

**Welcome to the Annual Vestry Meeting,  
Parish of St. Mark the Evangelist,  
Anglican Diocese of Ottawa  
Sunday, March 8, 2026**

**Agenda**

Opening Prayer

Appointment of Vestry Clerk

Minutes of Annual Vestry, 23 February 2025

Rector's Report and Churchwardens' Report

2025 Financial Statement and Financial Reviewers' Report

2026 Budget

Nominations Committee Report and Elections

All other 2025 Reports

Lenten Outreach

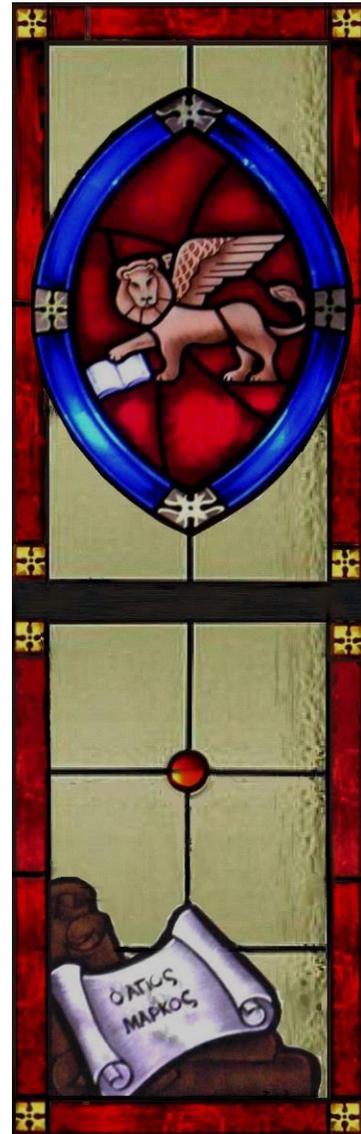
Motions (not tied to changes in the proposed budget)

1. Bank for 2026
2. Financial Reviewers for 2026

Other Business

Motions of Thanks

Adjournment



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# ANNUAL REPORTS TO VESTRY

March 8, 2026

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## Parish Statistics 2025

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Households	185	157*	155	150	140	137
Average Sunday Attendance	Jan-Feb – 81 Sep – Dec – 31 Video – 118	Sep – Dec – 50 Video – 96 Stream - 54	Jan – 14 Feb-Dec – 45 Stream - 66	In-Person – 54 Stream - 59	In-Person – 58 Stream - 52	In person – 63 Stream - 49
Christmas	In-Person – 35 Video – 304	In-Person - 11 Stream - 52	In-Person – 61 Stream - 157	In-Person – 75 Stream - 94	In-Person – 92 Stream - 92	In Person - 109 Stream - 88
Easter	Video – 182	Video – 141	In-Person – 62 Stream - 71	In-Person – 78 Stream - 65	In Person – 94 Stream - 65	In Person - 100 Stream - 65
Baptized		5		2	7	
Confirmed						
Marriages					1	
Deaths	5	9	5	6	6	6

\*- a comprehensive review of the parish list removed a number of people with whom we had lost contact

### Deaths

Allan Caroll  
Carol Dicks  
James Hardy

Annette Lewis  
Helen McGill  
Robert Stocks

### Lay Assistants at Communion

Joy Bowerman  
Joan Hounsell  
Gillian Martin  
Penny Miller  
Jenny Morphew

Janis Perkin  
Michael Perkin  
Georgia Roberts  
Keith Wilkins  
Brenda Zanin

## Rector's Report

As I write this 'Rector's Report' near the end of February I am completing my fourth month at St Mark's and we have just begun the season of Lent together. My arrival at the beginning of October means that things are still very new and we are still getting to know each other and still experiencing things together for the first time. This report, for that reason, will be brief. On Vestry Sunday I will present a second Rector's Report in a form of a 'charge' to the parish.

Arriving in a parish just before Thanksgiving Sunday is a wonderful way to begin a new journey together but it also makes for a busy time: meeting new people and learning new traditions and customs in a season of festivals. During the past four-ish months we've celebrated the festivals of Thanksgiving, All Saints/Souls, Christmas and Epiphany to name a few. We've marked Remembrance Day and we've travelled through the seasons of Pentecost, Advent and Epiphany. Along with the lay representatives, I've attended Synod and will shortly attend an Episcopal Synod. Within the Parish we have gathered for Advent lunch; 'Soup and Study' coffee hours; a revived Pancake Supper and just now we are nearing the end of another very successful Black History Month.

In this time, I've been fortunate to be able to meet with some of the groups that make up St Mark's ministries and more meetings are scheduled through Lent and beyond. Christmas allowed me an opportunity to meet some of our parishioners who are not able to be with us on Sundays and I continue to work with the Pastoral Care and other teams to ensure that these folks are tended and visited.

Early impressions are of a parish that is committed to serving God and each other. People offer their time and skills to the myriad ministries and tasks that keep this place working and well-maintained. I am grateful for all who offer of themselves as part of the guilds, and committees as well as so many, many more who show up to take care of weekly or seasonal tasks and who make it possible to offer weekly services on-site and beyond. I am blessed with a small staff: our parish administrator Joy and music director Elaine. I am very fortunate to be part of a dedicated Parish Council and to have a wise, committed and faithful set of Wardens (Corporation) who have a strong vision and who do so much for St Mark's.

It has been a joy to note that we have a continuing stream of visitors and new parishioners who are making their way to our Parish. I am grateful for the welcome that is offered by our greeters and sidespeople and by the congregation as a whole. Some of our newcomers are children and families and it has been wonderful to see the Church school flourishing under the care of its leaders and teachers. Thank you for all of this.

A personal note of thanks for the welcome you've offered. As I settle into a new place and new customs my way here has been eased by friendly words offered on a Sunday, by conversations and learnings from the leadership and staff and by a generous welcome. I look forward to this new year with you and our first Vestry together—I hope that all who are able will make a special effort to gather on March 8. Please do come.

Yours in Christ,

Mary-Cate+

## Wardens' Report

In 2025 Corporation was comprised of Rev Mary-Cate Garden, Joseph Emmanuel Amuah, Janis Perkin. Corporation, together with deputy wardens Mike Duval and Gillian Martin and Joy Bowerman (Acting Treasurer), met regularly to address operational concerns and other issues.

### *Financial Advisory Committee*

Corporation established a Financial Advisory Committee consisting of Rev Mary-Cate Garden, Georgia Roberts, Joseph Emmanuel Amuah, Joy Bowerman, Keith Wilkins, Janis Perkin, Mike Duval and Michael Perkin. This committee supports and assists Corporation in fulfilling its responsibility for the planning and management of St Mark's resources.

### *Black History Month*

As part of our tradition at St Mark's, in 2025, we celebrated Black History Month with 2 major events where we had guest speakers and an Afro-Caribbean feast. We also participated in joint events (fashion show and panel discussion) with St Thomas.

The committee was chaired by Mayowa Ojo, alongside members, including, Janis Perkin, Sophia Chiboka, Joseph Amuah, Joan Hounsell, and Marion Namukwaya.

### *Fire Extinguishers*

Corporation worked with Anderson Fire Protection to tune-up our Fire Extinguishers and replace batteries for emergency lights.

Joseph Amuah  
Warden

## Property Report

### 1. ***Mechanical & Building Systems***

#### *Backflow Prevention*

- The backflow preventer was installed to comply with mandatory requirements for potable water systems. This installation reduces the risk of contamination and supports safe operation of the church's water supply.

#### *Heating & HVAC*

- Coordinated replacement of a delayed zone valve for hall heating, restoring proper control and comfort.
- Regular inspections are taking place, with HVAC equipment being checked and filters being changed on a regular basis.
- A review of the current HVAC service provider was undertaken, with consideration given to alternative providers.

#### *Plumbing & Water Systems*

- Investigated and responded to leaks and drainage concerns as they arose.
- Ongoing sump pump issues were monitored and managed, with attention to reliability, discharge performance, and flood-risk mitigation.
- Repairs were completed to the basement sink, including cleaning of drain lines to restore proper flow and reduce the risk of future blockages.

- Repairs to the kitchen sink drainage were professionally completed following a leak.

## 2. **Building Envelope & Interior**

### *Doors, Windows & Openings*

- Minor door repairs and adjustments were completed to improve operation, security, and weather sealing.
- A window company attended in 2025 to provide a free assessment of the windows.

### *Interior Repairs*

- The link and front entrance doors were painted.

### *Carpeting:*

- New carpeting was installed in the link and back exit, with the existing carpet repurposed for use in the office area.

### *Lighting:*

- LED lighting was installed throughout St. Mark's, including new lighting in the link.

## 3. **Safety, Compliance & Risk Management**

- Monthly inspections were organized and are taking place, supported by parish volunteers.

## 4. **Grounds & Exterior**

- Seasonal exterior upkeep continued, with lawn care and general landscaping carried out by volunteers.
- new 3-year service contract for snow removal was implemented.

