



St. Mary Magdalene
Anglican Church, Picton



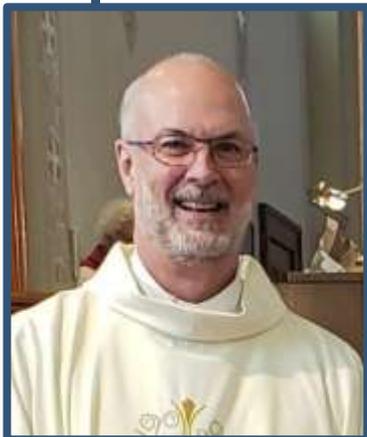
2019 Annual Reports



Our Mission: As followers of Jesus, to be a loving, welcoming, joyful and caring community that reaches out to others and fosters spiritual development for all.

From the Rector: Archdeacon Charles Morris

St Mary Magdalene Anglican Church in Picton is a busy, vibrant community. In the pages that follow you will find reports from more than two dozen groups offering ministry and service in our church and in the wider community, and they tell the story of a church family faithfully pursuing our mission.



CHARLES MORRIS, RECTOR

Just about six years ago Joan and I moved from Montreal to become part of this community. In their report, the Churchwardens thank us for agreeing to be part of St Mary Magdalene. For our part, Joan and I count it a great privilege to live here, worship here, and find ways to contribute and serve here. These have been six good years, and 2019 in particular has been a very good year. Attendance has grown, newcomers have joined us (the new parish directory has 166 pictures: 56 are people who have joined in the past 5 years), and financial support covered all our costs with a small surplus.

We also were blessed with a significant financial gift designated for outreach. Some of the funds have been used to support *County Kids Read* and *Alternatives for Women*, two organizations I am very pleased we could help. The majority of the gift I hope to use to fund the hiring of an Assistant Curate (someone newly or recently ordained) to join us at St Mary Magdalene for

two years. About half of the Curate's time will be focused on continued development of our intergenerational events and the development of a weekly worship format different from our existing offerings and suitable for families and younger people in our community. Our Churchwardens and Parish Advisory Council have expressed support for this initiative, and I will be working with our Bishop to see if we can bring someone to join us who has a deep and abiding faith in Jesus, a desire to share the gospel, loves working with people of all ages and circumstances, and is enthusiastic about working with children and families in the church. This will be a challenging and exciting chapter in the life of our parish.

I was proud this year to have a role in the fuller inclusion of LGBTQ2 people in the life of our diocese. While our National Church decided not to explicitly provide for the marriage of same sex couples in the church, it did provide for each diocese to make its own decision. As a result, a special meeting of Synod (the governing body of our diocese) met in October, and it was my privilege to move and urge support for a motion asking our Bishop to authorize the marriage of same sex couples in the church. The motion was approved by a substantial majority of both clergy and lay representatives, and a week later Bishop Michael issued his guidelines, permitting same sex marriage for churches which apply for authorization. In November our Parish Advisory Council supported our application, and we were the second parish in the diocese to receive authorization (the Cathedral was first). I am very pleased that now I may treat a same sex couple like any other couple seeking marriage.

At the heart of our parish life is our Sunday worship. In support of this we are blessed with a beautiful church, lovingly cared for and decorated through the seasons, and with a talented and dedicated choir led by our gifted Musical Director. When combined with the faithful offerings of all those who prepare the altar before each service, greet at the entrance, manage the AV equipment, read the scriptures, lead the prayers, serve at the altar, and host the fellowship time, again and again we experience God's Spirit moving amongst us as we worship. Visitors often share with me how in worship they find themselves closer to God, and how friendly and welcoming they find our congregation to be.

Reflecting on the year that has passed, I am very grateful to everyone who has volunteered their time and talent to the life of our Parish: the importance of what you contribute is

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reflected in these pages. I especially want to thank the Churchwardens Herb Stone and John Clarke, and the Deputy Churchwardens Kathy Condie, Janet Howes, and Brian Pinkerton who have continued to work tirelessly to support the Parish and me as your Rector with enthusiasm and grace. The Churchwardens are assisted by our Parish Treasurer Art Hewer and Envelope Secretary John Brett, and I am grateful for everything they do to keep our parish accounts in good order.

I am very thankful to Fran Langlois our Parish Deacon who continues to support me, the Parish, and our *County Ministry to Seniors* in so many ways. Thank you also to Michael Goodwin, who, as Musical Director, is a most gracious collaborator, adding immeasurably to our worship. After 16 years of dedicated service Michael is retiring at the end of June. The shoes to be filled are large indeed.

I am grateful to our Honorary Assistants Bill Kidnew, Stan Whitehouse, Peter Mason, and John Whittall, and to our Lay Reader Bob Mason, for their assistance in our worship. I was pleased in December to welcome the Rev David Hawkins as a new Honorary Assistant.

Our parish newsletter *The Vine* is a tremendously valuable means of sharing news from the life of our church amongst ourselves and with visitors and newcomers. I am delighted with its continued development in the hands of editors Wendy LeBlanc and Maxine Tiller. They have drawn on the strengths of the publication they inherited while developing their own style and approach, and the result continues to enhance our parish life.

Our parish life is made richer by Pauline Smith who leads the *Magdalenas*, by Robert Wilson who convenes our monthly *Men's Prayer Breakfast*, by Penny Kitchen our Parish Secretary who provides such a warm welcome to visitors to the office, and by our Sexton (Caretaker), Debbie Turner. Brian Pinkerton and Michael Smith form the heart of the *Never-Ending Construction Company*, and many places around our buildings are in very good shape thanks to their efforts. John Hughes keeps a diligent eye on our facilities through the year, watering the garden in the summer, making sure the taps are not freezing in the winter, and turning off lights and locking doors when others forgot. Special words of thanks hardly begin to acknowledge Helen Pinkerton and Nell Kottick, who through Altar Guild, Outreach, and Fellowship activities contribute so much to our parish life. Health issues have forced Helen to slow down this year, but she continues to support where she can and is much appreciated.

Mid-year, Marie Connor took on the role of Altar Guild convenor, and has proven a quick study and diligent support behind the scenes preparing for our worship services. I am also very grateful for Marie's service as the genius behind the meals at *Food for Souls & Bodies*.

