

**ST MARK THE EVANGELIST
PARISH COUNCIL
Meeting of November 14, 2018
7:00 pm, Choir room
DRAFT MINUTES**

In attendance Janis Perkin recording secretary, Michael Perkin, Rev. Peter Coffin, Pauline Adams, Cynthia Greer, Karen Barber, Jenny Morphew, Kate Greer-Close, Georgia Roberts, Suzanne Bisson, Gillian Morris, Bruce Lodge, Margaret Lodge, Judy Life

1. Opening the meeting

Call to order Pauline Adams called the meeting to order at 7:04pm.

Opening Prayer offered by Rev. Peter Coffin

Regrets None

Approval of the Agenda

It was noted that New Ministry Initiative would be covered under Outreach at future meetings. Moved by Jenny Morphew seconded by Gillian Morris; carried

2. Approval of the Minutes of the previous meeting

Page 3 Stewardship- should read "this will be a quiet year"

Page 5 Other Business- Fisher Ave. Sign- Steve should be replaced with Kate

Moved by Georgia Roberts seconded by Michael Perkin; carried

3. Business arising from previous meeting

Kitchen Renovations- The meeting took place but the kitchen renovation contact didn't show up. Pauline Adams will follow up on this.

4. Regular Reports

Rector's Report

INTERIM PRIEST IN CHARGE REPORT

1. My duties- 2 days a week to maintain priestly ministry

Nothing new with the exception of the Advent Carols with Communion which is temporary.

Looks like things are getting do except senior's visits

2. Enjoying my time until the end of the year (Jessica back in the new year)

Some things that I have noticed:

-Well Served by Joy (Bowerman)

-Corporation- I have enjoyed working with them

-Ariane and the music (just short of 20 years) - and the excellent choir

-Altar Guild- a distinctly Anglican gift

-Children-number (Grandparents and parents)/ Church School programme (Kate Greer-Close)/ Janis Perkin (a gift)

-Ministry to Seniors- always exemplary- new initiative

-And just good people!

Warden's Report

The wardens did some November preparation for the December Budget planning meeting which looks at the budget for the new year.

They are looking at having an emergency contact list for parishioners.

A chili/soup lunch is planned for the December 2nd Advent Carol Service.

During the Week of Christian Prayer for Unity the ecumenical service will be held at Madonna Della Risurrezione January 20, 2019.

Naloxone Kits- There are two at St. Mark's. Bishop Peter suggested dating the kits as they need to be replaced every two years.

Steve Coaker has withdrawn from the People's Warden position. He indicated that he was willing to look at serving at a later date.

There was some discussion surrounding the separation of Property from the Wardens duties. Parish Council referred this to the Nominating Committee to search for a Property Chair.

Property Report

It was reported that all of the furnaces are now fixed and working.
There are plans to have the roof caulked on November 15th.

Treasurer's Report

A new reserve account was created for the Seniors Outreach. There was a \$500.00 donation made to Coffee, Company and Conversation.

Georgia noted that retained earnings was down due to paving costs.

Expenses- Special projects included the Paving which was \$25,00.00 total. It was noted that there was directed funds from parishioners of \$2,000.00.

Painting of the Link had a cost of \$1,276.00.

Georgia noted that some groups haven't spent the monies that they asked to be added to the 2018 budget. For the financial meeting it would be helpful if people indicated whether they would be spending the monies before year's end.

Membership / Vitality / Communications

Membership

Since February we have had

births: 1 baptisms: 6 new members: 6 deaths: 4

St Mark's Women's Groups: whether to reactivate ACW as a gathering group and other various options are still to be discussed.

Church Events: in need of further discussion - the Art Show is the main one. It is a good community event but requires a lot of organizing. Artisan/Crafts were a good addition this year.

Vitality Group: also to be discussed in the near future is the continuation of this group, formed in early 2015, to "enhance parish life, particularly through activities and events that increase the sense of being part of the St. Mark's Community". It started with a committee of 9, added event-fundraising in 2016 and helped make a big difference to a balanced church budget.