## **Conclusion**

Throughout 2025, property and maintenance efforts focused on maintaining safe, reliable, and functional facilities through routine upkeep, required upgrades, and timely repairs. These efforts helped support the ongoing use of the church while managing aging building systems in a responsible and practical manner.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Duval,  
Deputy Warden (Property & Maintenance)

## **Synod Report**

The 145<sup>th</sup> Synod of the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa opened with a Eucharist on the evening of October 23, 2025 at Christ Church Cathedral. In his homily, the Rev. Dr. Christopher Brittain, recently appointed as diocesan Canon Theologian, quoted from Archbishop Shane Parker's charge that opened the 2024 Synod: "We must always remember that God is already at work in the world, and our task is to participate in God's work by listening in a new way to the Holy Spirit." Rev. Dr. Brittain noted that those who heard those words last year were not expecting the change that began when Archbishop Parker was elected to lead the Anglican Church of Canada. We should:

- be prepared to be redirected;
- accept that this is going to be disruptive, so we better talk about this honestly together; and

- stay rooted during this time in God.

On Friday morning, Synod attendees were greeted in the lobby of the St. Elias Centre by a group of St Mark's parishioners who efficiently carried out the on-site Synod registration. It has been a long-standing tradition for St Mark's to be involved in this registration.

Then began a very busy two days where we learned about the work that had been carried out over the past year and contributed to discussions and decisions that will influence future activities. Bishop Michael Bird, Administrator of the Diocese until our next bishop is in place, chaired the proceedings. Here are a few items that particularly caught our attention.

Rev, Monique Stone gave a brief overview of the Shape of Parish Ministry process for determining how God is calling us to shape the parish ministry in our diocese, recognizing that we need to seek to guide change rather than to be changed by external factors. The work on a plan began in 2020 and led to a consensus at the 2022 Synod for three proposals. These in turn developed into 11 actions supported at the 2023 Synod, which, at the 2024 Synod, produced the following 6 results as the priorities for the current triennium (three-year budgetary and planning cycle from 2024 to 2026):

1. Less reliance on parish revenues to fund the operating budget of our diocese.
2. Diocesan staff will provide increased assistance and support to parish leaders as they manage parish finances, properties, stewardship, communications, HR and administration.
3. Our bishop will provide guidance to parishes facing major changes and will promote and enable innovation and collaboration.
4. Parish leaders will receive more training and learning opportunities.
5. We will have a Learning Commons and a program for Parish Advancement that will include resources, knowledge and practical instruction on all essential aspects of parish ministry.
6. We will learn how to practice contextual mission as we engage with the world and establish new worshipping communities.

Considerable progress has been made on these priorities since Synod 2024. Some examples that could have special interest to St Mark's were:

For Result #5: Members of the Education Committee reported on the progress that has been made since Synod 2024 in developing Learning Commons resources. One online resource – the Thriving Parish Self-Assessment Tool – was explained and synod members did a “test run” with other members from the same parish. This questionnaire is to help parishes decide what areas of parish life to prioritize.

For Result #6: The Contextual Mission subcommittee reminded us of the following two goals envisioned at Synod 2024:

- By 2028, every parish will be engaged in a new or renewed contextual mission initiative
- By the 135<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our diocese, in 2032, we will have created 35 new worshipping communities.

The subcommittee recommended a number of resources to help to achieve these goals and gave details about Future Fund grants available to fund such ventures. Also, some successful contextual mission initiatives were shared with the synod, including a games night held in Smiths Falls, a monthly community gathering held in Manotick and a lunch program offered in Hawksbury. It would seem that our St Mark's Coffee, Company and Conversation would also rank as a successful contextual mission initiative. And we could explore whether an expansion of this mission initiative or something new could be considered.

For Result #2: The Stewardship Resource Hub provides guidance and expertise to parishes seeking to improve their financial stewardship. St Mark's has been making use of the diocesan partnership with The Episcopal Network for Stewardship (TENS) in developing its stewardship plans.

There was a brief overview of our five community ministries - Belong Ottawa, Centre 105, Cornerstone Housing for Women, The Ottawa Pastoral Counselling Centre and the Refugee Ministry Office – including a financial update. Then Rev. Canon Dr. Peter John Hobbs (PJ) was thanked for his decades of devoted parish ministry and passionate leadership for the Community Ministries. PJ is retiring in February 2026.

The Rev. Canon Dr. Sarah Johnson, director of Anglican Studies at Saint Paul University, was the guest reflector for Synod and spoke at 3 different points over the two days. In her biographic sketch, she is described as “a practical theologian who studies Christian worship in the context of a changing North American religious landscape”. Canon Johnson's first reflection shared insights from a research project that surveyed the ways that Anglican parishes have incorporated ceramic feather sculptures (received as gifts from an art exhibit marking Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2017) into their worship space and practices and how that reflects on their engagement with efforts toward reconciliation with Indigenous peoples. Her second reflection focused on the question of how to attract more young people to attend church and identified a commonly-used transactional approach that has been found to be problematic. In her third talk, Canon Johnson reflected on the discussions and themes that emerged during the Synod, noting that the church is both bigger and smaller than we often imagine. Its largeness is seen in its rich past and in its global presence. But, in its smallness it also displays a power and grace. She noted “all it takes to be the church is a Bible, a meal, two or three people, and a commitment to the realm of God.”

There is so much more that happened at Synod -- including listening to reports from General and Provincial Synods and from diocesan committees, approving budgets and financial statements, and visiting the wide variety of booths in the Exhibit Hall. The best way to learn more is to look at the special Synod 2025 pages in the December 2026 issue of Perspective or to read the 145<sup>th</sup> Synod 2025 Highlights at <https://ottawa.anglican.ca/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/Synod-Summary-2025.pdf>.

Georgia Roberts and Janis Perkin  
Synod members

## Video Services

Throughout 2025, the 10 am Sunday services (9 am services during the summer) were livestreamed every week. As well, a funeral in July, Ash Wednesday, extra services during Holy Week and Christmas were also streamed.

The average views on the Sunday livestream videos during 2025 was 49. This includes people who watched the livestream and those who viewed it later. Of course, there are people who “attend” the service several times by coming in person and then watching later at home. This number is again down slightly from last year.

While the routine is becoming more comfortable, there is still trouble shooting which has to be done every so often. I would like to thank the brave souls who run the livestream equipment. They are Mike Duval, Joan Grayer, Joan Hounsell, and Penny Miller.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joy Bowerman, Video Producer

## Stewardship

2025 was the year that we almost had a Financial Stewardship campaign but didn't. With the departure of Father David Clunie and the arrival of Rev. Mary Cate Garden it was determined that a financial campaign was not the recommended course of action for Fall 2025. This came as a relief to the members of the Stewardship team as fall is always a busy time of returning to worship, bazaars and not to mention welcoming a new rector. Needless to say, our members Joy Bowerman, Georgia Roberts, Keith Wilkinson, Joseph Amuah, Mayowa Ojo, Nick VanDyk and Rev Mary-Cate still put in a goodly amount of effort into planning and preparation, looking at volunteer hours, statistical giving figures, a narrative budget and significant discussions on how to best address the campaign and needs of our parish. None of these efforts will be lost as they can be utilized in any future campaigns. I am hoping you will have enjoyed some of our Stewardship reflections this year, they hopefully provided some insight and perhaps inspiration about the various aspects of stewardship, not only the financial aspect but also how we live our lives as stewards of God's creation. We are looking forward to next year which we hope will be an exciting and full year of stewardship at St. Mark's. Don't forget to come to vestry and find out more.

Respectfully submitted  
Michael Perkin, Stewardship

## Rentals

This year we have many regular renters continuing with us, both upper and lower halls are being used most evenings of the week, some afternoons and also a couple of Saturdays. We have actually had to turn down groups. Our biggest problem is providing storage for groups who request it.

Both summer camps were with us again during July and August and reported successful sessions. For several years we have been one of the sites for the Kiwanis music festival, held during April, they bring in a grand piano for the participants and also allow us to use it on Sundays, which has added a special sound to our service.

The rental fees were increased slightly this year and the decision was made to add a cleaning fee to any renters who plan to serve food this ensures that the facility is ready for either the next renters or our use.

Penny Miller  
Rentals Coordinator

## Church School

After Covid, the church school did not re-open partly because during that time the children had grown up. Some of them were now also in the senior choir.

Then over 2 years ago, some younger children arrived, and I felt they needed a chance to learn at a different level, or at least be able to move around and speak.

I started with colouring pages and word puzzles, in a separate binder for each child, but remaining in the church. Then Fr Julian agreed the little ones needed more, and what I thought of as 'time out' with songs and games, he called Sunday school with a learning program.

So I invited a few willing helpers, Pauline Adams, Carolyn Findlay, Joan Grayer and Margaret van Dyk, all with their police check completed, and we set up church school in the conference room, with the option if we had small children, of using Bishop Reed Hall as well.

While that is not perfect, I haven't found another answer for the wide age range of 4 to 14, and sometimes as young as 2. Of course some attend every week, and some not so regularly, since they may walk or come by bus, and that is weather and bus schedule dependent.

They are a lovely group of children, and also very knowledgeable, and a pleasure to teach. I can have up to 10 children, but sometimes as few as 2.

James Martinez-Ball, now 15 years old, is hoping to become a helper when the weather gets warmer, and more little ones come. He and his brother David are also altar servers, with Folami and Folarin joining them soon, so that changes the composition of the class.

Usually, I use a book of stories which connects with the readings on the years A B and C. which the church uses. If I don't think it is the right lesson for children, I use a work book called 'Life in the Eucharist.' This is a program about receiving Communion, really for 8- to 10-year-olds. Since Baptism is now the only entry needed to receive Communion, the children do not receive any teaching on the subject, unless the parents take it upon themselves.

