



St. Mary Magdalene Church
Picton
Summer 2020

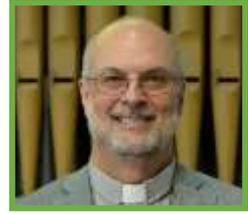


To everything turn, turn, turn.
There is a season, turn, turn, turn.
A time to be born, a time to die,
A time to plant, a time to reap,
A time to break down, a time to heal,
A time to laugh, a time to weep.

And a time to every purpose under heaven.

Adapted from 'Turn, Turn, Turn' by Pete Seeger

Our Rector's Message:



Living in Exile

It has been a hot, dry summer so far, but the thing that makes everything out of joint is the ongoing effect of COVID-19. I am pleased that in the face of this pandemic we have continued to stay in touch and support one another and others in our community. Our online video services and *Zoom* Bible Studies have been well received, and our team of volunteers has been calling around the parish, especially checking in on those who do not have email. Some folks have found time to pursue new interests, others have even made new friends. But nothing is quite how we would like it.

COVID-19 has brought us into a period of exile: exile from our usual interactions with family and friends, exile from physical connections like handshakes and hugs, exile even from smiles, hidden as they frequently are under masks. We have been in exile from public gatherings, especially gathering in church, and as a result we have been in exile from the opportunity to share the Eucharist together.

The foundational stories of our faith in the Bible share many insights into exile. More than once the people of Israel found themselves in exile from their homeland, and our scriptures, especially the Psalms, reflect those experiences. Our ancient forebearers found no shortcuts and no easy answers, but they did find their way through their exile experiences.

They began with *lament*. Psalm 137 begins “By the rivers of Babylon—there we sat down and there we wept when we remembered Zion” and goes on to cry “How could we sing the Lord’s song in a foreign land?” They didn’t pretend everything was fine, nor did they blithely assume that after a bit of inconvenience everything would be back to normal. They poured out their hearts to God, in sadness, in grief, and, yes, anger.

They continued by looking for new ways and opportunities to be who they were meant to be. They looked for a word from God to help guide them, but they did not suppose that would come in the form of clear directions from on high about what to do next, and it did not. They knew what sort of people God had called them to be, and they knew they had to do the hard work of figuring out how to carry on in strange and difficult circumstances.

And the people of Israel clung tight to their hope that their God would not abandon them, but would ultimately set things right. They sometimes lived for years and even generations waiting for their situation to improve (folks in our time are not often that patient), but they never gave up the hope that the God of love would restore his damaged creation.

That provides a pattern for us to follow: permit ourselves to grieve the losses COVID-19 has brought, bring our hearts and minds and ingenuity to bear on figuring out how to be the people and the community we ought to be in strange times, and hold tight to our confidence that God in Jesus will be with us always, even to the end of the age.

With that in mind I look forward to our economy and our society continuing to reopen, and to being able to gather again as a church community in our beautiful building. Many things will be different, but I know with a little determination and a lot of trust in God who will not let us go, we will find our way through this time of exile.

Yours faithfully, *Charles*

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This Edition's Featured Artists

The Vine regularly features the work of artists in our congregation and we invited them to share work they created during the pandemic time of the past five months.

Veronica Cluett shared two pieces of her work along with her inspiration for them: *"During isolation I tried to focus on painting things that I love, including flowers. At the time I was thinking about change, and the fact spring and summer could not be deterred by the virus and would come soon and give us hope of new life."*

"The milkweed (featured on the cover), which provides a place for one of the stages in the life cycle of the monarch butterfly, is an example of how all life forms need the support of other life forms, in the same way that humans need to support and depend on each other especially during difficult times. This piece can be viewed in more detail at the 'Arts On Main Gallery' new online gallery at artsonmaingallery.ca."



Our own **claudiajeanmccabe**, a recognized Canadian painter, graphic designer, teacher ... and more ..., turned her talents to creating this graphic thank you. We join Claudia in saluting the frontline workers in our community for giving of themselves for the good and well-being of all of us. Claudia's work can be viewed at the Sybil Frank Gallery in Wellington.

