

Vestry Report 2026

Reporting Decisions and Activity during 2025



The joy of baptism and the glory of Easter!

St. Margaret's Vanier, Anglican Diocese of Ottawa



St. Margaret's Anglican Church

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Photos: Rev. Colin McFarland, Jane Waterston

Parish Records, 2025

BAPTISMS: 2

Francis Bracken
Ava Eelee

BLESSING OF A CIVIL MARRIAGE: 1

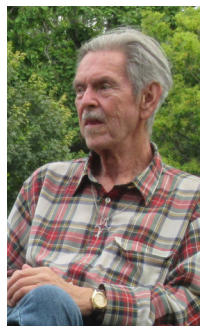
Felix Weekes and Asmene Merilus

FUNERALS AND MEMORIALS: 8

Jolene Arreak
John Ernest Cox
Joshua Illauq
Rhoda Inukshuk
Kim Kangok
Richard Kelley
Rev. Deacon Judy
Oatway
Kimberly Qammaniq



Rev. Deacon Judy
Oatway



Richard Kelley



John Cox, in 2014 and on
his wedding day

May they
rest in peace
and light
perpetual
shine
on them

Proposed Agenda, 2026 Vestry

- Welcome
 - Lighting of the qulliq
 - Land acknowledgement
 - Opening prayers
- Appointment of Vestry Clerk
- Housekeeping and procedures for the meeting
- Acceptance of minutes from 2025 Vestry meeting
- Incumbent and Associate Incumbent reports
- Presentation of 2025 financial report and auditor's financial review
- Adoption of the 2026 operating budget
- Nominations, appointments and election
 - Appointment of a Churchwarden by the Incumbent
 - Nomination for offices of the parish
 - Churchwarden and Deputy Churchwarden(s)
 - Lay Members of Synod and Alternates
 - Parish Councillors
 - Head Sidesperson
 - Adoption of auditor
- Receive reports in the 2026 Vestry Report
- General business
- Adjournment





People settling in at the meeting of St. Margaret's Parish vestry on February 23, 2025. Jukeepa Hainnu (front row, second from right) helped with interpretations in and out of Inuktitut.

Minutes, 2025 Vestry

St. Margaret's Hall and via Zoom

February 25, 2024

Chair: The Rev. Colin McFarland

Zoom host: Malcolm McEwen

Vestry clerk: Jane Waterston

Welcome

Jeannie Kanayuk started the meeting with a demonstration of how a quillie, like the one on our altar, is used by Inuit families, requiring care, foresight and shared responsibility to keep heating and comforting the people around it. Jane Waterston acknowledged that the meeting was taking place on unceded Algonquin territory. The Reverend Colin McFarland opened the meeting with this prayer:

Almighty and everlasting God, source of all wisdom and understanding, be present with all of us who take counsel in this parish of St. Margaret's for the renewal and mission of your Church. Teach us in all things to seek first your honour and glory. Guide us to perceive what is right, and grant us both the courage to pursue it and the grace to accomplish it; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Appointment of the Vestry Clerk

Motion: It is moved that Jane Waterston be appointed the clerk of the 2025 annual meeting of St Margaret's Vestry. The Vestry Clerk shall be responsible for recording the minutes of this meeting and submitting them to the parish council for review and inclusion in the next annual Vestry Report.

Moved by: Catherine Keresztesi; seconded by: Charmaine Roye
Passed (all in favour)

Housekeeping and procedures for the meeting

Catherine Keresztesi confirmed 30 people had signed in (by the end of the meeting that rose to 32). Only one was online. To participate in voting at the meeting, one must be a member of St. Margaret's congregation, at least 16 years of age, a regular worshipper and not voting in any other Vestry meeting in the diocese. Rev. Colin explained that Jukeepa Hainnu agreed to provide explanations in Inuktitut if needed.

Acceptance of Minutes and Agenda

The chair asked if any omissions were noted or changes needed in the 2024 minutes included in the annual Vestry Report, which has been circulating for a week. None were raised.

Motion: It is moved that the minutes of the 2024 annual meeting of the Vestry be approved as presented in the Vestry Report 2025

Moved by: Bernie Delmaire; seconded by: Carolyn Malek

Passed (all in favour)

Incumbent's Report

The Rev. Colin McFarland noted that his and the Rev. Canon Aigah Attagutsiak's reports for 2024 were in the printed document circulated before the meeting. No explanations were requested.

He expressed gratitude for four years of ministry at St. Margaret's Vanier, asserted that "Jesus lives here", and thanked the staff who support his work week in and week out. He noted that new people are coming to our services and programs and many of them are staying. The mix of newcomers and continuing members reflects our neighbourhood ethnically; financial contributions are consistent; expenditures are controlled. On the other hand, our costs are quite fixed so any changes to staffing and spending would be felt.

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He drew attention to the diocesan call for “contextual mission”, outlining the action plan suggested for parishes, starting with a time of prayer and leading to new initiatives. He explained this is to be a journey, not a program and that the ministries we initiate are to be for the sake of the world.

Financial Report 2024 and Budget 2025

Building on the information and discussion at an all-parish pre-Vestry budget meeting convened during the week before the annual vestry, churchwarden Malcolm McEwen summarized the 2024 actuals and the preliminary results of an arm’s-length financial review by KHM accountants.

He noted that we are operating at a \$10,00 loss per year (\$20,000 over two years) and we are forecasting a \$15,000 loss in 2025. With Council’s help, we must continue to address this gap in our operation.

