

# ST. JAMES ANGLICAN CHURCH LEITRIM

## VESTRY REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023



## NOTICE OF MEETING

The Annual Meeting of St. James Anglican Church, Leitrim, will be held on Sunday **Sunday, February 11, 2024 12 Noon** immediately after church. Participants are asked to bring a copy of their vestry report and a lunch as well. The meeting will be held **online in Webex** as all our other meetings. Details of sign on procedures will be posted shortly.

All supporters sixteen years of age or over at St. James Anglican Church, Leitrim are earnestly requested to be signed in to our Annual Meeting. This is one occasion in the year when we meet together as a parish, and elect the officers of the church.

**\*\*\*\* Please remember to bring this report to the Vestry Meeting.**



# Baptisms

To each family who experienced a baptism in the past year we extend our continued support and prayers as a Christian community.

**Gryffin Francis Renatus Dowhan**

Jesus said "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven".



# Funerals

To those families who experienced the loss of a loved one

**Roy Cope**



# Marriages

To those who have joined in Holy Matrimony

**There were NO marriages in 2023**

"What God has joined together let no man put asunder"



# Interment of Ashes

To those friends of ours who have passed into God's nearer presence

**There were NO Interment of Ashes in 2023**

"In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it was thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return."



# Memorial Services

**There were NO memorial Services in 2023**

"In my Fathers House there are many rooms"







## St. James Leitrim AGENDA

### Sunday, February 11, 2024, 12:00 Noon

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# St. James Anglican Church Leitrim

## Vestry Meeting Minutes

### Sunday, February 26, 2023 Noon

#### Vestry Attendance

*"I solemnly declare that: I am a member of St. James, Leitrim Parish of the Anglican Church of Canada; I am of the full age of sixteen years; I am a regular worshipper with this congregation; I do not intend to vote as a member of any other Vestry in the election of Churchwardens or of Members of Synod during the ensuing year; and I am a supporter of this congregation by regular contributions to its maintenance."*

**On-Line:** Irene Thomas, Sylvia Thomas

**In-Person:** Reverend Nash Smith, Deb Donoghue, Wendy Taylor, Marek Durczak, Julie White, Mike Thomas, Chuck Wootton, Vic Wootton, Glenn Clark, Carole Ladouceur

**Opening Prayer:** Reverend Nash Smith led those in attendance in prayer.

#### Appointment of Vestry Clerk

**The members attending the Vestry Meeting appoint Glenn Clark as Vestry Clerk. Moved by Deb Donoghue, seconded by Wendy Taylor. CARRIED.**

#### Approval of Vestry Agenda

Glenn Clark requests the addition of 'Doors Open' as Item 20b in the Agenda.

**The Agenda for the Vestry Meeting dated February 26, 2023, is approved as amended. Moved by Irene Thomas , seconded by Deb Donoghue. CARRIED.**

#### Nominations Open

**Reverend Nash Smith opens nominations for People's Warden, Deputy Warden, Members of Parish Council at Large, Synod Delegates, Alternate Synod Delegate, Auditor, Chair of Cemetery Committee.**

#### Approval of 2022 Vestry Minutes

**The Minutes for the Vestry Meeting dated February 28, 2022, is approved as printed. Moved by Mike Thomas, seconded by Vic Wootton. CARRIED.**

#### 2022 Reports

**The Vestry Meeting accepts the Reports numbered 6 through 14 in the Vestry Agenda as published in the Vestry Report. Moved by Vic Wootton , seconded by Wendy Taylor. CARRIED.**

#### Comments regarding the Reports

Glenn Clark apologized for Saturday's e-mail that was distributed 40 or more times to everybody. He indicated that this likely related to the size of the Vestry Report attachment. Assuming this is correct (a test following the Vestry Meeting confirms that this was likely the

cause), next year's Vestry Report will be sent out by link to our website instead of as an attachment.

Victor Wootton indicated that Reverend Joan Riding's report was excluded from the Vestry Report in error.

Vic Wootton spoke about the Synod's Report. Vic was concerned about welcoming nearby churches of other faiths. His concerns related to the number of compromises that we would have to accept to accommodate others and how the parish would operate in the future. Vic was concerned about compromising to the extent of not feeling comfortable in his own church. There was a discussion.

