

The Vine

St. Mary Magdalene
Anglican Church
Picton Ontario

SPRING 2021



New Beginnings by Mary Brett

Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands
Robed in the blooming garb of Spring,
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer
Who makes the troubled heart to sing.

Joseph Sciss, 1677

St. Mary Magdalene Milestones

Birthdays

Barbara Mowbray – 85th

Anniversaries

John and Mary Brett – 50th

Robert and Donnie Wilson - 60th



Passings

Joan Young



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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.

Our Rector's Message:



Not very much longer and it will be Easter: I will announce "*Alleluia! Christ is risen!*" and the congregation will offer the ancient response "*The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!*"

And so we will begin our annual celebration of resurrection, of the defeat of evil and death, of the promise of new life.

On the first Easter it began almost in a whisper, as early in the morning Mary Magdalene found the stone rolled back and the tomb empty. Mary turned, and at first she didn't recognise Jesus – how could she when just days before she had stayed by the cross and seen him die. Then, gently, he called her name and told her to go tell the others. Off she went, apostle to the apostles, wondering how it could be and what it meant. Deep within she knew: Jesus had defeated death and risen from the grave, and the hope of new life in God's kingdom was secure.

Especially this year many things in our lives echo our Easter narratives. We have come near to the end of a long winter. It has been cold and hard and at times discouraging, but now the days are longer, the air is warmer, and though winter may offer a final blast, we know its time is over and warmer days are sure to come. We also can feel a shift in our struggle with the pandemic. It has been a full year of lockdowns and masks and staying away from friends and family, but now people are receiving the vaccines, here in our community and in many places near and far. We know we are not there yet, but the sense that we are turning a corner is all pervasive, and spirits are lifting.

I find that wonderfully expressed when, during the Eucharist, I say to all of you "*Lift up your hearts!*" I am saying in those words that the signs are clear: winter is nearly over, the end of the pandemic is in sight, and the final defeat of evil and death is made sure in the resurrection of Jesus. And the response "*We lift them to the Lord*" reflects the quiet confidence inspired in the heart of Mary Magdalene that first Easter morning. Easter reminds us that whatever challenges we face, Jesus has been there ahead of us, has forged a path for us to follow, and will not let us go. Whether in person in church, or via livestream video, I look forward to celebrating Easter with you in worship.

Yours faithfully, *Charles*

Vestry & Virtual Vestry 2021

For the first time ever in the history of the Parish of St. Mary Magdalene, our annual Vestry was held both in person and through one of the miracles of the computer age, via Zoom.



Our Rector opened the annual Vestry meeting with a prayer and welcomed 33 members of the congregation present in the Church and 13 members joining in via Zoom. Our Deputy-Warden **Janet Howes** was able to participate from England thanks to the Zoom technology. **Penny Kitchen** was appointed as Vestry Clerk and Charles thanked **Robert Wilson** for his many years of service in that role.



Following adoption of the agenda and the approval of the minutes of Vestry 2020, a motion to receive the 2020 Annual Report was made. Charles pointed out that while many St. Mary Magdalene activities were curtailed during the past year, the Annual Reports show the strength and resilience of our congregation and that we were able to take advantage of opportunities during the pandemic.

Warden **Herb Stone** reported that although the Parish Hall will be re-roofed in 2021, there is no requirement for a fundraising campaign as the project will use previously-contributed capital funds to cover the entire costs. If other areas are identified for repair or replacement, the work will be done at the same time.



Charles paid tribute to our former treasurer, the late Art Hewer, and expressed his gratitude to **Angela Adams** for stepping into the position of Treasurer for our Church. She reported that we benefited from 2020 Federal Government Covid Relief funds. Auditor **Maxine Tiller's** report was received.





Warden **John Clarke** presented the 2021 St. MM budget, noting that a budget is *'a best estimate to be used as a benchmark as we go through the year'*. It is a balanced budget based on the financial experiences of the past year. While the Church received some \$17,000 in Covid Relief Funds in 2021, this amount was not factored into this budget as there is no way of knowing if it will be made available in 2021. The congregation unanimously voted to support the 2021 budget.