Not much cutting can be done. In 2025, we are hoping to hire a second musician; otherwise, we expect to continue steadily on.

Colin Ritchie asked what is being planned for overall building improvements and maintenance: should we have an engineering firm check it over every two years or so? The goal in 2025 is to develop a multi-year plan outlining what we should do; a special task force will be set up that will start by reviewing the pre—Covid engineering study. At this point, the building is not crumbling but we are spending only on basic maintenance.

Motion: It is moved that the financial report on the year ending of December 31, 2024 for the parish of St. Margaret’s be received as presented in the Vestry Report 2025.

Moved by: Catherine Keresztesi; seconded by: Jeanie Kanayuk
Passed (all in favour)

Motion: The financial review by Kelly Huibers McNeely Professional Corporation will be received by Parish Council at its March meeting.

Moved by: Catherine Keresztesi; seconded by: Colin Ritchie
Passed (all in favour)

Signed in at the 2025 meeting of Vestry:

Laisa Ataycootuk	Jeanie Kanayuk	Charmaine Roye
Leena Arreak	Asenath Kannutaq	Lora Skof
Maddy Atagootuk	Catherine Keresztesi	Irene Tagoona
Bill Bradley	Amy Lightfoot	Jane Waterston
Francis Caza	Robert Mackey	
Bernie Delmaire	Carolyn Malek	
Dora Delmaire	Joan Marshman	
David Erkloo	Malcolm McEwen	
Willy Fasine	Rev. Colin McFarland	
Jukeepa Hainnu	Leslie McGillvray	
Donn Ijjangiaq-Hope	David Mooney	
Karen Ijjangiaq-Hope	Jeanie Okalik	
Jackie Ittaqaitok	Philip Owen (online)	
Christine Jannasch	Ame Qaqasiq	
Valerie Johnson	Colin Ritchie	

Appointments and Nominations for 2025

Appointment by the Incumbent

Jane Waterston is appointed as Churchwarden

A slate of nominations was presented:

Churchwarden and Deputy Churchwardens

- Malcolm McEwen — Churchwarden
- Bernie Delmaire — Deputy Churchwarden

Lay Members of Synod

- Leena Arreak
- Charmaine Roye
- Jane Waterston, Alternate

Head Sidesperson

Carolyn Malek

Parish Council Members (in addition to those named above)

- Mireille Desmarais
- Willy Fasine
- Jane Gibson
- Perpetual Godwin
- Jeanie Kanayuk
- Joan Marshman
- Lora Skof
- Irene Tagoona

Motion: That this slate of nominees and appointments be accepted until the 2026 Vestry meeting.

Moved by: Donn Ijjangiaq-Hope; seconded by: Irene Tagoona
Passed (all in favour)

Election of auditor for 2024

It is suggested that we continue with our current auditor, who does a general review of the parish accounts for the past year. Vestry heard that their reputation is sound and they respond well to requests from our treasurer. It is suggested we review their performance and reputation every three or four years.

Motion: That Kelly Huibers McNeely chartered accountants review our finances in and for 2025.

Moved by: Amy Lightfoot; seconded by: Malcolm McEwen
Passed (all in favour)

Acceptance of reports in the 2024 Vestry Report

Motion: That the 2025 Vestry Report, reporting activity and decisions in 2024, be accepted.

Moved by: Jennie Kanayuk; seconded by: Charmaine Roye.
Passed (all in favour)

The Rev. Colin McFarland led a time of prayer, using the method of Lectio Divina, based on Rev.3:20-4:2 “Opportunity Knocks”.

Adjournment

Motion: That the 2025 Vestry meeting be adjourned

Passed (all in favour)

Churchwardens' Report

Malcolm McEwen, People's Warden

Jane Waterston, Rector's Warden

It was our privilege in 2025 to work closely with the Rev. Colin McFarland as St. Margaret's parish corporation. Together, we three have responsibility for all aspects of church life and property management. We report each month to Parish Council and once per year to the Vestry. We try our best to keep information flowing and our ears and hearts open to feedback and new ideas.

Joining our monthly meetings, and helping with decisions and projects, are Associate Incumbent Canon Aigah Attagutsiak, Treasurer Aisha Gaffer and Deputy Wardens Bernie Delmaire and Edward Logan-Etches. A main focus of these "management" meetings is the operation of the church:

1. the living stones of the church—staff, contractors, volunteers;
2. the physical stones of the church— building infrastructure, hall rentals, snow clearing and janitorial.

Corporation's goal is to ensure that St Margaret's continues to be a welcoming place of worship and safety every day of the week. It is not an independent executive, it only has authority as delegated by the congregation, and we do our best to enact what has been agreed.

At every meeting we review the church accounts – revenues and expenses –to confirm that what we are doing is consistent with the budget presented and approved at the previous meeting of Vestry.

It is very important to note that Corporation is not entirely "corporate"! There are regular discussions regarding church activities, often in collaboration with Parish Council.



Jeanie Kanayuk (shown at left greeting visitors at Doors Open) and **Joan Marshman** (above) ably and loyally served as co-chairs of Parish Council through the year.

Staff and leadership changes, 2025

- **Caleb Ficner** was hired to serve as Administrator during the maternity leave of Mukeshimana (Francine) Baguma. Caleb agreed to stay on as part-time bookkeeper and website designer. We thank Sarah Halcro for her excellent service as bookkeeper over the last couple of years, and for her dedication in ensuring a smooth transition to Caleb.