Deb Donoghue mentioned an error on Page 19, paragraph 4. Maureen's husband's name was Bob and not George and Bob passed in October 2019.

## **On-going Business**

### **2023 Events Report**

Mike Thomas would like to defer the Kitchen Céilí until May, to make sure that Irene Thomas had fully recovered from her surgery and any required treatments.

The Blessing of the Animals Service is confirmed for Sunday, June 4, 2023

The Wood's Cemetery service will be held on Sunday, June 11, 2023 at 3:00 p.m.

There was a discussion about All Saints Greely. They will be using a supply minister starting next Sunday. The bulletin will be returned to a St. James only bulletin effective immediately. Glenn Clark will inform Grace Jones from All Saints Greely of the changes to the St. James bulletin.

Julie White asked about the Strawberry Social and whether it was a good idea to sell tickets for the event. There was a discussion.

### **Blackflow Prevention Program**

Mike Thomas spoke about the city's requirement to prevent water backflow into the city water system. Mr. Rooter has already been here to survey the situation that cost \$551. The next step is to get drawings costing \$2,500. This needs to be done this year. The final step is for installation of the required equipment which must be completed by November 2024. This is expected to cost \$3,500 to \$4,000. Julie White asked whether we got three estimates. Mike Thomas spoke about this, and that this is a specialized activity. Marek Durczak explained that his business does this kind of work, and he has connections with plumbers involved backflow prevention. Mike Thomas will coordinate efforts with Marek Durczak.

### **Bridlewood Outreach**

Deb Donoghue called Bridlewood Retirement Home but there was no call back. Glenn Clark asked Deb to follow-up.

### **Church Service Length**

Irene Thomas expressed a concern that certain prayers (Apostle's Creed, confession, absolution, and the Lord's Prayer) being recited too quickly. Irene Thomas asked whether someone else would take on taking care of the flowers for Christmas and Easter. Deb Donoghue asked about using artificial flowers. Irene preferred that we not go that route.

Deb Donoghue asked about using an artificial Christmas tree. There was a discussion about the cost and convenience. This will be deferred to parish council.

It was asked whether anybody had flower allergies. None were reported. Easter Lilies may be an option again this year.

### **Succession Planning**

Glenn Clark suggested that this needs to be kept in mind for the future.

### **New Business**

#### **Coffee Hour**

Glenn Clark asked whether we could restart Coffee Hour starting next Sunday. Wendy Taylor suggested that we defer this to the following Sunday (March 12<sup>th</sup>), with an announcement next Sunday. Reverend Nash encouraged this. There was a discussion about this and going out after the service (Lunch Club) and even catering a lunch.

#### **Doors Open**

Ann Gregory started this around 2011. This is a city program, and we use their advertising. Deb Donoghue was skeptical since the event was poorly advertised in 2022 and attendance was poor.

**Moved by Chuck Wootton , seconded by Carole Ladouceur, that St. James participate in Doors Open for 2023. CARRIED.**

#### **Reverend Joan Riding's Retirement**

A tentative date for the retirement party is Sunday, May 28, 2023. We will have a barbecue and potluck.

#### **E-Transfer**

Mike Thomas requested a special St. James e-mail address to allow e-transfer donations.

#### **Church Credit Card**

Mike Thomas has asked whether a church credit card is a good idea. The company taking over our Internet account (Easy-On-Net) from Rogers and has asked for a credit card number to automatically bill us. Mike does not want to use his personal credit card. Glenn Clark asked about automatic debit like we do with many other bills. Mike Thomas will look into this.

#### **Next Parish Council Meeting**

Monday, March 20, 2023, 7:00 p.m. (hybrid meeting, both in-person and by Zoom)

### **2022 Financial Statements**

**The Vestry Meeting receives the 2022 Financial Statements as printed, including those for Wood's Cemetery and the Ladies' Guild (Items 21 through 27 in the Vestry Agenda). Moved by Mike Thomas, seconded by Glenn Clark. CARRIED.**

#### **General Fund – Comparative Balance Sheet and Income Statement**

Mike Thomas presented the Financial Statements. The Church Lighting Fund has an amount \$501.38 following our GST/HST refund. The amount before that refund was a deficit of \$84.85.