And I want to thank my wife Joan. Her wonderful production at Mount Tabor in September of the play *On A First Name Basis* was a very consuming project, and still she continued to offer time and energy and creativity to add to our Parish life in many very ways. Joan once again spearheaded our *Remembrance Day Jazz Vespers Service*, *Christmas Stories Songs and Cookies*, and the Christmas Eve Family Service, and she is a key member of our *Food for Souls and Bodies* team. And more, she shares and supports my passion for parish ministry, and is the greatest friend and partner I could ever want. I honestly could not do it without her.



JOAN MCBRIDE AT FOOD FOR SOULS & BODIES

I look forward, God willing, to another year of challenges, joys, worship and service in this very special community, giving thanks to God, whose power working in us will do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.

Faithfully in Christ, Charles Morris, Rector

Churchwardens' Report

Finances: Of course, church finances will be the first item in a churchwarden report. The churchwardens cannot stress too much or too dearly, how much Treasurer Art Hewer has meant in the management of Church Finances through the past year. Art's counsel and the generosity of the congregation have brought us to a balanced position in 2019. And, with Art's help, we can present a balanced budget for 2020 to Vestry for the first time in several years, with the added optimism of being able to meet that budget in the coming year. We are pleased that Angela Adams has stepped forward to assist and be a back-up to Art on a temporary basis, in addition to her service as inhouse auditor.

Archdeacon Charles Morris, Rector, St. Mary Magdalene: At the latest leadership meeting on January 6th, Charles reminded us that it was six years ago that Joan and he came to Picton for his interview with the churchwardens of the day (Clarke, Innes, Pinkerton, Smith and Stone). Under a refined and affirmed church profile, the churchwardens were seeking a candidate who would support their three-year plan of self-sufficiency, stability and growth.

It was felt that the Parish of St. Mary Magdalene would benefit from clergy with strong spiritual leadership, a singular commitment to the Parish and to grow the congregation for all the right reasons, not the least of which is a love of God and the teachings of Jesus Christ. In addition, and not to be unreasonably hopeful, it would be nice if St. Mary Magdalene is seen as a welcoming and faithful place of worship for all.

The churchwardens believe that the decision to select Charles was the right one six years ago. Thank you, Charles for agreeing to become part of St. Mary Magdalene.

Envelope Secretary: John Brett's expertise and oversight as envelope secretary is much appreciated. As a reminder to all those on PAG, John Brett is your only contact for changes or information on pre-authorised giving. John will coordinate questions and their answers about PAG with the Diocese Office on your behalf.

Seniors Ministry: The Reverend Fran Langlois, as Parish Deacon, oversees our senior ministry outreach in all three Anglican Parishes in Prince Edward County. Fran assists Charles here and leads services in other Parishes, once per month and whenever needed. She brings love, hope and joy to everyone and to everything she selflessly does for the Church. (Fran forgive us, but it must be said; thanks for everything you do for all of us).

Parish Advisory Council: St. Mary Magdalene Church is fortunate to have a large and engaged Parish Advisory Council with 24 members elected at the Annual Vestry, who meet every other month. Under the Revised Canons, the Parish Advisory Council is meant to provide advice to the Churchwardens. At meetings, members of the Advisory Council receive and review the Rector's report, the financial report by the Treasurer and reports from the Churchwardens to give feedback and guidance.

In addition to these responsibilities, Parish Advisory Council members have an opportunity to be involved in and contribute to, the diverse activities and various ministries provided by members of the church family across the Parish.



JOHN CLARKE SUPERVISING REPAIR OF SIGN

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For example, Andrew Innes recently presented an overview of Christian Meditation and invited Parish Advisory Council members and others to join the Meditation group that meets in the church on Tuesday afternoon. As an outcome of this presentation and expressed interest, Andrew provided a 4-week introductory session on Christian Meditation.

At an upcoming meeting, Dr. Elizabeth Christie will review the use of the defibrillator, donated by the doctors of the Parish, in order to ensure a wide group of church members are familiar with the indications for and use of the defibrillator.

It should be kept in mind that attendance at Parish Advisory Council is not strictly limited to elected members. Any member of the Congregation is welcome to attend Advisory Councils as an interested observer, in fact the congregation is encouraged to do so.

St. Mary Magdalene as a Community Partner: We are blessed with a wonderful church and parish hall that provides a welcoming setting for many concerts, community events, art classes, exercise classes and a space for community meetings. Last April we were the venue for the highly successful *County Reads* event organized by Prince Edward County Public Library. The feedback was so positive, the library would like to hold the event at St. Mary Magdalene Church in 2020. Providing a high-quality venue for community events is part of our Outreach Ministry.

Penny Kitchen, usually the first contact in such cases is always helpful in facilitating rental arrangements to maximize the use of church facilities.

Support Behind the Scenes: Much of what happens in the background at the Church goes unnoticed because it is done so well but those things should not go without comment.

Keeping the church and parish hall clean and well stocked for all our activities requires constant work and diligence. We are grateful to Debbie Turner who has worked to keep the church and parish hall clean and ready for the next guests for over 28 years! Thank you, Debbie.

Members of the Altar Guild work closely with the rector to make certain that the Communion Table is properly set with clean linens, hangings of the appropriate colour, polished silver chalices, bright crystal cruets and a myriad of other details.

This past year, Helen Pinkerton stepped down as chair of the Altar Guild after many years of service to be replaced by Marie Connor. Thankfully, Nell Kottick with her many years of service continues in support of Marie and other members of the Altar Guild; Mary Lou Champagne, Josie Farrar, Carol Lashley, June Mason, Christine Pearsoll, Sue Rowe, Susan Steele and Pauline Smith.

Telephone calls and the organising of memorial flowers for the altar each week are ably arranged by Joan McBride.



THANKING HELEN FOR HER ALTAR GUILD SERVICE

The concerts and musical events held in the church would not be nearly as successful as they are without Brian Pinkerton's long time dedication, assisted by Jay Crockford, in setting up risers and managing and refining lighting and sound systems.

Brian Pinkerton and Michael Smith and John Clarke and David Gilbert and John Hughes continue with the *Never-Ending Construction Company*, jumping in wherever there is a need to repair, replace or improve.