Caleb Ficner

- **Jacob Adebayo** resigned as 11:30 service musician, due to a scheduling conflict, and we were very sad to lose his musical sensitivity and gracious service. By year end we had confirmation from the congregation that another organist is preferred and a search has been launched.



Bernie Delmaire

- **Bernie Delmaire** informed us that he must reduce his huge load of parish responsibilities. In response, the waste management and community meal programs redistributed some weekly responsibilities and sought extra help. There is still lots of wiggle room to fill in those big shoes.



Brie Shawtraw and **Kayla Spagnoli** are hosts of the Sunday Community Meal program, greeting visitors and radiating peace. Kayla also organized craft sessions like the Moss Art workshop in the hall.

Property initiatives

• Major improvements were made to the Montreal Road and Cody St. doors and their hardware. We thank carpenter Guy Davis for his fine custom work. The doors are lovely as well as functioning smoothly.

Property Advisory Group

Corporation reached out to some experienced and knowledgeable parish members—Francis Caza, Bernie Delmaire, David Erkloo, Amy Lightfoot, Jim Lightfoot and Jane Waterston (convenor)—seeking advice on what building upgrades should be undertaken at St. Margaret’s, funding permitted. The work included a review of the Building Condition Assessment conducted by Morrison Hershfield Limited in 2020 and resulted in a list of five priorities, ranked below in order of concern.

1. Lower hall emergency exits

With the lower hall in regular use for meetings and parish offices, the top priority for capital improvements is to make sure the building complies with community standards for emergency exits. This means rebuilding the south end stairwell so it exits directly to the parking lot (via a new door) with drywall separation from the rest of the hall. At the same time, the remnants of the old chimney should be removed from the north end stairwell.

PAG recommends this project be undertaken entirely in 2026.

2. Reconfigure lower level to improve efficiency and use

PAG advises Corporation to use the priority stairwell project as an opportunity to redesign the lower hall into sections with offices at the north end, an open area for programs in the centre, and a large area for storage at the south end. (See drawing). Phase one would include demolishing all interior walls, replacing ceiling and flooring (removing any hazardous substances) and addressing priority 3 below. The second phase would establish the dedicated fire door to the parking lot at the top of the stairs.

PAG recommends this project be undertaken in 2026-2028.

3. Upgrade building heating, electrical and plumbing services in the lower level

With the ceiling and walls down, there is a golden opportunity to address the building’s concerns about heating, ventilation (ductwork), lighting and pest control. An immediate concern is to understand the presence of toxic substances (asbestos, radon, etc, in the lower hall). PAG recommends a major services upgrade be a key feature of the reconfiguration project, to maximize time and cost savings.

PAG recommends this happen in 2026-2027. Consider/investigate options— a heat recovery ventilator for cleaner air, a heat pump with air conditioner attachment.

4. Exterior walls, doors and windows

PAG notes that considerable work on the building envelope is needed in the foreseeable future to maintain its integrity and avoid future emergencies. Items to be addressed include repair to the frame of the tower window (and possibly others), repointing of some stones, repairs to deteriorating masonry and lots of paint on wood and metal features.

PAG recommends these be completed by 2030.

5. Church sanctuary repairs and decoration

PAG is concerned about the utilities, finishings and state of our worship space and recommends a determined effort be made to consider upgrades to the ceiling, electrics, sound system, flooring, windows, woodwork and paint. We recommend making improvements to the altar area a priority: re-sand floor, scrape and paint walls and window frames, restore decorative paintings.

PAG suggests this work be undertaken in 2027-2028.

Parish Life

In addition to weekly services of worship, St. Margaret’s hosted three “all-together” events on Shrove Tuesday, Nunavut Day and St. Margaret’s patronal festival. Educational opportunities were offered to youth and adults from both congregations, as noted in the Incumbent report. We enjoyed an episcopal visit with Bishop Shane Parker, a few weeks before the momentous meeting of General Synod where he was installed as Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada.

Community events included another Open Doors program weekend (interpreting the history and culture of our parish to visitors), and renting our facilities to social and support agencies and craft fairs.

Having recently read *The Unfolding Gospel* by John P. Bowen, we thank YOU who partakes in all four parts of our church:

UP—worship (centring on God and the worship of God in Jesus Christ),

IN—community (members wildly different but united, supporting one another, extending the kingdom),

OUT—mission (being a junior partner in the work of God In this world), and

OF—connection (through our Anglican denomination).

2025 was a very good year and we are keeping the ball in play!

Shrove Tuesday teamwork, March



It's a start!

Doors Open hospitality, May



Many parish members prepared a welcome for visitors. Amazing artifacts from parish homes were on display.

Moss Art Workshop, July



The weather was hot and ideas flowed when a group of the faithful received instruction on creating with moss. Photo by Kayla Spagnoli, our crafty teacher.

Financial Statement and Budget 2026

Fortunately, St Margaret's is a relatively simple organization, in terms of the finances (even though we are a very rich and complex organization in terms of who we are and what we do!) Our revenue draws from three main streams – regular donations from the congregations on a Sunday, hall rentals, and income from the Indigo-managed parking lot. Expenses are similarly straightforward – staff expenses (clergy, support staff, musicians and community hosts), building costs (maintenance, janitorial, snow clearing), and office expenses (IT, communications, auditing). Both revenue and expenses are relatively stable, and so it is not surprising that for 2025 the actual amounts for both are close to what was budgeted, and the proposal for 2026 looks very similar. This “status quo” does not, however, reflect stagnancy and Corporation is always open to new ideas for ministry at St Margaret's.