There was an overall deficit of \$178.25. Open was unusually high because of a larger than normal gift from a visitor.

There was a discussion about the cost of Christmas lighting. Glenn Clark explained that we are switching to professional lights which cost somewhat more but have had virtually no failures compared to up to 33% failure for residential lights.

#### **Envelope Secretary Report**

Mike Thomas explained the distribution of donations by parishioners.

#### **Wood's Cemetery Balance Sheet and Income Statement**

Glenn Clark explained the expenses for 2023 which include tree work from Kevin Crowe arborists and to repair the front fence. \$11,000 has been allocated for these expenses. The tree repair will be done first followed by the fence repairs.

#### **Ladies' Guild Financial Statement and Income Statement**

This is separate from the Church General Fund. For the last few years, the Ladies Guild has been quiet because dinners were not possible during Covid. There was a Spaghetti Supper in November 2022 which had a profit of \$530.25 including the fall rental expense.

#### **2023 Budget**

Mike Thomas presented the budget. Mike Thomas mentioned that we received approximately \$345.00 for the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and Mini-Auction for 2023.

Carole Ladouceur asked why the Spaghetti Supper and Bake Sale was shown as zero, when we had a dinner in 2022. Glenn Clark mentioned that the amount goes through the Ladies Guild accounts, rather than the General church account.

Carole Ladouceur asked whether parishioners could donate flowers directly rather than donating money. Mike Thomas was concerned about the design and that we also note all the memorials in the bulletins.

Glenn Clark asked about the E.C.O.P.S. and whether the figure presented includes the increase that we agreed to. Mike Thomas said that we did not have the revised figure yet.

Glenn Clark suggested that the E.C.O.P.S. figure be increased \$3,500 to take into consideration the agreed extra amount to be paid to Reverend Nash Smith. This leaves us with a projected deficit of 980.32.

**Moved by Mike Thomas, seconded by Vic Wootton that the Vestry Meeting approves the budget for 2023 as revised. CARRIED.**

#### **Nomination Report**

Carole Ladouceur has accepted a nomination for parish council.

Marek Durczak and Julie White have also accepted nominations for parish council.

Carole Ladouceur has accepted a nomination for Synod delegate.

**Moved by Deb Donoghue and seconded by Wendy Taylor that the nominations be closed. CARRIED.**

**Moved by Vic Wootton, seconded by Carole Ladouceur that the Vestry Meeting approves the Nominating Committee Report as amended. CARRIED.**

#### **Appointments for 2022**

Glenn Clark suggested that Intercessors and Readers should be combined as one category.

Carole Ladouceur's name is spelt incorrectly under Readers.

**Moved by Carole Ladouceur, seconded by Julie White that the Vestry Meeting accepts the Appointments and other reports numbered 30 through 32 in the Vestry Agenda as published in the Vestry Report and as amended. CARRIED.**

#### **Adjournment**

**Moved by Carole Ladouceur that the Vestry Meeting be adjourned at 2:50 p.m.**

The meeting adjourned with the Grace.



## A brief report of Interim Priest.

"Follow me and I will make you fish for people."

I continue to be the interim Priest of this St. James, Leitrim. My comments, just like that of last year's vestry, will be very brief. I shall leave the detailed reporting to our wonderful, spiritual and dedicated team of office holders. I have been working with the wardens, the treasurer, the organist, parish council, etc. providing priestly and pastoral services to St James, Leitrim as its regular interim priest since March 2023.

The church continues to meet its obligations to its local community by hosting events like the Yard Sale. Bake Sale, dinners, etc. in an effort to respond to Jesus' call to "fish for people." It participates in all Diocesan events within its obligations like the 2023 Synod. Diocesan calendar events were celebrated as much as possible. 2023 All Saints and All Souls Days were celebrated. Remembrance Day was marked. Advent was observed. Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve services were celebrated and had great attendances. The church has great community events that are incredible, like the Christmas lighting event that is greatly appreciated by not just the immediate local community but even those in the greater Ottawa environment. Our Christmas pageant (directed by TAD) received great reviews.

