

Vestry Report 2024

Reporting Decisions and Activity during 2023



There were seven baptisms at St. Margaret's Vanier in 2023.



St. Margaret's Anglican Church

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PO Box 79048 Vanier Post Office, Ottawa, ON K1L 1A1
office@stmargaretsvanier.ca
613 746 8815



Contents

3	Proposed Agenda, 2024 Vestry
3	Minutes, 2023 Vestry
6	Financial Report for 2023 and Budget 2024
8	Parish Records, 2023
9	Incumbent's Report
10	Associate Incumbent's Report
12	Churchwardens' Report
13	Synod Report
14	Activity Reports



Above — Donna Mah and Irene Tagoona at our first St. Margaret's Day party

Left — Carolyn Malek made this new hanging for Ordinary Time

Proposed Agenda, 2024 Vestry

1. Welcome
 - Land acknowledgement
 - Opening Prayers
2. Housekeeping
 - Roll Call
 - Instructions for voting
3. Appointment of Vestry Clerk
4. Acceptance of Minutes from 2023 Vestry Meeting
5. Incumbent's Report
6. Financial Report on Year 2023
 - Review and discussion
 - Adoption of 2024 budget
8. Nominations, Appointments and Elections
 - Appointments by the Incumbent
 - Nomination of Churchwarden and Deputy Churchwardens
 - Nomination of Lay Members of Synod
 - Nomination of Parish Council Members
 - Election of auditor for 2024
9. Acceptance of reports in 2024 Vestry Report
10. Thanks and announcements
11. Adjournment



Malcolm McEwen shares many talents with us.

Minutes, 2023 Vestry

*February 26, 2023, St. Margaret's Hall and via Zoom
Chair: The Rev. Colin McFarland*

The meeting started with an acknowledgement that it was taking place on unceded territory of the Algonquin people followed by prayers for the meeting delivered by parish clergy in Inuktitut and English.

Housekeeping

The Vestry Declaration was read aloud and affirmed by those present.

I solemnly declare that: I am a member of this congregation of the Anglican Church of Canada; 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 contributions to its maintenance.

Affirmed by 16 persons in attendance in the hall and three online

Appointment of the Vestry Clerk

Motion: That Jane Waterston be appointed Vestry Clerk for this St Margaret's Vanier parish Vestry 2023. The Vestry Clerk shall be responsible for recording the Minutes of this meeting and submitting them to St Margaret's Vanier Corporation for approval and inclusion in the St Margaret's Vanier parish Vestry Report for 2023.

*Moved by: Bernie Delmaire; seconded by: Deborah Tagornak.
Passed (All in favour)*

Acceptance of Minutes and Agenda

The chair asked if any omissions were noted or changes needed in the 2022 minutes included in the annual Vestry Report, which has been circulating for a week. None were raised.

Motion: That the minutes of the 2022 vestry meeting and proposed agenda for the 2023 meeting be approved as presented in the Vestry Report.

*Moved by: Bernie Delmaire; seconded by: Vera Etches. Passed
(All in favour)*

Incumbent's Report

The Rev. Colin McFarland noted that his report for 2022 is included in the Vestry report. He wanted, in person, to elaborate on the last paragraph which poses the questions: Where are we going, what are we doing? What do we feel called to be?

Who, he asked, is "we"?

He noted that the incumbent and associate incumbent are not parishioners. They are here to help the people, to bring pastoral vision forward and assist the people to do things in a prayerful way. They are priests of the diocese.

He challenged the people of St. Margaret's to use 2023 to get together, think together and find solutions together. This can happen by meeting up during coffee hour and the community lunch, at gospel-based discipleship (GBD) sessions and parish council meetings. May everyone step forward in an intentional way and (re)discover who WE are.

Financial Report 2022

Churchwarden Bernie Delmaire told Vestry that the review by Kelly Huibers McNeely chartered accountants of parish accounts for 2021, undertaken after the last vestry meeting, confirmed the parish's financial records and results raised no red flags and were in accordance with standards for non-profit organizations.

He also reported that the financial review for 2022 was this year completed in time to inform Vestry that there was the same result: Kelly Huibers McNeely chartered accountants confirm financial records and results for 2022 raised no concerns and are again in accordance with standards for non-profit organizations.

The auditors' reports for both years will be on file in the parish office, should vestry members wish to see them.

Highlights of 2022 statement of revenue and expense

Bernie Delmaire summarized the highlights of income and expenses for 2022, circulated in advance of the meeting in the Vestry Report.