Revenue strategy

Consistent giving from the congregations, continued demand for hall rentals and parking spaces.

REVENUE	Budget 2025	Actuals 2025	Budget 2026
Tax Received Gifts			
English and Inuit Offerings Received	\$ 159,331	\$ 144,778	\$ 150,591
Memorial Donations	\$ 250	\$ 279	\$ 843
Other Donations Received	\$ 386	\$ -	\$ 353
TOTAL Tax Received Gifts	\$ 159,968	\$ 145,057	\$ 151,787
Non-Received Gifts			
English non-receipted	\$ 2,186	\$ 4,905	\$ 3,545
Inuit non-receipted	\$ 5,395	\$ 6,619	\$ 6,007
TOTAL Non-receipted Gifts	\$ 7,581	\$ 11,524	\$ 9,552
Gifts from Registered Charities	\$ 9,387	\$ 22,434	\$ 15,196
Support to Inuit Ministry	\$ 4,855	\$ 1,810	\$ 2,892
Other income			
CTF - Interest and Dividends	\$ 47,348	\$ 49,242	\$ 51,136
Bank - Interest and Cashback			
Parking Lot	\$ 5,622	\$ 9,965	\$ 13,040
Sale of assets	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,000
Hall Rentals	\$ 27,593	\$ 26,232	\$ 23,609
TOTAL Other Income	\$ 80,563	\$ 85,737	\$ 93,884
Ministry Revenue			
Celebrations of life/marriage/baptism	\$ 640	\$ 100	\$ 460
Other Ministry Revenue	\$ 183	\$ -	\$ 228
TOTAL Ministry Revenue	\$ 823	\$ 100	\$ 688
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 263,177	\$ 266,662	\$ 273,999

NOTE - with ongoing feedback sought from parishioners, this budget for 2026 may change between publication in the Vestry report and presentation at the Vestry meeting.

Nunavut Day celebrated with a BBQ, draws & a candy toss, July



EXPENSES	Budget 2025	Actuals 2025	Budget 2026	<i>Expenses strategy</i>
The Church Building				Meet fixed-cost outgoings to deliver day-to-day ministry; monitor variable costs and reduce where appropriate; invest to expand outreach (e.g., website and IT renewal).
Maintenance, Repairs Montreal Rd	\$ 11,709	\$ 6,854	\$ 10,393	
Maintenance - Wages	\$ 300	\$ -	\$ -	
Maintenance - Supplies	\$ 1,719	\$ 2,205	\$ 2,271	
Snow Removal	\$ 6,484	\$ 7,994	\$ 8,394	
Janitorial	\$ 12,234	\$ 12,229	\$ 12,596	
Janitorial - Wages				
Janitorial - Supplies	\$ 1,742	\$ 3,093	\$ 3,186	
Utilities	\$ 7,776	\$ 8,002	\$ 8,402	
TOTAL The Church Building	\$ 41,965	\$ 40,377	\$ 45,242	
Ministry Expenses paid thru Diocese				
Equalization payment (ECOPS)	\$ 117,299	\$ 117,299	\$ 116,421	
Insurance Premium	\$ 7,875	\$ 7,875	\$ 8,111	
Fair Share	\$ 28,761	\$ 28,761	\$ 31,423	
Parish Administrator	\$ 16,211	\$ 17,702	\$ 16,209	
Bookkeeper	\$ 4,334	\$ 4,158	\$ 8,050	
Musicians (employees)				
TOTAL Ministry Expenses paid through Diocese	\$ 174,480	\$ 179,354	\$ 185,614	
Ministry Expenses				
Music Program (including organist)	\$ 14,466	\$ 11,431	\$ 13,026	
Sunday Community Meal Program	\$ 10,869	\$ 9,652	\$ 10,002	
Transportation	\$ 250	\$ -	\$ 250	
Inuit ministry	\$ 7,887	\$ 1,074	\$ 2,148	
Community Outreach	\$ 100	\$ 3,570	\$ 500	
Education and training	\$ 741	\$ 2,208	\$ 1,230	
Other Ministry Expenses	\$ 2,438	\$ 1,545	\$ 2,170	
TOTAL Ministry Expenses	\$ 36,751	\$ 29,480	\$ 29,326	
Office Expenses				
Telephone and internet	\$ 4,413	\$ 5,183	\$ 4,798	
Communications	\$ 1,114	\$ 919	\$ 1,011	
Professional fees (treasurer & auditor)	\$ 6,494	\$ 6,649	\$ 6,981	
Other office expenses	\$ 3,693	\$ 5,802	\$ 5,430	
Security	\$ 760	\$ 330	\$ 347	
TOTAL Office Expenses	\$ 16,475	\$ 18,883	\$ 18,566	
HST paid	\$ 2,141	\$ 3,132	\$ 2,471	
Interest and bank charges	\$ 878	\$ 1,261	\$ 1,005	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 272,688	\$ 272,487	\$ 282,225	



Guy Davis repaired, refitted and restrained St. Margaret's Cody St. and Montreal Rd. doors in 2025—the main "Maintenance, Repairs" expense noted above. His work was exceptional— and he brought his own kneeler.