Today we have 4 active members and 2 who are unable to attend meetings. Maybe it is time to get back to FUN raising rather than FUNdraising.

Past Parish events:

June 24 Inter-generational Sunday and Parish Picnic
September 16 Parish Breakfast
September 23 Parish BBQ
September 27 Coffee, Company & Conversation from reports it started very well with over 30 attending
October 3 invited – study group
October 7 Thanksgiving and Inter-generational Service
October 20 Parish Supper and Concert by the Valley Men was well attended
October 27 Parish Bazaar – lower in attendance but sales were quite good
November 4 Inter-generational Service and Baptism
November 11 Remembrance Sunday (100 years since Armistice was signed)
 Parish Breakfast
 Starting at the 11th hour, about 20 Church school children and members of 72nd St Mark's Scouts tolled the bells 100 times.

Up-coming Parish events:

November Thursdays Coffee, Company & Conversation until December 13
November 21 Seniors' Eucharist and Lunch – help and drivers needed
December 2 Advent Lessons and Carols during the 10am service, with Holy Eucharist
December 7 Stairwell Carollers – concert 7:30pm – This is the last 2018 event for the Vitality group, with Silent Auction and Mini-Bazaar. Please buy and sell tickets, and also provide items for the silent auction

Communications:

Newsletter: Last MTW was the September Issue. Next issue is for Advent which will be printed next week

Web design: At this time there is nothing to report – the old site is still being maintained

Margaret Lodge

Membership

Two visitors to St. Mark's have returned as new members of the congregation.

Stewardship

There is a plan to put stewardship notes in the bulletin for the three Sundays prior to Christmas. These notes would remind the parish to consider gifts of love etc. to St. Mark's.

Outreach

St Mark's Outreach Report

The Thursday morning "Coffee, Company and Conversation",

The gathering continues for seniors in our surrounding neighbourhoods. To date, the numbers of attendees have ranged from 24 to 36. We have noticed a significant number of attendees from outside of St. Marks.

Events have been booked for the period November 15 to December 13, when the program will pause for the Christmas season. It should be noted that several St. Mark's women are baking and assisting the committee in carrying out this worthwhile outreach program. As the outreach continues after December 2018, a request for funding in the 2019 St. Mark's budget will be made. Also, there will be applications for possible grants from the diocese, from the Anglican Foundation and from other funding sources for seniors' programs.

Suzanne Bisson

Choir

The senior and junior choirs continue their participation in regular services. There have also been two intergenerational services: 7 October (Thanksgiving Sunday) and 4 November (double baptism). Both services went well and were much enjoyed.

The Chaplaincy Choral Festival, in which the senior choir was to participate, was cancelled.

Preparations for the Advent Carol Service (2 December) and the Service of Nine Lessons and Carols (16 December) continue.

Karen M. Barber Choir Representative

AED report

It was suggested that the AED training be postponed until after Christmas as during the fall everyone was so busy. I will report when the booking is made. Also, there are now two naloxone kits (opioid overdose kits) available in the AED cupboard. Instructions are included with the kit.

Karen M. Barber

AED Contact Person

Little Free Library

Preliminary contact has been made with Mr. Larry Last, who has agreed to help us with this project. He is a friend of Bill Barber's, through curling, and is a member of the congregation of Christ Church Bell's Corners. Further discussions will ensue.

Karen M. Barber

Children and Youth (Sunday School)

Submitted by Kate Greer-Close via email:

Sunday school has been quite different so far this fall, with 2 intergenerational services (Thanksgiving and All Saints), several baptisms and Remembrance Day.

It was wonderful to welcome 10 children from the 72nd Scouts on Sunday (Remembrance Day) to read in church and then join us in Sunday school. We talked about light, peace and love and got organised for the 100 rings of our bells at 11. The ringing worked out perfectly with 20 children and ended just as our Snowbirds flew overhead, 4, and then the one apart (apparently representing the one who was lost - that jet flies straight up out of the formation, as if to heaven).

