

Mark This Word

The Parish Newsletter of St Mark the Evangelist, Ottawa Anglican Church of Canada

Issue number 42

Advent 2016

Advent: Jesus is Coming



At the very heart of our Christian faith is our belief that in the child Jesus, born from the womb of his mother Mary, God and humanity were connected in a way never before present in the world. We are incapable of fully expressing the significance of this truth, but we pray that during Advent we are able to

Advent & Christmas 2016 November 27 Advent I 8:00 am Holy Eucharist 10:00 am Sung Eucharist 4:30 pm Lessons & Carols for Advent followed by light supper December 4 Advent 2 Holy Eucharist 8:00 am 10:00 am Sung Eucharist December 9 Stairwell Carollers Concert 7:30 pm tickets \$15 from church office December 11 Advent 3 8:00 am **Holy Eucharist** 10:00 am Sung Eucharist December 18 Advent 4 8:00 am Holy Eucharist 10:00 am Lessons & Carols for Christmas with Communion December 24 Christmas Eve 4:30 pm Holy Eucharist for the Family Pageant 8:30 pm Carol singing 9:00 pm Sung Eucharist December 25 Christmas Day 10:00 am Holy Eucharist

experience the true meaning of Christmas - that God so loved the world that he gave us Jesus.

Advent is about Jesus' coming in history at Bethlehem, as well as his second coming to us in majesty at the end of time. Of course we always celebrate the fact that Jesus is with us in the here and now by gathering to hear God's Word, to pray, to share in the Eucharist, and by caring for those in need in the community where God has placed St. Mark's.

In all of our Advent activities we can catch glimpses of the Jesus who is in our midst here and now and who will, one day, return in glory. We try to find time for quiet thought and prayer, to reflect on the wonder of God's love and allow Jesus to touch our hearts and minds. We can respond to God's gift – Jesus - by reaching out to the poor, the cold, the hungry, the isolated and those who live on the margins of our society and by reaching out to the sick and the bereaved. We can pray for peace and justice on earth and ask God to guide us so that we may be instruments of God's kingdom of peace, joy, hope and love in the world God loves.

Throughout the year, we try to show our gratitude to all God has done for us through generous service to those who need our help. The season of Advent gives us an opportunity to focus on the continuation of the mission and ministry entrusted to us by Jesus.

May you all have a blessed Advent and Christmas.

The Rev. Canon Jim Roberts

St Mark's Roll Call		
Baptisms	Ellery Mirabel	Greer
New Parishioners Ritea Yehdego and family		
Moves	Joan Grayer	Pat Longsworth
Deaths	Elsie Wilkins Ruth Werbin Joan Whitham	George McCaul Elsie Webster (Renfrew)

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St Mark's: Who we are / What we do...

Part One:

- Like other parishes, St Mark's is a church with an ancient faith that looks to the future through a certain lens (scripture, tradition, reason, experience).
- We believe that in the words, actions and person of Jesus, we have glimpsed the implementation of God's intended future for God's creation.
- Scripture calls it "the Kingdom of God". It will be realized fully when God's "will is done on earth as it is in heaven".
- Like other parishes, St Mark's mission is to as wisely, faithfully and effectively as possible, be an instrument of and a sign of the loving God revealed to us in Jesus and thus help God build God's Kingdom. St Mark's is to be a church that looks to the future by continuing the ministry and mission of Jesus within today's culture and in the community in which God has placed this church.
- This is the mission and the purpose of the church. It was entrusted to the church by Jesus himself on the evening of the first Easter Sunday.
- It hasn't changed in the past 2000 years. We are to do the mission has been entrusted to us until such time as God's Kingdom occurs on earth as it does in heaven.
- This means we are to try to be a worshipping parish in which faith is nurtured and care for one another occurs. This means we are to try to have St Mark's be a place where people can experience God's forgiving reconciling love. This means we are to try to be a welcoming parish that reaches out a helping hand to people less fortunate than ourselves.
- Working out the details of how to implement the mission entrusted to us is the ongoing task of every congregation.
- Our Anglican spiritual tradition of a caring, balanced Christianity based upon scripture, tradition, reason and experience, is a gift entrusted to us by God.
- Our Anglican spiritual tradition which accepts people and says to us "whoever you are and wherever you are on your journey of faith, you are welcome here" is a gift entrusted to us by God.
- Our Anglican spiritual tradition has shaped life, ministry and mission at St Mark's for many years and it will, with God's guidance, continue so to do.