Incumbent's Report

The Reverend Colin McFarland

I look back on the year 2025 with immense gratitude. Your Churchwardens and their deputy – Malcolm, Jane, and Bernie – have worked very hard on your behalf to ensure that the operations of the parish – its human resources, property care, and finances – are in strong shape. Your Lay Members of Synod and other members of the Parish Council are informed, engaged, and dedicated to thoughtful decision-making concerning parish life and activities. The whole parish continues to benefit from the professionalism and expertise of its office staff and various contractors, who weekly deliver services from bookkeeping and administrative support to musical leadership, and frontline skills supporting parish hospitality on Sundays.

All these aforementioned roles are parts of a greater whole – that's you! – the leaders in both congregations whose gifts and skills ensure all parishioners and visitors are welcomed each Sunday; that the gifts of the faithful are counted, recorded, and deposited – be it at the bank or the foodbank; who lead $\text{D}^{\text{b}}\text{r}^{\text{c}}\text{e}^{\text{c}}\text{D}^{\text{c}}\text{e}^{\text{c}}\text{r}^{\text{c}}\text{e}^{\text{c}}$ (Morning Prayer), readings, seasonal liturgical preparations, prayers and singing; who chop, cook, clean, and serve the neighbourhood with a weekly meal; and who lead faith formation in the lives of younger parishioners each Sunday and organize intergenerational group activities where all are included.



The Rev. Colin McFarland

You are growing – the average number of worshippers at Sunday services has grown from 61 in 2024 to 69 in 2025. And you have achieved a level of operational stability that positions you to think further ahead than one season, or even one year at a time. This is good! Along those lines, this annual meeting of the Vestry will be asked to discuss and vote on two motions: one directing the parish council to support the Sunday Community Meal team in its work to develop sustainably, the other directing your council to form a committee dedicated to the determining the feasibility of various capital property improvements and to begin project planning. These forward-looking motions are evidence of your hard work and our shared commitment to the ministry of Jesus in this place for years to come.

The coming year is a time for looking ahead. Be it preparations for capital property improvements, developing a more sustainable approach for the Sunday Community Meal, or walking through the changes and transitions for Inuit-led ministry in our parish and diocesan church, we know that Jesus calls us to act in faith with hope and love: “Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality” (Romans 12.12-13). I pray with you and for you, confident in the work Jesus is doing in you and among us to bless and serve the world God so loves.



Lent Bible Study, 2025, led by Rev. Colin. The topic was Engaging the Bible's Wisdom: Proverbs, Job, and Ecclesiastes. In the fall, a parish book club joined with Church of the Ascension to read *The Serviceberry* by Robin Wall Kimmerer.

Synod Report, 2025

145th Synod of the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa

The 145th Synod of the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa gathered in Ottawa on Oct. 24 and 25. St. Margaret's Vanier sent four representatives to the annual meeting: lay — Leena Arreak (11:30 congregation), Charmaine Roye (9:30 congregation); clergy — the Rev. Colin McFarland (Incumbent), the Rev. Canon Aigha Attagutsiak (Associate Incumbent).

It opened with a Eucharist service on the evening of Oct. 23, 2025, at Christ Church Cathedral.

With the diocese awaiting the election of a new bishop, the Rev. Dr. Christopher Brittain encouraged members of Synod to be prepared, in this time of changing leadership, to be redirected, to talk honestly together, and to stay rooted in God. "Trust in God's goodness, through prayer, through attention to the movement of the Spirit."

The next day and a half were full of reports, discussion and socializing with representatives of parishes and community ministries. Here are some highlights.

Shock and awe at the 2025 General Synod

Diocesan representatives offered their observations and thoughts about attending the 44th General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada in London, Ont. in June. There was shock when Bishop Shane Parker's unexpectedly nominated and elected Primate of the national church. Two days later, there was awe at his very moving installation, when the Ottawa representatives were asked to participate by assisting Archbishop Parker as he vested for his new role.

Kate Jordan and the Rev. Canon Jon Martin reported that although discussions among those attending did become passionate at times, the overall atmosphere was one in which people listened respectfully to each other and made efforts to incorporate the views and experiences of others.

A greeting from the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem

The Very Rev. Richard Sewell, Dean of St. George's College in



Organist Jacob Adebayo and daughters met our bishop the Rt. Rev. Shane Parker during his final episcopal visit.



Representing St Margaret's at the 2-day meeting of our diocesan synod were the Rev. Colin, Charmaine Roye, Leena Arreak and the Rev. Canon Aigha.

Jerusalem, sent a video greeting. He thanked the people of the diocese for their love, prayers and advocacy during these last two years of war and trauma and thanked God for the ceasefire at that time. Dean Sewell added a wish for God's blessing for the Diocese of Ottawa.

Episcopal election news

Synod heard about preparations for the episcopal election set for Feb. 28, 2026.

Who votes? Diocesan Council members in 2025; 10 retired clergy (chosen by the retired clergy of the diocese); members of the 2025 diocesan Synod, including active clergy and lay parish members. Voting is completed in successive rounds until one of the candidates receives a majority of votes in both orders (clergy and lay). The new bishop will be consecrated at a service on May, 9, 2026.

