** The Pastoral Care Team (PCT) continues its ministry within the Parish reaching out to those facing surgery, living with chronic and terminal illnesses, those facing mental health and relationship issues, and their caregivers. Support is provided through phone calls, and in home visits. Prayer Chain Ministry is ongoing for those seeking prayerful support from our prayer warriors.

The OPCTP offered two Continuing Education Events, one in the Spring, and one in the Fall. This Fall, we welcomed Charlotte Foster as a new member to the Team. Members of the PCT took part in the Quiet Christmas Service held in December.

Thank you to all members of the Parish for your ongoing support of the PCT Ministry.

Respectfully submitted by Maggie Lorimer, PCT Co-ordinator  
*Thank you to Maggie Lorimer for her leadership of the Pastoral Care Team and Prayer Chain ministries!*

**Seniors' Lunches** Again, due to Covid restrictions, we have been unable to host our Seniors' Lunches this year, so there is nothing to report.

**Craft Group** About 20-25 ladies get together every Wednesday at 9-11 from September to June to enjoy a cup of coffee and fellowship to prepare crafts for the Bazaar. We pride ourselves on everything sold at the Bazaar, with the exception of the jewellery, has been made by the craft group or by one of our St. Helen's parishioners. Every second year, we knit Easter chicks and fill them with jelly beans which is very successful. Donations of wool and fabric for other projects are always appreciated. This year we look forward to meeting

some new members from St. Mary the Virgin, Blackburn join us. Our thanks to all who work so diligently on Wednesday mornings and also to those who work at home.

Respectfully submitted by Johanna Mulder and Yvonne Rawlingson, Coordinators of the Craft Group

**Bazaar Report 2022.** We were blessed with another successful Bazaar this year. With Covid restrictions much relaxed since last year, we were able to expand our footprint closer to the 2019 model. Our offerings at Le Café were limited, but still very much appreciated by all. Although we had an abundance of donations, our stock was a little less than in previous non-Covid years. We still managed to raise over \$20,000 and had a great time. We maintained our one-stop payment on exiting, and once again offered electronic payments for customers. This is certainly a ministry of St. Helen's which involves a very large number of parishioners. We baked, knitted, quilted, sewed, crocheted, nailed, glued, preserved, pickled, cooked throughout the year, and especially in the days leading up to the big day. Our thanks go out whole-heartedly to everyone involved for their time and talents! Members of St. Mary the Virgin, Blackburn, also joined in the day, taking orders for wreaths & centrepieces, tourtières, beets, cakes and cookies. This year we were offered a spot on a catchy billboard sponsored by Queenswood Villa, which stood on the corner of our lot. This was a new and a welcome addition. Next year's Bazaar is planned for November 4<sup>th</sup>, God willing.

Respectfully submitted by bazaar coordinators, Helen Giroux and Sandra Clark  
*Thank you to Helen and Sandra for their leadership in this regard!*

**St. Helen's Art Fair.** Thanks to the 22 fantastic volunteers who helped stage the one-day gallery sale, the 2022 Fine Art Fair was very successful. There were 163 original works of art exhibited by local artists, of which 33 were sold for a total of \$3,554.50. \$2,791.50 was earned by 11 of 16 artists and the Art Fair contributed \$1,287 by St. Helen's to the PWRDF's Initiative E+ campaign to support Ukrainian civilians displaced by the war. Planning for the 2023 Art Fair has been underway since November 2022.

Respectfully submitted by, Brian Glenn – Art Fair Coordinator  
*Thank you to Brian Glenn for his leadership of the Art Fair team!*

### **IX St. Helen's Quiet Garden** *Sharing Outdoor Space for the Inner Journey*

As we slowly get used to living with various viruses, it has continued to be quiet in the Quiet Garden during the past year. Our oasis of tranquility continues to be a place to visit and reflect; our neighbours have started to enjoy it as well. Our gardeners, ably led by Reg Albright and Helen Giroux, have faithfully tended the plants, ensuring continued glorious displays of nature's colours; one additional memorial stone has been installed; another opportunity for such offerings will be proposed in the near future. Praise God for all the blessings we receive.

