

April 2019

# The Vine



St. Mary Magdalene Anglican Church Picton

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*Cloud 7 by Mary Brett*

## Spring 2019

Praise gladly in springtime when earth seems to glow  
With new life and colour in all things that grow:  
For all nature's children are happy to say:  
Rejoice, for the Saviour is risen today!

## Parishioner Profile: *Mary Brett*



The cover of this spring edition of *The Vine* features a work by Mary Brett, a member of our St. Mary Magdalene Parish. The title of this piece is “*Cloud 7*”. In describing it, Mary says “starting as cruciform, this piece developed into what reminded me of floating clouds”.

Mary was born in Leeds in Northern England and arrived here in Prince Edward County with her husband John, by way of Munster, Germany, Oshawa and Ottawa. She has had a life-long love of art and received extensive training in the UK. While in college Mary also designed costumes for stage productions and completed a set design course given by the British Drama League. She was an active participant in the theatre in Germany, U.K and Canada.

Mary spent many years as a school teacher, and in later years, her specific focus was teaching art in the Ottawa region as well continuing to further her talents by taking classes in watercolour, drawing and other special interest courses. She is a member of numerous different Art Groups and her works are hung in many galleries throughout Ontario as well as Ottawa City Hall, TD Bank in Orleans, Cumberland Town Hall, Regent Theatre, Picton, the Provincial Court House in Ottawa among many others. Her generosity extends to having donated several of her works as fundraisers for various charities.



*Vase by Mary Brett*

Mary paints, as she says, simply because “*I have to*”. She works with several different media but admits to being drawn to some specific colours like blues and purples and she finds her inspiration from the things and places around her.

Mary’s work can be seen by appointment at her studio at 32 Kleinsteuber Parks Road, RR #1, Picton. Contact her at 613-393-1365.

## Our Rector's Message

On the first Easter Sunday, Luke's Gospel tells us two of Jesus' disciples were leaving Jerusalem burdened with sadness, convinced they had been wrong about Jesus. They had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel, but two days before they saw him condemned to death and crucified. Filled with grief and disappointment, thinking they had lost everything, they left town. They were joined on the road by someone they did not recognize at first, but their hearts burned within them as he explained the scriptures to them while they walked. When they stopped for the day and shared a meal, the stranger took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Suddenly their eyes were opened, and with great surprise they recognized it was Jesus, raised from death, and they felt their spirits lifted and their lives renewed.



That was quite a journey for those disciples, and Jesus invites *us* to come on a similar journey every time we gather for worship. As we listen to the scriptures, we invite God to touch our hearts. In our prayer of confession, we name our loss, not focusing on small failures as though God nitpicks, but confessing our griefs and disappointments and dashed hopes and our failure to see what God's Spirit is doing around us. And then in our celebration of Communion we are invited to be surprised, to "see" Jesus, breaking bread and sharing it together, allowing Jesus' Spirit to lift our hearts and our minds.

This Easter season may you find encouragement to be part of Jesus mission to bring the love of God to the very ends of the earth, as your faith in our risen Lord is renewed. I look forward to celebrating with you as we share the ancient words: *Alleluia, the Lord is risen.*

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

*Yours faithfully, Charles*



*Beginning Again by Mary Brett*

## **Working Together to “*Ditch the Deficit*”!**

**At the recent Vestry meeting, it was noted that that 2019 had been a year of change.** The church financial management processes had been updated on a new electronic system (Sage Software) providing great improvement and efficiencies in managing the financial aspect of our parish life. In addition, in the fall of 2018, Art Hewer took on the responsibility of Treasurer for our Parish

Some may remember at the last Vestry meeting in 2018, we reported a loss for 2017 of \$13,700 dollars. However, in January of 2018 we received two cheques totaling \$14,000. These were overdue from the preceding month. If we add that to the 2017 results, we landed at a small surplus of \$300.00!

During 2018, there were periods where our parish had to struggle to pay our bills and keep them all current, but due to some welcomed offerings, received in December, we ended the year on a positive note, with a surplus of \$525.00. This was wonderful news and shows the power of giving.