Typically we have about 10 - 15 children and youth on a Sunday morning. We always begin together but have separated a couple times after the initial prayer, story and song to allow the young children to play and the older ones to have more discussion.

One Sunday we were fortunate to have Brenda Zanin agree to join us to answer some questions that the older children had prepared. They were interested in hearing about other people's experience as a Christian, why/when they chose to be Christian, particular stories/quotes of relevance to them and how being a Christian impacted their life. We hope to invite other people to join us on other Sundays.

I have certainly enjoyed, as I hope has the congregation, celebrating Sundays wholly together in intergenerational worship. I know that the children are proud to be able to help out in the many roles - crucifering, reading, sidesduty, etc. - available to them when they remain in church.

Thank you for your support.

Here are some of the highlights from our time at Synod this year.

Opening Eucharist and Bishop's Charge

The 137th Synod of the Diocese of Ottawa, which took place November 1st to 3rd, 2018, had the theme "Anglican Ministry in a Complex World". It began with a Eucharist at Christ Church Cathedral, in which Bishop Chapman gave his charge. Also at this service, Ven. Doug Richards (Stormont) and Ven. Kathryn Otley, (Carleton) were collated Archdeacons, Rev Canon Susan Clifford was installed as the Canon of St Mary Magdalene, and Robin MacKay and Sue Garvey were appointed Lay Canons.

For his Charge to Synod, Bishop Chapman reflected on John's gospel, saying that, due to its metaphorical nature, it allows us to think of Church and our participation in its mission in new ways. Three years ago, our diocese developed a roadmap called Embracing God's Future where we established priorities that still hold today. And much has been achieved as we continue to walk in prayer and discernment together. Much progress has been made on the first priority relating to buildings and the shape of parish ministry, where real estate has been sold and many area parishes have come into being. We have embraced ministries that were already in play and have also started new ones, many of which Bishop Chapman pointed out and some of which will be mentioned below. He asked us to thank God that we have been called to do so much.

Keynote Speaker

The Rev Dr Richard LeSueur was the Keynote speaker on both Friday and Saturday morning. He was until recently the Dean of St George's College in Jerusalem, and returned to Canada this year. He is a priest of this diocese, and lives in Alberta.

His first address highlighted the partnership between our diocese and the diocese of Jerusalem. In that address, we learnt:

- How a diocese of only about seven thousand can support clinics, hospitals, schools through outreach supported by so many countries;
- The tax demands and other consequences of President Trump's recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel;
- It is going to be a long walk for peace. We are asked to pray for justice and peace for all people in the Holy land.

Doing Ministry was the theme of his address on Saturday.

As a result of some of the work we did at our Great Chapter meetings concerning new and on-going ideas, we were congratulated on being a healthy diocese, with "Embracing God's Future" as our mission.

Rev Leseur touched upon many ideas such as Messy Church, Outpost Ministries, worship at different times and in different places.

Entry points into becoming a Christian used to be 1. Believe 2. Behave 3. Belong. Perhaps we should reverse 1. and 3. In a post Christian world how do we connect with modern society?

Rev. LeSueur talked about pilgrimage. The churches are empty and the pilgrim routes overflowing. What are people seeking? Is it just physical challenge or something more?

He reminded us of the Glory of God. How one should journey through the desert wilderness, not to be afraid, and to wait upon the Lord.

Both talks by Dr. LeSueur are available on the Synod web page.

Finances

Little time was spent on discussing finances at this Synod since we are only partway through a three-year budget cycle. Budgets will be more on the agenda next year.