Respectfully submitted by, John Leech – Project Coordinator  
*Thank you to John Leech for his leadership of the Quiet Garden team!*

### **X Report Audio and Video Technical Support**

We began 2022 closed to in-person worship, so, I continued to produce videos for on-line worship in January and the first two weeks of February.

Late in 2021, with the approval of a small budget from council, I was able to procure equipment required to give us the capability of moving to a livestream video format. I procured, installed, and configured the hardware and software as needed.

A major impediment to establishing a livestream capability, though, was our internet infrastructure; we simply did not have the bandwidth required to support livestream. That was resolved, with much thanks to Peter Humphries, who worked with Bell and TekSavvy to implement a much-improved internet solution and an improvement with the St Helen's telephones. In addition, David Jones procured, installed, and configured a new firewall to better leverage our improved telecom infrastructure. That, in turn, allowed me to resolve some long outstanding issues with the A/V network as well as complete the setup required to support livestream.

With the technical solution in place, we needed additional volunteers to support and operate it. We are very thankful for Michael Edwardes, Brian Glenn and Kevin Piccott who volunteered to operate our systems week-to-week.

After a few weeks of informing our community about our plans for livestream, particularly, as it pertained to procedures that we would put in place to respect individual privacy, we were ready to go live! We began to livestream services during Holy Week and continue to livestream one service (9:15AM or 10:00AM) each week.

We can always use more volunteers to support and operate our A/V systems. If you would like to be join our A/V support team please speak with Rhonda, John, me or anyone who is already on our team.

Respectfully submitted by Derek Reid, Audio/Video Technical Support Specialist  
*Thank you to Derek Reid for his leadership of this new ministry!*

## **XI Administration and Governance**

Administration and Governance ministries have challenged by the pandemic. The ministry of pastoral care continued to be extremely important in 2022, although the 'style' of it was again, by necessity, different from the past and not what we might desire. The use of e-mails, telephone calls, various standard mailings and virtual technology, generated through the clergy and the Pastoral Care Team, were once again the *modus operandi*, with a slow return to in-person visits later in the year.

Encouraging Christian education and spiritual growth are also inherent in priestly ministry, and a variety of Bible studies and seasonal devotionals provided those opportunities. Clergy are members of the College of Clergy, required to attend meetings of the Ottawa East Deanery Clericus, Ordinations, The Bishop's Clergy Conference, Clergy Days and mandated workshops.

We all know that our use of technology in "church-land" blossomed as a result of the pandemic and the necessity it presented to keep social distance. At St. Helen's our long time need of a new system for the telephone / internet sector was finally satisfied but, unfortunately, the new system has been plagued with technical issues that we are still trying to resolve. Therefore please be patient with us if you are trying to phone the church for information and can't reach anyone immediately.

Special thanks to Derek Reid and his team for the ongoing live-streaming of our worship services and other events. Our Web Site (with thanks to Ian Kelly), parish letters (sent out prior to Easter, in the autumn, and Christmas), the monthly newsletter The Vine (on the web site) and Facebook remain significant communication tools plus we are now transitioning to more electronic means of communications to both save on postage costs and improve awareness. Weekly and monthly information emails can be requested on the Website to help stay informed.

St. Helen's is still structured under our Parish Strategic Plan. It is likely that its revision, plus a new vision, will further evolve in the near future based upon your feedback and recent surveys.

Parish Council members met throughout the year on a monthly basis to share in the leadership that governs parish life. Members provide reports, participate in discussions concerning the 'business' and, being open to the discernment of God's will, encourage others in active ministry and pray for the parish, the church and the world. We urge all parishioners to stay informed about the parish and the Diocese by exploring these websites on a regular basis.