These include:

- a year end 2022 surplus of \$12,119. This compares to a 2021 shortfall of \$33,459 and means the deficit (\$55,600) in the budget passed last year did not come to pass. The surplus is largely due to a very significant increase in offerings in November and December, and to donations for the Christmas feast being received in December, where in some years it comes in January.
- non-receipted gifts (donations on the offering plate, for the most part) were over \$5,000, double the 2021 level.
- support for Inuit ministry at \$26,000 was very high, with significant contributions from St. Bartholomew's parish, the Anglican Foundation and the diocesan Healing and Reconciliation fund.
- HST refunds (\$9,500) were high, including a catch-up payment claimed by treasurer Gilles Vezina at the end of 2021, and a reimbursement of HST paid on the roofing project.
- withdrawal from the Consolidated Trust Fund (\$131,000) and spending on the new roof (rounded off at \$115,000) do not appear on the financial report and budget chart in the vestry report because they distort the picture of parish operations.
- parking lot revenue has declined severely and poses a challenge. Indigo is seeking monthly contracts but having little luck.
- the cost of some ministries increased during the year, mostly due to increased salaries and unnegotiable increases in diocesan managed costs. The parish administrator salary (\$12,000) is now paid through the diocese. At the parish level, office costs were tightly controlled and decreased by 16% over 2021.
- utilities costs increased by \$1100, mostly due to heating expenses.
- thanks to Caryl Crichton, Neil Forsyth, Carolyn Malek and Colin Ritchie for their assistance through the year.
- the task of hiring a treasurer will be a priority for the new corporation.

Budget 2023

Bernie Delmaire reviewed the budget proposed for 2023, already studied by parish council.

Highlights include:

- a major drop is expected in gifts from registered charities because grants received in 2022 were one-time only.

- gifts to Inuit ministries are also reduced because income for the 2022 feast was received in 2022.
- increase in rental income is expected because of our new rental policy and rates.
- church building expenses are going up because of projects deferred in 2022: new garbage bins, restoring defective door knobs, piano tuning, handrails in the church, window and brickwork repair.
- ministry expense increases reflect music program costs, Sunday community meal and Inuit feast needing support from our budget.
- office expense includes new spending on a parish treasurer (\$250/month) since no volunteer has stepped forward.
- a deficit of \$21,600 is expected in December 2023.

Comments from the floor included:

- the search for a new treasurer included consultation with the diocesan HR director and an unfruitful overture to other parishes in the deanery to see if their treasurers might help us out.
- if compensation for a nursery coordinator is required, we do not need to wait until 2024.
- the budget includes the cost of janitorial services on Saturday afternoons and Sunday evenings.
- Corporation undertakes to hire a new treasurer this spring. Corporation will review Internet expenses to make sure they are reasonable.

Motion: That the parish budget for 2023 be approved as presented in the Vestry Report.

Moved by: Bernie Delmaire; seconded by: Linda Perrier. Passed (All in favour)

Appointments and Nominations for 2023

The Reverend Colin McFarland reviewed the results of efforts to recruit volunteers for positions on the parish Corporation and Parish Council in the coming year.

Churchwarden (Appointed)

Jane Waterston is appointed by the Incumbent and Associate Incumbent as Churchwarden (Rector's Warden)

Churchwarden and Deputy Churchwardens (Nominated)

Malcolm McEwen, Churchwarden (People's Warden)

Amy Lightfoot (Deputy People's Warden)

Carolyn Malek (Deputy Rector's Warden)

Lay Members of Synod

Jeannie Manning

Jane Waterston

Catherine Keresztesi (Alternate)

Parish Council Members

Bernie Delmaire, Jane Gibson, Donn Hope, Jeannie Manning, Joan Marshman,, Colin Ritchie, Irene Tagoona

The position of Treasurer is still open, there being no volunteer from the congregation.

Comments from the floor included:

- Jane Gibson, who worked with Donna Mah through the fall on seeking volunteers for the positions above, explained the methodology they followed (many phone calls and emails, announcements at the end of services, and regular reports to parish council). She invited comments.
- Jane Gibson suggests the parish list be reviewed and updated.

- Deborah Tagornak asked if council represents both congregations and was assured that indeed there is one council and one corporation for the whole parish. The 11:30 congregation is welcome to meet together and bring issues to churchwardens and parish council. It is important that hopes and dreams and proposed solutions come to council, which can take them into account when considering programs and budgets. The core volunteers in the 11:30 congregation who support Aigah can continue their work, indeed it would be good for the group to start preparing for future support of Inuit ministry. Deborah would like to see documentation of the group's structure.