Part Two:

- God's future is not something we manufacture.
- Membership in the church is not something into which we can coerce people.
- Both are works of the Holy Spirit. God calls us to participate helpfully with the work of the Spirit in building the future and building up the church.

Looking to our future

Fr Jim's hand-out to parishioners at the September breakfast is on the left. Please read it carefully and prayerfully.

A Most Important Breakfast!

by Brian Harrison

Some say that breakfast is the most important meal of the day and this was especially the case on September 11, when more than 40 parishioners came out to enjoy our breakfast and to hear Fr. Jim Roberts speak to us.

It was a great way for us to get to know Fr. Jim, as he spoke about the challenges he dealt with after receiving a cancer diagnosis, and about how our plans for the future are sometimes interrupted by God's plan for us.

He also shared *My Basics: Who we are/What We do...* the role of a parish church in the community around it.

Fr Jim also entertained the audience with his humourous point of view and parishioners gave him a warm and enthusiastic welcome.

If you missed our breakfast on November 13th ...



A season of welcome and farewell



The past few months, St Mark's has seen many changes. We have been blessed by a few newcomers, but we also saw friends moving away.







Pat Longsworth: a fond farewell to a friend

Pat Longsworth moved away this fall to be with her family in British Columbia. She leaves a large hole for many who knew and loved her, and below are some thoughts from her friend Grace Bryan and her children Catherine and Edward.

I met Pat in 1978 here at St Mark's and my earliest memory of her was the time she offered to take my children to church on Sundays. As a single working mother, I was very happy for that assistance. This she did continually for most of their young lives. Pat became their adopted grandmother.

Pat always had concern for others. When she hadn't heard from an elderly parishioner whom she drove to church on Sundays, Pat called the building superintendent where she lived and asked him to check on her. The news was not good! I also remember her care and attentiveness for another elderly person, father to one of her friends, whose days were brightened by her regular visits.

Pat was an active sports person, who biked, played tennis, cross country skied and swam as often as she could. She also loved to have 'people in', and she often served up favourite dishes from Belize.

A staunch and faithful Anglican, Pat loves her church and spending time with the members of the congregation, especially the young ones. My children remember when she was their Sunday School teacher, and her loving ways.

We love you and God bless you always.



Elsie Wilkins: a lady of letters

Keith Wilkins was asked for a few special memories of his mother and her many ministries at St Mark's, and also within the community.

Elsie moved to Carleton Heights in 1963 with John and her two boys Rick and Keith. Fitting into the new community, Elsie attended St Mark's regularly and supported parish activities through Circle 2.

After John's death in 1999, Elsie expanded her personal tradition of sending letters to family members to include shut-in parishioners whose names Father Roger

tters

provided, to provide a little cheering up. As a result, the comings and goings of the extended Wilkins family became fodder for Elsie's chatty letters to house-bound parishioners. These weekly and sometimes biweekly letters supplemented with church bulletins were at times the only connection that some parishioners maintained with the activities of the parish.

Elsie was active in church life through her membership in the altar guild and other pastoral care activities that supplemented her activities as palliative care volunteer at the Queensway Carleton hospital and Maycourt into her late eighties.

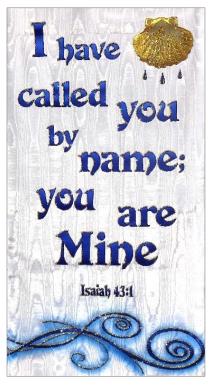
Declining health slowed Elsie's involvement in church activities until her time as a volunteer at the Perley Rideau on Fridays became reversed, when she moved to the nursing home. The ladies from St Mark's supported her and provided kind and compassionate support as Elsie slipped slowly away from the active life of the parish until her passing on July 20, 2016.



Baptism Banner dedicated

by Brenda Zanin

Children and grown-ups alike enjoyed the special service on Sunday, October 2, when 5-month-old Ellery Mirabel Greer, daughter of Karen and Alex Greer, was baptized.



Decorating the church for the first time that day was a new baptism banner, a gift from Ruth Werbin, who even in her frail condition the last few years, was always at the 10:00 am service. Sadly, Ruth passed away the day before. The dedication of the banner became part of the celebration of her life.