David Gilbert and **Mary Brett** and a few friends enjoyed a Photographic

Scavenger Hunt Challenge along with a friend in Winnipeg, two family members in England and three here in Prince Edward County. The idea came from Hobart, Australia through photo clubs. Because it was distanced and involved only the photographer and a camera it made a great COVID-19 task. They had nine photos to take with each one reflecting a theme, then made sure that everyone got copies of each other's pictures. See examples of their Scavenger Hunt next page.

Multi-talented **Penny Kitchen**, artist, photographer, singer, Church Secretary – to name a few of her accomplishments - has a knack of capturing beautiful moments in The County, Her inspirational photo on the back page of this edition of 'The Vine' reveals a timely message of beauty, hope, and promise.

COVID-19 Photographic Scavenger Hunt

Featured here are photos taken by **David Gilbert** and **Mary Brett** in the past few months as part of an international photographic scavenger hunt. The theme for each photo is followed by the initials of the photographer



Mono Plus One (D.G.)



Still Life (M.B.)



Bubbles (D.G.)



Food (M.B.)



Lead in Lines (D.G.)



Flaming Hot (M.B.)

A Word of Thanks ...

It was back on March 8, 2020 that we were last able to meet together in Church to worship, raise our voices in prayer and praise and to enjoy Christian fellowship.

Over the past five months, while we have been apart and at home, support for the ongoing work of the church has remained strong. Thank you all!

Although the pews are empty, the Ministry continues in many ways as Charles provides a weekly service available on line as well as in printed copy. Many church members participate in the services offering prayers, reading scripture, and sharing their gifts of music.

Deacon Fran is very active calling people, delivering DVDs and written copies of the service, and devotional books.

While we remain apart, Charles and Fran bind us together as a caring community.

Thank you also for your support of the new roof. If you have been by the Church, you will have noticed how the new roof enhances the beauty of the stone Church. Donations for the roof replacement have been gratefully received. Your ongoing support will enable us to fully pay for this new roof.

Since mid-March, volunteers have called members and friends of St. Mary Magdalene church reaching out to maintain connections and to offer help with urgent errands or groceries. Thank you to this team!

We look forward to the day when we can gather together safely for worship. We have received detailed guidelines for the reopening of the church from the House of Bishops. We are all hoping that we can move into a phased reopening in September. Until then, stay safe and keep well.

***Herb Stone John Clarke
Janet Howes Kathy Condie
Brian Pinkerton***



Reflections & Distortions - D. Gilbert

Banana Bread Revival



CBC, CTV, Global News and Google are all reporting a pandemic-time renewed interest in *Banana Bread* which made its debut in Canadian kitchens in the 1930s. Two parishioners share their recipes for you to try when overripe bananas show up in your fruit basket.

MARIE CONNOR'S BANANA BRAN BREAD

1/2 cup butter (margarine or shortening)
3/4 cup sugar
2 eggs
1 1/2 cups mashed bananas
1 tsp. vanilla
1 cup bran buds or whole bran
1 1/2 cups sifted all-purpose flour
2 tsp. baking powder
1/2 tsp. each baking soda and salt

Mix butter, sugar, eggs, bananas and vanilla in large bowl. Add bran and let stand five minutes. Mix together dry ingredients, blend with banana - bran mixture. Pour into well-greased and floured loaf pan. Bake at 350F for one hour (and 5 or 10 minutes) until cake tester inserted in centre comes clean. Cool 10 minutes. Remove from pan and cool on rack. Yield 16 slices.

'This loaf is healthy,' notes Marie Connor, 'And can be cut, a small piece of wax paper placed between each slice, wrapped and frozen. For breakfast remove the slices needed and pop in toaster. The recipe is from 'a Village Cookbook' from Georgeville, PQ. I wish I could say it comes from my god-mother, but it does not.'

JULIE MILLER'S BANANA BREAD

Cream: 1 cup sugar
1 Tbsp. butter
1 egg
3 ripe bananas (at least)

Mix: 1 1/2 cups flour
1 tsp. baking soda
1/4 tsp. salt



Mix in with wet ingredients, but don't overmix!
Bake at 350F for about an hour until done in centre.