- Colin acknowledges that although there were two emails, follow up phone calls and a Sunday discussion of what Vestry does and how the parish is organized, these procedures have not been sufficient for everyone to be aware of the process and the nominations. Deborah Tagornak suggests the conversation and search continue and that bios of parish leaders be put on paper.

- Jeannie Manning agrees there were efforts to reach the community, which is always difficult.

- Vera Etches wonders if we could identify additional instruments for organizing. For example, can Council engage before each meeting, letting people know what is coming up for discussion.

- Jane and Donna did a great job, and if Council takes note of and follows energy in the parish things will continue to improve.

Motion: That the slate of appointments and nominees for 2023 be approved as presented,

Moved by: Jane Gibson; seconded by: Donna Mah. Passed (All in favour)

Election of Auditor for 2023

Motion: That Kelly Huibers McNeely chartered accountants review our finances in and for 2023.

Moved by: Bernie Delmaire; seconded by: Carolyn Malek. Passed (All in favour)

Thanks for contributions in 2022

Churchwardens & Deputy Churchwarden Bernie Delmaire (People's Warden), Cat Keresztesi (Rector's Warden), Donna Mah (Deputy Churchwarden)

Lay Members of Synod Jeannie Manning, Jane Waterston

Parish Council Joan Marshman & Jeannie Manning (Co-chairs), Jane Waterston (Secretary), Jane Gibson & Donna Mah (Nominations Committee), Jane Waterston & Edward Logan (Stewardship Committee), Irene Tagoona

Treasurer Gilles Vezina

Employee Caryl Crichton (Parish Administrator and Bookkeeper)

Contractors Francine Brisebois (Organist and Choral Conductor), Maureen Hutchinson (Organist), Donn Hope (Groundskeeper)

Jeni Plouffe (Community Host), Mealia Sheutiapik (Kitchen Support Worker)

Altar Guild Leslie McGillvray, Mireille Desmarais, Georgie Côté Christopher

Choristers, Cantors, Instrumentalists Cat Keresztesi, Malcolm McEwen, Jane McIntosh, Akua Akan, Caryl Crichton, Elaine Forsyth, Jane Gibson, Edward Logan, Donna Mah, Jane Waterston

Greeters Doug Ainslie, Bernie Delmaire, David Erkloo, Donn Hope, Karen Hope, Amy Lightfoot, Carolyn Malek Linda Perrier, Colin Ritchie, Cynthia Robinson

Readers Akua Akan, John Angnaluak, The Very Rev. Roger Briggs, Bernie Delmaire, Dora Delmaire, Margaret Hilborn, Donn Hope, Asenath Kannutaq, Cat Keresztesi, Donna Mah, Jeannie Manning, Charmaine Roye, Irene Tagoona, Deborah Taguraaq, Jane Waterston

Intercessors Mireille Desmarais, Sareena Hopkins, The Rev. Deacon Christine Jannasch, Asenath Kannutaq, Cat Keresztesi, Malcolm McEwen

Communion Assistants Margaret Hilborn, The Rev. Deacon Christine Jannash, Leslie McGillvray

Zoom Kent Bonsma-Fisher, Cat Keresztesi, Malcolm McEwen

Counters Neil Forsyth, Carolyn Malek, Colin Ritchie

Sunday Children's Ministry Vera Etches, Ed Logan, Jane Waterston, James, Luke, Annabella, Terry, Alasie, Droms

Sunday Community Meal Team John Angnaluak, The Rev. Canon Aigah Attagutsiak, Bernie Delmaire, Jeni Plouffe, Mealia Sheutiapik

Partage Vanier Donations Coordinator Margaret Hilborn

Pastoral Visitation Margaret Hilborn, Linda Ritchie

Honorary Assistants The Very Rev. Roger Briggs, The Rev. Deacon Christine Jannasch

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned with saying of The Grace.