The Church endeavours to meet its financial obligations and more, with great fundraising inside and outside the church from dinners, raffles, etc. The number of our congregation continues to hold steady. The numbers for our Christmas Eve, and New Year's Eve 2023 service attendees were impressive. We have new members this year and we keep adding to our numbers. We even had the blessing of baptizing Griffyn, new baby of Elsbeth and Greg.

The music in this church really enhances one's experience on Sundays. Special thanks to Irene, Mike and Glenn. The church tries to reach the outside world through its online broadcasts, thanks to TAD and Sandra, our I.T. gurus. Almost all our events have on-line components to them.

St James continues to be a church that extends great hospitality and welcoming to its old, current and new attendees. We have people visiting the church almost every Sunday. Our pastoral care is done by the pastoral care team supported by the wardens and the interim priest. We have instituted a monthly retirement home Eucharistic service for the Bridlewood Seniors Residence at Bridlepath.

I had one baptism and 2 funerals during the period of this vestry.

My tenure at St. James continues to be so inspiring with the parish family being so supportive of my ministry and my journey with them. I wish to express my sincere gratitude to the leadership of this church, including the wardens, the treasurer, music director, and parish council for setting and guiding the direction of the church. It's been a blessing serving at St. James. May Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ sanctify every member of this Mystical Body of His, called St. James, Leitrim.

Respectfully submitted.

Nash +  
(Rev. Nash Smith).

# Rector Warden's Report for the Year Ended 2023

## Thank You

It has become somewhat of a tradition at St. James that the Rector Warden's Report for Vestry contains a section where people who worked hard during the year are officially thanked for their unselfish contributions.

It must be understood that the folks listed here are not all the people who worked hard in 2023.. It would be almost impossible to list all of them. If someone is not listed here today

It can be understood that their efforts are sincerely appreciated.

The purpose of listing them in this report is to recognize their contribution and to let all parishioners know what they did and accomplished over the year. Some of the effort from the people listed here are frightening. Many parishioners might not even be aware of the extent of their devotion. St. James does **NOT** operate all by itself.

## Irene Thomas

Irene is our organist. She chooses the hymns we sing and they must be in accordance to the season we are at in church. In addition she has to be ready to change to other hymns if the Minister asks for a certain hymn. This is only a minor part she does on the organ. When she plays, always flawlessly, it is because she has spent a good part of the week practicing. It is an enormous commitment. Once Sunday is over she starts again getting ready for the next Sunday. The task is relentless.

Irene participates in the reading of scripture and psalms. She has at times acted as server for the eucharist. It is Irene who looks after the sale of calendars and it is she who orders and chooses the flowers on the altar at Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter.

Heavily involved in the Gailee dinner, yard sale, and music nights; her contribution seems endless. One final gift is her involvement with the altar and the correct colour every week.

She probably does more but I am going to stop there-I'm getting scared! From all of us at St. James Irene, thanks a million. We are so lucky to have you!

## Mike Thomas

Mike is our treasurer . He maintains our books and gives us a status monthly. He picks up the mail. He helps Irene adapt the altar every week. When you notice how clean the carpets are; it is Mike who vacuums every week. He leads all our music nights and is present at all our fund raisers. When we have musical or other entertainment at our yard sale. It is Mike who builds and installs our stage. Not an easy job.

Mike fixes things around the church if they have broken down. He interfaces with the Diocese to create reports they ask for and he interfaces with government to retrieve cash backs from taxes paid.

Mike looks after the tax receipts for everyone's income tax as the envelope secretary.

Every spring we have to watch for flooding for about three weeks, Lots of people keep an eye on the church during this period but Mike is the one who does it daily. We are so lucky to have him. Thank you very much from all of us. One question I have though' what do you and Irene do in your spare time???

### **Sylvia Thomas**

Sylvia looks after the phone message that are left on our telephone. She read scripture. She looks after counting the collection we get every Sunday. Always a major part of our fund raisers. Sylvia is the type of giving volunteer that all churches desire and covet. Thanks you Sylvia.