Kathy Condie and **Janet Howes** were re-elected as Deputy-Wardens. **Brian Pinkerton** stepped down from his role as Deputy-Warden but will continue as a member of Parish Advisory Committee. Other members returning to the PAC include **our Rector, Deacon Fran Langlois, Andrew Innes, Patti Abel, Angela Adams, John Brett, Marie Connor, Micheal Goodwin, John Hughes, Nell Kottick, Wendy LeBlanc, Jim Macgregor, David Sutton, and Maxine Tiller**. Welcome to our new member, **Julie Miller**.

The 2021 St. Mary Magdalene Annual Vestry meeting concluded with **Votes of Thanks** to:

- * **John Anderson** for continuing his faithful service in snow removal around our buildings,
- * **Evelyn Rubie** for co-ordinating the Prayer Chain ministry for many years,
- * **Our Rector** for many things but especially for his skill and expertise in allowing our Church life to continue through Zoom and You-Tube,
- * **Everyone in the congregation** who assumed the tasks of keeping things running smoothly and working to ensure that safety protocols are being carefully followed for the benefit of all, and
- * **Michael Goodwin** for continuing to share his gift of music during what should have been his year of retirement as musical director.

*** The Churchwardens and Treasurer missed the opportunity to thank **John Brett** at Vestry. Although our gratitude to John as our Envelope Secretary has been expressed before, John's year of work during Covid 19 will always be appreciated.

Update on Vi's Place – Alternatives for Women

As part of our outreach program, St. Mary Magdalene is a proud supporter of Alternatives for Women and donated \$15,000 to assist with the completion of the new home for vulnerable women in our community. Leah Morgan, Executive Director for Alternatives for Women has provided us with an update.

With the funds that St. MM donated, Leah and her team were able to furnish the Second Stage Transitional Units and purchase an Emergency Bed. The following items were purchased:

- 3 Murphy Beds (professionally installed) and mattresses
- 2 Double Beds and mattresses
- 4 Dining Tables and Chairs
- 4 Dressers and Clothing Racks
- Shelving for Dishes
- 4 Kitchen Appliance Carts
- Pots and Pans
- 4 Large Mirrors
- Curtains for all units
- Chairs for a "Reading Nook"
- Miscellaneous items: new bedding, accessories for bathrooms, garbage bins.



Thanks to the donation from St. Mary Magdalene Church, the units are now fully furnished and had their first clients move into the Transitional Units in July 2020.

"I can't express how much we appreciate your donation and how vital it was in creating a safe, comfortable home for the vulnerable women we serve. Thank-you so, so much!" Leah wrote in a thank you letter to St. Mary Magdalene.



For further information on this wonderful and necessary facility, please visit: www.alternativesforwomen.org

Our Fran is FAMOUS!

What do President Jimmy Carter, Saint (Mother) Teresa, UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, and polio vaccine developer Jonas Salk all have in common with *Fran Langlois*?

They are all recipients of the Rotary Club's Paul Harris Fellow Award. Named for Rotary International's founder, it is the club's highest honour, typically given to non-Rotarians who exemplify Rotary's motto "*Service Above Self*".



Club member and St. Mary Magdalene parishioner, Jim McGregor, introduced Fran to local Rotary Club members during a Zoom meeting in January as one of this Community's unsung heroes. He outlined Fran's many selfless contributions including her active involvement in the life of the Parish and her Ministry to the Seniors in our community. After sharing several anecdotes illustrating Fran's

accomplishments, he concluded by saying, "To sum up, Fran is a compassionate, caring, empathetic and kindhearted individual who is ... dedicated to helping those in our Community who are the most vulnerable.'

"Totally unexpected" is how Fran described her initial reaction to the award. She went on to say it was a great honour to receive the Paul Harris Fellow award and was happy to be included within a prestigious group of previous recipients.