In their first full year of publishing **The Vine**, Wendy LeBlanc and Maxine Tiller have shown the congregation and friends the interesting and impressive involvement of St. Mary Magdalene in our community in fellowship and Christian Worship.

Music Ministry: Michael Goodwin continues his strong leadership to the choir enhancing our worship week by week. We are grateful for the ministry of music Michael provides. Michael organised a successful summer lunchtime series were invited to share their musical interpretations in the church.

In his limited spare time, Michael also leads the Chamber Music Choir and with Josie, delights music lovers with the music of the Fourplay Ensemble.

Michael's commitment and dedication to St. Mary Magdalene is deeply appreciated. We are sad to learn that after sixteen years, Michael plans to retire in June. It will be more than difficult to replace him.



JANINE DUDDING AND JOSIE FARRAR AT NOON CONCERT

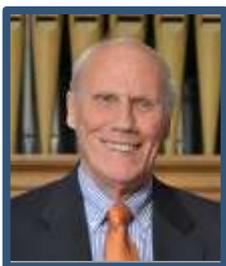
Emergency Planning at St. Mary Magdalene: A work group, chaired by Wendy Leblanc, began meeting in November 2019. The group identified potential emergencies and protocols to effectively and safely manage medical and environmental emergencies and circumstances of disruptive behaviour. The Emergency Plan was presented to *Parish Advisory Council* in January and with the support of PAC, the Wardens and the Rector, the Committee will provide oversight to ensure St. Mary Magdalene Church is a safe place for all.

Church Roof: After noticing serious deterioration of the asphalt shingles on the south side of the roof over the main body of the Church, a repair with matching shingles was completed in 2018.

This year further deterioration was noted and seemed to be accelerating. At one point a serious leak developed running down the inside of the tower wall into the Church itself. Repairs were arranged but as the leak has not reappeared, the repair was called off until further notice.

There is no doubt that the roof will have to be replaced, sooner rather than later. Considering the apparent short life span of asphalt shingles, another type of roof is being investigated. There is the expectation of having the roof replaced this year. If approved by Vestry, fundraising for the roof will be launched immediately.

*Respectfully submitted, Churchwardens and Deputy Churchwardens.
Herb Stone, John Clarke, Kathy Condie, Janet Howes, Brian Pinkerton.*



Parish Deacon's Report

Our senior's ministry continues to be busy, successful and rewarding with the help and support of the three Parishes in the County.

It never ceases to amaze me that every need I have brought to you, our wonderful church family, continues to be fulfilled. Sincere thanks to all who supply calendars, and occasional cards which we bring to the nursing homes to be distributed to the residents. Mary Brett and her knitting group continue to supply lap blankets, twiddle muffs, and hand exercisers which are delivered to the nursing homes in the County, and to the Parrott Centre in Napanee.



PARISH DEACON FRAN LANGLOIS

My sincere thanks and appreciation for your generosity, compassion and support. Your continued support over these past years helps me to fulfill my calling to help the elderly and others in our community. The support from all Parishes continues to fill me with gratitude.

I continue to support and assist Archdeacon Charles at the 10:30 service on Sunday mornings, with the exception of the third Sunday when I preside at the Parish of Marysburgh. I also assist Rev. John Whittall at Sunday services when Archdeacon Charles is away. It was a busy but fun Christmas season again this year with the rehearsals and the *Stories Songs & Cookies* afternoon services, as well as the two Christmas Eve services. I continue to be part of a wonderful group of enthusiastic folks who help Charles and Joan with their new initiative called *Food for Souls and Bodies*. It is great fun and I would recommend everyone come out to enjoy an evening with friends and neighbours.

As an Honorary Assistant, I try to support our sister parishes as much as possible by attending the *Community Supper* and *Dine and Learn* at St. Andrew's in Wellington. In addition to presiding at Sunday services in the Parish of Marysburgh, I try to attend their movie nights and help at fund raiser events whenever I can. There will be a change in the upcoming year in the services at Marysburgh. At the St. John's congregational meeting, it was decided that St. John's church will now be considered a seasonal church. Services will be held from May to October.

On a monthly basis I preside/assist at services in at least seven to nine retirement/nursing homes here in the County, two services at the Parrott Centre in Napanee, two services in Marysburgh Parish on the third Sunday of each month, one home communion, and others as requested. In addition, I continue to provide pastoral support and visits to members of our congregation whenever needed, visits to the residents in the ten nursing/retirement homes each month, and visits to the hospital on a regular basis.

As a requirement of my vocation I endeavour to spend at least one hour a day for personal bible study. I also partake in Bible or Lenten study sessions as I am available. I attend monthly clergy meetings and the annual Clergy Retreat and Clergy Conference, and the special Synod meeting this year. In December I resigned from the Diocesan Training and Development Committee of which I have been a member for the past seven years. I also coordinate and facilitate meetings for the College of Deacons on a quarterly basis, facilitate workshops and obtain speakers as required.

For a more detailed report on my ministry in the Long-Term Care Homes and Retirement Residents, please refer to my *Anglican Ministry to Seniors* report.

I am truly grateful for the financial support I receive from St. Mary Magdalene to reimburse me for mileage and to cover the cost of the annual clergy retreat and clergy conference. I extend my sincere thanks to Archdeacon Charles, and our wardens/deputy wardens: Herb Stone, John Clarke, Janet Howes, Brian Pinkerton and Kathy Condie for their continued support and encouragement, and to each and every one of you, my dear friends at St. Mary Magdalene. What a team we make to further God's kingdom in our little corner of the world.



KIRSTEEN, FRAN, AND JOAN AT FOOD FOR SOULS & BODIES

Respectfully submitted, Fran Langlois

From the Musical Director

2019 has been another year of fine work by the choir, especially during Advent and Christmas. Even when the numbers are down and there is a small contingent of singers, this choir can produce a beautiful sound and provide a very fine addition to the worship service.



MICHAEL GOODWIN

We are happy to have added another two singers to the group; Elizabeth Pulker, soprano, and Michael Korn, tenor/baritone. It's always good to have people who are versatile enough to sing in different sections and we have quite a number of these versatile singers who can migrate from tenor to bass or from soprano to alto. When numbers are small in a specific section these fine singers step in to save the day!