### **Rob Clark**

You have possibly wondered after major snow storm; that when you go to church Sunday morning the parking lot is clean as a whistle. That's because Rob has plowed it for us. Like his late father Ron, Rob has carried on looking after us. We do not know how much money he has saved us but we're sure it's in the thousands of dollars. Thanks very much Rob; it is highly appreciated.

### **Chuck Wootton**

Chuck approached me a few months ago and asked to be relieved of his duties as a sidesman who counts the collection. He had been doing it faithfully for years. Chuck was getting tired. In his eighties, his wish to step down was not surprising. Last year he switched from a Synod delegate to an alternate Synod delegate after years of volunteering for us. What is surprising is not that he retired but how was he able to do the jobs so well for so long. Chuck does a lot of things around the church that most folks are not even aware. Enjoy your retirement Chuck with sincere thanks from all of us.

### **Carole Ladouceur**

I first noticed Carole at our yard sale in the fall. I didn't know her then but she was bouncing round adding encouragement to every one she touched. At Parish Council she always has wonderful constructive comments. If you didn't know her you would think she has been doing it for years. Carole is one of our servers, she reads scripture and psalms. When Chuck retired, it was suggested to me that we approach Carole to replace Chuck and allow him to retire. I thought to myself, "*We can't be that lucky.*" We were that lucky

as Carole agreed to become a Synod delegate. This allowed Chuck to back off to an Alternate Synod delegate.

That was only part of the story. Carole was great at Synod. You would have all been very proud of her. It took me 35 year before I was upset enough to actually get up to speak. Carole got up to speak as soon as the mikes were made available; she was great! We are so lucky to have her. I hope and pray she will stay with uus for a very long time. Thans you so much Carol e.

### **TAD Higginson**

TAD is a valuable member of Parish Council. He has created and presented the Christmas pageant for the last few years. In addition, it is TAD who compiles the Vestry report that we all have access to. Having done this a few years myself I can readily attest to the enormous amount of work this entails. Present at all our fund raisers he is also the person we depend on to run our auctions. But that is not his most important function at St. James Leitrim.

When Covid hit us we were out of business as far as in person worshipping was concerned. The only option seemed to be a zoom type telecast. But who could set that up? No one we were aware of at that time had the experience and expertise to take charge. Enter TAD.

He set us up on zoom but even more impressive he trouble shot every one's own computer to ensure we could all get access. This involved a great deal of personal time TAD had to give. He gave it. When covid started to subside we structured our service to handle both in person and on lime. This involved All Saints Greely as well as St. James. Zoom is now used for parish council meetings as well. One of the tasks that TAD faced weekly was someone's computer was not working. TAD would get on the phone and fix it as quickly as possible.

To TAD St. James expresses a verry sincere and heart felt thank you. We are so lucky to have you!

### **Sandra Donatucci**

What happens when TAD isn't available on Sundays and we have a problem. Not a major issue as he made it possible to work on our system from home. With that said he asked Sandra to come to church when he couldn't make it to look after the transmission.

Sandra has done a wonderful job. In addition Sandra is always heavily involved in the plays we present to the public. She is always well prepared and knows her lines very well. Thank you so much Sandra. TAD knew what he was doing when he asked you to back him up.

### **Julie White**

When St. James asked for volunteers to handle such things as readings and eucharist, Julie was a tremendous asset as she stepped forward. Julie is one of our 4Servers for eucharist.

She also reads scripture. Lately she is becoming involved as a siseman ro help count the collection. God really helped us when he sent Julie to us. Thanks you so very much Juleie.

### **Deb Donoghue**

\_Do you ver wonder why when you go downstairs, why the basement,washroom and kitchen area is always so clean and tidy. It is because Deb looks after keeping it clean. On top of that Deb is a member of Parish council and tkes the notes during the meeting- not a very nice job, but someone has to do it and that someone is Deb. Preent and contributing at all our fund raisers she is an asset we are so very luck to have. St. James thanks you Deb.