St. Mary Magdalene Church members are inspired and enriched by Fran's service to the parish and the citizens of Prince Edward County. And now the whole world knows of her quiet and unstinting work for the benefit of others. ***Congratulations, Fran! We are proud to be part of your church family and the greater community you so generously serve.***

To make life a little better for people less fortunate than you, that's what I think a meaningful life is. One lives not just for oneself but for one's community. *Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg*



Fran Keller

Fran Keller fondly remembers how she and her sister dressed in identical outfits for Easter. Long blue coats topped pretty pink dresses. The girls wore fancy black patent leather shoes over white knee socks and they carried white gloves. To finish off their Easter finery, they wore Marilyn Bell hats (the teenager who swam Lake Ontario in 1954) fashioned from felt of the same colour blue as their coats.

Strands of felt were woven together into a ball placed on the top of the hat trimmed with darker blue ribbon.



Marilyn Bell with her hat in a Toronto tickertape parade.



Carol Lashley

Carol Lashley recalls the very traditional Easter outfit she wore as a teenager - a grey suit, a pink cloche-like hat and white nylon gloves.

As a child, her family's Easter dinner always featured turkey ('We weren't ham people') with sweet potatoes, lots of whipped mashed potatoes and pecan pie for dessert. The family still enjoys the same menu today.

Carol fondly remembers Laura Secord chocolate bunnies and Easter egg hunts with her children. They followed written clues through the house until they found the baskets of treats.

RECOLLECTIONS OF EASTER'S PAST

Agnes Russell always decorated her oval front window for special holidays and passers-by enjoyed seeing her attractive displays. Easter season was no exception! Agnes has a large collection of decorations for every season having purchased them at the Thursday auction sales for many years. She enjoys choosing a special stuffed rabbit from her collection for the place of honour in her rocking chair at Easter. Brought up in a family of five children, Agnes recalls that her parents were able to provide only small treats at Eastertime. For many years she has enjoyed making special peanut butter and marshmallow squares that everyone looks forward to.



Agnes Russell

Mary Folkard is a local girl, born and raised in Prince Edward County in a family of six children. Her father was the owner of Inrig's Drug Store and had the local dealership for Laura Secord candies. Mary tells how her mother never hid Easter treats for the children to find, but they all delighted in receiving Laura Secord chocolate eggs with the white centres and yellow yolk.

Mary was a regular church-goer who enjoyed singing in the choir and recalls that she always had something new for Easter such as shoes or a hat.

Following the Easter church service the family enjoyed a noon-hour meal of ham, mashed potatoes, squash and peas with a pumpkin pie for dessert. They were joined at the meal by Mary's grandparents Wallace from Wellington and Uncle George Wallace. As an adult Mary served the same meal to her own family with the addition of a special raisin sauce accompanying the ham. Mary always celebrated the special day with an Easter Egg hunt for her own three children.



Mary Folkard



Nancy Watson

Nancy Watson admits to having a sweet tooth so she delights in recalling the special chocolate treat awaiting her on the family's breakfast table every Easter Sunday morning. During her childhood, there was no Easter egg hunt but when she had children of her own, an indoor hunt became a family tradition. Like so many others of her generation, Nancy greeted the spring season with a new dress and hat.

Charles Celebrates the 35th Anniversary of his Ordination to the Priesthood

This March our Rector, Charles, celebrates 35 years in the priesthood. Following a first degree in Mathematics and Computer Science, Charles worked for a few years in computer software research. He felt a growing sense of calling to the ordained ministry ever since his Confirmation, and as this over time became undeniable, he was accepted as a candidate by the Bishop of Montreal. After returning to school to complete a Master of Divinity degree, he was ordained a Deacon in June of 1985.

Once ordained, Charles served as an Assistant Curate in the parish of Montreal North and Mascouche, and the following spring in March of 1986 he was ordained a priest. On that occasion, the parish the Rector Charles was serving with gave him a gift of four stoles, including the stole he is wearing in the picture, and the gold-plated chalice and paten, also featured in the picture. He likes to use them on special occasions, and they were on our

altar during our celebration of the Eucharist on March 21st



*Charles with His Stole,
Chalice and Paten*

Congratulations, Charles, from all of us at St. MM!