Community Meal, September 2023

Financial Report for 2023 and 2024 Budget*

REVENUE

REVENUE		Budget 2023	Actual 2023	BUDGET 2024
4000	Tax Received Gifts			
4010	English and Inuit Offerings Received	134800	141830	141830
4011	Memorial Donations	0	0	0
4020	Other Donations Received	100	718	409
	TOTAL Tax Received Gifts	134900	142548	142239
4100	Non Received Gifts			
4110	English non-receipted	900	1577	1577
4120	Inuit non-receipted	4600	5507	5506
	TOTAL Non Received Gifts	5500	7084	7083
4200	Gifts from Registered Charities	14000	6438	8934
4300	Support to Inuit Ministry	17000	8580	11359
4400	Other Income			
4410	CTF - Interest and Dividends	60200	59881	60041
4411	Bank - Interest and Cashback	0	0	0
4430	Parking Lot	1600	4386	4813
4440	Sale of assets	0	0	0
4420	Hall Rentals	13100	19325	21275
	TOTAL Other Income	74900	83592	86129
4500	Ministry Revenue			
		0	0	0
4530	Celebrations of life/marriage/baptism	1400	540	970
4540	Other Ministry Revenue incl Fundraisers	200	658	429
	TOTAL Ministry Revenue	1600	1198	1399
TOTAL Revenue		247,900	249,440	257,143

* This budget is being proposed by Corporation at the pre-Vestry budget meeting on Feb. 20. An amended version may be brought forward for approval on Feb. 25.

EXPENSE

		Actual 2023	BUDGET 2024	% change
5000	The Church Building			
5010	Maintenance, Repairs Montreal Rd	9453	11000	16%
5011	Maintenance - Wages	1256	1313	4%
5012	Maintenance - Supplies	1254	1550	24%
5020	Snow Removal	6515	5615	-14%
5030	Janitorial	10801	11609	7%
5031	Janitorial - Wages	0	0	
5032	Janitorial - Supplies	2876	2108	-27%
5040	Utilities	8139	8343	3%
	TOTAL The Church Building	40294	41538	
5100	Ministry Expenses paid through Diocese			
5110	Equalization payment (ECOPS)	123327	118026	-4%
5130	Insurance Premium	7685	7095	-8%
5140	Fair Share	34234	29440	-14%
	Parish Administrator	6613	8816	33%
	TOTAL Ministry Expenses paid through Diocese	171859	163377	
5200	Ministry Expenses			
5210	Music Program (including organist)	18134	20140	11%
5220	Sunday Community Meal	9055	11680	29%
5230	Transportation	0	600	
5240	Inuit ministry	4129	10700	159%
5250	Community Outreach	0	0	
5260	Education and training	1191	1191	
5270	Other Ministry Expenses	2795	2437	-13%
	TOTAL Ministry Expenses	35304	46748	
5300	Office Expenses			
5310	Telephone and internet	4034	4286	6%
5320	Communications	1655	1820	10%
5330	Admin/Bookkeeping	1167	3168	172%
5340	Professional fees (auditor)	4607	5600	22%
5350	Other office expenses	3585	3693	3%
5360	Security	804	590	-27%
	TOTAL Office Expenses	15852	19157	
5510	HST paid	2344	2939	25%
5600	Interest and bank charges	919	890	-3%
	TOTAL Expense	266,572	274,649	3%
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)		-17,132	-17,506	

Parish Records, 2023

BAPTISMS: 7

Avianna Nirna Ammaq
Nathan Daniel Apak
Shawn Apak
Ashoona Tim Curley
Akumalik Qavavauq Komangapik
Alasie Cynthia Pia Ningook
Neevee Simiga Ottokie

CONFIRMATIONS: 4

David Erkloo
Karen Ijjangiaq-Hope
Ruth Kadlutsiak
Daniel McLean

REAFFIRMATIONS: 6

Madeline Atagootak
Donn Hope
Asenath Kannutaq
Aglak Pettypiece
Irene Tagoona
Deborah Tagurmaa

MARRIAGES: 0

FUNERALS, BURIALS AND MEMORIALS: 8

André Ernest Giroux
Edward Arthur Guilbeault
Morty Iqqagsuiq
Malachi Kigutaq
Denise Legere
Solomon Simeonie
Zachary Tiglik
Eric Tungalik



Young People program outing to a waterway near Wakefield, Fall 2023

Incumbent's Report

The Reverend Colin McFarland

In March of 2023, The Rev. Canon Aigah and I sat together in the nave of a church next to the Garden of Gethsemane on the Mount of Olives. Only three weeks had passed since the last meeting of this Vestry. After some time to ourselves in this remarkably powerful place of prayer, Aigah said to me "Let's pray for our church – for everyone at St. Margaret's." And we did. I don't remember the words we spoke, but I remember the 'heart' of our prayers for you and for one another – for the beautiful ways Jesus' ministry has and will continue to take shape in you, personally and in your parish life together. I'm so thankful for that prayer experience.

Within one week of our return to Ottawa, Aigah and I celebrated three baptisms with you on Easter day; in June our bishop presided at our National Indigenous Day of Prayer services, confirming in four of you, and re-affirming in six others, the gifts and empowerment of the Holy Spirit to live out vocations as baptised people – disciples of the way of Jesus in this parish, our city and the world.