In this year’s budget, we will not see much change with the exception of the amount of Common Ministry and Mission which has increased \$10,000.00 over last year. This is due to the parish drawing down our investments to use for operating expenses two years ago. This is the reason we are forecasting budget deficit this year of approximately \$5,000.00. However if we, as members of this parish, can increase our contributions (even just a little) we may be able to offset this. Simple things like PAG (pre-authorized giving) or by putting an extra amount in the collection plate are ways we can all help.

## **Let’s work together to “*Ditch the Deficit*”!**

All of the money to operate this church comes from one place only, and that is from the members of our congregation through direct donations, or our fundraising activities such as Parish Hall rentals, the Strawberry Social, The Magdalena teas and so forth.

(Continued on next panel)

*No money comes from any other sources to run this church. It all comes from us ... and us alone.*

The goal of our three year plan set out five years ago when Charles joined us as our new full time priest was to have our income at least equal to our expenses after three years, and to improve from there over time. We are almost there.



It would be a tremendous help to the wardens and treasurer if our offerings could be spread out a bit more evenly and consistently throughout the year to assist with the financial management of our parish, but rest assured that we are grateful for all contributions

We thank you for your continued support.

**John Clarke**, Churchwarden

## Reduce our Environmental Impact

### **ONE CUP AT A TIME**

Paper and styrofoam drinking cups are not recyclable in The County. To reduce the number of cups discarded after “coffee time” each Sunday morning, some members of our congregation have begun using reusable cups for their tea or coffee. This green movement was initiated by **Josie Farrar** and **Michael Goodwin** several months ago and is gathering momentum. At present, the reusable cups are being stored in peoples’ mail boxes. Plans for alternate storage solutions are being contemplated.



## A Page from Our History – 1956

On Easter Day 500 adherents of the church attended one or more of the three morning services. There was a full choral communion. Mrs. Howard Walmsley was at the organ and directed the singing. The Rector [Rev, Canon R. B. DeBlois Wright] preached the sermon.

[Editor’s Note: This record was broken by one person in 1960.]

*From ‘A Goodly Heritage’  
by Alan Capon*

# Earth Day - April 22, 2019



**Earth Day is the largest environmental event in the World** with over 190 countries participating. It promotes awareness and calls for the protection of our planet. Earth Day is celebrated to remind each of us that the Earth and its ecosystems provide us with life and sustenance. This year's theme is "Protect our Species".

"In nature nothing exists alone" (Rachel Carson). All living things have intrinsic value and the removal of species can upset the balance resulting in wide-ranging consequences.

As a result of human activity, we are facing the greatest rate of extinction of species since the catastrophic demise of the dinosaurs some 60 million years ago. It is thought that extinction rates have increased 1,000 to 10,000 times and the world is facing the prospect of mass extinctions. Half the world's animal population and their habitat is under threat.

In the last 50 years, some insect populations have declined by 75%. Insects, including bees, are important as pollinators for fruit production and as a food source for many birds. Bird species have declined by 40%. You may have noticed smaller numbers of birds, and less variety, coming to your feeders here in The County. Coral reefs are dying and marine mammal numbers have declined by 40%. The list goes on.....

Human activity in many forms is responsible for the present situation: climate change, deforestation, habitat loss, trafficking and poaching of plants and animals, unsustainable agriculture, pollution in many forms (including plastics), and herbicides and pesticides are having far-reaching impacts.

We can show our concern by **reducing, reusing, and recycling** many items we use every day. We can **remove** discarded items in our gardens and in our parks, on our streets and on our beaches and even in our church yard. We can do this as part of the **Quinte Trash Bash** (which includes Prince Edward County) on Saturday 27 April.

*Small changes can add up to making a big difference. We are responsible for the welfare of our environment.*

**Pauline Smith**

## Our Easter Sunday Flowering Cross

On Easter morning as they enter the Church, everyone is given a flower to place on the wooden cross in memory of a loved one.

Everyone, especially the children, gladly participates in our Easter tradition.

This tradition began about a dozen years ago when a former rector upon seeing our “old rugged cross” told us of an ancient legend about Christ’s crucifixion cross. According to the legend, when Christ arose on the third day, the cross of his crucifixion burst into beautiful flowering blooms.