Julie's Tip: I always use way more, at least 6 bananas, very ripe, then freeze. Make sure to peel before freezing - you'll only make that mistake once!

Lining the bottom of your loaf pan with wax paper ensures easy loaf removal.

Baking a loaf without a soggy centre is tricky. Insert a knife; the loaf is done if it comes out clean.

Soft cream cheese or butter - even peanut butter - great spreads for banana bread.

St. Mary Magdalene there for YOU...

*anyone,
anytime,
anywhere,
any reason.*

A PARISHIONER notes

Through all this difficult time, it has been wonderful to know that my Church friends and family were there for me. It gave me hope and comfort.

”

KEEPING IN TOUCH, KEEPING US TOGETHER

Rector Charles leads, records, posts and distributes online weekly services – over 20 to date, leads the Wednesday Zoom Bible Study sessions, and has made innumerable personal, Zoom visits and phone calls. Weddings and baptisms have been postponed but funerals have taken place through the power of the internet. Covid-19 has prompted everyone to be creative and flexible.

Deacon Fran calls members of the Parish, delivers DVDs and paper copies of weekly services and even walks to many 'socially-distanced' visits!



Lita Field



Dr. **Elizabeth Christie** and Dr. **Sarah LeBlanc** model their PPE. **Wendy Murphy** and **Wendy LeBlanc** of our Parish led the two small teams who created some 200 medical gowns for use in the PEC COVID-19 assessment centre and elsewhere. Thanks to **Alexandra Bake** and others for donations of thread, used bed sheets, colourful fabrics and elastic!

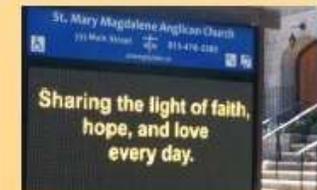
TELEPHONE TALK

“ Very positive feedback resulted from the telephone team twice contacting all members of St. Mary Magdalene. Thanks to Janet Howes, Peter Mason, Maureen Townson, Angela Adams, Pauline Smith, Lorraine Hyatt, Mary Lou Champagne, James Wright and Norma Holmes. Fran Langlois, Bob Mason, Penny Kitchen and Kathy Condie continue to contact about 30 people on a regular basis. ”

ERRAND RUNNERS

Organized by **Penny Kitchen**, volunteers **Michael Korn**, **Angela Adams** and **Kathy Condie** overcame challenges of social-distancing to run errands for parishioners. *Thank you all for your dedication!*

COMMUNITY MINDED



Our colourful signage has inspirational words for everyone passing St. Mary Magdalene.

John Hughes faithfully tends the St. Mary Magdalene gardens, beautifying a strategic entrance to our community.

Parishioners continue to support the Food Bank in this time of great need.

THANK YOU

20 parishioners take part in leading the online services. Many thanks go out to:

Our **RECTOR & TECH WHIZ**
Charles Morris

MUSICIANS, SINGERS, READERS
Angela Adams, Mary Lou Champagne, Bruce Dow, Janine Dudding, Kirsteen Etherington, Josie Farrar, Lita Field, David Gilbert, Michael Goodwin, Walter Kipp, Roanna Kitchen, Deacon Fran Langlois, Carol Lashley, Jack Lashley, Bob Mason, Bishop Peter Mason, Joan McBride, claudiamccabe, Susan Steele, and Don Watson.

Plans to Reopen the Church Building

It was with a sense of disbelief that we cancelled services for March 15th, and then closed our church buildings indefinitely. So we very much look forward to being able once again to *gather together* for worship at St Mary Magdalene. Many details have yet to be worked out, but here is what we can share so far.

Why aren't we open now? The government has permitted churches to reopen with limitations, but the Bishops of the Anglican churches in Ontario decided that, considering how many of our people are in at-risk categories (we are, after all, an older crowd), we should move more slowly and ensure we plan this carefully. They have developed a three-stage plan, and currently we are in the *Red Stage*.

When will we reopen? The date will depend on things continuing to go well in the Province, and on our ability to get all our safety protocols in place so we know what to do and how to do it to keep safe everyone who comes. Currently our target is to enter the *Amber Stage* and reopen on September 13th.