This will be my final Annual Report because I have decided that after 16 years in this job it is time to retire and smell the roses.

Throughout all of my musical endeavors during these years I have enjoyed the support of the Rector and Wardens. Our working relationship has always been warm and compatible, and I am truly grateful to them for their eager and enthusiastic support, and by extension, to the congregation. Josie and I expect to continue to live in the County and to remain members of the church, and I hope also to remain a part of the musical scene here in the County.

I would also like to say a special thank you to Penny for her help in all things musical. For me, she has been a rare gem in the crown of St. Mary Magdalene. Nothing is ever too much trouble, making copies, formatting, designing the noon hour posters, taking photos at our concerts, and keeping the maestro on an even keel with humour and sensitivity.

These remarks come with my profound thanks to all parishioners for making my job such a pleasure. Thank you for your support in attending concerts, noon hour concerts, and in expressing your admiration for the choir and the fine work that they accomplish in the church and throughout the year.

Blessings, Michael Goodwin

Coffee Time

Coffee time after the 9:00 service is managed by Sharon Crowells, Maxine Tiller and John Clarke. Those arriving early for the second service and also the choir coming for early practice are often welcomed with a hot coffee or tea. Thank you so much for your efforts.

Following the 10:30 service most of the congregation stays for refreshments and conversation. We greatly appreciate the generosity of everyone involved in this ministry for bringing food. We are steadily changing to reusable coffee cups; however, some paper ones are still required, and we thank Bob Mason for providing them. If you would like to host a coffee time or join with someone else to provide the food, there is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. The milk, cream, coffee and tea are purchased with the money placed in the donation tin, so you will only need to bring some food. Purchased goodies are welcome. Tuula Saunders and Sue Rowe usually do the coffee brewing and Marie and I coordinate the set-up.



Respectfully submitted, Nell Kottick

St Mary Magdalene Altar Guild

This year we were pleased to welcome Christine Pearsoll to the Altar Guild. However, we were all very sorry to see Helen Pinkerton step down as Altar Guild Coordinator. She has guided us all so beautifully over the last decade or so. I for one have been especially grateful for her support in recent months.



MARIE CONNOR INSTALLED AS
ALTAR GUILD CONVENOR

Our Altar Guild is an enjoyable ministry which consists of four teams of two or three people. Each team usually spends a couple of hours in the church on Saturday and Sunday once a month. We assist Charles with the preparation for services on Sundays and Wednesdays, as well as for special services such as baptisms, weddings and funerals. Joan McBride organizes the memorial flowers which are lovingly arranged each week by the Altar Guild members and placed near the altar for all to enjoy. On Wednesday after chapel, Fran Langlois takes these flowers and gives them to someone who is ill or in need of a little cheer in their life. Our dedicated members are Mary Lou Champagne, Marie Connor, Josie Farrar, Nell Kottick, Carol Lashley, June Mason, Christine Pearsoll, Sue Rowe, Pauline Smith, and Susan Steele. Thanks to all the Altar

Guild members for the wonderful work you do throughout the year to aid in the consistent smooth functioning of our church services and activities.

Please note that we always need new members. If you are interested in this ministry please speak to me. I would love to talk to you.

Respectfully submitted, Marie Connor

Memorial Flowers

At St. Mary Magdalene we are very blessed to have beautiful floral arrangements every Sunday. In addition, at Thanksgiving, Christmas & Easter the altar area is beautifully decorated with plants and flowers that Nell Kottick and John Hughes bring in as part of our High Festival decorations and celebrations. In memoriam donations to cover this cost are contributed by members of our parish family. This is another way in which parishioners can remember their loved ones.

I enjoy having the opportunity each month to call the people on the roster for confirmation of dates and dedication information. It is a special way of growing in relationship with members of our parish community. The fresh flowers at the altar add much to the beauty of our church every Sunday and following the midweek Eucharist, Rev. Fran regularly takes the flowers to seniors' residences and others.

Our Memorial Flowers roster is filled to the brim but there is always room to double up on any given week. Our neighboring florist shop, Flowers 'n Such provides an excellent service in supplying the flowers of choice and delivers them to the church every Saturday morning where the Altar Guild members receive and arrange them for display. If you would like to know how you can remember a loved one in this way, please contact Penny at the church office or speak to me directly.

2019 marks my fourth year as the coordinator for our memorial flowers roster. I hope to find a willing soul to replace me before the end of 2020. This responsibility involves about 1-2 hours per month and is a most pleasing way to contribute to the life of our wonderful parish family. Please consider if this is a responsibility that you might like to assume. I would be pleased to provide more details and to work along side as required in order to ease the transition.



Respectfully submitted: Joan McBride

Seasonal Church Decorations

We decorate the church and chapel three times each year to celebrate the seasons of Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas. The cost of the evergreen planters at Christmas as well as the cost of the Easter plants and flowers for the Easter cross are met by your kind donations in memory of your loved ones. If you have not previously done so, please consider participating in this memorial which greatly adds to the beauty of our special services. Thank you for your generosity.

Respectfully submitted, Nell Kottick

Greeters

Greeters are members of our congregation who welcome you and visitors each Sunday at the church entrance and hand out service bulletins. They also collect the offering and take it and the bread and wine and the monthly wagon filled with food bank contributions to the altar for blessing.

Our 2019 greeters at the 10:30 service were Agnes Russell and Christine Pearsoll, Kathy Condie & Sue Rowe, David Green & John Hopper, Wendy Murphy & Ted Longley, Patti & Gordon Abel, Nell Kottick & John Hughes.

Special thanks to John Clarke, Herb Stone and Kathy Condie for the 9 am service. If you would like to participate please do not hesitate to speak to me.

Respectfully, John Hughes



Greeting Card Ministry

Over the year cards are sent out to our church family who are residents of the 10 various senior homes in our area. Cards for illness, whether in hospital or home, sympathy for bereaved families, get well or just thinking of you, are mailed.

For Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas 38 cards were mailed and for general reasons or special occasions for our Church Family, 29 were sent, bringing the yearly total to 67.