Thanks to Christopher Porter, Council Clerk, to Peter Humphries, Warden, to Jeff McRae, Warden and Chair of Discipleship, to Colin Taylor, Chair of Stewardship, Barb Porter and Sharon Tremaine, Co-chairs of Outreach, and Lorna Ponting, our Community Chair, as well as our Synod members and Treasurer, for all their various efforts. Thanks to our Synod Members, Shelly Yerburgh, Felicia Kwamena and Audrey Lawrence, for attending the Diocesan Synod, last October. Thanks to all those who exercise leadership roles in our parish. Please read their individual reports for more inspiration!

St. Helen's Financial Ministries are managed by our Financial Ministries Team with Treasurer, Kim Jones, Lynn Glenn, Paul Porter and their list of counters, signatories and support staff. The Wardens also play an important role in financial supervision, including reviews, budget setting and other issues. We strongly urge you to show your commitment by signing up for the PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittance) system, if you have not already done so. We thank all those who support the church with gifts of financial offerings, through PAR, church envelopes, Canada Helps, memorials and special offerings such as Easter and Christmas and to those who faithfully raise their offerings each year, recognizing that costs rarely go down!

It has not been our practice to run an annual 'stewardship campaign' at St. Helen's but rather, through written material, announcements and homilies to remind the parish of the need to fund ministry of all kinds. We also thank all who have made the step to provide for ministry in this parish after their death, through estate planning and legacy gifts. A pamphlet, entitled Legacy Giving, is available or speak to your financial advisor.

Another area which will need attention now that the pandemic has eased is that of rental use of our facility. Issues including frequency of use by outside groups, wear-and-tear and professional cleaning, and the management and administration of events are factors all being considered. Costs such as the need for cleaning after major events, paying for a 'church host' for non-parishioners plus other required payments for insurance (stipulated by the Diocese) or liquor licences are additional factors. Our rental policy is currently under review and we hope to hire a Rental Ministry Coordinator who, along with volunteers, will help run this ministry.

**St. Helen's Anglican Church  
Minutes of Annual Vestry,  
27 February 2022**

**1.Call to Order and opening remarks:**

**Territorial Acknowledgment:**

**As we gather virtually,** “we acknowledge that our diocese is on traditional Algonquin and Mohawk territories. We seek to nurture our relationship with our Indigenous members and neighbours, and to share responsibility for their homelands.”

The virtual meeting was called to order by Peter Humphries at 2:05 p.m. Peter welcomed everyone, presented the agenda, and opened with prayer. Peter also read the declaration and instructed members on the meeting procedure and that their response when responded was their affirmation of this declaration. There were 44 members in attendance.

**2. Opening Prayers and Declaration:**

**Vestry Declaration for the Diocese of Ottawa:** “I solemnly declare that: I am a member of this congregation of the Anglican Church of Canada (“member” means that I have been baptized by water and in the name of the Holy Trinity, am a regular and frequent communicant in the Anglican Church, and subscribe to the doctrine, worship and discipline of the Anglican Church of Canada.(Canon 1.01.i); I am of the full age of sixteen years; I am a regular worshipper with this congregation; I do not intend to vote as a member of any other Vestry in the election of Churchwardens or of members of Synod during the ensuing year; and I am a supporter of this congregation by regular contribution to its maintenance.” Canon 5.02.a

**3. Appointment of Vestry Clerk**

Christopher Porter was appointed as Vestry Clerk for this annual meeting by Peter Humphries.

**4. Minutes of Last Annual Vestry** on 28 February 2021.

Peter Humphries moved acceptance of the minutes of the 2021 Annual Vestry as presented. Christopher Porter seconded. Motion carried.

**5. Ministry Appreciation:** A pre-reordered video was presented by Jeff McRae to offer ministry appreciation. In that video Jeff described how the Body of Christ is a team with many members. He offered thanks for those members who have finished their work at St. Helen's during the past year. Thanks was given to Susan+ and Peter+ for their many years as Priests of this parish. A more formal thank-you celebration will come as we allowed to gather together. Thanks to Peggy Gilmour for her time as Vestry Clerk. Also, thanks for the members of the Altar Guild that are retiring: Mary Albright, Judy Barstow, Jo-Ann Rasmussen, Yvonne Rawlingson and Ellie Young. A thank you in our Music ministry for Cheung Hu who is moving on to further her education. Thanks were expressed for the music provided by Olivia Pelling during her many years in Emmaus. Thanks, were also given for the leadership of the Youth Group provided by Ron Harder, Carol Danson and Olivia Pelling.