The Spirit's presence is evident in the creativity and energy I see you giving to spend time together: the Easter and Christmas Inuit feasts and games; the choir's year-end BBQ and swim; celebrating Nunavut Day, the potluck suppers around poetry, scripture, and travelling experiences; outings to Éco-Odyssée, Calypso, and the National Gallery of Canada; starting a tradition of community gatherings on the commemoration St. Margaret of Scotland and rebooting Shrove Tuesday!

Sundays at St. Margaret's are a genuine manifestation of how the Spirit of Jesus is calling us into a life of worship, fellowship, prayer, and pastoral care. From 8am to 3pm the church comes alive in all its fullness: the smell of sauteed vegetables and soup stocks; the arrival of the early-bird



parishioners from New Edinburgh Square and beyond for conversation over coffee; the preparations of the altar guild and musicians for worship; the arrival of our community host and the neighbours in search of a peaceful and respectful place to rest; the children and youth for lessons and activities; Inuit parishioners, travellers and sojourners for whom language, relatives, and country food feed the soul as well as the stomach; and the choir arriving during the Sunday community meal to begin singing

in the church in preparation for holy days. It's a beautiful thing to witness every week.

You are an extraordinary parish church – a place of "knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God..." (2 Cor. 6:6-7). You are generous givers. You are well served by one another thanks to the hard-working faithfulness of your churchwardens, council members, lay members of synod, and many others who dedicate the best of their energies and – most precious of all – their time to manage the routine demands of the property, finances, and human skills required to operate a parish ministry in Vanier.

Jesus tells his followers, "Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much..." (Lk. 16:10). I am convinced that your capacity to do big things as a parish and your growth in maturity as ministers of Jesus corresponds directly to your faithfulness in showing up for one another in the little things. I can't say this better than St. Paul did, so I'll say it as he does: keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in Jesus, and the God of peace will be with you (Phil. 4:9).

With you in prayer and loving service.

Colin+

Incumbent Priest,
Parish of St. Margaret's Vanier



St. Margaret's clergy on a pilgrimage, March 2023



St. Margaret's Day potluck, November 2023

Every year I'm so grateful for all the volunteers at our Inuktitut church service, for all the readers in both languages and greeters. Now we have Eucharist assistants and people to lead Prayers of the People in Inuktitut service. Thanks to our readers and greeters to Deborah Tagurnaag, Asenath Kannutaq, David Erkoo, Irene Tagoona, Madeline Atagootak, Jukeepa Hainnu, Donn Hope, Karen Hope, Bernie Dalmaire, Dora Delmaire, John Angaluak, Jeannie Kanayuq. They all help me to know who's doing what for every coming Sunday at our regular planning meeting.

I also very grateful for the Sunday Community Meal led by the Inuit congregation for the past two years since the pandemic. I thank Bernie Dalmaire, John Angaluak, Brie Shatraw, and Kayla Spangnoli (and others) for the untiring job in the kitchen and hall.

The celebration of Easter party in April was great to both congregations. Everyone had fun to get together with games and get to know each other was the best part. In November and December we had fun practicing the square dance led by Jeannie Kanayuq with Jimmy Awa Inuk who plays with piano.

It was hard for me last year personally because of my sister Malachi's sudden death in October and my precious mother's passing only two months later in December. I would like to thank each and every one of you for being so thoughtful to pray for me and for all of us families everywhere who sent me sympathy cards. It was hard and is still hard sometimes, but knowing we have Jesus who

carries us when we struggle helps me to keep going and to do our job in this world. My mother told me wise words to work together, cause we cannot do anything by ourselves but to work and help together; that's what we are doing at our church in our Vanier community and I'm so grateful for that. Let's keep doing that for our church community in Vanier.

I really would like to thank The Rev. Colin McFarland who did an awesome job while I was away and when I had struggle losing close family member and taking care of one another us family before Christmas. He did an untiring job for both services for the past few months plus he looked after Inuit Christmas Party and everything. Thank you everyone who helped him during those difficult times.

In addition to parish work I do a lot of work as a priest and Inuk elder with the Ottawa Police Service's Community Equity Council meeting every month. I also am actively involved in the Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition, and support many government and non-government groups with ceremonial lighting of the Qulliq, teaching Inuit culture and values. A large part of my monthly work is responding to pastoral calls from Inuit patients at Ottawa hospitals.

With you in prayer and loving service.