Many times, I am not aware of circumstances when a card received would lift members spirits somewhat, so please feel free to call me at 613-393-2776. Let's let members of our congregation know we care and support them no matter what their circumstances. Thanks for your continued support.

Prayers and Blessings, Barbara Mowbray

Peace Candle Ministry

The Peace Candle is a lovely tradition to which we at St. Mary Magdalene have been able to contribute for the last sixteen years. The tradition began in Ukraine in 1986, the year of the Chernobyl disaster. At a Russian Orthodox service in Odessa, an elderly woman pressed 3 rubles into the hand of a visiting American minister. She asked that he light a candle for peace upon his return home. He and his congregation not only lit one candle for peace, they bought 100 candles and small glass containers in order to continue spreading this light to the world. In the last 16 years, more than 100 candles have also left St. Magdalene to help to spread the message of peace throughout the world.



If you would like to take a candle to a church you are visiting or to give a candle to a visitor to our church, please also include a copy of the story of the Peace Candle and the Universal Prayer for Peace. These candles can be found on the table near the bell tower.

Thank you to all who have taken a candle with them as they visited other churches, and to those who have invited visitors to St. Mary Magdalene to take a candle with them as they return to their own churches.

Respectfully submitted, Marie Connor

Prayer Chain

An intercessory Prayer Chain is a group of people who have committed themselves to pray regularly, confidentially and individually for the people and concerns that are requested of them on a short-term basis. We pray in emergency and crisis situations, medical emergencies, deaths etc.

For urgent prayer requests please call Evelyn Rubie. Those requesting prayers may stay on the Prayer Chain for up to two weeks. It would be helpful to have an update with regard to the prayer request so that if desired the request may be transferred from the Prayer Chain to the Church Prayer List in the Church Bulletin.

At present we have one Prayer Chain with eight persons participating – Edith Morash, Loraine Gilbert, Geneva McNeil, June & Robert Mason, Patti Abel, Fran Langlois and Evelyn Rubie. If you would like to become part of this ministry, we would be pleased to welcome you. Please call Evelyn Rubie at 613-476-7205.

Respectfully submitted, Evelyn Rubie

Tuesday Meditation Group

Since its inception in 2015, the Tuesday Meditation Group has grown gradually over time. At the outset, there were just two participants who met at the back of the Church at 8:30 on Tuesday mornings.

By the end of 2018, we had grown to a core group of four or five members.

In 2019, we saw continued growth, ending the year with a total of seven or eight for an increase of three. This increase can be largely attributed to the Introductory Workshop on Centering Prayer given by Andrew Innes in December to which 22 people came out.

The number of attendees at the workshop suggests that there is considerable interest in, if not thirst for, Meditation.



Respectfully submitted, Andrew Innes

Christmas Stories, Songs and Cookies

The Christmas season in 2019 marked the fifth year of our annual presentation of *Christmas Stories, Songs and Cookies*. Our program of Christmas-themed stories this year included *The Polar Express* by Chris Van Allsburg (back by popular demand) and *Alfie The Christmas Tree* based on John Denver and The Muppets recording of *A Christmas Together* combined with an additional story *God Gave us Christmas*, freely adapted from two stories by Lisa Bergren.

Our little band of musicians and storytellers featured Celia Sage on piano with Donnie Wilson and Fred Robinson reading from *The Polar Express*. I read the poem *Alfie the Christmas Tree* while John McCarthy and Elizabeth Cowan read *God Gave Us Christmas*. This team of readers and musicians was ably supported by the talented and dedicated Kirsteen Etherington, Rev. Fran and Ven. Charles. New this year was our colouring station set up for early-bird arrivals. Kirsteen Etherington did a fabulous job animating this very popular activity.

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CHILDREN ENJOYING THE COLOURING STATION

On Christmas Eve afternoon, we once again offered *The Prince of Peace: A Beautiful Find*, a retelling of the Nativity Story, beautifully narrated by Stuart Ross with Michael Goodwin on piano, Josie Farrar on cello (and church bells!) and Malcolm Ross on saxophone. Kirsteen Etherington, Kirstie and Malcolm Ross, Rev Fran and Ven Charles all contributed to the leading of the songs and storytelling on Christmas Eve afternoon.

Special thanks to Mike Langlois for so capably mastering the rather complex PowerPoints at all three events.

And let's not forget the cookies. Thanks to all of our bakers who provided the delicious cut-out cookies. Thanks to Wendy Murphy for organizing the decorating materials and for guiding our cookie decorators in the fine art of choosing from a myriad of colours and sprinkles for their cookie creations. Our young (and young-at-heart) guests enthusiastically decorated and then gobbled up their artwork. Many brought one home as a gift to a parent or family member who couldn't attend. "Merry Christmas pass it on"!



COOKIE DECORATING AT CHRISTMAS STORIES SONGS & COOKIES

Thanks also to Wendy Murphy and Ted Longley and to Jean and Walter Kipp for serving up the warm cider and hot chocolate. All in all, it was a wonderful team effort that brought much of the magic and true spirit of Christmas to all who came to see.

Attendance at the three events this year was encouraging. We never know how many people will come but we were pleased this year to have welcomed about 80 guests, and we saw many new faces - families with young children and grandparents. On Christmas Eve afternoon about 60 attended, 9 of them young children. What a delight it was for our team to share the wondrous Christmas story with those little ones who participated most enthusiastically in the entire program! And it can be said that our guests seemed to thoroughly enjoy the experience at all three events.

It does appear that this ministry combined with our new *Food for Souls and Bodies* program is gaining some traction with a new constituency of young families and seniors. We hope that with care and nurture our inter-generational programming will continue to grow in the years ahead. Our hope is to bring newcomers and especially young families into our beautiful church for spiritual nurture and St Mary Magdalene's very special brand of warm hospitality. It is indeed heartening to observe that we appear to be evolving into a more inter-generational parish family, sharing the stories and the love of Jesus for now and hopefully for many, many years to come.

Respectfully submitted: Joan McBride

Food for Souls and Bodies

In September 2018 we started a new initiative: *Food for Souls & Bodies*. It's a fun gathering in the Parish Hall on the 4th Tuesday of each month, for everyone, ages 0 to 99, to share in creative crafts, stories, songs, and a meal! The program continued through May, stopped for the summer, and then resumed in October.



