



The Vine **JUNE 2024**

1234 Prestone Drive, Orleans, Ontario K1E 3X6

E-mail address: office@sthelens.ca

Web site: sthelens.ca

Office: 613-824-2010

Clergy: The Ven. Rhonda Waters

The Rev John Holgate

The Rev Jonathan Askwith

Wardens: Debbie Tweedle and Colin Taylor

Deputy Warden: Janet Hope

Welcome to the Rev. Jonathan Askwith



The Rev. Jonathan Askwith joined St. Helen's as our interim Associate Incumbent of St. Helen's at the end of last month and we are very excited to have him with us!

Jonathan was born and grew up in Ottawa; the church he attended growing up was St Thomas', Alta Vista. He has a B.A. in General Arts from the University of Ottawa, and an M.Div. from Huron University (then Huron University College).

Jonathan served as assistant curate at Christ Church Bells Corners, incumbent of the Parish of Maberly-Lanark, which was at the time in a ministry partnership with the Parish of Parham-Sharbot Lake in the Diocese of Ontario, and most recently as associate incumbent of the Area Parish of Mississippi Lake. He has also served as an interim priest-in-charge a couple of times in between appointments.

Jonathan enjoys reading (mostly non-fiction), board games, and spending time with family.

Farewell from the Rev. John Holgate



My time with you here at St. Helen's begins to become short as I prepare to move to St. James' Church in Manotick. It seems like this is a good opportunity to reflect a bit.

First, thank you to Archdeacon Rhonda for graciously accepting me as an untested Assistant Curate. And thank you all for welcoming me and my family into the St. Helen's community, unofficially back in

November of 2022, officially in January of 2023, as the pandemic was slowly winding down. Once again, I had to learn to recognize people by looking at their eyes, since masks were still required. That seems like ages ago, but it's only 18 months or so. Much has happened since.

I know that my wife Monika feels privileged to have had the opportunity to provide musical support during a few services. I too am privileged to have met with many of you and to have heard some of your stories, including those of triumph and those of trouble. I am privileged as well to have facilitated the study of Scripture, explored the nature of prayer, facilitated the Pastoral Care team, led worship, and administered the sacraments among you.

As my first parish placement after my ordination as a deacon and as the site for my ordination as a priest, St. Helen's will always stand out in my memory as a place with strong spiritual and pastoral grounding that generously guided and nurtured me in my first steps.

I won't thank people by name here but will leave that until my last Sunday with you, July 28.

My prayer for the St. Helen's community is that it will continue to grow and mature in its faith and ministry in ways that are even greater than we can ask or imagine.

News from the Wardens and Finance teams

The Wardens and Treasurer attended the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa (ADO) Learning Commons Sessions on Property and Finances, and Governance, Safe Church and Employment to help us perform our duties and ensure that we are able to support the congregation, our Treasurer and our Clergy.

2023/24 Games Nights

This past year has been our first year holding regular monthly games nights (2nd Friday of the month at 7:00pm).

We have had many laughs and a great time getting to know each other. Each month, there are some regulars and some first-timers so it's easy to jump in and join the fun.

We have numerous types of games available each night - everything from Scrabble and cribbage to giant Jenga and virtual reality headsets to charades to obscure board games! Thanks to all who have donated games to the church and to all who bring games to share each night. The snacks are also on point, thanks to folks bringing their favourite game night treats like licorice, chips, cookies, and pretzels.

We will start up again in the fall. All ages are welcomed. Come along for a relaxing evening of fun and fellowship.

New Social Drop-in Social

Our first Drop-in Social was well attended with cards, cribbage, Uno, good old conversation with friends accompanied by tea, coffee and of course cookies! A welcome addition to other programs. Don't miss the next one on Monday, June 17th from 1-3 pm!

The Big Give Gardening Giveaway



On June 1st, St Helen's participated in The Big Give, a national outreach event that includes churches of all denominations to provide free events for the community.

For the second year, we held a Gardening Giveaway. With the help of ten volunteers, hundreds of plants, lots of neighbours and cookies, we had a successful morning talking about plants and gardening. The plants disappeared quickly but lots of great discussions took place in the process.

Thank you to our volunteers, the many people who provided plants and those who baked cookies. What a great way to connect with our neighbours from the community.



Inuktitut Bibles

A donation has been made to supply 10 Inuktitut Bibles to St. Margaret's Anglican Church to support their ministry there. This has been made from the Community Partnerships budget. These new editions are a complete revision of the Old and New Testaments and include a larger font size. St. Margaret's Inuit congregation is a distinctive urban Indigenous faith community located in Vanier. We are happy to continue to provide some support to them.

St. Helen's Art Fair 2024 Wrap-up



While the attendance appeared to be lower than in previous years, there was a substantial contribution still able to be made to the relief of flood victims in Pakistan of \$1,155 (pending HST adjustments). Ten of the 15 participating artists took home a total of \$2,000 representing the sale of 30 pieces of fine art.



Many thanks go to the team of volunteers who, over the course of three days, assembled the display stations on Thursday, assisted the artists and guests on Friday and Saturday and disassembled and cleaned up Trinity Hall following the Fair:

David J, Peter G, Chris

P, David H, Murray H, Brian R, Derek r, Kim J, Louise G, Lisee K, Bev H, Aldyth H, Patricia C, Lynn G, Alex S-H, and Shane T. A very special thanks to Brianna M-G for her work with me throughout the year in maintaining the sthelenartfair.ca website.

Even though not every artist was successful in selling some art, many positive comments were received:

"I thoroughly enjoyed the day and have put next year's date in my calendar. As usual, you and your team did a great job

organizing the event” Jane C.

“It was a pleasure participating in this event again this year. You did a wonderful job coordinating this event and your team was very pleasant and efficient!” Joanne L.

“I enjoyed my day at the Fair, happy to participate at your fundraising. Hope next year we will have more.” Hélène L.

“It was a pleasure!” André M.

In keeping with holding the Art Fair on the last weekend of May, Saturday, May 31st has been reserved for the Fair in 2025.

Rentals

Under Joanne’s supervision, our rental program has blossomed with an increase in special event rentals as well as a number of new recurring rental agreements scheduled to start in September. It is wonderful to see so many people enjoying our beautiful building!

Community Partnership Collections

June collection for the Foodbank

Breakfast cereals, canned fruit and Saltines/crackers

Cornerstone Housing for Women

They have just moved the women’s shelter and we are collecting women’s underwear in all sizes for May and June.

Vacation Schedules

The Ven. Rhonda Waters will be taking study leave and vacation from June 16th, returning July 26th.

The Rev. John Holgate will be off from June 29th and back for his last day at St. Helen’s on July 28th.

The Rev. Jonathan Askwith will be off from July 25th until August 29th.

Joanne Henderson will be off June 19th and 20th, August 5th, 7th and 8th.