That is our program when possible, but the time in church school is very short, and consists of a prayer, singing appropriate songs with Margaret van Dyk, and the lesson. We all enjoy working with the children. I would be happy to have others I could call on, occasionally, for the little ones. You would not be left to your own devices unless you wished to be, and of course we follow the rule of always 2 adults in the class.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Greer, for Carolyn, Joan, Margaret and Pauline.

## **Pastoral Care Ministry**

The present members of our pastoral care team are Georgia Roberts, Keith Wilkins, Jenny Morphew, Pauline Adams, and Cynthia Greer. Although there had not been a parish team for some time, in 2022, we all took a 10-week course supported by the Diocese, and received a vulnerable person police check before we could visit.

We organized loosely into pairs, but it is not as easy as it seems to organize for even just 2 people to be free to visit at the same time. We have visited people in their homes, hospital, Seniors Residences and in Long Term care homes.

Covid took a toll on everyone in different ways, but for older people, those years may have been the last 3 years of a healthy active life. Many are still scared of catching Covid, or they have become so used to being alone without visitors, that they are unable to make the transition back to pre-Covid times. This has resulted in their not wanting personal visits, but are happy with a phone call. On the one hand it is easier for us because you don't have to organize with your visiting partner, but they then miss the 3- way conversation which is often more stimulating.

Most of the team offer to take Holy Communion with them. If you would like home Communion, please let the office know, at 613-224-7431. Rev. Mary-Cate is very happy to visit and share Communion with you.

Members of the pastoral care team are waiting to be invited. We would like to interact with you, because we care, and used to enjoy seeing you at church. Consider it a 'friendly visit' if the words 'pastoral care' don't appeal to you, and call me at 613-723-2680. We are here to serve you and that is why we are part of the pastoral care team.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cynthia Greer, for Georgia, Keith, Jennifer, and Pauline.

## **Prayer Ministries**

### **St Mark's E-Prayer**

E-prayer is prayer sent via e-mail for people who have requested prayers.

Since its inception in 2007, the E-prayer circle has worked as a conduit between pray-ers and those being prayed for. It has helped provide an instant prayer link of support and comfort when it was needed.

2025 saw a major transition in e-prayer. Margaret Lodge, who founded the e-prayer ministry retired at the end of 2024. We give thanks for Margaret's faithful ministry. Cynthia Greer and Joy Bowerman together took on this ministry in its 18<sup>th</sup> year of operation. Because of privacy restrictions, the e-prayer distribution list had to be started anew and we now have 20 people on the distribution list.

If you do not receive the e-prayer emails, but would like to do so, please contact the office ([stmarks@stmarksottawa.ca](mailto:stmarks@stmarksottawa.ca)) or Cynthia Greer ([greercynthia69@yahoo.com](mailto:greercynthia69@yahoo.com)).

Cynthia Greer and Joy Bowerman  
E-prayer Coordinators

### **Prayer Cycle Calls**

Three of us are phone callers for the prayer cycle, Cynthia Greer, Ann Matthews and Brenda Zanin.

Each week, except over the summer, you will find the names of 4 family groups or individuals in alphabetical order at the end of the bulletin. We gradually call the whole parish, maybe 2 or 3 times during the year. No matter how we try, it always seems to surprise people that we call, and they can't really understand why.

When we call, we introduce ourselves and explain that we are calling to see how you are, and if you have prayer concerns of any kind for yourself, family or friends. Your requests are shared with Brenda, Ann, Cynthia and the priest. This past year they were Father Julian, Father David, and Rev. Mary-Cate.

Carol Dicks always participated in praying for the people of St Mark's with Ann, and then for the other diocesan and world- wide Anglican people in the bulletin, even until the day before she passed away.

What you tell us, stays confidential. We may ask you for the first name of the person you have asked us to pray for. This is not simply curiosity, but we feel it is important to use the person's name in our prayers.

This is also a great opportunity to connect with our parishioners. It helps us find out where people might be if we lose track of them.

If you would like extra prayers at other times, please let one of us know.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Greer, Ann Matthews, and Brenda Zanin.

## Prayer Shawl Ministry

Prayer shawls are prayerfully knitted or crocheted. There are many uses for the shawls - comfort and healing during illness, to the elderly or lonely; comfort after a loss or in times of stress; to celebrate a birth, wedding or baptism; farewell wishes for someone moving away and many more uses.

The giving of a shawl enriches the giver as well as the recipient.

We also make pocket prayer shawls. These micro shawls are easily carried in a pocket, purse, tuck into a helmet. They can be taken to places you may not want to take or can't take a large shawl e.g. the doctor's office, intensive care unit, hospital, work. Many parishioners and visitors prefer this size of shawl.

Remember that prayers can be added to the shawls and pocket prayer shawls. This can be done by the recipient, relatives and friends by holding the shawl, tying a prayer in with yarn or ribbon or adding pins, buttons or charms.

If you would like a prayer shawl please leave a message with the office or speak to Gillian Morris.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gillian Morris.

## Music Ministry

The music ministry at St. Mark's is thriving.

The choir consists of 17 people who are supportive and dedicated to the music ministry of our church. I can count on them to attend practices and services, even when the weather is deplorable. I cancelled choir practice only once in this last year because school buses were canceled and road warnings were issued. Had I not cancelled practice, I'm quite sure that most choir members would have attended. Their safety is more important!

The choir continues to run smoothly thanks to the participation of each member as well as the leadership of the following people:

1. Cynthia Greer, our president, represents the choir at parish council. She also keeps us abreast of church functions such as extra services and events, weddings and funerals. She sends notices to the choir about timing, attire and social occasions. She keeps track of choir members' life events and phones, sends cards and plants to those who need extra care.
2. Jenny Morpew, our choir librarian, carefully organizes our music, files music that we sing, and is a valuable resource for music and its location in the library.
3. Alexander Reiker sings with St. Mark's weekly and leads worship once monthly while Elaine visits her aunt who now resides in a residence in Lyndsey. Alexander's leadership in the bass section and as our second organist is invaluable.
4. Joy Bowerman, as office administrator and long-time choir member, is another excellent music resource, and prints bulletins for choir practice to ensure that Sunday bulletins are perfect. I never have to worry about music selections being incorrect, and she gently reminds me if I have omitted something. She also helps lead the choir when I am absent on a Thursday night. I truly appreciate her support.
5. Janis and Michael Perkin hosted our annual choir party. A great time was had by all.

I thank the choir for accepting the challenge of learning music in a variety of languages and musical styles. It is not always easy to learn music that doesn't come easily, but I feel that it's important to expand our repertoire to reflect the diversity of the Anglican Church. Once we learn an anthem in a

different language, it is so much easier to sing it a second time, as was the case with Ise Oluwa (The work of the Lord cannot be destroyed) and Sizohamba Naye (We will walk with God), both of which we learned in 2025 and sang for a second time this year. A couple of congregation members who are more familiar with this music told me that these two anthems sounded even better this year. High praise! We will continue to expand our repertoire as well as include much of our beautiful traditional Anglican music.

One particular joy was Black History Month. All anthems and most of the organ voluntaries were written by Black composers or in the style of music genres established by the Black community (examples: Ragtime, jazz). Many of the hymns that we sang in February are also by Black composers. Did you know that the mass setting we use in February is by Black Canadian composer, David Hurd? I have found some wonderful organ and piano music which I have enjoyed learning. I recently purchased two new volumes which I will learn and sprinkle through services throughout the year.

I also thank the congregation for being open to new hymns. You'll notice that some hymns are not in the hymnal, rather printed in the bulletin; these are drawn from the Anglican supplement, Sing a New Creation. Some are new texts set to traditional tunes, some are new both musically and textually, and others are traditional ethnic music. These hymns are a nice addition to our worship. We also sing a variety of psalm settings, including traditional chant, settings by George Black and psalms paraphrased in hymns.

Guest instrumentalists and soloists are welcome additions to the music of St. Mark's. Joy Bowerman and I have enjoyed preparing and playing organ/piano duets based on hymns of the day. We played several times during Advent and at Christmas and will be playing a duet based on "What Wondrous Love is This" during Lent. Gillian Martin has played the flute several times this year both in instrumental arrangements of hymns and to accompany anthems. We can look forward to hearing her play again very soon. Alex Dee drummed at both the Lessons and Carols Service and on Christmas Eve. During summer services, several of our choir members volunteered to sing solos. Thank you to Gillian Martin, Suja Mani and Sue Postlethwaite for their contributions!

If you know of a congregation member who has a musical talent, I would be delighted to welcome their participation in our services. Please contact me if you are interested, or if you know of someone who might be interested. Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Graham  
Music Director

## **Screening in Faith**

What is screening? Screening involves assessing the risks involved in a particular position or ministry; finding an appropriate match between task and volunteer (or candidate for a job); providing sensitization and training, and sometimes altering the setting and arrangement of ministry delivery to minimize risks and maximize the ministry's success.

The Screening in Faith Committee is comprised of Les Cundell, Georgia Roberts and Michael Perkin. It continues to work on the screening process and procedures at St. Mark's.

Our records show that 1 application was made for a Police Records Check (PRC) for the year 2025. We will have to carry out some Police Records Checks and renewals in 2026 for those whose record checks will expire. Presently, we have 9 record checks on record.