ENJOYING THE STORY THEATRE AT *FOOD FOR SOULS & BODIES*

Our objective from the start was for these events to be intergenerational, an opportunity for older and younger to play together, worship together, and eat together, so we have aimed to ensure everything we do is accessible to younger hands and minds. But that has not meant these evenings are only for kids: a great many older participants have come regularly as well. It is always challenging to start something new, and attendance has varied, but we have had many evenings will more than 40 people, and this has encouraged me to continue for another year.

I have been enormously privileged to work with a great team. Wendy Murphy, Ted Longley, David Colwell, Joan McBride, Kirsteen Etherington, Fran Langlois and Marie Connor have been the key organizers, joined by Nona Bussell, Kathy Condie, Jay Crockford, Peter & Carmen Mason, Patti Abel, Gerry & Helena Martell, Angela Adams, Andrew Innes, James Wright, Patsi Deary, Jim & Sharon Crowells, Susan Steele, David and Loraine Gilbert, and Claudia McCabe. I am very grateful to members of our parish who provided the funding for this program so that it can be offered free of charge to all who come. More than a quarter of our congregation have been involved in supporting this project!

We all need to be nurtured physically, socially, and spiritually. For those of us who regularly attend, the church is an obvious place to turn to meet some of those needs. But for many others a church is not such an obvious place to turn to, and there can be barriers of time (Sundays don't work for everyone), comfort level (formal worship services can be intimidating to those who are not familiar with them or who don't resonate with the style), and cost (for many in our community there is too much month and not enough money). *Food for Souls and Bodies* provides a monthly occasion to overcome those barriers. I encourage everyone to come, and to invite others to come with you.



Respectfully submitted, Charles Morris

Magdalenas

The women of the Parish meet once a month, usually on the last Friday at 12 noon in the Parish Hall for an informal pot-luck lunch. It is a time for sharing a meal (always very good food and lots of it!), enjoying the fellowship, getting to know one another better, keeping up to date with what is happening in the life of our church and planning upcoming kitchen-related events.

In 2019 there were 8 lunches which were enjoyed, on average, by 17 people, including, on most occasions, Archdeacon Charles. There were no lunches in the summer (July and August) or in May or November. On several occasions the lunches had to be rescheduled to a different Friday. Hopefully, this coming year, we can maintain our usual schedule with the Magdalenas' meeting on the last Friday of each month.

In December, \$320 from Magdalenas' funds were donated to the Children's Foundation Angel Tree Program. This program helps County families in need during the Christmas holidays.

Respectfully submitted, Pauline Smith

Men's Prayer Breakfast

The Men's Prayer Breakfast has been a feature at St. Mary Magdalene Church since January 2009, when approximately eight men met at 8.00 am, in the private room at Gus's restaurant. Rev Richard Pitcher, as priest, both authorized and supported the meeting which has continued each month since then.



In June of 2009, Helene Labelle Campbell was contacted at the Waring House Inn and Restaurant about the possibility of the men meeting there. Her answer was positive and immediate. She said, "The Waring House would be pleased to host your prayer meeting." In 2018, several other venues were utilized but the Prince Edward Room at Waring House has been the choice location.

Attendance has been steady and increasing with up to 23 men in attendance. The format is great coffee on arrival; followed by a scripture reading and a devotional. Two

devotional examples are (a) "The Power of Personal Contact and Invitation" in leading someone to faith in Jesus. (b) General George Patton and the D Day Landings.

The devotional is followed by a time of prayer led by Bob Mason, who with the men, concludes with "The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, evermore Amen. After the Grace, breakfast is served, followed by uplifting conversation and encouragement.

Respectfully submitted, Robert C. Wilson

Parish Newsletter: *The Vine*

What covers up to 120 days of newsworthy activity, involves about 40 people-hours to produce and distribute, and takes only 20 minutes to read? If you guessed 'The Vine' newsletter – you're right!



This 16-page-hold-in-your-hand publication is one way St. Mary Magdalene highlights the life of our vibrant parish, celebrates the talents and contributions of our devoted parishioners, and makes known the vital role our congregation plays in our local community. The Vine keeps us connected, informs us of coming events and activities, records parish life, and marks milestones in the lives of our parishioners.

We know that first impressions really do count and we are pleased to celebrate the talents of our parish's artists and photographers on our covers and centre pages. We know you like to see interesting stories and pictures about parish life now and in the past and we are delighted to bring these to light and print. We know that in our busy lives everyone needs to plan ahead, and we want to keep you informed of events you won't want to miss.

During 2019 the newsletter team published five editions of The Vine and in December, we introduced a refresh to our previous logo thanks to the talents of Natalie Piper of Inkfly PEC. We plan five editions for 2020 and request you email maxinetiller10@gmail.com or wendyjleblanc@gmail.com with suggestions and story ideas.

Check out stmpicton.ca for previous issues of The Vine.

Respectfully submitted, Maxine Tiller and Wendy LeBlanc

Supporting the Food Bank

Food security continues to be a problem in the community. Fortunately, St. Mary Magdalene is helping to fill the gap on Food Bank Sunday.

Pet food, toiletries and cash donations are always welcome.

Respectfully, John Hughes



Community Outreach

The Church of St. Mary Magdalene continues to grow as an important part of the local community as we develop new programs and make generous financial donations to worthy causes. Some of our activities during 2019 are listed below.

March 5 – Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. Again, we opened the event to the public and in spite of very bad weather more than 100 attended.

continued next page ...

April – Meals-on-Wheels were delivered by members of our church, organized by John Clarke.

April 25 – The church hosted the *County Reads* event.



THE COUNTY CHAMBER CHOIR PERFORMING IN JUNE

May 11 – Michael Goodwin's County Chamber Choir presented their third annual concert entitled *The Road not Taken*. Proceeds of \$1,100 went to PEC Memorial Hospital Foundation.

May 14 – The Seniors' Service and Luncheon was held at the Salvation Army facility. This was a combined effort of all County Anglican churches.

June 9 – We hosted the Ministerial Association Unity Service in celebration of Pentecost. All denominations were invited to participate. Refreshments were served to a large crowd.