Ruth Werbin



Baptism cont

For the baptism, the Greer clan was out in full force, much to the delight of Cynthia and Paul, who managed to assemble 11 of their 12 grand-children, with parents and spouses, for the occasion. Fr Jim included everyone in the liturgy, as the Sunday School youngsters gathered around the font. He asked one child to hold the jug of water, one to hold the towel, and assigned other duties to others, with clear instructions as to their cues ("I'll tell you when I need the water. Your cue will be, 'give me the water'."). With rapt attention, they watched as Fr Jim cradled Ellery in his arms and performed the familiar ritual.

When the deed was done, the assigned child offered up the towel to mop the baby's moist brow, and chuckles rippled through the congregation as Fr Jim then mopped his own brow before processing around the church with the newest member of the Christian family.

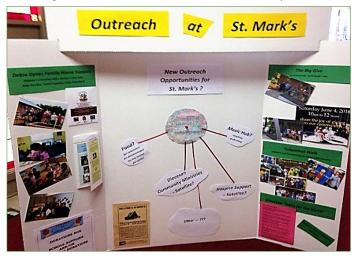
A spirit of joy and welcome radiated through the church, and little Ellery's behaviour was nothing less than angelic throughout the service.



St Mark's outreach efforts: displays, soup and banners

by Laurie Slaughter

Vibrant wall and table displays situated around Bishop Reed Hall outlined St Mark's activities and contributions to church and community at our first Welcoming and Sharing Sunday on October 16. Parish Council members graciously hosted a mini-luncheon, both preparing and serving special food, at the reception that followed the 10 o'clock service. This effort by all church groups highlighted St Mark's welcoming and sharing spirit. Organizers hope that next year more parishioners will make the effort to share our community with invited guests, as a few of our members did this year.



Several St Mark's members once again assisted and supported Debra Dynes Family House as they held their second annual Soupalicious fundraiser event at Carleton Heights Community Centre on October 23. The Family House is a major outreach focus for our church in the community, and our efforts are recognized and appreciated for this important activity and for all that we do for Debra Dynes. This event was a fun one that brings many people together in our community and the greater region of Ottawa.

Another event that highlighted St Mark's Outreach was the National Housing Day reception at City Hall on November 13. The Multi Faith Housing Initiative, which hosted the event, invited the members of St Mark's who walked in their Tulipathon fundraiser last May to come, bringing with them the St Mark's banner, to acknowledge it as the winning banner at the Tulipathon Walk event. The banner proudly represents our church and its support for affordable housing in Ottawa.





Better late than never

Although a little delayed, Fr Brian finally received two of his gifts, the Ode by Brenda Zanin and a copy of St Mark's banner.



"I would love to go back"



Thomas Pilson visits Iqaluit

Last spring my Nana, Cynthia Greer, suggested that I might enjoy a working trip in Iqaluit, helping at a music camp which has run for many years. Frances Macdonnell organized it through St Stephen's, bringing youth together from various local churches.

Through carwashes and other fundraising, plus matched funds from the diocese, and thanks to Frances' hard work, each teenager received half the airfare cost, plus more than \$100 each in spending money. Thanks to St Mark's generosity, the rest of my airfare was paid, out of GIFT and the choir camp fund. Also, through the parish picnic and donations, St Mark's also provided almost \$500 of goods and money which purchased school supplies, food for the food bank, including lots of fruit, baby clothes, soccer balls, and an air-pump for balls and bikes. We were all weighed down with two 60 lb cases and two 20 lb carry on bags!

We were nine teenagers in all, and on arrival we sent all the donations to the schools, soup kitchen, food bank, and hospital. We were even able to leave the cases.

The weather was really good, and we enjoyed playing outside with the campers. The soccer balls were a great hit. Each camp day was divided into four segments, with various types of music. I helped with the violin classes and vocal music. On the last evening we put on a fun concert, and I was part of the stage crew, another thing I love.

On the Sunday we went to the igloo-shaped St Jude's Cathedral, to the English service. It was a very enjoyable experience.

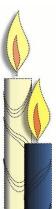
I had been to Iqaluit previously with the Ottawa children's choir, so it was so exciting to see the people I knew from before. We hope to continue these renewed friendships, because Frances would like to bring some of the children to Ottawa for the Canada's 150th birthday next July 1st.