What will it be like? It will be different. We will need to keep a list of everyone who comes (for contact tracing if needed). People will need to sit at least 6 feet away from anyone else (members of the same household can sit together), so you may have to change your favourite seat. The wearing of face coverings will be strongly encouraged, unless contraindicated – more details on this will be announced before we reopen.

Will we need to reserve a space? We will need to see how the details work out, but we intend to try to avoid reservations. We may add an additional service if there is need.

Will we have communion? Yes, but only bread will be shared, not the wine. We will learn from best practices to determine how to actually distribute the bread.

Will we have singing? The congregation will not sing, as it seems group singing increases the chance of transmitting the virus. We may be able to have a very small choir – we are waiting for more details on the rules around choirs.

What about the fellowship time? What about coffee? Fellowship time will feel different, as we will need to maintain “social distance,” but we will be able to chat and catch up with one another, a very

important aspect of our community gatherings. We will not be able to share food and drink in the **Amber Stage**.

Will the online services continue? As the pandemic set in, Charles decided our best way forward was to prerecord service elements, edit them together and post them to YouTube. Once we reopen, the thinking is that we should provide the opportunity for people to connect with what is happening in church if you can't be there in person. So the plan is to record the service "live," and steps are being developed to support that. If possible we will "live-stream" the service to YouTube: this would allow you to "tune-in" as the service is happening, or watch it later, because the recording of the live-streamed event stays on YouTube. For the live part to happen our internet at the church needs to be upgraded, and that too is being explored; otherwise we will upload the recorded service to YouTube each Sunday afternoon.

St. Mary Magdalene Milestones

Birthdays

Fran Kellar - 85th Birthday



Passings

Margaret Bell Art Hewer Harold Mowbray Gerry Wheeler

Celebrations

Deacon Fran Langlois marked the 10th Anniversary of her Ordination on May 30.

Rector Charles Morris celebrated the 35th Anniversary of his Ordination on June 2.



'Wild County Phlox grow profusely in my garden and are the earliest wildflowers to provide a beautiful show on the roadsides in the County'. **Veronica Cluett**

Raising the Roof at St. Mary Magdalene!

The meetings of the Parish Advisory Council and Annual Vestry in February brought to light a significant issue facing our parish. The Wardens had reported on the steady deterioration of the condition of the asphalt shingles on the roof. There was a leak in August 2018, followed by more damage from high wind in the fall of 2019. It was clear the issue had to be addressed even though the existing roof was only in year 11 of its expected lifespan. The plan to launch a fundraising campaign in March of this year was of course derailed by COVID-19. The following month a fierce windstorm did further damage and the decision was made to proceed before more serious damage was made to the church structure.



Work in Progress

The Churchwardens did seek out several proposals to replace the roof however based on John Clarke's recent experience on installing a steel roof on his own home, a decision was made to include metal as an option for the roof. The cost benefit analysis was a winning proposition. The material

chosen was a dark gray pebble metal shingle which will enhance the historic beauty of St. Mary Magdalene and will stand the test of time, providing long term protection from wind and weather. In fact this roof has a 50 year guarantee so the next generation will not have to face the task of having the roof replaced.

The cost of the roof was \$115,000 including some recoverable taxes and to date we have raised approximately \$75,000 toward its cost. Any financial support toward this fundraising campaign would be gratefully accepted.

Special thanks to our churchwardens (John, Herb, Kathy, Brian and Janet) for managing this project and spearheading the initiative. Thanks also to Aqwa Building Solutions of Odessa for their support and professionalism.



Finished Project

Our beautiful church stands tall and proud and safe.

● From the St. MM Bulletin Board ●



● June 10 2020
Zoom Bible Study



Thank you to Andrew Innes for opening his lovely garden for summer afternoon Tuesday Meditation.

County Kids Read During Pandemic



Angela Adams has kindly agreed to act as Interim Treasurer following the passing of Art Hewer.

Art Hewer: October 21, 1943 – July 13, 2020

Art Hewer was our Treasurer at St. Mary Magdalene.