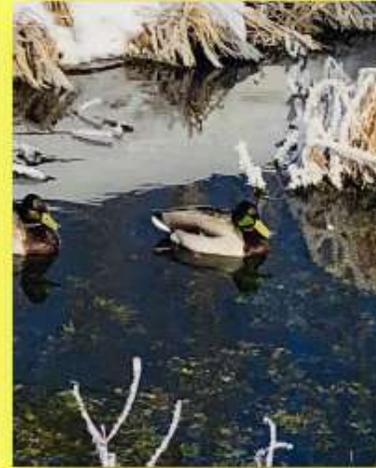
We wanted to include the congregation in this lovely Easter story. The Rector came up with the idea of flowers in memory of Christ’s resurrection and also in memory of our loved ones who have passed to eternal life through Christ.

***Nell Kottick***

### **A Page from Our History - 1899**

Mrs. Thomas Shannon was thanked at the annual Easter Vestry Meeting for her zeal in collecting funds to purchase a communion service [Editor’s Note – chalice and paten set] for the use of the congregation and also for “her energy and perseverance” in raising funds to improve the churchyard. *From ‘A Goodly Heritage’ by Alan Capon*

This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us REJOICE and be glad in it!



REFRESH

**Food for Souls and Bodies** will be offered twice more before we break for the summer. On April 23<sup>rd</sup> (just two days after Easter Sunday) we will have an Easter Story: *The Kindness God Gave Bunnies*. With Easter-themed crafts, a meal together, and, of course, chocolate, it's bound to be a great evening. Our final event of the season will be on May 28<sup>th</sup>, featuring a story about Helping Your Neighbour. We meet from 5-7 p.m. in the Parish Hall, and it's free.

St Mary Magdalene is pleased to be hosting **County Reads** and **The PEC Author's Festival** April 25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup>. On April 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. five County residents will each present a book by a Canadian author, arguing why this is the one book you must read this year. Moderated by Ken Murray, each participant makes their pitch and responds to moderator's questions. Audience members vote for the presenter who makes the most compelling case; the winner is announced during a reception in the Parish Hall. Details for three more *Authors Festival* events April 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> are at [www.peclibrary.org/countyreads](http://www.peclibrary.org/countyreads).

On Saturday, May 11, 7:30 p.m., the **County Chamber Choir** will present its spring concert. The main work is **Frostiana**, a cycle of songs of poems by the American poet Robert Frost, set to music by Randall Thompson. Also featured are four part songs by early 20<sup>th</sup> century English composers Elgar, Parry, Stanford and Bairstow, The concert will conclude with groups of English and French renaissance madrigals. Proceeds to PECM Hospital Foundation.

*Please watch for more details regarding:*

**Seniors Service & Lunch** – Salvation Army, May 14

**Strawberry Social** – June 22 (Tentative)

**Alternatives for Women** – Opportunities to support

**Summer Noon Concert Series** – Not to be missed!

# Pancake Supper: A Four Year Old's Review



*Lots of workers made the pancakes. They were really, really good. So was the fruit salad for dessert.*



*I like sausages better than bacon. I got two pancakes. Daddy served me my maple syrup.*



*I'm not in this picture 'cause we came later. Lots of people were there. You got more food if you wanted.*



*Oh, they're washing the dishes. I'm glad I didn't have to help clean up.*

**Four year old Alice Davies is a pancake aficionado** and makes a great blueberry pancake herself (with a little help), so she knows what she likes. After an explanation of the 5-star rating system, she gave the 2019 St. MM Pancake Supper:



The proceeds from the evening's FUN-raiser will assist the Community Outreach Programs supported by our congregation.

# Holy Week in Stained Glass

The beautiful stained glass windows of St. Mary Magdalene bring inspiration and joy to our place of worship. Especially during Holy Week, the bright springtime sunlight beaming through the coloured glass silently gives life and meaning to the words in the stories of the Passion and the glorious Resurrection.



The **Last Supper** window, located high on the south transept wall, was donated in 1923 by Sidney B. Gearing in memory of his beloved wife, Frankie Proctor Gearing who died in 1922. Familiar to all Christians, this rendition of The Last Supper is modelled on the Leonardo da Vinci fresco which is deemed by many to be the definitive representation of the story.

Like all but one of the windows at St. Mary Magdalene, our beautiful Last Supper window was created by Robert McCausland Limited in Toronto. This company, founded in 1856, is the longest-established stained glass company in the Western Hemisphere.