**6. Ministry in Covid Times:** Peter Humphries moved; Jeff McRae seconded that the record of Ministry in Covid Times be accepted as printed. Changes to our Covid restrictions will be communicated as clearly as possible over the coming weeks. We will not be at the “cutting edge” of lifting the restrictions, perhaps a few weeks behind the provincial guidelines. We will be sensitive to those who want change, and those who want to stay the course. Motion carried.

**7. Wardens' Report:** Jeff McRae moved acceptance of the Warden's report as printed; Peter Humphries seconded. Motion carried.

## **8. 2021 Reports**

**Incumbents Report:** The report from Susan Churchill-Lackey was received.

**Associate Incumbent's Report:** The report from Peter Lackey was received.

**Worship:** Moved by Peter Humphries, seconded by Jeff McRae.

**Discipleship:** Peter Humphries moved, and seconded by Kathy Pearce.

**Stewardship:** Colin Taylor moved, seconded by Reg Woods.

**Treasurer's Report / Financial Statements** Kim provided a video summary of her report. She moved acceptance, seconded by David Holmes.

**Outreach:** Carol Danson moved acceptance of the Outreach report. Sharon Tremaine seconded.

**Community:** Lorna Ponting moved acceptance of the Community report. Brian Glenn seconded.

**Quiet Garden:** John Leech moved acceptance of Quiet Garden report. Colin Taylor seconded.

**Administration and Governance:** The administration report was received.

A motion was put forward by Jeff McRae and seconded by Julia Dudley about development of a rental policy for the Church facilities.

"Vestry is to direct Parish Council to develop policies and procedures for rental of the Church Facilities". Terry Leversedge asked a question if this is to be only for the Hall, or should it extend to the entire Church building such as for the upcoming Provincial Election. John Leech agreed it should be for the entire facilities. Brian Glenn asked if these policies should include the use of the Audio/Video facilities as well. Derek Reid agreed that should also be discussed. Colin Taylor added that the city prefers to rent locations with presentation facilities.

No one was opposed to the motion. It was accepted.

**One motion was presented for all the reports. Motion carried.**

## **9. Presentation and Adoption of Budget for 2022.**

Kim Jones presented the budget for 2022 (video) and went over several items:

With the Covid Pandemic it is hard to predict some expenses. Various new items are included in the 2022 Budget. As expected, there are some increases, but also some decreases; such as for the telephone system. Some new items include a new push lawn mower, and some additional A/V tech.

Kim Jones moved adoption of the budget, as it appears in the Annual Report.

Reg Woods seconded. Motion carried.

Kim thanked everyone for their continuing support.



## **10. Election, Affirmation and Appointment of Members of Parish Council and other positions for 2022.**

### **(a) Parish Council Membership**

**\*Election: People's Warden (Council),** Jeff McRae. Nominated by Allen Burchill, seconded by Eileen Leversedge. Motion carried.

**\*Election: Rector's Warden (Council),** Peter Humphries. Nominated by Patricia Cocker, seconded by Felicia Kwamena. Motion carried.

**\*Election: Lay Member (1<sup>st</sup> year of 2, renewed) Synod (Council)** Kathy Pearce. Nominated by Julia Dudley, seconded by Allan Jamieson. Motion carried.

**\*Election: Lay Member (1<sup>st</sup> year of 2, renewed) Synod (Council)** Peter Humphries. Nominated by Dave Jones, seconded by Ian Kelly. Motion carried.

**\*Election: Alternate Lay Member (1 year),** Audrey Lawrence. Nominated by Johanna Mulder, seconded by Derek Reid. Motion carried.