We confirmed with the Ottawa Police Service that the requirement for a Police Records Check is for “each volunteer applicant to take his/her own completed application, in person, to the police station at 2760 Queensview Dr. and they will need to take 2 valid pieces of identification (one of which must be a photo ID) and a letter from the Church confirming his/her Volunteer status to have a Records Check done free of charge. Also it is possible to go on-line. Go to the Ottawa Police web sight to register. More people are using this resource. Should you encounter difficulties. Members of the Screening in Faith committee will be happy to provide assistance to volunteers applying for Police Records Checks or renewals.

The Ministries and positions designated as High-risk are:

-Rector (Diocesan responsibility) -Pastoral Care -Church School (Head and Teachers) -Rector’s Wardens, Rector’s Deputy Warden -Nursery (Head and Helpers) -People’s Warden, People’s Deputy Warden -Friendly Visitors -Instructor of Servers -Junior Choir (Leader) -Home Communion Visitors -Screening in Faith Committee -Parish Administrator (not a volunteer) -

Plans for 2026 include: 1) Continuing work on the Screening program – with new Police Records Checks applications/Reference Checks etc. for volunteers in High-risk ministries; 2) Notifying volunteers who need to have their records updated. 3) Contacting Heads of Groups for up-to-date lists of group members for inclusion in St. Mark’s Volunteer list.

Respectfully submitted,  
Les Cundell]

## St Mark’s Web and Facebook

The website continues to be used. Every week, the latest newsletter is posted to the website and the newsletter archive updated. The latest video is automatically updated. Any news is also put on the website as it comes. Special events such as Black History Month, Christmas, Easter are all highlighted in the rotating slides at the top of the webpage. The archives of *Mark This Word*, Parish Newsletters, Parish Council Minutes and Vestry reports are all available on the website as well as links to our YouTube channel.

There are now four people maintaining our facebook page. Suzanne Bisson and Joan Hounsell handle the bulk of this work, making sure that special events are highlighted and posting pictures when appropriate. Mary-Cate posts events of interest and Joy occasionally posts material that comes from the office.

respectfully submitted  
Joy Bowerman

## Mothers’ Union

The Mothers’ Union is a world–wide *sisterhood* within the Anglican Church, with 4 million members in over 80 countries. The aims are:

- ❖ to share Christ’s love and teaching by supporting and nurturing marriage and family life,
- ❖ to maintain a world-wide fellowship of Christians, united in prayer worship and service,
- ❖ to seek justice for all,
- ❖ to support individuals and families in troubled circumstances.

**In 2023 St Mark’s Mothers’ Union celebrated 40 active years in the parish, and we are still here serving others where needed.**

In 1949 St Mark's was a new parish in a new community of returned war veterans. The church was built in 1954. Various Guilds, Circles etc, evolved for St Mark's ladies over the years. The parish had a Mothers' Union from early times, until 1968, when new Canadian marriage canons regarding divorce differed from those in Britain.

When these canons were once again in agreement in the early 1980s, most of those groups at St Marks were still active, but there was nothing specifically for younger women with small children. So we started Mothers' Union up again, to include separated and divorced women, who had been previously refused membership. To our minds, the church failed them, but that was the way the rules went, and we sometimes have to just accept that and thank God they changed, although younger women wonder why it was ever that way.

Today, we still focus strongly on the family, whether it is our own family, our parish family or those who need support around the world. This has been shown through the years by many fundraising projects through catering parish events with our family picnics and BBQs, lunches and dinners, supporting the Akany Famonjena Orphanage in Madagascar, which we no longer support, because its leader Mary Sherwood came back to Canada, and all information stopped, our Giving Tree in Advent to serve Belong, and the Mission, and our on-going Book Table during coffee hour, raising funds to help others.

It is still very much a prayerful, worshipping group connected worldwide on one side, with a practical 'how can we help' on the other, including pastoral support at many levels with our group members. All the women on our pastoral care team are M.U. members.

❖ **Mothering Sunday Coffee:** As usual since 1984, our MU group has recognized the Anglican Mothering Sunday – the 4th Sunday in Lent, and has for most of that time provided coffee hour on that day, including treats especially MU Simnel cake. You would never guess that except for the gluten free cake, all come from the same recipe. Again, as in the past, carnations were given to the ladies at the service.

#### **Other activities during the year**

- ❖ **Book Table:** The book table is available almost every Sunday and gives the parish an opportunity to buy and donate books. It started in 2000 as a form of fundraising to provide donations to a variety of projects supported by Mothers' Union, locally and in Canada, but also around the world. Apart from a break during Covid, this project has raised nearly \$16,000 since it started.
- ❖ **Diocesan Synod registration:** : In the Fall, MU handled the registration at Synod, as we have done for many years. Again we offered our help, and it was accepted. Until they go totally on line, we will have a job! We all enjoy having a chance to chat with people from other parishes, and they are thankful for our help if they are new
- ❖ **Church Bazaar:** As usual, MU took part in helping at the November Bazaar, selling Christmas puddings and church calendars. Members also helped in all other aspects of running the bazaar. The profit from both calendars and puddings goes into the bazaar funds, except for the cost of the ingredients etc
- ❖ **Christmas Puddings:** : A few years ago, when our ACW closed, we were asked by Jackie Sorfleet to take over the puddings, and M.U. agreed. We made only 2 batches of puddings this year, and almost all were sold at the annual church bazaar, by in-church orders and also on-line. They cost \$8.00 and \$16.00
- ❖ **Anglican Church Calendars 2025:** In 2015, St Mark's MU took over the Anglican church calendar ordering and distribution project from the Diocesan ACW. When Covid-19 hit in 2020,

the only logical way of ordering was for each parish doing it individually. Our MU has continued to order our calendars, but only 30 this year. They sold out very quickly, at \$10.00

- ❖ **Advent Giving Tree:** What eventually became known as the Advent Tree started over 20 years ago, with donated items of scarves, mitts, hats, socks, toiletries etc, a gift for Christmas to help those in need in the city. It runs from the week before Advent until Advent 3, with items going to Belong Ottawa, which includes Centre 454, The Well and St Luke's Table. We also send some things to the Mission, and our fourth week we send food items to Debra-Dynes family house. There was a concern that there would be less donations with fewer parishioners in church, so MU augmented the donations by using funds from their previous Diocesan calendar sales. In fact just as happened last year, we were inundated with new items of clothing and toiletries. When Paul and I delivered them to the St John's Elgin Street location, people were thrilled to see they would receive brand new items. They are cramped and have nowhere to store 2nd hand clothing. However, St John's Elgin Street, which houses them, has a nearly new shop, and the clients receive free tokens to buy articles. As with last year we used some of the money we had received while ordering the whole diocese's calendars, and added \$500 so members could buy extra items. That is when we realized the \$50 each to spend didn't go very far.

While we are not allowed to use our money to help pay for church items, putting pudding and calendar money into the bazaar as 'church women' works, and we have sent money from the old Diocesan calendar money to various places.

We sent \$500 to the princess Basma Centre in Jerusalem which helps Palistinian children who are handicapped in some way. Through PWRDF we also sent the same to Al Ahli hospital in Gaza City. This was originally intended to go towards a program for children traumatised by the war, but on Palm Sunday it received bomb damage, so we sent the money to PWRDF, now Alongside Hope to help repair the damage. As part of a diocesan appeal to help St George's school in Jerusalem, we sent them money. They had previously earned a lot of money through tourism, but that is no longer the case. We also sent \$1,000 to the Solar suitcase project in Mozambique and Madagascar, which is used in rural clinics so that there is reliable light to deliver babies without holding a flash light between their teeth while delivering a child.

We organized a BBQ in September which we have done for many years, and the proceeds of \$400 was given to Debra Dynes family house. You must have all been very generous for us to receive so much money, so thank you.

We organised an Advent lunch in December which was very well attended. That is when we discovered that none of the Centres for the homeless or needy will accept food left over from a church lunch.

We do one thing for ourselves, since we have been too busy to go out together for supper, and that is to continue our summer afternoon tea, women only, at Billings Bridge estate. We can eat without making a loaf of sandwiches and a pot of coffee, use china cups and saucers, and we don't have to do the dishes. Simple pleasures, and always good company, and to make the number up to 20 we invite some of the previous ACW members, or new parishioners.

I would like to take this opportunity, which I know I repeat every year, to thank our parishioners who support all our endeavours. It is your generosity, your concern and your support that allow us to be God's hands in the neighbourhood, our city, and around the world.

May God bless you for your love and caring.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cynthia Greer,  
Mothers' Union Branch Leader

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## Membership

This year has seen a continued return to normal, from the point of view of our getting together for coffee and meals, although there is definitely a pre-Covid and a Post- Covid normal.

What took longer has been the number of parishioners in church. Some regularly watch the service either as we worship in church, or later on. Other older people have passed that time when they could indeed make their own way to church. The time between March of 2020, and now, the end of 2025 was a critical time for so many members. Their physical health and independence have experienced a great set back.

We have over the year seen changes in our membership. Some move or are moved by their family and we lose them, some we lose to the Lord. We have had quite a few new members join us. They are regular worshippers They have brought with them a section that disappeared after Covid because of their age, children. We presently have 10 children under 14, and 3 toddlers, who attend.