I loved the way of life up there, and would love to go back. People were very friendly and kind.

Many thanks to all of you at St Mark's for enabling me to experience the music camp, and for being so generous with your gifts and money to take up north.



The gift that keeps on giving



A year ago, St Mark's was facing a major deficit. Your generous gifts in Advent 2015 brought us out of that darkness into a new light.

"Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart" was the theme for Stewardship 2016 that followed in April. Again, you showed your heart! The response was amazing.

The Corporation and Parish Council are grateful for the support of parishioners to increase their pledges the last few months. Your overall givings are up \$25,000, nearly 24%, since this time last year! That makes an incredible dent in our deficit budget, but we are still running a deficit.

As we enter the Advent season, prayerfully consider a special gift to the work of the church. Thank you.



Advent Giving Tree

For more information contact Cynthia Greer

Week 1 November 27 Personal toiletries, wash cloths, soaps, toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, combs, hand/body lotion, disposable razors

Week 2 December 4 hats, mitts, scarves, slippers, for all ages

Week 3 December 11 socks, underwear, undershirts, for all ages and all sizes, men, women, and children

Week 4 December 18 Operation Come Home drink boxes, fruit bars, granola bars, bottled water, small treats







St Mark's: this beautiful and significant House of God

watch the first 60 years ... on youtube

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AcZYanxxMyU&feature=youtu.be

hope it brings back happy memories



Remembrance Sunday:



Lorne Kelly Army, 1942-1946 1st Canadian Division 48th Highlanders Italy and Holland Battle of Apeldoorn

Lorne laid the wreath, assisted by Cubs Maddy and Poppy. We will Remember



Stewardship III

STEWARDSHIP A way of life

by Michael Perkin St Mark's Stewardship

Wow! We are doing much better than we predicted according to our current budget sheet. Thank you to all who continue to generously support St. Mark's ministries. While we may not be in the black yet, we certainly are working together to get us back on a balanced and hopefully fruitful budget.

Back at the September Parish Council I thought I would be able to do a number of things regarding Stewardship, even had a plan:

Spiritual		
 study 		
 daily devotions 		

contemplation

Yourself Environment physical

- greening spaces
- carbon reduction
- emotional

mental

 4 Rs - reuse, recycle, repair, repurpose.

Well things often don't go as planned. There was one thing missing in the Yourself box: time management!

Stewardship of our time is important. With appointments and meetings, house and yard work and errands and more, I sometimes end up sacrificing prayer, study and personal time, and end up being a poor steward of my time.

Someone once asked me what my three most important things were. I responded with Family, Work and God. Others had similar answers. The person then asked, if these were the most important factors in our lives how would they exist without us? We often sacrifice ourselves in order to serve our lists and in doing so we put at risk our ability to support our priorities.

We need to balance our time so that we are a healthy portion of the equation.

As we approach Advent and Christmas, we need to keep sacred the time for ourselves, to sit with God for just a while, embrace the Good News and then go forth and be the caring, sharing and faithful person God created us to be.

Church Treasurer 2017

The Wardens are looking for a new Church Treasurer. If you are willing to consider this very important position or even be part of the Treasurer Team, please contact the Wardens, Penny Miller and Sharon Walter.

Seniors' Fall Lunch



Fr Jim Roberts led the service for the Seniors' Eucharist and Lunch, using the old familiar words of the Book of Common Prayer service. Special guest Garth Hampson entertained during the lunch, with many old favourites for us all to sing along to. It was a wonderful time for friends, who, having moved away from the parish, were able to worship together and meet each other again.



Can you help our refugees?

The Refugee Ministry of the Diocese of Ottawa has received a request from one of the sponsoring groups they work with, that helps residents of the greater Ottawa area with programs and services for all ages, including a program for Syrian children and youth. There's a desperate need for volunteers to help government-assisted refugee families with their integration. Many have spent years in refugee camps and would benefit from support in various aspects of their settlement in Ottawa.

If you are interested in being part of a volunteer group from St Mark's, contact Cynthia Greer or Penny Miller.

Christmas Pageant – December 24, 2016 - 4:30 pm





Pasta Supper was molto buona!*

by Cynthia Greer on behalf of the Vitality Group Brian, Kate, Margaret, Maria, Penny, and Cynthia

Green, white and red decorations were everywhere in Bishop Reed Hall on October 29, from flags to table decorations, and the St Mark's lion, symbol of the city of Venice, brought us the perfect Italian connection for our parish and our Pasta Supper.