Update on triennial cycle and current priorities

A task force has been working to evaluate the work that we've done over the last three years, and review its impacts. They looked back to a previous strategic plan, Embracing God's Future (2014), and to more recent work, the Shape of Parish Ministry Consultations, which began in 2020 and led to a consensus at the 2022 Synod on three proposals, which developed into 11 actions supported at the 2023 Synod, and finally six desired results presented at the 2024 Synod. This is the infrastructure of who we are as a diocese. The task force has prepared a review of the achievements, challenges, and remaining work of this 2024 -2026 triennium and will be preparing Synod to determine the priorities for the 2027-2029 triennium at the next synod.

All My Relations Episcopal Panel

The All My Relations Panel drew Synod's attention to the fact that 2025 marks the tenth year since the Truth and Reconciliation Commission released its final report. AMR Co-chair Kathryn Fournier presented a motion calling on our diocese to renew its commitment to ongoing education to ensure its members learn about our church's role in colonization, the history and legacy of residential schools, and why apologies to former residential school students, their families, and communities were necessary. The motion was carried with broad support.

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Canon and bylaw amendments

Diocesan Chancellor Canon Henry Schultz led Synod members through numerous amendments to the canons and bylaws, including some updates to the governance of Community Ministries. All motions were carried.

Anglican Foundation

The Rev. Amy Hamilton, acting director of the Anglican Foundation of Canada that funds ministry across Canada through legacies of hundreds of Canadian Anglicans, brought news of a new online application portal and new legacy giving resources. On the supportive side, she mentioned new Category C grants of up to \$50,000 for strategic, high-impact projects; greater emphasis on funding community ministry projects; growth of Say Yes to Kids — 30 teams raised \$160,000 this year.

Contextual Mission update

A subcommittee reminded Synod of goals envisioned at the 2023 Synod: By 2028, every parish in our diocese will be engaged in a new or renewed contextual mission initiative, and by the 135th anniversary of our diocese, in 2032, we will have created 35 new worshipping communities.

They recommend a Certificate in Missional Leadership course offered in partnership with the Centre for Missional Leadership in Vancouver, B.C. Five parishes in the diocese are currently participating. Other presenters spoke about: a course on Reimaging Church from the Niagara School for Missional Leadership, which has resulted in a lunch program in Hawkesbury; the Rev. Colin McFarland recommended a course on John Bowen's book *The Unfolding Gospel*; community gatherings and lunches at St. James, Manotick; a monthly games night at St. John's, Smiths Falls. They offered information about how to apply for diocesan Future Fund grants to fund such ventures. Stories about all these have appeared in the diocesan paper *Perspective* (online and print versions).

Learning Commons report

Caroll Carkner, chair of the Education Committee, reported that a great deal of progress had been made since the last Synod in developing Learning Commons resources, including several in-person training sessions for parish leaders held in several locations in the spring.

Motions presented

The All My Relations Panel drew Synod's attention to the fact that 2025 marks the tenth year since the Truth and Reconciliation Commission released its final report. Following a short video with inspiration and challenges from the late Justice Murray Sinclair, AMR co-chair Kathryn Fournier introduced a motion calling on the Diocese to renew its commitment to ongoing education to ensure its members learn about the church's role in colonization, the history and legacy of residential schools, and why apologies to former residential school students, their families, and communities were necessary. The motion carried with broad support.

The Rev. Canon Hilary Murray introduced a motion for the Diocese to support the UN Declaration for the Decade for People of African Descent being extended for a second decade. The motion carried.

Financial Update

The 2024 audit of diocesan accounts showed total assets increased to \$155 million from \$139 million in 2023; property sales including that of St. Martin's Church in Ottawa had increased revenue. In keeping with the strategic plan, Parish Proportional Share decreased from about 20% to 12%. Deficits in the Community Ministries for Belong Ottawa and Centre 105 in 2024 amounted to about \$700,000 combined. Belong Ottawa was able to cover much of its deficit with some reserve funds, and the diocese covered the remainder from its reserves. A new management team at Belong Ottawa has done a lot of work to stabilize the situation and hopes to start building up a reserve again. Centre 105 in Cornwall's deficit was smaller, but the program and needs of the community that it serves are growing, so they are looking for new ways to help break even, Grover said.

Community Ministries Update

The Rev. Canon Peter John Hobbs, director general of the Community Ministries, offered a brief overview of the many essential and compassionate services the five community ministries — Belong Ottawa, Centre 105, Cornerstone Housing for Women, The Ottawa Pastoral Counselling Centre, and the Refugee Ministry Office — provide to some of the most vulnerable people in our midst.

Some changes have been instituted to help place Belong Ottawa on a stronger financial footing, including: an accurate costing of Belong Ottawa operations, which has led to a much more robust funding agreement with the City of Ottawa; prioritizing of fundraising and donor development, leading to us already surpassing our fundraising goal for 2025; and, the creation of the Hearts of Compassion Fund in support of the Community Ministries.

Accessing Ascension House

Carole Breton, who was hired as director of Communications and Development in April, introduced herself and highlighted some of the work of the department: sharing stories, through the digital and print newspaper, social media, and other platforms; the Learning Commons platform on the diocesan website; preparing for the episcopal election; hosting the Anglican Editors Association annual conference in May 2026; launching the Hearts of Compassion Fund as a successor to the Today for Tomorrow campaign, to raise funds for the Community Ministries



Ascension House staff support our parish in many ways.

Financial Stewardship

Carole Breton said she is making efforts to visit parishes and get to know their unique contexts. She recommended drawing on the Stewardship Resource Hub for guidance and expertise. She encouraged everyone to benefit from the resources available to all parishes in the diocese through the partnership with The Episcopal Network for Stewardship.