Other changes include the departure of Father Julian who left us in January for Wichita, Kansas. The Rev. Canon David Clunie looked after our spiritual needs until October, when the Rev. Dr. Mary-Cate Garden replaced him on a full-time basis, as our Priest-in-charge, not as our Incumbent Rector.

I am responsible for sending cards out to our parishioners, for a variety of reasons. I certainly need help to know if someone is sick, lonely, moved to a different location, or to offer support with a bereavement card and celebrate happy events.

Isabella Pagani, my granddaughter sends cards at Christmas and Easter to just over 40 parishioners, with a little note. This simple act of caring results in many happy parishioners who are so pleased to be remembered, and they thank her and me enthusiastically. Thankyou Bella.

It is very difficult to find out where parishioners are because of privacy rules especially in long term care homes, so once their children have moved them out of the family home, it is almost impossible to trace them. Please let us know if you, or someone you care about has changed address or phone number, so we can visit or at least keep in contact.

Many people realize that they no longer need a land-line. Once that happens we cannot find you. Please let the church have these changes. While emails are fairly stable, if you have been using a Government or school email which has changed, please let us know.

Members of our Mothers' Union are a support team for membership, and previously for the vitality team. They are the youngest group left from all the groups, guilds and circles we used to have. These women have now taken on many extra tasks since Covid, in order to ensure everything continues. Thank you each of you, not forgetting others who also take responsibility for so many things.

One event we still haven't managed to fit in so far, is a welcome lunch for new parishioners. Some of them aren't very new now. With a priest-in-charge, maybe we can actually have chance to do some of these extra things, which are definitely needed.

Please continue to wear your name tag, and welcome new people. Check during the service whether they are following the service. Blue book, green book, bulletin, readings, psalm, and so on can be

very daunting to a non -Anglican, and probably to some Anglicans if we use a different way to present the service. Then invite them to join you for coffee in the hall. It never hurts to say 'Good Morning' but admittedly being too effusive can upset some people until they are more comfortable. I know you will be sensitive to their needs that first time at our church.

If your name tag has disappeared, please ask me for another, or write it in the binder on the table at the entrance to the link. From 9:45, you will find a Greeter waiting to welcome you. You will be reminded to wear your name tag, or if a person is new or visiting they will be offered a disposable tag with just their first name on it.

Over the past 2 years our new members have settled in, and take part in church life. This is very good to see, especially because they are a generation younger than some of us. The first visit to a church is very important, and your smile of welcome counts a lot. Please keep smiling, but don't try to insist they become a member. Many people shop for a church. If we act caringly, and are welcoming, they may decide to stay. If not, they will still remember we are caring people.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cynthia Greer

## Altar Guild

A huge thank you to all of the members of the altar guild who continue to work diligently behind the scenes to set and clear for all services. We still only have three groups who do a two week rotation. Many of the members have been involved for many years and are also involved in other aspects of the church, wearing more than one hat some Sundays! This year an added duty was to clear every Sunday, after our service, to ready the sanctuary for the Mar Thoma congregation to hold their services, an increase from twice a month previously. This has increased both clearing and then reset duties and the extra time spent doing them. We work closely with our priest to ensure that all is as they expect and try to adapt to individual needs as changes happen.

Penny Miller  
Altar Guild President

## Flowers

This year we continued to provide flowers, when requested by individuals, to celebrate or memorialize. If you wish to place flowers in the church please send your donation and message, for inclusion in the bulletin, to the office prior to the date required. Flowers can be an arrangement or plants and are placed on either side of the altar on pedestals so they are visible on the livestream.

Penny Miller

## Outreach

### 1) ***Debra Dynes Family House.***

The main focus of our 2025 Outreach has been the Debra Dynes Family House (DDFH). Food insecurity continues to be a huge problem for a lot of people. St Mark's Church makes food deliveries of non-perishable food usually weekly to augment Ottawa Food Bank deliveries. Thank you to all of the parishioners who so generously donated food and cash throughout 2025.

In addition to our Sunday contributors, we received donations from the attendees of the Coffee, Company and Conversation group that occurs most Thursdays mornings.

Our annual “DDFH School Supplies” campaign which ran in August and early September received donations of cheques and supplies.

“Soupalicious”, a fundraiser for DDFH, was held on October 26 and was well attended by many of our parishioners.

Later in the year at Thanksgiving and at Christmas, fruits and vegetables were delivered and much appreciated.

DDFH is thankful for our donation of egg cartons. There is always an urgent need for clean egg cartons.

### 2) **Milk Bags**

Milk bags were donated to All Saints, Greely throughout the year. There, a team uses an onsite loom to create mats and cushions which are donated to various shelters within the community. Joy Bowerman has arranged several deliveries throughout the year.

### 3) **Stamps**

Our third Outreach program is the collection of stamps for Oxfam Canada. These are delivered regularly to Bill Woodley who is a volunteer with Oxfam. He is thrilled with the volume and variety of stamps. Our largest contributor is Mani. Thank you Mani and all other contributors.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Joan Grayer, Outreach Coordinator

## **Tulipathon Walk for the Multifaith Housing Initiative (MHI)**

The walk took place on a lovely day for a walk in the park across from Dows Lake, with a temperature approaching 20C and no rain. We were blessed with this fine weather, since a few hours after the walk it was raining cats and dogs. St. Mark’s was represented by 16 walkers comprised of 12 parishioners and three relatives, along with Father David.

The walk was successful, but what about our donation to the Tulipathon? To use a baseball analogy we “hit it out of the park”, raising a grand total of \$3,395 and putting us in fifth place among all of the faith groups on the MHI website. We are grateful to our anonymous and generous donor, who matched donations up to \$1,500. We made it to \$1,500 the day before the walk and this was matched by the anonymous donor to reach \$3,000. The rest of the funds were donated on the day of the walk.

The Tulipathon had broad support in the parish with donations ranging from \$5 to \$250 among thirty-five parishioners. We thank everyone for embracing this cause and helping St. Mark’s to achieve and even surpass our fundraising goal.

Respectfully submitted

Brian Harrison and Laurie Slaughter (co-captains)

## **Coffee, Company & Conversation**

In 2025, Coffee, Company and Conversation (CCC), St. Mark’s outreach for older adults in the community, grew yet again- and is thriving. Seven years ago, in September 2018, the program began through advertising and word of mouth. The voluntary donations of the people who came, not only by members of St. Mark’s, but also seniors from the surrounding area and well beyond, have sustained the weekly activity, and allowed it to be independent financially.

In the year 2025 over 1530 people attended in total, an average of forty people per week. Donations given each week by attendees, began the very first morning in 2018 and have steadily continued. This support has enabled the CCC team to engage a variety of entertaining guests to make up the programs for the fall, winter, and spring seasons. CCC runs from the second week of September to the third week of June. It also has enabled the organizing team to buy supplies needed for the Thursday mornings week after week.

CCC could not survive and prosper without the committed and loyal efforts of volunteers at St. Mark's. The organization team consists of Suzanne Bisson, Penny Miller, Gillian Morris, Georgia Roberts, and Laurie Slaughter. Each Thursday morning, they work both as a team and on their own to handle the set up and take down—with assistance from some attendees—as well as manage the kitchen and provide food and coffee or tea. The organizing team receives support from fantastic baking pairs, who provide homemade treats, cheeses, breads, and fruit on their assigned Thursdays. They are invaluable to the program's success, and most generous of time and monies spent so that CCC now has a well-known coffee morning with social and other activities. The bakers are Suzanne Bisson, Joy Bowerman, Judy Life, Penny Miller, Gillian Morris, Janis and Michael Perkin, Georgia Roberts, and Pat Sinclair. Their ongoing contributions and dedication define the success of the CCC morning program.

Additionally, Margaret Lodge and Janis and Michael Perkin contribute by designing and printing advertising posters, creating elegant handmade thank you cards for guests, and decorating the noticeboard and tables. Joy Bowerman and Suzanne Bisson, in addition to their baking duties, publish CCC activities in the parish's weekly newsletter, on the website and the Facebook page. At the front door, Rob Mellon serves as greeter, keeps weekly records, and is also the proud owner of CCC's beloved mascot, a boxer named Allie.

Notably this past year some of the guests/entertainment that were part of the program are the following: Neil Emberg of the Celtic group, Hadrian's Wall celebrating a pre- Robbie Burns Day; Bruce Deachman of the Ottawa Citizen on Ottawa's most significant stories since the paper's inception in 1845; an Irish St. Patrick's ceildh celebration featuring Irish singer Kevin Dooley ; The Glebop Jazz Trio; Mary Jane Maffini, well known mystery writer; Duo, Felicia Cui, pianist, and Yin Le, vocalist, with an "Ode to Spring"; Dr. Jazz, a trio of well known and acclaimed jazz musicians who have played at Ottawa's Jazz Festival; Mike Martin, mystery writer featuring Newfoundland, and the traditional pre- "Christmas Joy" morning featuring St. Mark's Joy Bowerman.