Art died in the early morning of July 13, in the Intensive Care Unit at Kingston General Hospital. On the day before, Bishop Michael said prayers at Art's bedside giving comfort to Art and his family.

Art was not only Treasurer at St. Mary Magdalene, he was, as well, Treasurer at his Church, St. Andrews, Wellington. He was a Lay Reader at St. Andrews and served on Diocesan committees, including the Lay Reader Training and Development Committee.

When St. Mary Magdalene needed a treasurer, Art was approached with the hope that he might know someone who could fill the position. His immediate response was, "I can do that." What a relief for the churchwardens! Art's executive background in the banking industry and his love for the Anglican liturgy made him a perfect fit as a parish treasurer.

His always positive approach and calm, competent demeanor guided the churchwardens through minor crises and solved problems that, under Art's accounting ministry, turned out to be not a problem at all.

One of Art's most endearing qualities was his humility. His involvement in his Church and his community were many, varied, and capacious. The pronoun 'I', was never part of his language. We did not know of everything Art did in his community, church, and diocese, but we did know he was the very first male president of the Prince Edward County Memorial Hospital Auxiliary. He was also recognized as Wellington's Citizen of the Year in 2014. Whenever those kinds of things were brought up, Art would brush it off with his quiet smile and we would go on with what was needed doing then and there.

Art's time with St. Mary Magdalene was relatively brief but respect and appreciation for his ideas and guidance grew large in the short time we had with him. Art's deep faith was impressive without being in your face or particularly pious. It was thought, perhaps hoped is the better word, that his faith gave him strength throughout the last months of serious health challenges.

On the morning Art was called home, a wave of grief and sadness washed over his friends and colleagues that will not soon subside. We do take comfort from Art, himself, in the certainty that he is at eternal peace with his Lord and Saviour.

A Page from Our History



Unidentified Children during Pandemic of 1918

Interestingly, a search through the book, '**A Goodly Heritage**' by Alan R. Capon which is a history of the St. Mary Magdalene Parish makes no reference to the 1918 pandemic in spite of there being local cases and deaths. Here in Canada, the Spanish Flu caused panic, illness and deaths between the years 1918 and 1920.

With some surprise, we read that in 1919 '*A marked increase in church attendance was remarked upon by the Rector at the April annual Easter Vestry Meeting.*' So much for social-distancing!

At a 2010 meeting of the Prince Edward County Historical Society, guest speaker Phil Ainsworth noted 65 people died in the flu's brief reign here, from September 1918 to January 1921. Thirty-eight of those people, over two thirds of those who died, were aged between 13 and 40; it was startling to learn that no-one in that age group died in the County in the five months before and five months after that period.

Phil believed that Prince Edward County escaped relatively lightly because the relative isolation of the community may have contributed to the low levels of mortality.

A vintage advertisement for Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery. The headline reads "SPANISH INFLUENZA" in large, bold, blue letters. Below the headline, it says "Do Not Fear When Fighting a German or a Germ!" in smaller blue text. The advertisement is signed "By Dr. Pierce" and contains the following text: "The cool fighter always wins and so there is no need to become panic-stricken. Avoid fear and crowds. Exercise in the fresh air and practice the three C's: A Clean Mouth, a Clean Skin and Clean Bowels. To carry off the poisons that accumulate within the body and to ward off an attack of the influenza bacillus, take a good liver regulator to move the bowels. Such a one is made up of May-apple, leaves of aloe, root of jalap, and is to be had at any drug store, and called 'Pleasant Purgative Pellets.'" The advertisement is set against a light blue background with a dark blue border.

Advertisement for Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery, from The Picton Times, November 21, 1918.

Worship Services

Many of you are asking, 'When?' We are hoping to start back again in mid-September, likely with two services as usual. Once we receive guidelines from the Diocese, our Rector and Churchwardens will meet to plan the reopening specific to St. Mary Magdalene. Later in August, the Emergency Planning committee will convene to assist with reopening details. You will be informed via email, Facebook, the Church website, ads in *The Picton Gazette* and possibly telephone. Stay tuned!



*On County Road 7 near Cressy
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