**Affirmation: Lay Member (2<sup>nd</sup> year) Synod (Council)** Felicia Kwamena

The following appointments are made, reflecting the Pillar Ministries of our Strategic Plan:

**Appointment: by Canon:** Postponed: Chair of Worship and Member of Council.

**Appointment (Interim):** Jeff McRae, Chair of Discipleship and Member of Council.

**Appointment:** Colin Taylor, Chair of Stewardship and Member of Council.

**Appointment:** Carol Danson, Co-Chair of Outreach and Member of Council.

**Appointment:** Sharon Tremaine, Co-Chair of Outreach and Member of Council.

**Appointment:** Lorna Ponting, Chair of Community and Member of Council.

**Appointment:** Kim Jones, Treasurer and Member of Council **by Peter Humphries.**

**Appointment:** Christopher Porter, Vestry Clerk for Parish Council.

Affirmation of the following Ministries:

**Affirmation:** Postponed, Associate Incumbent.

**Affirmation:** Debbie Tweedle, Chair of Altar Guild.

**Affirmation:** Ian Kelly, Web Site.

**Affirmation:** Terry Leversedge, Administrative Assistant.

**Affirmation:** Derek Reid, A/V Technology.

**Affirmation:** Maggie Lorimer, Pastoral Care Team and Prayer Chain Co-ordinator.

### **Affirmation of Other Leadership Ministries:**

- Emily Adams, Choir Director.
- Derek Reid, Contemporary Music Director.
- Eileen Leversedge, Children's Ministry.
- Leaders of the Branches Youth Ministry: Berthorie Beauvoir, Eric Jones, mentor Kathy Pearce.
- John Leech, Quiet Garden Co-ordinator.
- Brian Glenn, Art Fair Co-ordinator.
- Our Financial Ministries team; All who care for our property; All other group leaders, and all engaged in ministry within this parish, the Diocese and beyond.

**11. Other:**

**(a) Affirmation of Lay Communion Administrators:**

**(b) Signing Officers:** Current signing officers: Arch Campbell, Kim Jones, Lynn Glenn, Paul Porter, Chris Porter, Lorna Ponting, Peter Humphries, Jeff McRae.

**(c) Appointment of Accountants:** Jeff McRae moved that BDO be appointed as Accountants for the coming year; seconded by Peter Humphries. Motion carried.

**(d) Additional Thanks:** Peter Humphries offered thanks for the help with the meeting preparation to Ian Kelly, Jeff McRae, David Jones and Terry Leversedge.

**12. Adjournment:** Ian Kelly motioned adjournment at 2:55 p.m.

**13. Closing Devotions:** Peter Humphries closed the meeting with prayers at 2:57 p.m.

**St Helen's Anglican Church**

**Minutes of Special Vestry Meeting**

**November 13, 2022**

A total of 92 parishioners attended this special vestry meeting.

Reverend Rhonda Waters gave a brief introduction to the meeting and then called the meeting to order.

Peter Humphries moved the following motion:

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**Be it resolved that:**

St. Mary the Virgin Blackburn Hamlet and St. Helen's Orleans join their resources and their ministries to serve as one parish, worshipping at St. Helen's Anglican Church as of the First Sunday in Advent, November 27, 2022, with shared responsibility for the provision of ministry throughout Orleans and Blackburn, including the development of ministry uses for St. Mary the Virgin Church.

Congregational/parish leadership will work with Archdeacon Rhonda Waters and diocesan leadership to fully amalgamate the governance and finances of the two churches, effective January 1, 2023.

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The motion was seconded by Jeff McRae.

The motion was then opened for discussion.

Ann Clarke asked about the demographics of the St. Mary the Virgin (SMTV) parish.

- Rhonda Waters replied that there are currently about 20 parishioners. In general, they are an older parish. There are no children as part of the parish.

Carol Fairbrother stood to speak about her experience auditing the books at St Mary the Virgin. In her opinion, there are no concerns about the state of the finances of that parish.

Larry Garvin asked about the SMTV budget and their current expenses.

- Kim Jones replied that there is a rectory which is rented out which provides a good income.
- There is a cemetery which did have some expenses this year due to the storm.
- All expenses will continue to be covered by the income generated.