Of special note is the initial morning of the September 2025 start to CCC. A unique event took place in collaboration with the Nepean, Rideau, Osgoode Community Resource Centre's (NROCRC) "New Horizons" Seniors Program. NROCRC is a wide-ranging support organization supported financially by different government sectors. They approached CCC with the idea of hosting one of their cultural events in St. Mark's Bishop Reed Hall. The collaboration featured an Irish Cultural Event organized by a regular at CCC, Brian Armstrong, who also attends New Horizons. Brian is a lover of all things Irish. Over eighty-eight people from both seniors' groups, and guests, enjoyed slides of the Emerald Isle with commentary, the Ottawa Celtic Choir, and Irish dancers, all brought together by Brian. The "New Horizons" group provided a catered Irish lunch while the CCC team, in streamlined fashion, set up the Hall with tables and buffet areas, provided homemade Irish morning goodies along with coffee and teas, then did the "take down" with volunteer help. It was an example of two community groups that serve older adults, coming together to create an enjoyable and well received special event.

As mentioned, the CCC outreach program at St. Mark's has given older people in the community and beyond, a warm, welcoming place to come every week. Based on feedback, a number of CCC seniors consider this event to be an important highlight of their week. The atmosphere is one of acceptance and camaraderie, enriching the lives of many. May it continue to provide this much needed activity in our community and continue to thrive.

Respectfully submitted,  
Laurie Slaughter

## Lenten Outreach

Almsgiving is part of the Lenten practice of many parishioners. And, for years, St Mark's has supported this endeavour by recommending some outreach initiatives. This has allowed us to broaden our outreach in a way that our budget will not allow and to give a larger contribution to the outreach initiatives chosen. This year, the outreach initiatives proposed are a new program in Hawkesbury and the Arthur Turner Training School each of which is described briefly below. Please prayerfully consider them. There are several ways that you can make a donation:

- Special Lenten Outreach offering envelopes are available at the church. These should be used in addition to your regular offering envelopes or PAR. Unless specified otherwise, the money received in these envelopes will be directed to the recommended projects. If you wish your offering to be directed to a different registered charity, please write the name of your choice on the blank line on your Lenten offering envelope. If nothing is filled in on this line it will be assumed that the money should be directed equally to the 2 projects. Don't forget to write your name on the envelope as well to receive tax credit for your donation! These envelopes can then be put on the collection plate.
- Make an e-transfer to [stmarks@stmarksottawa.ca](mailto:stmarks@stmarksottawa.ca) and send an email to the office giving the answer to the security question and specifying that it is for Lenten Outreach
- Mail a cheque to St Mark's with instructions of how it should be used for Lenten Outreach
- Make a Lenten outreach donation by credit card through CanadaHelps, at [www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/47820](http://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/47820) and specify how it should be directed.

### Previous Projects Supported

2017 Ottawa Mission Hospice, Ancoura  
2018 Cornerstone Princeton Project  
2019 Centre 454, PWRDF "Water Project"  
2020 MHI Veteran's House,  
2021 St Luke's Table, Diocesan Refugee Ministry  
2022 The Well/La Source, Lytton Fire Response  
2023 Matthew House, PWRDF Turkey/Syria Earthquake Response  
2024 Belong Ottawa, Diocese of Jerusalem Advent Appeal  
2025 Belong Ottawa, St George's College  
2026 Arthur Turner Training School, Hawkesbury Outreach

### The Arthur Turner Training School (ATTS) Diocese of the Arctic

The Arthur Turner Training School (ATTS) is a theological college in the Anglican Diocese of the Arctic. Founded in 1970 by Bishop D.B. Marsh the school



trains northern people, both lay and ordained, for the ministry of Christ's Church here in the Canadian north. In 2023 in response to changing needs ATTS launched a new programme to train students to become ordained Deacons. This programme is tailored to meet the needs of local people. Offered in English and Inuktitut, it allows students to remain at home with family and in their community

The Deacons certificate programme was launched in 2023 with the first cohort graduating in 2025. In Autumn 2025, the programme welcomed its second cohort. Funding is ongoing as needs are considerable and expenses high.

### Centre 440 Hawkesbury (Anglican Diocese of Ottawa)

An initiative of the Parish of the Lower Ottawa Valley (LOV) Centre 440 in Hawkesbury has been providing hot, healthy lunches every Saturday in the hall of Holy Trinity Anglican Church in Hawkesbury ON since November 2025.



Providing lunch - Creating community

Research in town and with local agencies revealed that more than 120 people in the Prescott-Russell area who were homeless — in temporary situations such as couch-surfing or living outdoors, with roughly half of them in Hawkesbury. There was a serious need for a warm place where people can get a hot meal. Seed money came from a Futures Fund grant but donations will ensure that Centre 440 will be able to continue providing a weekly meal.

### Bazaar

Under the auspices of the bazaar, two separate events took place. The Spring Market ran virtually and after church services for four consecutive Sundays ending with Palm Sunday. The Fall Bazaar ran both in-person on November 1 and virtually and after church for the Sundays until December 14. In total, these ventures raised almost \$11,381 – the highest total to date!.

The Spring Market offered a variety of items, mostly those you would not find at the bazaar. There were cards, including Easter cards, muffins, Simnel cake, cupcakes, Eccles cakes, hot cross buns, lemon loaves, tarts and marmalades, strawberry jam, lemon curd, the popular chocolate fudge Easter eggs and a new offering of peanut butter Easter eggs. As well, there were new additions of Breakfast Strata, Bread Pudding and Breadcrumbs. These were conceived largely to use up bags of old buns in the freezer. They proved popular and did, indeed, use up the large quantity of old buns. We were also thrilled to offer Puff Puffs, a Nigerian treat.

On November 1, we held our in-person bazaar. There was a café, preserves, soup mixes, baking, handcrafts, cards, Jewellery, books and puzzles. The Mother's Union sold puddings and calendars and generously donated the profits from the puddings to the bazaar. The following Sundays offered a variety of tasty treats including carrot cakes, mince tarts, shortbread, fruit pies, turkey pies, frozen cookie dough, Eccles cakes, and our Christmas cookie boxes.

So many people have supported this fundraising by offering generously of their skill and time. I would like particularly to mention Pat Sinclair, Janis Perkin and Penny Miller. All of these people contributed substantially in both the spring and the fall. Both in the spring and the fall Cynthia Greer did the yeoman's work of coordinating packing and pick-up of orders. My deepest heartfelt thanks to all of these people and especially to Cynthia for her patience with me.

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Submitted on behalf of the Bazaar staff by Joy Bowerman, Bazaar Convenor 2025

## **Slim and Trim**

This last year numbers have dwindled again largely due to holidays, accidents, and surgery. Those who still attend, find it very enjoyable and a great benefit to their general health.

Many thanks to Gail our instructor and to Rose who makes sure the floor is clean for us.

We contributed \$200. to general church funds.

Yours sincerely  
Jennifer M Morphew.

## **Financial Report**

### **Overview of 2025 Finances**

At our vestry of February 26, 2025, we passed a budget where our expenses exceeded our income by ~\$13,800. Our accumulated funds would not cover that amount. However, we knew that Fr Julian was leaving early in 2025 and a part-time priest for part of the time would ameliorate our financial position. In fact, the financial repercussion of having a part-time priest for nine months meant we ended the year with our income exceeding our expenses by ~\$15,600.

### ***Income***

Our largest source of income is the collections income, from donations to the church. In 2025, our collections income was more than \$25,000 below what we had budgeted. Our rentals income was about \$8,000 more than budgeted and the bazaar income was almost \$4,500 more than budgeted. This resulted in the shortfall our general income being about \$11,00 less than the budgeted amount. Although the lack of collections income did not create a disaster in 2025 with a part-time priest for part of the year, it is very concerning as we look ahead.

### ***Expenses***

Although many of our expenses were close to budgeted, there were a couple of notable exceptions. The salaries expense was significantly less than budgeted because of the clergy situation. The Repair and Upgrade expense was significantly more than budgeted. For a full explanation of this discrepancy, please see below.

There are a few items that should be mentioned as the eagle-eyed among you will immediately spot that we spent much more than budgeted on these items.

**Flowers:** We never budget for flowers since they are generally covered by donations.

**Outreach:** Likewise, we do not budget for Outreach. All of the outreach expenditures are covered by directed donations.

**Cleaning Services:** Due to issues that have been encountered in the past, the Rentals Coordinator has instituted a policy of charging a \$125 cleaning fee every time the hall is used for events where the food that is served is more than light refreshments. The church is then charged an extra cleaning fee by Simply Cleaner. The extra amount in cleaning services reflects the times the church has been used for meals and a cleaning fee is required.

**Repair & Upgrade:** Repair and upgrade was given a budget of \$3,000, mostly to ensure furnace maintenance and minor repairs. Instead, ~\$14,200 was spent in the Repair & Upgrade category. There are a few things to note: The cost of new carpets in the link, a new battery-powered

lawnmower and trimmer along with batteries were completely covered by donations. A new fridge was required in the kitchen when the one that was there died in the summer. The cost of this was partially covered by donations. A new backflow prevention valve was installed. This is now required by the city to protect the drinking water supply. We could have put it off but it would catch up with us eventually and this coming summer there will be work on Normandy on the sewers. It was felt that it would be a good time to proceed, particularly given our financial situation last year. In total, \$6,168 was donated to cover property expenses, leaving the net expenses at ~\$8,000.

Our operating supplies were higher than budgeted, mostly due to increased church use.

