



**The Vine November 2023**  
**St. Helen's Anglican Church**  
**1234 Prestone Drive, Orleans, Ontario K1E 3X6**  
**Email: [office@sthelens.ca](mailto:office@sthelens.ca) Web site: [sthelens.ca](http://sthelens.ca)**  
**Office: 613-824-2010**  
*Clergy: The Ven. Rhonda Waters*  
*The Rev John Holgate*

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

The Congregational Day, held on Saturday, Oct 28, brought over 30 parishioners together for a series of conversations about the ministry and mission of St. Helen's. We discussed what makes us strong and what needs to be strengthened as we seek to care for one another and support our growth as followers of Jesus. We discussed the nature of the community in which we sit and the ways in which we do or could reach out in love to our neighbours, near and far. It was a joy-filled day with lots of laughter and a wonderful sense of faith in God's presence with us, both now and in the future.

Working with our consultant, Janet Marshall, the steering committee has gathered up all the notes from the small group and plenary conversations and we will have more detailed reflections and plans to share in the months to come. In the meantime, however, I wanted to share a couple of observations from my vantage point at the back of the room.

First, it was a wonderfully mixed group. Participants included long, long, long time members of St. Helen's (and its two founding congregations) as well as people who have joined the parish only since COVID (including a good sampling of people who came from St. Mary the Virgin). There were varieties of countries of origin, varieties of households, varieties of liturgical preferences, varieties of parish engagement. This is a very good sign of parish health and will strengthen the resulting plan through the variety of voices.

Second, there was a strong theme of wanting to know one another better and build meaningful relationships of spiritual support. This, too, is a sign of parish health because it means we like each other enough to want to move beyond being busy together (which we already do very well!).

Third, there was a great deal of curiosity about the community around us and an openness to thinking creatively about how to be the church the community needs us to be at this particular time. We know we have gifts to share and we want to expand our ability to share them, be they material resources, money, space, friendship, or faith. Yet another sign of parish health!

To be clear – I was not surprised at the health of this parish. Saturday was an expression of the same spirit we see on Sunday mornings and at our various parish events. Our MAP process is taking place not because we are weak but because we are strong. We want to be intentional about putting our strength in God's hands so that it can be of true service to God and to God's people, both within and beyond our congregation.

*I am the vine and you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit because, apart from me, you can do nothing. You did not choose me, but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last.*

*John 15:5,16a*

## ***Worship***

- **Sunday, November 5 - All Saints Day - 8 & 10** Holy Eucharist and Baptisms at 10;
- **Sunday, November 12 - Remembrance Sunday - 8 & 10** Holy Eucharist;
- **Sunday, November 19 – 25<sup>th</sup> Day after Pentecost - 8 & 10** Holy Eucharist; and
- **Sunday, November 26 – Last Sunday in Pentecost / Reign of Christ - 8 & 10** Holy Eucharist.

**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** – Tuesday morning (9:30-11am) and evening (7-8:30pm) Bible studies. All are welcome to join, whether every week or once in a while.

**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: Audrey Lawrence

## ***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 [finance@sthelens.ca](mailto:finance@sthelens.ca) will help you to set that up or increase your giving for 2024.

**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.

**Property** Special thanks to Dan Boehner and Peter Garrahan who have continued to keep our property in good shape, with outside yard and inside repairs.

Chair of Stewardship: Allan Whetter

## ***Outreach***

**The Well** “Muffins Made with Love” for The Well’s Breakfast Program has now resumed. Please bring your muffins to the church on Sundays and place them in the freezer.

**Thank you** for your generous contributions to October's Outreach collection! Our collection for November remains the same as October + soups, tinned beans and pasta, preferably with added protein. And that we continue to welcome donations of tinned proteins such as tuna, chicken and beef. And, any, leftover Halloween candy could also be donated as a treat.

**November Collections** We are collecting for Belong Ottawa: please only new underwear, socks and mitts and gloves..

Chairs of Outreach: Lisee Kiar & Barb Porter

### ***Community***

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.

### ***Pastoral Care***

**Pastoral Care News** - The Pastoral Care Team at St. Helen's provides a listening ear to those among us who are facing illness, loneliness, or any other situation. The Prayer Chain Team upholds members of our parish and the community in prayer in times of need. Both ministries are important parts of one of our primary missions as a church: to care for those around us. Rev. John has assumed these responsibilities in the interim. To request a visit from the Pastoral Care team, please send an email to [pastoralcare@sthelens.ca](mailto:pastoralcare@sthelens.ca). To request prayers by the Prayer Chain team, please send an email to [prayerchain@sthelens.ca](mailto:prayerchain@sthelens.ca). Rev. John monitors both email boxes. Alternatively, you can always speak with either of our clergy: Rhonda or John.

**'Comfort Quilts'** made by the Sewing/Quilting group are available for anyone suffering illness or recovering from surgery etc. Please contact Judy Lutes and/or the clergy.

### **St. Helen's Christmas Bazaar November 4, 2023**

We would like to thank everyone for their participation in this year's bazaar. Many folks worked throughout the year, especially the craft group, making items that filled our table tops. Our parish has an abundance of talented sewers, knitters, crafters, quilters, and carpenters; all contributing their time and materials. At harvest time, parishioners transformed fruits and vegetables into jams, jellies, chutneys, pickles and more. Closer to the big 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.

Former parishioners of St. Mary the Virgin, Blackburn, once again, took orders for fresh foliage wreaths & frozen meat pies. Proceeds from these will go to Belong Ottawa.

Also, contributing to the recycling effort, Used Jewellery and Attic Treasures were once again a part of our Bazaar. Thanks to these Table Coordinators who arranged to so nicely display the many items that were contributed.

Our customers enjoyed visiting, chatting and partaking in the cakes, cookies and drinks available at Le Café. The youngsters had fun making crafts at the Children's Corner. Some of the behind-the-scenes efforts, which we are grateful for, were the Outdoor Sign coordinator, advertising coordinator, cashiers & 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 we had to offer. The excitement swelled as we gathered together in the Nave and our day was prayed over by Rhonda. Our total to date is over \$20,500. This includes Johanna's year-round sale of Infinity Scarves. There will still be a chance to shop as the remaining items are available for purchase during coffee hour after the services on November 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>.

As we look forward to 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!





*Bazaar Coordinators:*

Helen Giroux ([hlgiroux@rogers.com](mailto:hlgiroux@rogers.com)) & Sandra Clark ([sandraleeclark@hotmail.com](mailto:sandraleeclark@hotmail.com))

Co-Chairs of Community: Shelly Yerburgh & Kevin Piccott

### **Mark Your Calendars - Fall 2023 Events**

- Nov. 4 - St. Helen's Christmas Bazaar
- Nov. 10 - Games Night
- Nov. 13 - Parish Turkey Luncheon
- Dec. 3 - Diocesan Youth Event at St. Helen's
- Dec. 9 - Advent Quiet Day
- Dec. 10 - Episcopal Visit
- Dec. 17 - Christmas Stories and Songs
- Dec. 20 - Blue Christmas