### **Glenn Clark**

Ok! I got scared when relating what Mike and Irene Thomas do for us. In Glenn's case I was scared before I started. Here are some of the tasks Glenn looks after for us:

- Updates the bulletin at the front of the church (some of his comments are priceless)
- Looks after the running and operation of Wood's Cemetery. Re[placing fences, digging graves for ashes, answers questions from the public.
- Organizes planting night in May
- Maintains the Church's website
- Administers the creation and installation of the Christmas Lighting. Glenn also purchases out of his own pocket, many of the displays that are on site in our yard.
- Glenn is a patriot. He is very proud of Canada. We have always had a love for our Lod and Saviour but I like to think that Glenn keeps us Anglican.
- Oh, by the way, he also makes the best damn date squares in the world.

Thank you so much Glenn. Please stay with us forever.

### **Reverend Nash Smith**

Just about all our ministers leave a legacy with us. Having been around for so many years I can remember many of our past incumbents with great pride. The raw enthusiasm of Margo Whittaker. The attention for detail at easter so we could get to feel what our Lord and Saviour endured for us by Todd Meaker. The funny and comfortable wry humour of the canon Frank Lawler. And our last incumbent, the GIVER who displayed a tremendous ability to listen and set a personal example-The Reverend Joan Riding. We miss all of them.

But what made losing them bearable was the entrance of the Nash, it is a pleasure that you are with us. We hope you will be with us for a very long time-the Reverend Nash Smith. Traditional, yet free thinking and easy to talk to, he is comfortable talking with anyone at any age. Conservative yet practical he defends the diocese with respect but also shows a great deal of respect for the folks at St. James. We are so fortunate you are with us. Thank you Nash.

## **Observations and Comments**

### **Construction**

We have been notified by the city that they are widening the highway from Leitrim Road to down the street north to the culverts. Although they will not be widening the road in front of our property, they will widen it right up to our property line on the Findlay Creek side. As they plan to redo the intersection at Leitrim Road and Bank Street, the construction should not affect us directly. With construction on both our north and south side, there could be a small problem with their vehicles and equipment. Be prepared for some congestion.

The city has also indicated that the senior centre next door will be demolished. When pressed as to when. The city would not give an answer. At this time I don't think they know.

Be prepared as that would have a greater effect on us. Where would we hold our fund raisers?

### **Volunteers**

As the years go by we get older. And that is a good thing. The bad side is when we hit our senior years we begin to lose our stamina and ability to concentrate. Everyone is different of course but eventually we all seek out a refuge from responsibility. There is of course nothing wrong with that. The problem comes when there is no one to take their place.

Usually what happens is that volunteers doing other things step forward and try to cover for them. Most of these new volunteers are already up to their elbows with jobs already. This of course puts more pressure on them. So we have a problem. St. James is top heavy with older and senior volunteers. There are not enough younger parishioners willing to step forward and fill the gap. I mention this as it beginning to create a problem. If you are younger and would like to participate, please step forward and volunteer. One task by itself is not usually so demanding. But if a senior and are asked to take on more, it could be too much. No volunteer should feel they must go on as there seems there is no one to replace them.

### **Christmas Lighting**

Our Christmas Lighting event has put St. James on the map. The public going by when the lights are on are very appreciative for the beautiful display. It is of course, very expensive.

There has been talk at Parish Council that we should approach the public to help defray the cost. I could not disagree more. We started the Christmas Lighting event to do something for the community. Now because of the expense we want the community to pay for it. Then it would not be St. James doing this for our neighbours.

If we come to the conclusion that we at St. James simply cannot afford the expense of displaying this beautiful scene any more, then my suggestion is to give up on them altogether. But before we give up on the lighting let us explore every possible angle before we do so. We are not that far away.

So bring on 2024. I can't wait to get started.

## Operation Christmas Child Report for the Year Ending 2023

This past November, I dropped off 17 filled Samaritan's Purse Christmas Child boxes to one of their Ottawa distribution centres. Seventeen is a low number for us as we normally send 25 boxes. Although low it was made much better by the generosity of those participating.

In previous years I, and perhaps one or 2 others, would fill two or three boxes. (*The record is 5 boxes several years ago from a member of All Saints Greely*). This year 7 or 8 families filled two boxes making our donation much more significant at 17.