The **Crucifixion** window is located in the Chancel and may be viewed by walking up to the choir stall area. It was installed in 1953 in memory of Miss Catherine Margaret Cook daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Cook. The inscription in Greek translated means '*To the greater Glory of God and in loving memory*'. The Right Rev. K. C. Evans, Bishop of the Diocese of Ontario, officiated at the unveiling and dedication of this window.

The **Easter Morn** three panel window located on the north wall of the nave memorializes Mary Jane Beringer, the wife of Jacob Fidelis Beringer. Erected in 1922 by her brothers and sisters, the window richly interprets the first Easter morning when an angel proclaimed, '*He is not here, He is risen.*'



Descriptions and interpretations of the windows of St. Mary Magdalene would have been available at the time of erection and dedication, but unfortunately were lost over time. Anyone with an art history background willing to provide commentary on the windows' Biblical references, please contact Charles.

# St. Mary Magdalene Lent Altar Frontal

To mark the Liturgical Seasons and Holy Days, churches use specific colours for vestments and paraments (hangings).



**PURPLE** is the colour for Lent, which is the season of preparation, self-examination, study, fasting, prayer and deeds of love. As individuals and communities we tend to look inward and reflect on our readiness to follow Jesus during his journey towards the cross.

Cathy Thompson donated the Purple Frontal on our Altar in 2013 in memory of her mother, Beverly Veen and her mother-in-law, Catherine Thompson. The purple Burse and Veil were donated in the same year by Nell Kottick in memory of her loved ones.

When Easter season arrives, we change the colour to white which is the colour of celebration, joy, peace and resurrection.

*Helen Pinkerton, Altar Guild Coordinator*

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## Lenten Study Series

The seven-week Lenten Study, *The God We Can Know*, featured Gospel readings, engaging videos visiting the



places where Jesus taught, and vibrant, thought-provoking discussions led by Charles. A record number of parishioners (27 one week) welcomed the opportunity to explore their understanding of Jesus' "*I am*" sayings and find their own answers to Jesus' question, '*Who do you say I am?*'



Photo by Joe Parisi

Comments from several parishioners included:

**“What an experience! Full of questions (and there are no stupid ones) that invite us to ponder; questions that evoke engaging group conversations with a focus on the probable and the unanswerable. Probing our faith, in Faith with one another.”**

*“I have been attending the I Am series because I am interested to see the videos of the places where the Biblical events took place. I have never travelled to that part of the world.”*

**“Who knew what a difference this study would make for me in my understanding of God’s purpose and role in my life?”**

*“The video does a good job of describing the actual places we have been reading about. I’ve found it very interesting to review both the history I had forgotten, and the history I did not know. The series also focuses on the People we can know. It helps us understand Christ’s message as it was heard by people two thousand years ago - the experiences of the Jewish people, their conception of just who this Jesus was, and their interpretation of his real message. It’s also interesting to hear the video describe the Judaic roots of some of our Christian traditions. A very worthwhile hour on Wednesday mornings.”*

# Worship Services

**Sunday** - 9:00 and 10:30 a.m.

**Tuesday** - 3:30 p.m., Meditation and Silent Prayer

**Wednesday** – 10 a.m., Lenten Study at 10:45 a.m. until April 24

# Upcoming Events

## HOLY WEEK SERVICES:

**Maundy Thursday Service** – April 18, 7:00 p.m.

**Good Friday Service** - April 19, 11:00 a.m. followed at 12:00 noon  
by **Stations of the Cross**

**Easter Sunday** - April 21, 10:30 a.m. (NOTE – No 9 a.m. service)

**Food for Souls and Bodies** –Tuesdays, April 23, May 28 5:00 p.m.

**Seniors Service and Lunch** - May 14, 11:00 a.m., Salvation Army

**Men's Breakfast:** 8:00 a.m. last Friday of the month

**Magdalenas' Potluck Lunch:** Parish women meet at 12 noon in  
Parish Hall for potluck lunch, May 3 (**note date change**).

**Food Bank Sunday:** First Sunday of the month; non-perishable  
food items including pet food, and/or toiletries



# The Vine Newsletter

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*Photos kindly shared by our parish photographers.*