June 19-July 24 – *Summer Noon Concerts* organized by Michael and Josie. Each Wednesday featured a different local musician. Admission was free, however, gratefully accepted donations raised \$1,600 which was given to our church to help defray a shortfall in operating costs.

July-August – Open Doors on Thursday and Friday afternoons was again organized by John Hopper. It was a good opportunity for visitors to tour our church and admire our beautiful windows.

July 21-August 18 – Port Milford concerts at our church included two afternoon performances by the students and four evening concerts.

August 18 – Annual *Jazz Mass* featuring the Brian Barlow Quartet along with the choir of St. Mary Magdalene.

September 8 – Everyone enjoyed our *Community Hymn Sing* organized by Jim Macgregor.

September 13 – 22 – *PEC Chamber Music Festival* presented concerts in our church.

September 25 – Our congregation hosted the *Loaves and Fishes Luncheon* at the Salvation Army facility. There was a large crowd and plenty of delicious food.

September 28 – Michael Korn's choral concert, *Look for the Silver Lining* was very successful.

November 1 – Our *Christmas Tea, Bake Sale and More* was a financial as well as social success – we raised more than \$5,000. A large number of our congregation worked so hard to make this happen. A cheque in the amount of \$2,500 to cover their operating costs for one month was presented to the ROC.

November 10 – We celebrated Remembrance Day Sunday with a display of photos and memorabilia from our church family. The following day we concluded with our annual *Jazz Vespers* service directed by Joan McBride.



ENJOYING THE CHRISTMAS TEA

November 30 – Michael Goodwin's County Chamber Choir presented *All Earth is Waiting*, a concert of Music of Advent. More than \$1,055 was raised for the ROC.

December 4 and 13 – We hosted two Seniors’ Services and Christmas Parties at Hallowell House and McFarland Home. Charles led the services and church members served refreshments and visited with the residents. Your donations paid for the cake and ice cream and the balance helped Fran purchase small gifts for home residents who otherwise would not receive a gift.

December 8 & 15 – Advent Afternoon series *Christmas Stories, Songs and Cookies* led by Joan McBride. Guests listened to *The Polar Express* and *Alfie, the Christmas Tree*. The children then decorated cookies, ate them and drank hot chocolate.

A significant gift to be used only for outreach was donated to our church. From that a one-time grant of \$10,000 was given to County Kids Read to support the purchase of books for the children. Also, Alternatives for Women received \$15,000 to furnish three rooms in their residence which is now undergoing renovation.

The Magdalenas donated money raised at their monthly luncheons to the Angel Tree. A donation was given to Gilead Church to help offset the cost of their annual Christmas Day dinner.

The first Sunday of each month continues to be Food Bank Sunday. The need is greater than ever for food, pet food, toiletries and money. It is uplifting to see the “supply wagon” filled to overflowing each time. Thank you to John Hughes for packing it up and transporting it to the United Church basement food bank.

Outreach activities are made possible by your generous gifts of time, talent, money and food. Well done!



PRESENTING A CHEQUE TO COUNTY KIDS READ

Submitted by Nell Kottick

Fellowship Report

Listed below are some of our Fellowship activities which occurred in 2019:

Food for Souls and Bodies is a new monthly program for everyone ages 0 – 99 to share creative arts, stories, songs and a free meal together. It reaches out to all in the community so it also is an Outreach activity.



ANDREW INNES EXPLAINING THE WORKSHOP

Feb 3 – Annual Vestry Meeting and Potluck Luncheon followed by a short Parish Advisory Council meeting.

Each week following Wednesday Eucharist, Charles leads a one-hour review and discussion of the bible readings for the coming Sunday. For the Lenten season there were special video sessions that had been filmed in the Holy Land. We enjoyed refreshments with each lesson.

Prior to Christmas, Andrew Innes led us in a 4-week introductory workshop on Christian Meditation and Centering Prayer.

continued next page ...



OPEN HOUSE AT THE VICARAGE

June 16 – Joan and Charles welcomed everyone to their Open House at the Vicarage for a beautiful afternoon with delicious food and drinks.

July 21 – We celebrated the Feast of St. Mary Magdalene with a potluck luncheon following the 10:30 service. Good food and conversation.

Coffee time follows both Sunday services.

Magdalenas’ luncheon at noon on the last Friday of each month.

Men’s prayer breakfast at 8:00 am also on last Friday of each month.

Greeting card ministry managed by Barbara Mowbray.

Transportation to services for members who no longer drive managed by Angela Adams.

Beautiful floral arrangements are donated each Sunday in memory of loved ones. After the Wednesday service, Rev Fran delivers the flowers to shut-ins or to seniors’ residences.

There is meditation and silent prayer in the chapel each Tuesday at 3:30 pm.

The production of our parish newsletter, The Vine, has been assumed by Wendy LeBlanc and Maxine Tiller. Everyone enjoys reading the publication from cover-to-cover.

Thank you everybody for your participation in the life of our parish.

Submitted by Nell Kottick



FEAST OF ST MARY MAGDALENE POTLUCK LUNCH

Meals on Wheels

As is usual, I would once again like to thank our many volunteers for all their tremendous help with delivering Meals on Wheels this past year...2019.

This is to be one of the most rewarding of our outreach programs, not that many know from where we come, but because it is a hands-on experience and makes so much difference to the people we serve. They are truly grateful for our help and support.

Our volunteers this past year were Herb Stone, Christine Pearsoll, Janet and Ron Howes, Sue and Rick Rowe, Michael and Pauline Smith, Kathy Condie and Jay Crockford, Walter and Jean Kipp, Lorraine and Brian Hyatt, and Garry and Helena Martell.

Hopefully getting the required Police Checks this year will be smoother that last year.... slow because of late starts, not our volunteers’ backgrounds!!!

Once again as April approaches, I plan to reach out to all of you again to assist in this heartwarming venture.

Many Thanks, John A. Clarke

Transportation

Over the past year I have had a lot of support by those who drive in ensuring that those of our parishioners who are unable to get to services independently have been helped and that they feel comfortable in requesting assistance in order to attend services at St. Mary Magdalene.