A wonderful time was had by all. That's what we heard as our guests left at the end of the evening, replete and relaxed.

The pasta dinner was just a simple idea, until the Vitality Group decided it needed a theme, and an Italian evening was the obvious answer.

Our youth helpers were three uniformed St Mark's scouts: Gaius, Jonathan and Sohail, two leaders Kat and Paul, and six other teenagers, including St Mark's

Isabelle Boutros, Ella, Abby, Julia and my grandchildren, Isabella and Sabrina, who along with Julia provided an Italian grace, while Father Jim chose another language, Ottawa Valley he tells us.



Our two principal kitchen workers were my daughter Joanne and her husband Franco Pagani, who prepared



the salad, sliced and plated Mr B's lasagna for over 100 people. They kept the young helpers busy, and happy, sliced tiramisu for the guests and made icecream sundaes for the younger crowd. They also took on another job as dishwashers, as the machine had broken that day!





Parishioners arrived to the sound of romantic Italian music, initially through a speaker and then live throughout the evening by Gillian Kirkland, our guest accordion player. Bruce Lodge was our MC for the night.

Our entertainment continued with more Italian music, and a special duetto buffo 'due gatti,' (duet for two cats) by Rossini, in another language known as meow, by Bruce Lodge and Kate Greer-Close, helped along by Jeremy.

After coffee the guests joined Ariane Dinde and the choir, and sang very lustily 'Funiculi', 'That's Amore', 'Volare', and 'Arrivederci Roma' for which Jenny Morphew provided this special verse:



Arrivederci amici,

Goodbye dear friends goodbye. As you journey home, may you forever, Bless this happy place and our endeavour, Hope you have enjoyed our time together so goodnight

Many thanks to all who helped in any way, and also to all who attended.

* A few Italian linguists attempted to agree on whether it should be molto bene, buono or buona. Your Editor gave up in the end, and made an executive decision to go with buona – just because I can. Ciao! ML

St Mark the Evangelist, Ottawa



Her Majesty sends her thanks

On April 21, 2016, Queen Elizabeth II celebrated her 90th birthday. To commemorate this occasion, St Mark's held a dinner two days later, and had attendees sign a special card:

Your Majesty: birthday greetings from Ottawa, Canada wishing you continued health and happiness, from the church family and friends of St Mark the Evangelist, Ottawa.



The card was sent to her Majesty, and we received a reply in September.

At that time the Close twins, Maddy and Poppy, sent their own happy birthday wishes. They received a thank you and also a picture of the

Oueen.

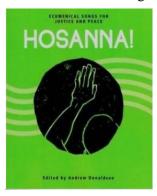
A Gift to the Parish Library

by Betty Caughlin.

Parish Librarian



The title may seem out of season but the contents of this beautiful book of songs are inviting in any season.



Hosanna! Ecumenical songs for Justice and Peace, edited by Andrew Donaldson and published by the World Council of Churches includes "89 songs from composers around the world. They are here published in English, French, Spanish, and German, with other languages..." It's a beautiful collection!

The book's bright green cover will help you find it in the middle section of the Parish Library in Bishop Reed Hall. Loan period is 3 weeks.

PS Among Henri Nouwen books (in the middle section of the Parish Library) is **Advent and Christmas**, a book of reflections compiled by Judy Bauer. This and many other titles may catch your interest. Take a look!



23rd September, 2016.

The Queen has asked me to convey her thanks for the message you have sent on behalf of the Church Family and Friends of St. Mark the Evangelist, Ottawa on the occasion of a Dinner and Concert held on 23rd April to celebrate Her Majesty's ninetieth birthday.

The Queen greatly appreciated your kind words and, in return, Her Majesty has asked me to send her warm good wishes to you and all concerned.

Christopher Sandamas Chief Clerk to The Queen

Cherishing our young people

by Kate Greer-Close

I am often asked about children and youth in our church - do we have any? Where are they? Well ... we have both children and youth. The children are active in the Sunday school and in the Junior choir. They are a full and cherished part of our congregation and our Sunday service. The children love to greet their adult church family and they often sit with different members to sing and visit. They invigorate all those who interact with them, with their observations and questions about the Trinity.