Louise Garrahan posed a question about the SMTV cemetery.

- Rhonda Waters responded that the cemetery is in good financial shape with an active board which manages the property.

Rhonda Waters discussed that the SMTV parish wants to do more for their community and see St. Helen's as a good example of a nurturing parish.

Audrey Lawrence provided some experience that she has seen with other local parishes that have amalgamated which went very well.

Ann Clarke asked about the growth potential for those living in Blackburn Hamlet especially regarding the outlook the youth of that area.

- Jeff McRae replied that responding to youth in Orleans and Blackburn Hamlet are important areas that will be discussed for the strategic plan which will be revised early in 2023.

Julia Dudley asked if STMV was currently part of a four-point parish, and if so, how that would fit with this motion.

- Rhonda replied that the motion being discussed only concerns the parish of St. Mary the Virgin at this time. There are no other plans currently being discussed.

At this point there was no further discussion so the question on the motion was called.

The motion was carried; with no one against the motion, and no one abstaining.

Reg Woods moved that the meeting be adjourned.

**St Mary the Virgin Blackburn Church**  
**2022 Vestry Report**

2022 finally brought us good news with the reopening of our beloved Church, in April, in time for Easter celebrations.

Prior to our reopening we coordinated the removal of the Bell Tower, as it was becoming a safety issue, should we receive storms with high winds. The Bell is graciously being stored at the home of one of our Parishioners, the Munro Family.

In 2021, the Bishop of all the Anglican Churches, within the Ottawa Diocese, asked the Parishes to gather their thoughts on Shape of Ministry, where do we go from here. With this in mind, as we reopened and encountered changes in the Ministry of a Priest, St. Mary's Blackburn saw many highs and lows of attendance with mostly a decline in numbers. The decline resulted in a reduction of sustainable stewardship, ability to maintain obligations to diocese and volunteer fatigue, leading the Council to consider where to go from here. Keeping the Shape of Ministry in mind, St. Mary the Virgin Council researched the options of perhaps joining another Church. After considering the demographics of our Church and the requirements of our Parishioners it was decided that perhaps St. Helen's would be a good match for our Parishioners. After many meetings, reflections, and prayers it was decided to have a Vestry meeting to confirm that our Parishioners would be in agreement of joining St. Helen's. Our vestry meeting confirmed that Council was correct, as 19 were in favour and 1 not in favour. Although we are joining St. Helen's, our Church will remain open for special services, and we will work together to see what other uses we may have for our lovely building.

During this time of reflection the ACW for St. Mary's folded, the Altar Guild became a smaller group, and the Cemetery Committee was looking for volunteers. Although our finances continued to remain in a good standing, joining St. Helen's appeared to be a good decision for all.

We ended 2022 being welcomed in to the folds and arms of St. Helen's with a couple of special services already being held at St. Mary the Virgin Church and most of the parishioners making the move to St. Helen's.

The Wardens would like to thank all who assisted throughout the year, whether it be the Cemetery Committee, the Garden Committee, Alter Guild, the Cleaning Team and ACW it was a pleasure to see everyone working together to keep our Church running.

Jean Lockett  
Janet Hope  
Kathy Harris  
Glenda Farstad-Clark

## **St. Helen's Communion Administrators for 2022**

Randy Bird  
Jeannette Bird  
Gilbert Cormie-Waters  
Ann Day  
Diane Dodd  
Helen Giroux  
Lynn Glenn  
Beverly Hatt  
Janet Hope  
Trevor Jamieson  
Brian Kelly  
Felicia Kwamena  
Terry Leversedge  
Audrey Lawrence  
Jean Lockett  
Brian Lorimer  
Maggie Lorimer  
Deb McIntyre  
Shirley Neville  
Kathy Pearce  
Carol Perks  
Kevin Piccott  
Lorna Ponting  
Christopher Porter  
Maxine Schatz  
Victoria Swinburne-Kennelly  
Colin Taylor  
Debbie Tweedle  
Elizabeth Whidden  
Reg Woods  
Shelly Yerburgh