### *Reserve Accounts and Capital Expenses*

When you look at the Balance Sheet, you will see a number of items under Liabilities and Equity listed under Reserve Accounts. All the amounts in these accounts were given for a specific purpose and that purpose spans more than one fiscal year. For example, the GIFT Funds were collected during the GIFT campaign starting in 2012 and have been used as necessary for projects which met our goals for the GIFT campaign. One of the more recent uses of the GIFT funds was to provide funds to produce the videos during the pandemic and to acquire equipment which allows us to Livestream our services. Another significant Reserve Account is the Capital Projects reserve account. This was originally funded from accumulated funds at year end, but more recently has been funded by donation. The Capital Projects fund is designed to provide funds for unexpected building expenses or building expenses that are too high for one year's budget.

### *CTF Funds*

Again this year, the values for the Consolidated Trust Funds were updated with the value on December 31, 2025. The CTF funds are held in trust for us by the diocese in an investment account with very much like a mutual fund. All of the CTF funds pay dividends each year. With one exception, the dividends for each account are paid out by cheques which are (hopefully) received in December.

The one exception to receiving the dividends by cheque is the dividends of the Rectory Trust account. This account started when the rectory was sold and the proceeds from the sale invested in the Consolidated Trust Fund. The dividends from this account are kept by the diocese and subtracted from our commitment to the diocese (ECOPS, Housing Allowance, Insurance, Proportional Parish Share). When we are calculating our budget, we generally subtract the dividends from the Housing Allowance assessment and use the reduced figure in our Salaries calculation.

Most of the accounts in the CTF are bequests which have been left to the church.

### **2026 Budget**

The budget proposed for 2026 can be seen in the third column of the same table that contains the Actual and Budgeted amounts for 2025. As it stands, **this is a deficit budget with budgeted net income at -\$16,400**. This amount can be covered by our Accumulated Funds.

### *Income*

The collections income is budgeted to \$10,000 less last year. Since our collections income was significantly lower this year, a Stewardship campaign should be explored in a timely manner.

In the budget we have increased the amount expected from User Fees and the Bazaar. We have also added a category called Income from Reserves. As noted below, we expect a major expense for roof repair and will draw this money from the Capital Projects reserve account.

### *Expenses*

While the Corporation has some leeway in setting the salaries of the lay staff and the housing allowance for the priest, guidelines on appropriate amounts allow minimal flexibility. Our staff salaries in total make up around 60% of our budgeted expenses.

The staff salaries line also includes an amount for priestly services. It is an amount given to us by the Diocese called the Equalized Cost of Priestly Services (ECOPS). This means that all parishes in the Diocese contribute to a salary “pool” from which the priests are paid. The amount that we are given is based on our financial statements for the last three years. Our Parish Proportional Share is calculated in a similar way. It is designed to distribute expenses between the parishes evenly based on the ability to pay. Unfortunately, because it is based on the last three years income, parishes with decreasing income find that it only adds to their struggles. However, it is better than dividing everything evenly.

The next largest budgeted expense is care of the church building, including cleaning, utilities, regular maintenance and special projects. Early in 2026, the recurring issue of the roof leaking into the sacristy and the front of the church reared its ugly head after an absence of several years. An amount of \$10,000 has been put in the budget under the heading Special Projects to cover the expense of repairing it. It is expected to draw the funds for this from the Capital Projects reserve.

In summary, salaries, proportional parish share, insurance and building maintenance account for 96% of our budgeted expenses. These numbers by themselves exceed our budgeted income by about \$9,000.

### *General Overview*

The 2026 budget is projected to have our expenses exceed our income by ~\$16,400 . If this happens, it will significantly reduce our Accumulated Funds. There is nothing in our expenditures that we can reduce to balance the budget unless we start to look at staffing (and just to be clear, I am talking Administrator).

My thanks to the Financial Advisory Committee, who have met several times regarding the budget. It is composed of Rev Mary-Cate Garden, Joseph Amuah, Joy Bowerman, Mike Duval, Janis Perkin, Michael Perkin, Georgia Roberts, and Keith Wilkins.

My deepest thanks also go to Penny Miller, who manages the use of our building. Our User Fees form the largest component of our income after the collections income. Our income from User Fees has risen significantly after the decision was made over 10 years ago to increase our income from the building. (Well, not counting the hiatus during the pandemic.) Penny has had a lot to do with that. We have had rentals return after going elsewhere not only because they enjoy our space and wifi, but because they find us welcoming and pleasant to deal with.

The treasurer is just one member of a diverse team that all contribute to the financial management of the parish. Our envelope secretary, Karen Roberts, entered and double-checked the income data and managed PAR. Corporation and Parish Council reviewed the financial statements each month and Wes Adams and Joanne Pagani reviewed the books at the end of the year. Thank you to all of them.

Joy Bowerman  
Acting Treasurer

## Balance Sheet

10:59 AM  
2026-02-10  
Accrual BasisSt Mark's Church  
Balance Sheet  
As of 31 December 2025

	<u>31 Dec 25</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Current Assets	
Chequing/Savings	
TD BANK	53,360.97
Total Chequing/Savings	53,360.97
Other Current Assets	
Dollar for Dollar	2,975.50
HST Receivable	405.39
PST Receivable	962.79
Total Other Current Assets	4,343.68
Total Current Assets	57,704.65
Other Assets	
Investments	
Gladys O'Ray CTF 2654	28,396.24
Judy Corbishley CTF	9,544.54
Rectory Trust CTF 4053	488,249.33
Total Investments	526,190.11
Total Other Assets	526,190.11
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>583,894.76</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
RESERVE ACCOUNT	
Seniors Outreach	245.00
Funeral Receptions	1,098.68
Capital Projects	13,670.01
Choir Fund	2,505.83
Choir Gowns	810.07
GIFT Funds	4,470.06
Key Deposits	373.59
Memorials	6,558.47
Ministry	7,212.15
Pastoral Care Support Fund	875.00
Rector's Discretionary	191.46
Sunday School	467.17
Tree Care	643.28
Total RESERVE ACCOUNT	39,120.77
Total Other Current Liabilities	39,120.77
Total Current Liabilities	39,120.77
Long Term Liabilities	
Gladys O'Ray Bequest	28,396.24
Judy Corbishley Bequest	9,544.54
Rectory Trust	488,249.33
Total Long Term Liabilities	526,190.11
Total Liabilities	565,310.88
Equity	
Accumulated Funds	2,945.63
Net Income	15,638.25
Total Equity	18,583.88
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>583,894.76</b>

## 2026 Budget

	<u>Actual 2025</u>	<u>Budget 2025</u>	<u>Budget 2026</u>
<b><u>Income</u></b>			
<b>GENERAL</b>			
<b>Collections</b>			
Identifiable Offerings	130,890	<b>158,000</b>	<b>148,000</b>
Open	1,292	<b>1,000</b>	<b>1,000</b>
Special Offerings	2,055	<b>1,000</b>	<b>1,000</b>
<b>Total Collections</b>	<b>134,237</b>	<b>160,000</b>	<b>150,000</b>
<b>Gain from Assets</b>			
CTF Dividends	1276	<b>1,220</b>	<b>1,515</b>
Investment Income	2,855	<b>2,400</b>	<b>2,800</b>
Solar Income	10,116	<b>10,000</b>	<b>10,000</b>
User fees	31,912	<b>24,000</b>	<b>26,000</b>
<b>Total Gain from Assets</b>	<b>46,159</b>	<b>37,620</b>	<b>40,315</b>
<b>Organizations</b>			
AA	825	<b>900</b>	<b>900</b>
Bazaar	11,381	<b>7,000</b>	<b>8,000</b>
Funerals	1,675		
Slim & Trim	400	<b>200</b>	<b>200</b>
We kicked the Habit	300	<b>240</b>	<b>300</b>
<b>Total Organizations</b>	<b>14,581</b>	<b>8,340</b>	<b>9,400</b>
<b>Other General Income</b>			
<b>Total GENERAL</b>	<b>194,978</b>	<b>205,960</b>	<b>199,715</b>
<b>DIRECTED</b>			
<b>Black History Month</b>			
<b>75th Anniversary</b>			
Flowers	1,320		
Forward Day by Day	125		
<b>Lenten Outreach</b>			
Not specified	1,285		
St George's, Jerusalem	450		
Belong Ottawa	325		
Alongside Hope			
<b>Total Lenten Outreach</b>	<b>2,060</b>		
Property Maintenance	6,168		
Alongside Hope	4,865		
<b>Total DIRECTED</b>	<b>14,538</b>		
<b>INCOME FROM RESERVES</b>			
Capital Projects			<b>10,000</b>
<b>Total INCOME FROM RESERVES</b>			<b>10,000</b>