The low number this year can be attributed to the end of the pandemic as attendance at church was still very low. Although low compared to previous years, attendance grew as 2023 moved on. Next year we will attempt 25 boxes again and then we will be back to where we were before the pandemic.

Part of the problem is Samaritan's Purse as well as their instructions are sometimes confusing. As well there was a couple of years where the cost for each boxes transportation costs were vague. It has been the same for 2 years in a row at \$10 a box. It became alarming that if the cost of sending grew much more it would almost cost as much to send them as it was to fill them. No where near that stage now and the cost seems to have plateaued.

As the boxes are received in Calgary they are **levelled**. Over the years I have had to open several of the boxes for a variety of reasons. Some boxes have 30-40 treasures in them while other boxes have only one or two items. Imagine if you will, if you are a young boy or girl in a village getting this gift at Christmas. Your neighbour has 30+ items and when you open yours you have only one or two. The people preparing the boxes for shipment will not let that happen! When you think about it there is no other way to handle it.

Considering the testimony of the kids who received them; kids that are now full grown adults, that say receiving these boxes at Christmas was one of the highlights of their youth.

We sincerely hope and pray that this small outreach once a year continues strong and growing in the years to come. On behalf of thousands of young children, a very sincere and heartfelt thankyou. Please continue to participate!

Vic Wootton  
Christmas Child Boxes Representative.



## Food Bank Report for the Year Ending 2023

Another successful year of donating to our food bank is over and this report simply confirms a very successful end to the year 2023. My name as I have reported is unofficially *Mr. St. James Leitrim*. They were told my real name of course but they see so many people it is perfectly understood as to why they can never remember it. I am always greeted with complete and total respect. As mentioned many times they are well aware of St. James Leitrim and are delighted with our contributions we give monthly.

There was one month , either late in August or early in September, that the monthly donation at that time was so incredible it was frightening. It filled my trunk to capacity and several extra bags had to be loaded in my back seat. When dropping it off at the food bank, I took 6 bags for the first load and then a volunteer helped me carry in the last 4 loads.

I was thunderstruck with the size of the donation-SO WERE THEY! Well done St. James.

We are anticipated monthly and welcomed. It is important that we maintain this outreach program. The deadline for our monthly contributions are the first Sundays of the month.

There is no reason that folks have to wait till that time every month. That can drop non-perishable food stuffs off at church on any day (if they have a key) or Sunday. We simply arrange to have them delivered to the food bank after the first Sunday of each month.

In addition we have had parishioners give financial donations in lieu of food stuffs. These financial donations are very well appreciated as well. I believe this money is used to buy eggs, milk and other perishable groceries.

Delivery to the food bank can only happen twice in a weeks. Tuesday evening at 6:30 and Friday morning at 9:30. With the condition of my eyes I have stopped delivering our donations on Tuesday evenings. As the days get longer and daylight goes further in the evenings I will begin once again to use Tuesday evenings.

A very sincere thank you to all of you who help in this program of outreach. As I deliver groceries to the food bank, what catches my eye is the volunteers themselves. Many are elderly women and men or very young kids(middle teens). Their commitment is obvious and their work is inspiring.

Please continue to support this outreach. There were a lot of dependent and hungry families that we looked after in 2023. I anticipate the need will still be strong in 2024.

Vic Wootton (*Mr. St. James Leitrim*)

January 25, 2024.

## People's Warden Report for 2023

The body of Christ cannot function without its many members. This is why I am so thankful for everybody who attends St. James, each of whom bring their own special gifts.



*Reverend Nash Smith*

Reverend Nash Smith is our spiritual leader, and he also shares his own special gifts with us every Sunday. We are so thankful for his service at St. James and the wisdom that he shares with all of us. His role is not an easy one. Please include Reverend Nash in your daily prayers and consider thanking him personally for what he does for us.

### **The Year in Review**

2023 was the first full year during the post-pandemic era. We have finally been able to return to normal activities and for the most part St. James has restarted a pre-pandemic calendar.

The year began with a Shrove Tuesday pancake supper held in the church hall on Tuesday, February 21<sup>st</sup> followed by a mini auction. Who doesn't like an auction? And the idea of a rich meal of sausages, pancakes, beans and hash browns reminds of Lent to come, when some degree of fasting is encouraged.