Aigah +

Associate Incumbent Priest,
Parish of St. Margaret's Vanier



Bishop Shane was with us to help with confirmations and reaffirmations and baptisms at Pentecost.

Churchwardens' Report

Malcolm McEwen, People's Warden and Jane Waterston, Rector's Warden

It was our privilege in 2023 to work closely with the Rev. Colin McFarland as the parish corporation, holding responsibility for and being involved in all aspects of life, property and prospects for St. Margaret's Vanier. No issue too small, no idea too big. What follows is our view of the year's high points.

Corporation and Council

It was truly an excellent year for parish leadership. The work of Corporation was assisted, in particular, by four faithful and creative assistants: the Rev. Canon Aigah Attagutsiak, who was present at almost all our meetings; deputy wardens Carolyn Malek and Amy Lightfoot, who were invaluable sources of energy and ideas, and our quick and able property manager Bernie Delmaire, who puts in so many hours and is not one to complain.

All of the above are also members of Parish Council, where many good things happened in 2023. To learn about them, you should take a look at the minutes which are posted shortly after each meeting on the bulletin board in the southeast corner of the church hall. Both congregations were ably represented in 2023, with Jeannie Manning and Joan Marshman serving collaboratively as co-chairs, a brilliant step forward for our reconciliation ministry. We appreciate and thank all those who served on council in 2023, some of you for the first time but all of you effectively, and warmly invite you all to continue to take a seat at the table.

Finance and Administration

In 2023, we contracted a treasurer and a bookkeeper to make sure our finances are well and steadily managed in the absence of a volunteer treasurer. Aisha and Steffi have settled in to their contracted roles and are working respectfully and well with the Rev. Colin and our volunteer team of counters: Neil Forsyth, Carolyn Malek and Colin Ritchie.

As the year played out, many of our day-to-day business and security routines were clarified, shared among parish officers and settled into predictable patterns, so we are able to assure you that the parish is more than ever a well-managed operation. For this, we sincerely admire and warmly thank Rev. Colin, who has

a vision of the freedom and possibilities that a house in order offers to those who dwell therein, and who is nudging us in that direction in the nicest possible way.

Coming up, we see some big challenges on the horizon. The biggest is finding the means to close the gap in our budget expectations—to get our revenue and expenses truly balanced. This is something for the entire parish community to deal with. As well, we need to acquire more assistance with office work and communications projects. Finally, it is time to start looking farther down the road and considering a strategy for improving the building envelope with an efficient HVAC system and better climate protection, both upstairs and down.

Property and Program

After a series of busy years dealing with renovation, roof and rodent issues, the parish in general and Bernie Delmaire in particular have been able to relax a bit on the property management front. Achievements included: a new plexiglass protection for the large northwest window; renewal of our system of keys and alarms; handrails in the sanctuary; improved waste collection management, with the loyal support of Doug Ainslie and Ed Logan, and last but by no means least (check the proposed budget), the renewal of contracts with Indigo Parking managers and our regular renters.

Before signing off, we mention one further collaborative step taken in 2023. With full participation from Parish Council, we now have a social as well as a liturgical calendar at St. Margaret's. Building on the success of past celebrations, we have agreed to host three all-parish events each year: a supper on Shrove Tuesday, a BBQ marking Nunavut Day and the completion of our Community Meal season for the summer in early July, and a potluck and games night to celebrate our patron saint Margaret of Scotland in mid-November.

These were all wonderful events in 2023 and we hope they will become part of your own and your family's life.

Malcolm McEwen

Jane Waterston

Synod Report, 2023

143rd Synod of the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa

October 19-21 at the St. Elias Centre

All parishes and community ministries in the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa sent representatives to the 143rd Synod of the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa, a two-day annual meeting.

At the opening Eucharist, Bishop Shane Parker noted that, like stained glass, the church needs to be held in this world by the oak and iron of good order and discipline. We need to be well-run and well-resourced so we can focus outward with humble confidence and expansive generosity.

These are strategic priorities of the diocese:

- less reliance on parish revenues to fund the operating budget;
- increased support to parish leaders as they manage parish finances, properties, stewardship, communications, human resources, and administration;
- episcopal guidance to parishes facing major changes, promoting innovation and collaboration;
- more learning opportunities for parish leaders so there will be a clear understanding of how parishes operate;
- resources, knowledge, and practical instruction on all essential aspects of parish ministry;
- learning how to practice contextual mission as we engage with the world and establish new worshipping communities.

