



The Vine
March 2024 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

from the Ven Rhonda Waters

In my Charge to Vestry this year, I presented a mission statement that grew out of our Mission Action Plan process – and then I promptly changed it. Here is what I said:

This is the mission statement as circulated in our vestry package:

***To proclaim in word and deed the good news of God in Christ and
support one another in growing in faith as disciples of Jesus.***

Even though I was the one who strung these particular words together, something about them has always felt a bit off to me – and it wasn't until I was writing this Charge (well after the MAP document was finalized by parish council) that I realized what that was.

It's not the first part – the outward facing proclamation in word and deed of the good news of God in Christ, language which comes directly from our baptismal promises and which picks up Christ's own mission as our own. That part is strong and clear and is undeniably central to who we are and what we do.

It's that second part – the inward part of supporting one another. It's not that support one another is *bad*. It's good, in fact, and we should definitely do that.

But I want us to do more than *support* one another to grow in faith as disciples of Jesus. I want us to *encourage* one another; *exhort* one another; *equip* one another; *challenge* one another. I want St. Helen's to be a church where people's lives are changed not simply because they find a loving and welcoming community in the name of Christ but because they encounter a compelling and exciting call to follow Jesus in his way of radical love, forgiveness, and inclusion.

And really, fully following Jesus in this way requires something more active than support – something with some teeth, with some vigor, with some drive. Growing as disciples requires going beyond what we want to do anyways – as Jesus told us just this morning it requires carrying the cross, facing judgement and rejection and death - and so we need our church to be a place of exhortation and equipping and challenging, as well as a place of care and support.

And so I am offering an amended version of the mission statement, which I hope we will adopt in just a little while:

***To proclaim in word and deed the good news of God in Christ and
equip one another to grow in faith as disciples of Jesus.***

I am confident that we have been given everything we need for the work that is ahead of us – material resources, the talents and spiritual gifts of our members, a mission field that is eager for the good news, the steadfast presence of God, the life of our Risen Lord, and the leadership of the Spirit. Thanks be to God!



Worship: The Season of Lent

March 3 Lent 3 Sunday: 8:00 am & 10 am – Holy Eucharist

March 10 Lent 4 Sunday: 8:00 am & 10 am – Holy Eucharist

March 17 Lent 5 Sunday: 8:00 am & 10 am – Holy Eucharist

March 24 Palm Sunday: 8:00 am & 10 am – Holy Eucharist

HOLY WEEK & EASTER SCHEDULE

- March 24 - Palm Sunday 8:00am & 10:00am - Holy Eucharist
- March 25 - 7:00pm - sung service at St. Mary the Virgin Church, 2750 Navan Road
- March 26 - 7:00pm - said service at St. Helen's
- March 27 - 7:00pm – sung service at St. Helen's-
- March 28 – 6:30pm – Soup supper with Foot Washing and Holy Eucharist
- March 29- Good Friday 10:00am - Children's Story
12:00pm - Solemn Liturgy of Good Friday
- March 30 - 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
- March 31 - 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 15th).

Discipleship

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

Property

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 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.

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 Allen Whetter at allan.whetter@gmail.com for this great opportunity.

Chair of Property (2024): Allan Whetter

Community Partnership

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 tomatoes, canned tomato paste and canned fruit

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 Community Partnership (2024): Barb Porter & Lisee Kiar

Parish Life

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 about \$1300 was raised to support the St. Helen's Pastoral Discretionary Fund.



St. Helen's Art Fair



The 2024 edition of the Art Fair will be held Saturday June 1st. Invitations have been sent out to 40+ artists and six new artists have also expressed interest in participating. We may now have to expand beyond Trinity Hall. A couple of new initiatives are being discussed to add to the Fair and further details will follow in the coming weeks and months. Thank you for your previous support and we very much look forward to another successful event this coming year!

Brian Glenn, Art Fair 2024 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 Rev. John Holgate. To request prayer support please e-mail either the church office at office@sthelens.ca or John directly at: john@sthelens.ca

Space at St. Helen's

We said we wanted more people to use our beautiful building. Please let Joanne know (office@sthelens.ca) if you have any planned meetings or events. Send all the details – date, time (including setup and cleanup), which part of the church will be used and the name of the person responsible with the key and access code.

Mark Your Calendars!

March 8 – Games Night
March 10 – Healing Service (4pm)
March 16 – Painting Workshop (1-4 pm)

Easter Chicks and Bunnies with Jelly Beans

Stock up for Easter morning! The Craft Group's adorable creations are available on Sundays March 10, 17 and 24. \$4 each or 3 for \$10.

Parish Council Membership, 2024

Elections, Appointments and Affirmations

- *Election: People's Warden (Council) Nomination – Colin Taylor
- *Election: Deputy Warden (Council) Nomination – Janet Hope
- *Election: Lay Member (1st year of 2, renewed) Synod (Council) Nomination – Rebecca Muth
- *Election: Alternate Lay Member (1 year) Nomination – Jean Lockett
- Chair of Discipleship and Member of Council – Audrey Lawrence
- *Election: Chair of Property and Member of Council – Allan Whetter
- *Election: Co-Chair of Community Partnership and Member of Council – Barbara Porter
- *Election: Co-Chair of Community Partnership and Member of Council – Lisee Kiar
- *Election: Co-Chair of Parish Life and Member of Council – Melissa Humphries
- *Election: Co-Chair of Parish Life and Member of Council – Catherine Cromey

Affirmation: Lay Member (2nd year) Synod (Council) – Shelly Yerburch and Debbie Tweedle

Affirmation: Cemetery Board

Don Saunders (Council Rep)

\ Gwyn Nicholson

Ian Guthrie

William Taylor

Jim Clark

Brian Glenn

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: John Holgate, Co-Chair of Worship and Member of Council

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

Appointment by Wardens: Louise Garrahan, 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: Joanne Henderson, Parish Administrator

Affirmation: Derek Reid, A/V Technology

Affirmation: John Holgate, Pastoral Care Team and Prayer Chain Co-ordinator

Affirmation: Carl Bear, Director of Music Director

Affirmation of Other Leadership Ministries:

- Our Financial Ministries team, all who support our worship services, 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.