<b>Total Income</b>	<b>209,516</b>	<b>205,960</b>	<b>209,715</b>
<b>Expense</b>			
<b>SALARIES</b>			
Clergy Fill-in		1,530	1,584
Organist Fill-in			
Honouraria			
Staff	92,833	135,502	131,582
<b>Total SALARIES</b>	92,833	137,032	133,166
<b>WORSHIP</b>			
Flowers	534		
Music		500	500
Piano/Organ	613	1,000	1,000
Service & Altar Supplies	1,613	500	800
<b>Total WORSHIP</b>	2,760	2,000	2,300
<b>FAIR SHARE</b>			
<b>PARISH PROPORTIONAL SHARE</b>	28,047	28,047	26,528
<b>OUTREACH</b>			
Belong Ottawa	968		
St George's, Jerusalem	1,093		
Diocese of Jerusalem			
Alongside Hope	4,865		
<b>Total OUTREACH</b>	6,925	0	0
<b>PROGRAMS</b>			
<b>75th Anniversary</b>			
AED	448	170	170
Black History Month	400	500	500
Christian Education		250	250
Conferences & Memberships		500	400
Library		50	50
Membership Cttee		50	50
Outreach Coordination		50	50
Publicity		100	100
Synod	314	500	500
<b>Total PROGRAMS</b>	1,163	2,170	2,070
<b>CHURCH</b>			
Cleaning Service	17,767	15,200	16,000
Electricity	5,025	5,000	5,000
Heating	5,258	6,000	6,000
Operating Supplies	1,052	800	1,200
Repair & Upgrade	14,202	3,000	3,000

Security	236	250	250
Snow Removal	3,123	3,334	3,500
Special Projects			10,000
Telephone & Internet	917	1,068	1,068
Water	3,205	3,000	3,000
<b>Total CHURCH</b>	<b>50,785</b>	<b>37,652</b>	<b>49,018</b>
<b>FINANCE</b>			
Bank Charges	371	500	500
Insurance	9,486	9,486	10,064
Supplies	107	100	100
<b>Total FINANCE</b>	<b>9,965</b>	<b>10,086</b>	<b>10,664</b>
<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>			
Forward Day by Day	115		
Office Supplies	30	300	100
Photocopier	1,255	1,500	1,500
Postage		600	400
Rector's Hospitality		200	200
Wardens' Discretionary		200	200
<b>Total MISCELLANEOUS</b>	<b>1,400</b>	<b>2,800</b>	<b>2,400</b>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>193,878</b>	<b>219,786</b>	<b>226,146</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>15,638</b>	<b>-13,826</b>	<b>-16,431</b>

### Reserve Account Activity

	Credit	Debit	Balance
<b>Capital Projects</b>			\$3,670.01
Donation	10,000.00		\$13,670.01
<b>Choir Fund</b>			\$2,405.83
Donation	100.00		\$2,505.83
<b>Choir Gowns</b>			\$810.07
<b>Funeral Receptions</b>			\$993.68
Donations	105.00		\$1,098.68
<b>GIFT Funds</b>			\$4,470.06
<b>Key Deposits</b>			\$373.59
<b>Memorials</b>			\$6,197.83

Memorial Donations	360.64		\$6,558.47
<b>Ministry</b>			\$7,374.36
Photo Directory Deposits	160.00		\$7,534.36
Photo Directory Payment		322.21	\$7,212.15
<b>Pastoral Care Support Fund</b>			\$875.00
<b>Priest's Purse</b>			\$636.00
Donations	1,990.00		\$2,626.00
Payment of Purse		2626.00	\$0.00
<b>Rector's Discretionary</b>			\$216.46
Disbursement		25.00	\$191.46
<b>Seniors' Outreach</b>			\$245.00
NCROC donation for CCC	300.00		\$545.00
Transfer to CCC		300.00	\$245.00
<b>Sunday School</b>			\$467.17
<b>Tree Care</b>			\$643.28

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## Statement by Financial Reviewers

February 17, 2026

To: The Parish of Saint Mark the Evangelist  
Anglican Church of Canada  
1606 Fisher Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario K2C 1X6

A review of the financial records of St Mark's was performed for the year ending December 31, 2025. Our review consisted primarily of enquiry, analytical procedures and discussion related to financial information supplied to us by the officer of the parish.

In our opinion, the financial statements fairly present the financial position of Saint Mark's Church at December 31, 2025 and summarize the financial activities in comparison to the budget plan for the year then ended.

Reviewed by:



Wes Adams



Joanne Pagani

## Vestry Minutes, February 23, 2025

ST. MARK THE EVANGELIST

(DRAFT) ANNUAL VESTRY

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2025

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Vestry was called to order at 12:30 p.m.

The meeting was opened with prayer by Rev. David Clunie.

*Land Acknowledgement:* We gather today on the traditional and unceded territory of the Algonquin Anishnaabe Nation. May we dwell on this land with respect and peace.

### **APPOINTMENT OF VESTRY CLERK**

Janis Perkin was appointed as vestry clerk.

### **RECEPTION AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL VESTRY, MARCH 12, 2023**

The motion to receive the minutes was moved by John Hancock, seconded by Joan Hounsell.

**CARRIED**

The motion to approve the minutes was moved by Joy Bowerman, seconded by Pauline Adams.

**CARRIED**

### **RECTOR'S REPORT**

Father David spoke briefly to the report noting that St. Marks was a welcoming parish and remarked on how well the business of the parish was handled.

Reception of the report with grateful thanks to Father Julian Campbell was moved by Joseph Amuah and seconded by Suzanne Bisson. **CARRIED**

### **CHURCH WARDENS' REPORT**

Both Suzanne Bisson and Joseph Amuah spoke to their report. It was noted that some Parish Council Minutes still needed to be sent to the Diocesan Archives.

A motion of reception of the Wardens' Report was made by Janis Perkin, seconded by Joseph Amuah. **CARRIED**

### **2023 FINANCIAL STATEMENT & REVIEWER'S REPORT**

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A motion of reception was moved by Joy Bowerman, seconded by Gillian Martin. **CARRIED**

Joy Bowerman gave a Perspective on the 2024 finances.

There has been some diversification on how we get funds from our assets and this has helped. However, it should be noted that Collections is our largest generator of funds. Electronic transfer and PAR comprises 66% of that income. Any missed diocesan payments were paid in full by year's end.

Bill Barber asked about our insurance payments. St. Marks pays the full amount but it is a diocesan policy.

Acceptance was moved by Judy Darling, seconded by Mike Duval. **CARRIED**

### **THE PRESENTATION OF 2024 BUDGET**

A motion of reception was moved by Janis Perkin, seconded by Joseph Amuah. **CARRIED**

Joy Bowerman spoke about the budget and where the funds usually come from. Salaries for the Rector, Organist/Music Director and Administrator comprise 62% of the budget. At the moment the Organist is under contract. Our Proportional Parish Share is 13% and it is based on the last three years. Church costs which include cleaning, snow removal and heating and water are 17% and Insurance is 4% therefore, we have no discretion concerning 96% of our budget.

Approval was moved by Georgia Roberts, seconded by Joan Hounsell. **CARRIED**

### **NOMINATIONS/ APPOINTMENTS TO PARISH COUNCIL**

Suzanne Bisson presented the 2025 slate.

A motion to close nominations was moved by Joy Bowerman, seconded by Karn Barber. **CARRIED**

The Slate was acclaimed.

### **RECEPTION OF ALL 2024 REPORTS**

A motion to receive was moved by Joan Hounsell, seconded by Gillian Martin. **CARRIED**

There is a correction to the Parish Statistics: the number of households for 2024 was omitted. The number of households is 140.

A motion to approve all reports as amended was made by Joan Hounsell and seconded by Gillian Martin. **CARRIED**

### **LENTEN OUTREACH 2025**

Suzanne Bisson spoke to the Lenten Outreach Report.

Moved by Suzanne Bisson, seconded by Janis Perkin. **CARRIED**

### **APPOINTMENT OF BANK**

Joy Bowerman moved that St. Mark's continue using TD Canada Trust at 1585 Merivale Road continue as the financial institution of choice for the coming year. Motion was seconded by Georgia Roberts. **CARRIED**

### **APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS/ REVIEWERS**

The Reviewers for 2025 are Joanne Pagani and Wes Adams.

### **MOTIONS OF THANKS**

Joy Bowerman offered thanks for the office volunteers Gillian Morris, Joan Grayer, Karen Barber, Carolyn Findlay and Lynn Mani for their faithful service.

Thanks to Karen Roberts for her painstaking record keeping as envelope secretary.

Thanks to all those who are serving, starting or finishing as wardens. It is a tough job with a lot of responsibility. Thanks for being willing to take it on.

Thanks to Cynthia Greer for taking on and coordinating a program for the children.

Fr. David Clunie gave thanks to Joy Bowerman who he called a "Joy of all trades".

Suzanne Bisson offered congratulations to Joan Hounsell, "the best volunteer".

Cynthia Greer offered thanks to Joy Bowerman for her work with the choir.

Judy Life gave thanks for the Prayer Cycle Volunteers

Joan Hounsell gave thanks to Joy Bowerman for setting up the livestreaming service.

Margaret Williamson gave thanks to Laurie Slaughter and Rob Mellon for Coffee, Company and Conversation.

Mike Duval offered thanks to Fr. Julian Campbell for his service at St. Marks and to Fr. David Clunie for stepping in.

Cynthia Greer thanked Margaret Lodge for her 17 years of work on the E-Prayer Ministry.

Wes Adams thanked Penny Miller for the amount of work she does with Rentals.

Joan Grayer thanked Penny Miller for her work as Altar Guild president.

Margaret Williamson thanked the Coffee, Company and Conversation Bakers.

Gillian Martin gave thanks to our organists.

John Hancock thanked Bill Barber for all the property work he has done.

**MOTION OF ADJOURNMENT**

A motion of adjournment was made at 2:15 p.m. by Joy Bowerman. **CARRIED**

Respectfully submitted by **Janis Perkin**, Vestry Clerk