Outreach Ministries reported on at Synod

Throughout Synod we learned about the amazing outreach work that is being carried out by parishes, the Diocese and the national church. Many excellent presentations and videos showed how churches were responding to God's call to serve all people, especially those in need. A sampling of what we learned is briefly outlined below.

a. PWRDF

A video on the work of the PWRDF told us how funds can get to disasters almost immediately through the agencies already in the area through which the PWRDF works.

b. Refugee Ministry

Don Smith, Joyce Couvrette and others have worked many long tiring hours submitting and helping with refugee applications. This past year the Diocese of Ottawa has submitted more applications than any other Canadian Anglican diocese.

c. Community Ministries

Our community ministries are The Well, St Luke's table, Cornerstone Housing for Women, Centre 454, and the OPC

(Ottawa Pastoral Counselling Centre). All carry out important work in our Diocese. Some recent changes that we learned about are the following:

OPC is working to ensure people with no funds can receive services from the Centre. As well as in downtown Ottawa, OPC is now offering service in Manotick and Carleton Place.

Unfortunately, there has been a drop in funding for Centre 454, so they have been forced to close on weekends, leaving homeless people with few places to go for help, food and comfort on those days. From December to March the Centre has found a means to continue an 'out of the cold' program.

Cornerstone has just opened a new facility on Princeton Avenue that will become home for 42 women. These bachelor apartments are the first step towards the Diocese' goal of creating 125 units of affordable housing by 2021.

A program that was highlighted at Synod both last year and this, is a drop-in centre at Trinity Cornwall for homeless people. The work to ensure it happens has been through the Reverend Deacon Peter Cazaly. He is working to have this be part of our community ministries. It now serves 500 people during the year, who may come 3 days a week for breakfast and stay for fellowship.

d. **Multi-Faith Housing Initiative**

In relation to homelessness, we heard from the Multi-Faith Housing Initiative (MHI) Think Tulipathon!

There are 76 faith communities represented, from Baha'i Muslim Jewish Hindu Christian and Unitarian, working together in the MHI to address the affordable housing crisis.

Currently MHI owns 139 units on 4 properties. Their next project, Veterans' House is on the former Rockcliffe Air Base, There will be 40 units of permanent supportive housing for some of the veterans who make up 8% of homeless people in Ottawa. Next spring when the vinyl St Mark's banner is unfurled at Tulipathon, remember to support the adults and children from our congregation who do the walk usually in pouring rain for this new project.

e. **The Big Give**

There was a presentation from the Big Give, which started for them and for us at St Mark's in 2015. It has grown to 155 participating churches in Canada, each group doing their own brand of 'big giving.'

Changing the bylaw on the number of lay members of Synod per parish

A motion was presented to change Bylaw 5.07 that lays out how a parish determines the number of Lay Members of Synod its Vestry can elect. The current bylaw is confusing and is difficult to implement in many situations, such as in the new area parishes. The proposed revised bylaw would use average Sunday attendance in the prior calendar year to determine the number of lay members. However, the discussion of the motion to change the bylaw identified many problems with the proposed revision including no lay members for parishes with average Sunday attendance less than 25 and no accounting for attendance at weekday services and at other activities that go on in the parishes. Many argued that the important work of small parishes would be minimized by this revision. It was decided that the bylaw would go back to the drawing board for discussion, until next synod.

We, Cynthia Greer, Jenny Morphew, and Georgia Roberts thank you, for the opportunity to attend Synod.

Please visit the diocesan website for the full audio recording, of select parts of Synod

(at Ottawa.anglican.ca/synod-2018). We also hope that some of the wonderful videos that we saw will also be made available there.

From John 17.8

As you have sent me into the world, so have I sent them into the world.

5. Other Business

St. Mark's Website

It has been noted that our current website is aging and might crash soon. There needs to be some follow-up on this issue.

Next Meeting

December 12, 2018 at 7:00pm.

This is a financial meeting. Please bring something to share to bring good cheer for Christmas

6. Adjournment the business being completed the meeting was closed with the grace at 9:05pm

Respectfully submitted by

Janis Perkin

Recording Secretary