Synod adopted a plan for parish development

To equip congregations with knowledge and skills, some short videos are in the works addressing: parish governance, building healthy communities, visioning and priority-setting, effective stewardship, and engaging with the wider community. It is expected the leadership teams (corporations and councils) of each parish and congregation will complete the modules.

Synod approved an action plan for contextual mission and new worshipping communities

In a post-pandemic, multicultural, largely secular culture, the church has to find new ways to engage with the people and communities around us. All parishes, groups, and individuals are called to participate in regular prayer to discern where God wants us to act. Each parish and group will identify a Time of Prayer point person. Parish funds used for new contextual mission initiatives will be exempt from assessment.

Synod approved a proposal for a Future Fund

The existing Second Century Fund is being renamed the Future Fund and will provide resources for contextual mission and new worshipping communities. Currently about \$1.6 million, the fund will offer about \$62,000 in dividends each year for microgrants.

Budget for 2024-26

Synod approved a balanced three-year budget, projecting a revenue increase of about 5% in 2024, to \$4.5 million. Parish Proportional Share (renamed from Parish Fair Share) was reduced by 22% (or about \$460,000 collectively), offset by a projected increase in revenues from diocesan central funds, the Cathedral Hill Foundation and property income.

Anglican Community Ministries

Posing the question, “What can we do?” to serve the vulnerable population in our communities, the Rev. Canon PJ Hobbs stressed the importance of learning about the complex problems, volunteering, and being an advocate with elected officials.

Guest speaker’s observations

The dean of St George’s College Jerusalem spoke of the stark contrast between here and Jerusalem, where signs of people’s faith are visible everywhere. He sensed a fear on the Synod floor that what we’ve got is so fragile it could actually be lost. But, he said, the promised world of the post-religious framework is failing to deliver and more than ever it needs to hear the gospel that God is love and Christ has promised to be with us till the end of the ages. We have this heritage and if we keep it sheltered amongst ourselves, we are denying our people the gift that changes the world.

Bishop’s conclusion

We cannot afford to repeat the colonial mistake of thinking we have the agenda in hand and have to get others to follow it. Instead, we must learn new skills which allow us to understand how the Holy Spirit is already active around our churches and how God is calling us to use our gifts in the rural areas, villages, towns, and cities of our diocese.

Jane Waterston (with notes from diocesan staff)



St. Margaret’s Synod team, 2023

Clergy — The Rev. Canon Aigah Attagutsiak, the Rev. Colin McFarland; Lay — Catherine Keresztesi (alternate), Jeannie Manning, Jane Waterston
Present in photo: Aigah, Jeannie, Colin, Jane

Activity Reports

Altar Care— Leslie McGillvray

Music—Francine Brisebois

Pastoral Care—Margaret Hilborn

Young People—Vera Etches & Edward Logan

Altar Care

May your work never exhaust you
May it release wellsprings of refreshment, inspiration and excitement

May your soul calm, console and renew you

—From a prayer for Altar Guild in *To Bless This Space Between Us*, by John O'Donoghue

In January 2023, there was an accident involving our green altar hangings when an unknown liquid was spilt on them. Unfortunately, the damp hangings remained on the Altar table and there was slight damage to the top of the table. But the greater damage was to the hangings themselves. I took the large and the short frontal hangings to a well-known dry cleaner and learned they were unable to help as the fabric is too fragile and cleaning would damage the hangings further. This is a reminder that we are all caretakers of St. Margaret's church property and we need to handle and treat everything with care.

The altar care team (aka Altar Guild) is extremely thankful for the new banner for Ordinary Time that Carolyn Malek created and hangs behind the baptismal font. Thank you, Carolyn, for your creativity and the work involved in making this beautiful banner.

We are very fortunate that when a church closes, many beautiful items are often not put into storage but made available to other churches so they will continue to be used, loved and appreciated. When St. Martin's parish in the west end closed in the summer, I was able to obtain some much-needed altar linens as well as the beautiful blue Advent altar hanging, burse, veil and lectern banners that we used for the first time in 2023.

Donating flowers is a simple way to honour a loved one, beautify our altar and add a seasonal touch in the church. Thank you to all who helped decorate our church in the past year with their donations for flowers.

Altar Guild is very thankful and blessed for all the help we received this year. Many thanks to Carolyn Malek and Colin McFarland for setting up the Christmas tree and to Ellen Desmarais, Joan Marshman and Jane Waterston for helping to decorate it. Also, thanks to Amy Lightfoot and

Hamish Stuart-Bell for helping set up for Christmas Eve by bringing things up and downstairs, climbing ladders and a multitude of other details needed in the set up. With your help, everything was done in record time. Thanks also go out to Bernie Delmaire and Rev. Colin who are always available to carry boxes and candle stands up and down stairs throughout the year.