Looking Back ... Easter Seasons at St. MM



Palm Sunday 2019



*Maundy Thursday
Simple Meal 2016*



*Easter Children's Story
2017*

A Traditional Favourite Easter Treat

Nell Kottick is fortunate to have a handwritten copy of Edith Morash's Hot Cross Buns recipe. According to Nell, Edith made these special traditional treats every year for the congregation during Lent. Members would see her coming through the door with her wicker basket of buns and after the service there would be a stampede to the back of the church for the buns. However, some of our slower-moving parishioners, not wanting to be left out, would have Nell put one aside for them or would actually take one, wrapped in a napkin, to their pew. Legs might slow down, but not necessarily the mind!!

Edith Morash's Hot Cross Buns

2 pkgs regular yeast
2 tablespoons sugar
2 cups scalded milk
2 eggs
½ cup butter
2/3 cup white sugar
7-1/2 cups sifted flour
2 teaspoons salt
1-1/2 cups raisins
½ teaspoons nutmeg
½ teaspoons cloves
1 teaspoon cinnamon
1 cup mixed candied fruit



Edith Morash



In large mixing bowl dissolve yeast and 2 tablespoons sugar in ½ cup warm water for 5 minutes. Add 2 cups cooled scalded milk and ¾ cup flour and beat together. Cover and let rise 1 hour. Cream butter and sugar, beat eggs and add to yeast sponge. Add remaining ingredients and knead lightly. Cover and let rise in warm place for 2 hours or until double in volume. Turn dough onto floured board and roll out to ¼ inch thickness. Cut with 2" or 2-1/2" cookie cutter. Line baking sheet with parchment paper. Place cut buns 2 inches apart. Cover with slightly oiled saran wrap and let rise one hour. Beat an egg white with one tablespoon water and brush buns. Bake in 325 degree oven for 20 minutes. Brush again with egg white solution and bake 5 more minutes. When ready to serve top with butter icing in shape of a cross.

PAG – What Does it Mean for You?

Someone recently quipped that **PAG** means **PAY-AS-YOU-GO** and perhaps there are some folks who might just believe it, but for us at St. Mary Magdalene – in fact, at many Anglican congregations - **PAG** means **Pre-Authorized Gifts**. This program will assist you in your support of the work of our parish church through your regular offerings. When you participate in **PAG** your bank account or credit card will be debited automatically monthly and this amount will be credited to the St. Mary Magdalene account.

The great advantage for you is convenience as your offering is provided automatically every month even if you are away.

And for our church, we can depend on a regular flow of contributions, a reduction in paperwork, and the ability to plan ahead financially knowing we can count on regular offerings.

Interested in **PAG**? Contact our Envelope Secretary John Brett at art.and.song@sympatico.ca or 613.393.1365 for more information.

A Page From Our History - 120 years ago

The issue of pew rents was a hot topic at many Vestry Meetings at St. Mary Magdalene. In March 1901, the issue seemed to be settled once and for all ... or was it?

‘For some time discussions had gone on regarding the collection of pew rents. On March 28th as special congregational meeting was held to discuss declaring the pews *free* from and after Easter and instead members of the congregation were to be asked to sign a document that they agreed to pay an annual sum through envelopes to the church. The resolution was passed without a dissenting vote. This decision was confirmed at the annual Easter Vestry Meeting, the pews being declared ‘vacant’ and thus avoiding ‘... a good deal of unpleasantness caused in the past through the former method of renting pews and sitting in the church...’. The church balance sheet showed that the pew rents had amounted to \$390.67 during the preceding year.’

- From ‘A Goodly Heritage’ by Alan R. Capon

Awake! Arise! Lift Up Your Voices!

We asked David and Loraine Gilbert, both members of our St. MM choir, what their favourite Easter hymns are. Can't you just imagine them bursting into song when they chose them?



David's favourite Easter hymn is **When I Survey the Wondrous Cross**, 'Because,' David notes. *God cares for me and for you. If at any time we doubt His love, fix your gaze on the cross and be comforted.'*

When I survey the wondrous Cross,
On which the Prince of glory died.
My Richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.

This Hymn was written by Issac Watts (1674-1748) and published in *Hymns and Songs* in 1707. A popular hymn writer, he is credited with some 750 hymns, many of which remain in use today and have been translated into numerous languages.