Our youth are harder to pin down. They serve as Sunday school helpers and servers. They also come out to help serve at bazaars, church suppers and rummage sales. They sometimes sing in the choir or join the Sunday school for special services. And they are appreciated each time they come!

Our children and our youth are growing at the heart of a congregation that shows the love of God in action - to them and as we reach out to others at the Perley, baking and decorating for various Ottawa missions, and walking to raise funds for the Tulipathon.

I know that each child and youth is affected by the love

they feel at St Mark's - whether they come occasionally or every week. This is a place where one can come to know God.





Fall Bazaar

One of the major annual events for St Mark's has been the Fall Bazaar which is held the first Saturday in November. This year the profits were over \$5000. A job well done by Joy Bowerman and all her workers. A mini Bazaar will be held November 29.







followed by light supper



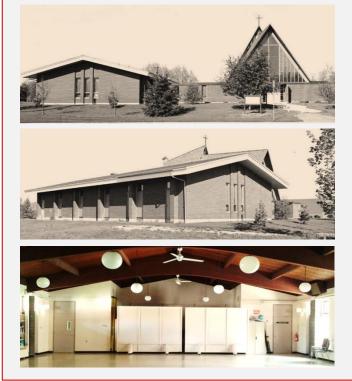
St Mark's Anglican 1606 Fisher Ave, Ottawa

tickets \$15

office: 613-224-7431 stmarks@stmarkottawa.ca

Happy 50th to our Parish Hall

After many years of hard work, St Mark's new parish hall was built in 1966, and blessed on November 6 of that year.



Parish Hall: a wise investment

A parish church needs a parish hall, to hold all the events of the parish community, and also those of the greater geographic community. Prior to 1966, events were held in the basement hall.

St Mark's Parish Hall has seen 50 years of many varied activities, including dancing, receptions, parties, church school, play school, guides, scouts and a few sleep-overs.

Then there are the church activities of strawberry festivals, art shows, breakfasts, lunches and suppers, rummage sales and bazaars, and everything else that goes into making an active parish.

It was a very wise decision by our founding parishioners in 1966, to provide this wonderful space for so many activities.

St Mark the Evangelist, Ottawa



November 27 8:00 am 10:00 am 4:30 pm	Advent 1 Holy Eucharist Sung Eucharist Lessons & Carols for Advent followed by light supper	
December 9 7:30 pm	Stairwell Carollers Concert tickets \$15 from church office	
December 18 8:00 am 10:00 am	Advent 4 Holy Eucharist Lessons & Carols for Christmas with Communion	
December 24 4:30 pm 8:30 pm 9:00 pm	Christmas Eve Holy Eucharist for the Family & pageant Carol singing Sung Eucharist	
December 25 10:00 am	Christmas Day Holy Eucharist	
2017		
January 8	Baptism of our Lord Crèche Sunday	
January 8 8:45 am	Parish Breakfast following 8:00 am service	
January 18-25	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity TBA	
	February 28Pancake Supper5:00 - 7:00 pmcontinuous servings	

for unto us a child is born



Weekly Schedules

Mondays

9:00 am Slim & Trim - Hall 6:30 pm Cubs - St Rita's

Tuesdays

6:30 pm Beavers - St Rita's7:30 pm Prayer & Praise - Choir Room third Tuesday Prayers for Healing - Chapel

Wednesdays

9:00 am Slim & Trim - Hall 7:00 pm Scouts - St Mark's or St Rita's

Thursdays

6.15 pm Junior Choir 7:00 pm Senior Choir

Fridays

9:00 am Slim & Trim - Hall 10:30 am Eucharist - Perley Rideau

Monthly Schedules

1st Sunday12 noonPrayer Shawl meeting1st Monday12 noonCircle 21st Thursday7:00 pmScout Group Committee2nd Wednesday7:30 pmParish Council4th Tuesday1:00 pmMothers' Union

Mark This Word Compilers: Margaret Lodge Brenda Zanin Penny Miller Rev. Canon Jim Roberts	 Mark This Word is published 3 or 4 times a year. It is available in various formats: you can have it in hard copy – in black and white you can have it sent direct to your e-mail – in colour – contact the office you can also view it on-line at www.stmarksottawa.ca/annex/newsviewsindex.html
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