Leslie McGillvray

Holy Week, which is one of our busiest times of the year, is approaching. Help will be needed on the evening of Maundy Thursday and on the Saturday afternoon before Easter Day. If you have time available on either of these dates and wish to help, please let me know.

Music

The English music ministry at SMV has been very busy in 2023. We managed to offer instrumental accompaniment and as much singing as possible at all weekly services and other high season celebrations. I provided music accompaniment to St Margaret's parish for the English services (9:30 am) in 2023, and I wish to take this opportunity to thank Catherine Keresztesi and Jane McIntosh who serve as cantor, psalm and communion soloist on many Sundays, which so enhances the celebrations. Besides reintroducing well-known and some new hymns and communion anthems, the choir managed to sing during Lent/Easter/Ascension/Trinity season, as well as All Saints/All Souls/Advent and Christmas season.

Additionally, the choir managed to learn all required selections and sing along with some 150 choristers and instrumentalists in the 32nd edition of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Benefit Christmas Concert, a fundraising activity organized for the benefit of the Heron Emergency Food Centre. What an accomplishment: the combined choir proved to be a real success! Special thanks for the time and effort it took go to: Catherine Keresztesi, Amy Lightfoot, Edward Logan, James Logan-Etches, Luke Logan-Etches, Malcolm McEwen, the Rev. Colin McFarland, David Mooney, Linda Perrier, Elaine Richards-Forsyth, Maisie Stuart-Bell and Jane Waterston.

Finally, a special word of thanks, again, to Malcolm McEwen for sharing his talent as cello accompanist and to our Incumbent priest and musician, the Rev. Colin McFarland for his continued support to the music ministry at SMV and his excellent instrumental violin performance! What a pleasure to be working with such engaged and committed individuals!

Francine Brisebois

Pastoral Care

Our pastoral care team's mandate is to minister to those in need in our Parish to provide comfort, encouragement and spiritual strength.

In 2023, the pastoral care team consisted of the Rev. Colin McFarland and Margaret Hilborn. Seven parishioners, five living in long term care homes and two living in a retirement residence, were visited either monthly in person, or bi-weekly with a phone call. During these visits and calls we check on their wellbeing, provide support and, when there in person, administer the Eucharist in the home. In total, 66 visits were made in 2023. All these visits were greatly appreciated. In addition, during the year one parishioner was taken to medical appointments on eight separate occasions.

In early November 2022, weekly visits to the General Campus of the Ottawa Hospital were re-established and they are now part of the hospital's Volunteer Pastoral Care/Spiritual Care program.

To further relieve some of the isolation felt by our "shut-ins," an initiative was undertaken during Advent where packages of cookies and chocolates made by parishioners were packaged in the Church Hall and delivered to approximately 30 shut-ins and parishioners who live alone. This endeavour was very much appreciated by the recipients. A large shout out to Leslie McGillvray's daughter Amy, who provided many dozens of cookies for our project.

Margaret Hilborn

Young People

Sunday mornings 11-11:30 continue to be reserved for young people to consider the Illustrated Ministry learning materials in the downstairs space. The lessons build on one of the week's Bible readings and include a "micropractice" for the week. For example, a lesson inspired by Psalm 111 helped us think about using different alphabets (Hebrew, Inuktitut and English) to give thanks by letter, and encouraged us to try giving thanks at a new time in our daily routine.

In terms of logistics, we shifted during the year to most people gathering in person at St. Margaret's, but decided to keep a Zoom link open during the lesson as an option for remote participation, too. On Sundays, there are typically 4-6 young people taking part, with an age range of 2 to 15. As most young people are now in the double-digit age group and are often busy Sunday mornings, we are working to promote other opportunities to join together for fun, learning and in support of community services. In 2023, highlights were participating in the Coldest Night of the Year fundraising walk for Capital City Missions; taking kayaks/qajaq, canoes and a paddleboat through a waterway near Wakefield; enjoying waterslides at Calypso Waterpark, and seeing Inuit works of art in the National Gallery of Canada.

Thank you to all the parents who joined in these activities, and to Jane Waterston and the Rev. Colin who support the program when we can't be present.

The younger children are a joy to see in church and we are open to ideas for how to build support for parents during the 9:30 and 11:30 services.

We continue to be amazed by the growth of the young people who are part of St Margaret's.

Vera Etches & Edward Logan



Food, fellowship, fun

