



The Vine
March 2023
St. Helen's Anglican Church
1234 Prestone Drive, Orleans, Ontario K1E 3X6
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Clergy: The Ven. Rhonda Waters
The Rev John Holgate

Charge to Vestry from the Ven Rhonda Waters

Those of you who attended the parish day back in November have already heard the opening part of my charge to vestry – and those who read the report we shared have seen the diagram – but it is worth sharing again.

This model comes to us from the School for Parish Development and it draws on Benedictine spirituality to describe the life of faith.

We begin here: in **stability**. Stability is a state of being in which we are clear about who we are and whose we are. We are not weighed down by nostalgia nor distracted by wishful thinking about the future. Stability does not mean stagnant; it means grounded. We know there is good work to be done, here and now. We know God is with us, here and now. And, knowing all of that, we are ready and able to listen to God and to the world around us and to one another in order to discern what God is calling us to do.

We are ready to **obey** - which moves us into the next stage of the life of faith. Obedience does not mean a kind of mindless following – there are too many competing calls to follow for that. Instead, it means a careful listening – which is, in fact, what the Latin root of obedience actual means – that is directed towards an active response. This is not listening simply for the sake of listening or even for understanding. It is listening for the sake of actually doing what God is calling us to do.

And, when we actual undertake to obey God, we find ourselves **transformed**. This transformation might be big and dramatic or it might be quiet and mostly internal but, either way, we discover a new way of being to explore and to grow into. There are almost always some growing pains wrapped up in this work – letting go of what was and of what we thought might *be* and discovering what the new now *is*. We have to regain our **stability**...and the cycle continues.

We, the parish of St. Helen's Orleans, are in this space – moving back and forth between stability and obedience. There have been many, many changes over these past months, never mind these past years and we are still learning who we are now. Happily, I don't think there is any doubt about whose we are and I sense a deep confidence in the presence of God with us, here and now, and a deep readiness to listen to what God is telling us about what we are called to do and who we are called to become.

So how do we do that – how do we listen with the intent to obey?

- We pray. We pray as individuals and we pray as a community and we wait on God to answer us.
- We talk to each other. We participate in questionnaires and small groups and town halls. We share what's on our hearts and minds and we respect what others share with us.
- We talk to our neighbours. We find ways to participate in what is going on around us and to get to know the needs of our community.
- We try things out and reflect on what we learn from the experience. We embrace failures and successes **both** as listening opportunities.

The proposed budget, which Kim will present to us in just a moment, is built with this listening work in mind. It includes money we don't yet know how we will spend – in particular, money for children's ministry and for community outreach events that will allow us to experiment. It includes money for experiments in the use of our buildings as a source of rental income and a resource for engaging our neighbours. It includes money to invest in professional help in listening to the community around us and in developing a strategic plan that will help guide us in this whole process. But I won't steal any more of Kim's thunder...

Instead, I'd like to turn to a beautiful Biblical image that captures much of what I've been saying – and that has already been claimed by St. Helen's: that of the vine and branches. On his last night with the disciples, before his betrayal and arrest and execution, Jesus speaks to them many words of comfort and wisdom – including this:

I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.

We must not fear the pruning of those branches which do not bear fruit – even if they did, at one time, bear much fruit. A hard and holy part of the work we are setting out to do is recognizing those ideas and activities and stories that have come to the end of their life and let them go so that new growth may flourish. While this pruning work can be painful, we do it in the sure knowledge of the true vine which nourishes us and transforms us into fruit and shade and beauty for all the world.

Jesus continues:

My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete."

There is so much reason for joy in this community. We have been given one another to learn from and to grow with. We have ample resources to put in the service of God and God's beloved world. We are surrounded by people eager to encounter God's love and grace and who are open to sharing something of their lives with us.

Jesus is the vine and we are the branches; ready to listen and to obey and to grow. Thanks be to God!