Parish Activity Reports, 2025

Altar Care

Blessed are you, Shepherd of Israel, you lead your people like a flock. Strengthen me to care for your church in faithful integrity and gentle humility. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

— A prayer for altar care from Occasional Celebrations

The origins of altar care work go back to the earliest days of the church when the first Christians gathered to break bread at each other's houses. It was the host family's responsibility to make arrangements for the meal. As the number of Christians grew, larger buildings were needed for worship and the items in them needed care. Eventually, this work was assigned to specific individuals. There have been many changes over the centuries, but altar care work has remained constant. Preparation for the eucharist and care of the altar, sanctuary, vessels are jobs necessary for the efficient functioning of worship. Altar care work is not mere housekeeping; it is a vital ministry and a great privilege done for the greater glory of God.

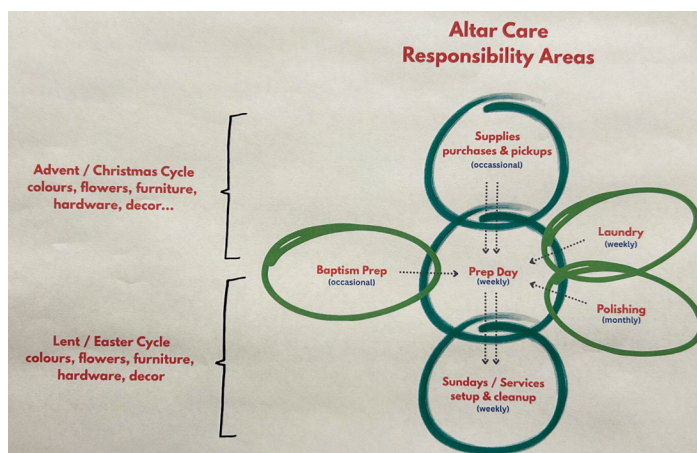
Currently, there are two people who handle altar duties at St. Margaret's. Altar care is a ministry in need of additional help. If the people handling the current duties are not available for a lengthy period of time we lack someone with the knowledge to handle some of the tasks that allow you to have eucharist on a weekly basis. With this in mind, over the summer I prepared a document which outlines many of the tasks. After reviewing it, Rev. Colin drafted a diagram using overlapping circles to illustrate how all tasks are interconnected. You can find the Altar Care Responsibility chart on the bulletin board just as you enter the Cody St. door. Please check out the chart and if you have a bit of time and would like to learn about some of these tasks, please speak to Rev. Colin or myself. For example, Leena Arreak and Jukeepa Hainnu of the 11:30 congregation have taken on the task of setting up and clearing up for their eucharist service. Colin Ritchie and Margaret Hilborn have offered to pick up supplies from Liturgica when necessary.

Mireille Desmarais and I would like to thank those who were kind enough to help us out over the past year:

- Carolyn Malek and Vera Etches for organizing and decorating the church with flowers and greens for Christmas. They were lovely, fresh and lasted for three weeks.
- Ed Logan and Rev. Colin for putting up and taking down the Pentecost doves. It was quite a maneuver to get the ladder between the pews and then climb it.
- Rev. Colin, Caleb Ficner and Bernie Delmaire who are always available to help put up banners and carry candlestands and boxes up and down stairs—especially the huge Christmas tree boxes.
- Amy Lightfoot, Cat Keresztesi and Ellen Desmarais for helping Mireille and I put the church back together on Holy Saturday in record time.
- Lynne Manion, Lori Guibord and Ellen Desmarais for setting up and decorating the Christmas tree.



The altar, prepared for Judy Oatway's funeral in October.



A schematic view of the responsibilities, prepared by the Rev. Colin and Leslie.

- Ellen Desmarais, who has been available to help altar care numerous times over the past year.

A very appreciative thank you to all for your help.

Leslie McGillbray

Counters

The counters are responsible for collecting and securing the Sunday and Christmas season offerings. Each week the offerings are counted, recorded, and deposited at the bank. There is occasional consultation with the bookkeeper, Sarah Halcro and now Caleb Ficner, who produce the charitable tax receipts for supporters early each year.

All donations are gratefully received.

Colin Ritchie and Neil Forsyth have stepped down from the group of counters. Their service of time and commitment was appreciated.

I will continue counting St. Margaret's collection in the coming year, joined by Diane Thornton.

Carolyn Malek

Young People

In 2025, young people continued to meet in person with Vera and Edward at a slightly earlier time of 10:45-11:15 to discuss the material from a new curriculum called Holy TroubleMakers and Unconventional Saints which highlights the efforts and lives of people from diverse backgrounds working for more Love, Justice and Kindness in their corners of the world.

Occasionally, youth are busy with school or soccer on Sunday mornings, though most often there are 3 to 6 and up to 8 people between the ages of 9 and 18 from the 9:30 service participating. Two toddlers might benefit from supports during the 9:30 service.

One social outing occurred in the summer with a larger group visiting the Calypso water park. The recent skating and a potluck dinner with St Bartholomew's at the beginning of February 2026 was very well attended. Other ideas are welcome.

Thanks to Jane Waterston and Rev Colin for ongoing support and leadership and the youth for sharing their ideas.