Loraine's favourite Easter hymn is **Jesus Christ is Risen Today**. Loraine explains her choice: '*The words to this hymn say it all - Jesus endured the cross and gave to redeem and save us all. Alleluia!*'

Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!
Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
Who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!
Suffer to redeem our loss, Alleluia!

Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!
Unto Christ our heavenly King, Alleluia!
Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!
Sinners to redeem and save, Alleluia!

- Latin Hymn (fourteenth century)



You might confuse this hymn with Charles Wesley's (1707-1788) "Christ the Lord is Risen Today". The theme is the same, the structure is similar, and Wesley had a hand in this hymn.

Alleluia is the perfect word for Easter Sunday. It means "Praise the Lord" to glorify God for the mighty acts He has done. And what mightier act is there than this - the resurrection of Christ from the dead?

(Photos of stained glass windows in St. Mary Magdalene Church)

A Yarn about Yarn

What a strange year! Despite all that has gone on we, the Knatty Knitters of Wellington, have given out over 180 items of knitting. To show the difference, the previous year we donated over 400 pieces. However, needles are flying and we are ready; when we can give more, we will be able.

During our Covid time we asked the Hospital Auxiliary if gifts were needed at Christmas. We were forwarded to Patient Services who said they would be delighted. I dropped off 18 blankets and found out later that at breakfast Christmas day there were 16 beds full and by evening there were 18, so all were given away.

Over the years our places for giving knitted items has really broadened. Belleville Hospital has four places to donate: The Hospital Store, the Oncology Dept., the Maternity Ward and the Good Samaritan Cupboard. The Napanee Hospital takes blankets in the respite area. The Hub child care area takes baby clothes, blankets, and so on. A maternity charity in Belleville takes all things baby.



Our main drive was to get an item to every resident in Nursing Homes. We have added arm warmers, grippies for arthritic hands, shawls and blankets. While at Hollowell House I noticed several women like to bundle a blanket to make a baby shape and I wondered if we wanted an outreach program to search out some soft dolls or similar to donate. We all have missed cuddles and hugs.

"It's all about EWE."

- **Mary Brett** on behalf of the *Knatty Knitters of Wellington*

If you have yarn to donate to the Knatty Knitters of Wellington to use for their creations, please contact Mary Brett at 613.393.1365. Synthetic yarns (acrylic, nylon) only please so the items can be washed.

● From the St. MM Bulletin Board ●

The Tuesday Meditation Group is back in the Church once again. Join the group at 3:30 p.m. in the sanctuary, entering through the rear door. For more info contact Andrew Innes at 613.476.7505 or andrew@andrewinnes.com.



Northport, P.E.C.
COMING SOON!
Photo by David Gilbert



This lovely painting, 'Nymph' is another work of this edition's cover artist, **Mary Brett**. Mary works with several different media and is drawn to colours such as blue and purple, finding inspiration in the things and places around her.



*Memories of Our
Easter Cross*

*Always help
someone.*

*You might be
the only one
who does.*

Holy Week and Easter Services

Holy Week begins with **Palm Sunday** services, which feature the blessing of the Palms: March 28th at 9:00 and 11:00.

On April 1st we have our **Maundy Thursday Communion Service** at 7:00 p.m. commemorating the institution of the Lord's Supper. The service concludes with the stripping of the altar as we remove many of the decorations from the church in anticipation of Good Friday.

On April 2nd our **Good Friday** service begins at 11:00 a.m. The service is sombre and meditative as we reflect on the enormity of what happened as Jesus went to the cross.

On April 4th, we have two festive **Easter Sunday** services, at 9:00 and 11:00. As our pandemic protocols continue, we can have a maximum of 50 at each service, so to avoid surprises you are asked to reserve your spot as we did for Christmas services. You can go to the website stmmpicton.ca to reserve your spot: just enter the number of people you are reserving for and then your name and email address. Or call the church office and we will do it for you – just leave a message if no one is able to answer when you call. The 11:00 a.m. service will also be live streamed.

Happy Easter!



The Vine Newsletter

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