Thank you to everyone who submitted a report for the Annual Report and to everyone who helped to assist and participated in Vestry.



Worship: The Season of Lent

March 5 Lent 2 Sunday: 8:00 am & 10 am – Holy Eucharist
March 12 Lent 3 Sunday: 8:00 am & 10 am – Holy Eucharist
March 19 Lent 4 Sunday: 8:00 am & 10 am – Holy Eucharist
March 26 Lent 5 Sunday: 8:00 am & 10 am – Holy Eucharist

HOLY WEEK & EASTER SCHEDULE

- April 2- Palm Sunday 8:00am & 10:00am - Holy Eucharist
- April 3- Holy Monday 7:00pm - Evening Prayer at St. Mary the Virgin Church, 2750 Navan Rd.
- April 4- Holy Tuesday 7:00pm - Evening Prayer
- April 5- Holy Wednesday 7:00pm - Evening Prayer

- April 6- Maundy Thursday 6:30pm - We will share a simple soup supper as we hear the story of the Maundy Thursday before sharing in foot washing (optional), Eucharist, and stripping the altar
- April 7- Good Friday 10:00am - Love is Stronger: the Story of the Cross a short service specially designed for people of all ages
11:00am - Solemn Liturgy of Good Friday
- April 8- Easter Vigil 8:00pm - Join us in the most dramatic service of the Christian year as we pass through death and into the risen life of Jesus Christ
- April 9- Easter Sunday 8:00am & 10 am- Holy Eucharist

Memorial Flowers for Easter: If you would like to give flowers in memorial to grace our church during Eastertide, please fill out a form with the names of loved ones and make your donation to "St. Helen's Anglican Church" (no later than March 27).

Discipleship

Thursdays in Lent 9am - Morning prayer (Feb 23, March 2, 9, 16, 23,30) a simple prayer service, followed by tea, coffee, and conversation - come for a chat even if you can't join in the prayers.

Wednesdays in Lent 7pm - Renewing our Baptismal Ministry (March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29) a 5 week course exploring some of the basics of Anglican beliefs and practices .

Sundays in Lent 11:30 am - Renewing our Liturgical Ministry each 1-hour session will look at a different liturgical ministry - what it is, why we do it, and how we do it:

- March 5 – Praying the Prayers of the People intercessors and all who pray with them
- March 12 – Gathering God's People: sides-persons and welcomers
- March 19 – Proclaiming Scripture in the Assembly: readers and hearers
- March 26 – Serving at the Altar: servers, altar guild, and lay administrators

Tuesday morning (9:30am) and evening (7pm) Bible studies continue. All are welcome to drop in anytime!

Chair of Discipleship (2022): Jeff McRae

Stewardship

Finances Please consider PAR(Pre-Authorized Remittance) as a tool to help you support your church financially. A call to the church office (613-824-2010) or an e-mail to office@sthelens.ca will help you to set that up or increase your giving for 2023.

Other Options: Use Canada Helps button on our website. Setting up your Will or making changes to it? See our Legacy Giving pamphlet, or ask one of the clergy, how to support the Church which has supported you! Read the Legacy Giving section of Stewardship on our website. Thank you if you have been able to be faithful in your financial donations, through PAR, Canada Helps or church envelopes.

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 (2022): Colin Taylor

Outreach

Many thanks to all for the very generous donations: 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!

March collection for the Foodbank: canned fruit

Simnel cake orders - The Simnel cake orders are going well; the cut-off date is March 15th with pick-up and payment in early April.

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.

Bells Corners Hollyer House Our contributions to the Bells Corners Hollyer House affordable housing project are going well. Hopefully our revised goal will be raised soon!

Chairs of Outreach (2022): Barb Porter & Sharon Tremaine

Community

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper a Great Success! Thanks to the hard work of many volunteers, the Shrove Tuesday Pancake supper was a huge success and over \$2,000 was raised to support the St. Margaret's Vanier Community Meal Program.