Edward Logan



Big smiles from parish young people at Calypso water slides, July

Music at 9:30

The English music ministry at SMV was very busy in 2025, offering choral music during Lent/Easter/Ascension/Pentecost/Trinity Season, as well as All Saints/All Souls/Advent and Christmas Season.

I provided music accompaniment to St Margaret's parish for the English services (9:30 am) and wish to thank Catherine Keresztesi, Jane McIntosh and Mallory Williams for helping as cantor, psalm and communion soloists.

Additionally, the choir managed, by means of numerous rehearsals, to learn all required selections and sing along with some 160 choristers and instrumentalists in the 34th edition of the Immaculate Heart of Mary parish's Christmas benefit concert, raising funds for the Heron Emergency Food Centre. Another great accomplishment where we managed to give some \$20 000 to a well-worthy cause!

Special thanks for their time and efforts to: Felicia Adadeji (half season), Linda Goode (half season), Heather Holmes (half season), Catherine Keresztesi, Amy Lightfoot (half season), Edward Logan, James Logan-Etches, Luke Logan-Etches, Malcolm McEwen, Rev Colin McFarland, David Mooney, Bright Nwachukwu, Destiny Nwachukwu, Humble Nwachukwu, Miracle Nwachukwu, John Nwachukwu (half season), Linda Perrier, Elaine Richards-Forsyth (half season), and Jane Waterston.

A special word of thanks to

- Heather Holmes for sharing her talent as trumpet accompanist
- Malcolm McEwen as cello accompanist and
- our incumbent priest and musician, the Rev. Colin McFarland for his continued support to the music ministry at SMV and his excellent instrumental violin performances!

Finally, a huge thank you to all parishioners for their great support and lovely singing What an engaged and committed community!

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.

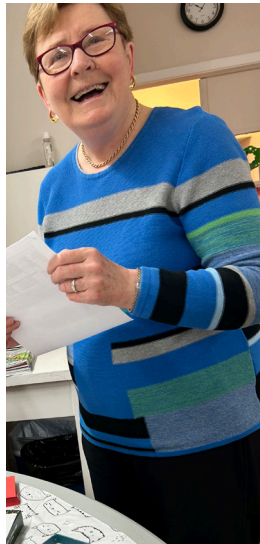
The pastoral care team in 2025 consisted of the Rev. Colin McFarland, the Rev. Canon Aigah Attagutsiak and Margaret Hilborn. Another parishioner hopes to join our pastoral care team in 2026.

During 2025, six parishioners (four living in Long Term Care homes, two living in a retirement residence), were visited in person monthly, or through biweekly phone calls. In total, 46 visits were made in 2025. We provided support and checked on wellbeing, and often administered the Eucharist. Four of these visits involved accompanying a parishioner to medical appointments. All these visits were greatly appreciated.

We continued weekly visits to the General campus of the Ottawa Hospital through the year and are now part of the hospital's Volunteer Pastoral Care/Spiritual Care Program.

With the help of parish bakers, we continued the annual Advent cookie program, preparing and delivering treats and greeting cards to approximately thirty shut-ins and parishioners who live alone. This endeavour was very much appreciated by the recipients.

Memorial services were held at St. Margaret's for former members of our 9:30 congregation: John Cox and Deacon Judy Oatway. A service for Laura Sine was held in another location.



Margaret Hilborn

Margaret Hilborn



At the end of the calendar year, a new Christian year begins.

Nathan lights an Advent candle and sparks the wonder of Christmas, with his mother Heather.

Sunday Community Meal

St. Margaret's Sunday Community Meal continued to be an important adjunct to weekly worship at St. Margaret's, although the schedule was reduced after the summer. The Bernie (Delmaire) and John (Angnaluak) team now organizes the meal just two Sundays each month, thereby opening space on the schedule for others to fill.

They thank those who have stepped up and offered a new, tasty, variety of meal options.

The attendees continue to include a large portion of our Inuit congregation, visitors from the Arctic, and people from our nearby neighbourhood. We have a very open-door policy and welcome everyone to attend.

Kayla Spagnoli and Brie Shatraw continued in 2025 as community hosts—a great part of our community gatherings. We also thank Mireille Desmarais who volunteered regularly to work with us in the kitchen, preparing service trays for the 9:30 English service coffee hour. We also thank all volunteers who step up to help clean up after each meal.

In 2025, we offered hot meals of soup or stew, trays of fresh fruit, veggies, cheese and pasta salad. Cookies and cake were also served and we thank all who brought in sweet goodies, bannock or other delicious surprises. Donations are gratefully accepted, thank you.

When available we serve “country food” such as seal, muktuk, caribou, muskox, Arctic char, or any other Arctic foods donated to the community meal. We thank Tungasuvvingat Inuit and other organizations who made such donations in 2025.

Our Nunavut Day BBQ celebration, featuring hamburgers with all the trimmings and a candy toss, was held again on July 7 in the parish parking lot. It was very well attended by our church members and the local community, including politicians and parish connections. The hot summer weather again hit us but we were cooled at the end by some welcome rain. We thank all volunteers who kindly help us with this popular event.

Here's a Very Important Question

Are you interested in serving on the Sunday Community Meal team?

- You can learn more about by joining John/Bernie on any Sunday that we have a community meal
- Plan with John/Bernie to take on a meal yourself or with your family and/or friends. There are many dates available, the schedule is always posted on the fridge in the parish kitchen
- John and Bernie are available to support anyone who wants to become part of the team.

Bernie Delmaire