Our numbers remain fairly constant, with only two additional parishioners requesting assistance in the past twelve months. With much help I have been able to ensure that all of those who have asked for transportation have been able to attend church as requested, and that they do not feel as though they are asking for special attention in order to do so.

There have been times when I have been unable to pick up and return to their homes those who have asked for transport, however, with the assistance of other parishioners who have been willing to step in, nobody has ever been turned down.

Having a note of the transportation services offered in the weekly service sheet and also in *The Vine* has been of enormous help as I have been approached by people offering their services to provide transportation if necessary, as well as those who have requested assistance in order to attend Church.

Special thanks go to David Sutton and Jay Crockford and Kathy Condie who have provided invaluable assistance on a regular basis in providing transport.

Respectfully submitted, Angela Adams

Jazz Services

The music of jazz has long been an appropriate medium for Christian worship, and in our Jazz services we combine traditional liturgy with the freedom and creativity of musical improvisation. In August we were pleased to host the annual *Jazz Mass* service, an integral part of the *Prince Edward County Jazz Festival 2019*.

A large and appreciative congregation gathered, and we were pleased to welcome *The Brian Barlow Quartet* featuring Robi Botos on piano, Jodi Proznick on bass, Emily Steinwall on saxophone,

and Brian Barlow on drums. It was an uplifting treat! The service was well attended and provided a wonderful opportunity to share St Mary Magdalene with a larger congregation.

In November for the sixth year in a row we offered an evening of Jazz Vespers as a gentle conclusion to Remembrance Day. My wife, Joan McBride, takes the lead in developing and directing this programme, and this year was very special, marking the 75th anniversary of *The Great Escape* from Stalag Luft III. Joan's father, Bob McBride, was the last man out of the tunnel before the guards discovered it; Bob and two others who had not yet cleared the area were immediately apprehended and returned to the prison camp. The evening featured a personal telling of that story with art and excerpts from Bob's war journal.



CHOIR WITH BRIAN BARLOW QUARTET AT JAZZ MASS

This year November 11th experienced a severe snowstorm that kept many people at home. It also prevented two members of the planned quartet from getting to Picton! As a result, it was a smaller than normal crowd that gathered for this very special service, but that did nothing to dampen the response.



BLAIR YARRANTON AT JAZZ VESPERS

Musical support was provided by (as in turned out) a Jazz **Trio** headed by Brian Barlow on the drums, Blair Yarranton playing trumpet, and a guitarist Brian was able to find on very short notice. The service was supported by beautiful images displayed on the overhead screens as the story unfolded.

The service provided opportunities to sing hymns, as well as songs from the wars, accompanied by the Jazz musicians. Towards the end, Malcom Ross sang A Hymn for Remembrance, by Charles Henry Wood. After the service people took the opportunity to look at and reflect on the displays of photographs and other memorabilia of family members who had served in the armed forces. It was a beautiful conclusion to Remembrance Day.

Respectfully submitted: Charles Morris

Anglican Ministry to Seniors in Prince Edward County

The Anglican Ministry to Seniors in Prince Edward County continues to flourish due to the dedicated and ongoing support of the three Anglican Parishes.

We are truly blessed to have such a committed and loyal team who bring 'church' each month to the four long term care homes and five of the retirement residences in the County. Many thanks to Archdeacon Charles Morris and Rev. Ada Clifton for presiding at one of the Long Term Care homes once a month; to Paula Walker for assisting Rev. Ada; to Ron Cork and Marg Stanford for presiding/assisting at West Lake Terrace Nursing Home and MLP Retirement residence each month, to Eleanor Johnston for helping out at the Carriage House; Bob and June Mason for assisting at any number of services each month, and a special thanks to our pianist, Phil Robins, who provides music for all of the services each month with the exception of two, and last but not least, our guitarist, Mike Langlois for always being available to fill in when needed.

The May service and luncheon held at the Salvation Army Church was a wonderful success again this year thanks to so many volunteers. I am so very grateful to Don Creighton for organizing the transportation which is no small feat! My thanks also go out to the 'kitchen crew,' those who look after the beverage cart, and for those who provided the food and donations. We were blessed to have the Very Rev. Don Davidson, Dean of St. George's Cathedral, as our guest speaker. He had a wonderful story to tell and brought many to tears.



THE DEAN SPEAKING AT SENIORS SERVICE

The Christmas services at Hallowell House and McFarland Home were a wonderful success with Archdeacon Charles presiding, Bob Mason assisting, and a 'host of volunteers.' The residents sang heartily, enjoyed the cake, but more importantly, were so very grateful for the

friendship and help from our volunteers. It is times such as these that make our ministry so very special.

Our Seniors' Ministry is supported by many in our parishes, the ladies of St. Andrew's ACW, and so many others who continue to contribute financially to this ministry. These donations are used to help with the purchase of the cakes for the LTC Homes and also the Retirement Residences. This year we have been able to provide gifts for eight residents in the various LTC homes who have no family. We have also been able to bring a tin of cookies and a tray of fruit to the dedicated and compassionate staff at the LTC homes who often work under stressful conditions to keep the residents comfortable and safe.



SERVING CAKE AND ICE CREAM AT HALLOWELL HOUSE CHRISTMAS SERVICE AND PARTY

Again this year, I am so very grateful for each member of our team, for all those who continue to pray for our ministry, for the many helping hands who make our special events so much fun and for all those who help financially. It is with the help of so many that we are able to answer God's call to care for the widows, the lonely, the vulnerable and those in need. May God continue to help us fulfil our baptismal covenants by loving him, and loving and serving others in his name.

Respectfully submitted, Fran Langlois



SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER



KNITTING AT FOOD FOR SOULS & BODIES



HOSTING COUNTY READS AT ST MARY MAGDALENE



VISITING THE ROC YOUTH CENTRE

A Beautiful Find!



 **St. Mary Magdalene**
Anglican Church, Picton
335 Main Street, Picton Ontario, K0K 2T0
Website: stmpicton.ca

Rector: Archdeacon Charles Morris
Phone: (613) 503-0199
Email: charlesmorris78@gmail.com

Parish Secretary: Penny Kitchen,
Phone: (613) 476-3303
Email: stmpicton@gmail.com