St. Helen's Art Fair



We have a full complement of artists for this year's fine Art Fair. All are returning artists with a host of new works of art that will complement and enhance your home's visual impact.

Our Facebook page has been linked to Instagram with a variety of hashtags to engage youth to attend the Young Artists Initiative program. The participating artists are quite enthused about this program so we hope for a good turnout.

Recruitment of the many volunteers needed to make the Fair a success will start in earnest next month. Last year, the artists very much welcomed the assistance of the volunteers.

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

Memorial Stones for Our Quiet Garden Throughout the Lenten season many of us reflect on loved ones whose earthly journey has ended. The memorial stones in our Quiet Garden can be a symbol of this reflection. We will be accepting requests for new memorial stones in this period leading up to Easter, with a view to blessing the newest stones in the season of Pentecost. If you would like to contribute to such a memorial, please visit on our website at <https://sthelens.ca/newsite3/st-helens-quiet-garden/> and follow the link to "Thanks for the Memories". You can make a prayerful contribution to enhance our church grounds as well as to perpetuate your memories.

What is the Pastoral Care Team?

In his ministry, Jesus was caring and showed compassion towards his people and their needs. All Christians, as his followers, similarly strive to show care and compassion to others, particularly to those experiencing sickness, loneliness, or bereavement. The Pastoral Care Team is a group of members of St. Helen's who are called to be a focus for pastoral care among us. They have received some training to prepare themselves for this ministry of care and compassion. They work as a team, meeting monthly for mutual support and in close cooperation with the clergy. Do you need someone to talk to? Do you know of circumstances in which the Pastoral Care Team could help? The Pastoral Care Team is here to respond. Please contact one of the clergy or the Co-ordinator, Maggie Lorimer. To request prayer support please e-mail either the church office at office@sthelens.ca or Maggie Lorimer directly at: mlorimer@rogers.com

The Ottawa Pastoral Care Training Program is offering a Continuing Education Event on Tuesday, April 18, 2023 from 7pm to 9pm via ZOOM. The session is called "Let's Talk About Families". For more information and how to register please visit ottawapastoralcare.com

Parish Council Membership, 2023

Elections, Appointments and Affirmations

- *Election: People's Warden (Council) Nomination – Jeff McRae
- *Election: Deputy Warden (Council) Nomination – Janet Hope
- *Election: Lay Member (1st year of 2, renewed) Synod (Council) Nomination – Shelly Yerburgh
- *Election: Lay Member (1st year of 2, renewed) Synod (Council) Nomination – Debbie Tweedle
- *Election: Alternate Lay Member (1 year) Nomination – Anne Clarke
- *Election: Chair of Discipleship and Member of Council – Audrey Lawrence
- *Election: Chair of Stewardship and Member of Council – deferred
- *Election: Co-Chair of Outreach and Member of Council – Barbara Porter
- *Election: Co-Chair of Outreach and Member of Council – Lisee Kiar
- *Election: Co-Chair of Community and Member of Council – Shelly Yerburgh
- *Election: Co-Chair of Community and Member of Council – Kevin Piccott

Affirmation: Lay Member (2nd year) Synod (Council) – Peter Humphries

Affirmation: Cemetery Board

Gwyn Nicholson
Earl Roberts
Ian Guthrie
William Taylor
Jim Clark

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

Appointment by Canon: Rhonda Waters, Chair of Worship and Member of Council

Appointment by Incumbent: Debbie Tweedle, Rector's Warden and Member of Council

Appointment by Wardens: Kim Jones, Treasurer and Member of Council, Financial Ministry

Appointment: Christopher Porter, Vestry Clerk for Parish Council

Affirmation of the following Ministries:

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: Peter Humphries, Choir Director

Affirmation: Derek Reid, Emmaus Music Director

Affirmation of Other Leadership Ministries:

- 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.

BDO was also again appointed as the accountants for the coming year.