Out of necessity because of the pandemic and with a shared minister, St. James and All Saints Greely combined forces with an on-line service for both parishes starting in late March 2020. With restrictions finally being lifted and with Reverend Joan Ridings' retirement on Labour Day 2022, Reverend Nash Smith became the new interim priest for both parishes. Discussions took place in late 2022 and early 2023 to extend the initial short-term agreement with Reverend Nash, but All Saints Greely chose to seek a separate supply minister starting on March 1, 2023. With some sadness, our relationship with All Saints Greely ended.

As a result of a discussion at last year's Vestry Meeting, Coffee Hour finally resumed for the first time since early 2020 on Sunday, March 12<sup>th</sup>. It then returned to its original first Sunday of the month schedule in April. There was a summer hiatus starting in June, but it has since resumed in November.



*Greyson Dowhan at Easter Communion*

Similarly, the Bridlewood Retirement Residence Service finally restarted on May 24<sup>th</sup> before establishing a monthly schedule on the third Wednesday of each month at 10 a.m. There were no services in August or September.

One thing that did not return in 2023 was the Irish Céilí dinner, perhaps my favourite shared dinner of the year. Who doesn't like a hearty stew during the winter season? This is planned to go ahead again in 2024 on March 23<sup>rd</sup>.

For Holy week, we had in-person services for Palm Sunday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday. The decoration of the cross with flowers continued as a popular tradition at St. James.

But Holy Week was interrupted with a Freezing Rainstorm on April 5<sup>th</sup> that caused a major power failure and knocked out our sump pumps at a critical time, as snow melt was draining. The basement was flooded with a few inches of water everywhere and until power returned not much could be done. It revealed a weakness in our planning, but no easy solution. Should we purchase a gas-powered generator for such an exceptional event? Who would be responsible for its ongoing maintenance and operating it as needed? How would that person be notified when our sump pumps were at risk? Where would the generator be stored, while still allowing it to be accessible? Our shed is behind the church and could be surrounded with feet of snow, depending on the time of year. It is really a dilemma, and nobody has stepped forward to assume the responsibility.



*Reverend Joan Riding  
Retirement – May 28, 2023*

particularly a potentially serious eye condition. She did not feel comfortable with any sort of

Our next big event was a formal retirement service for Reverend Joan Riding on May 28<sup>th</sup>. When Reverend Joan retired, there was concern about her health,



*Blessing of the Animals – June 4<sup>th</sup>  
Vic Wootton Jr. and his pet pug*



celebration at the time. Her subsequent cataract surgeries were more successful than expected, and Joan's eyesight has greatly improved allowing a proper retirement party to be planned. It was a perfect day, with special music, musicians and singers, a photo exhibit and a garden luncheon and barbecue. There was large attendance from both St. James and All Saints Greely.



*Strawberry Social, June 24<sup>th</sup>  
TAD Higginson*

The following weekend (June 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>), St. James participated at Doors Open and had a Blessing of the Animals Service on June 4<sup>th</sup>. We had 42 visitors over the weekend and seven dogs at the Blessing Service, which was held outside, again with beautiful weather. I hope we can support this outreach one last time in 2024. Our partners next door, the Gloucester Historical Society are relocating, and this may be their last year participating in Doors Open.

Due to travel commitments affecting some of our volunteers, it was decided to split our Yard Sale into two events, a Strawberry Social on June 24<sup>th</sup>, and a full Yard Sale on September 9<sup>th</sup>. Both events were successful, and the weather was good on both occasions, but it was felt that it would be better to focus on one event in 2024. I agree that this is a wise choice.

Since prior to the pandemic, Mike



*Homecoming Sunday  
September 17, 2023*



*Yard Sale – September 9th*

Thomas had been championing another project, a memorial board. This would include small

plaques remembering past parishioners. After a few years of working out a list of suitable candidates, the plaques were engraved and placed on the board. It was finally decided it was time to dedicate the board and that took place on September 17<sup>th</sup> as part of our Annual Homecoming Service that also featured a blessing of the backpacks (amongst other things). 124 names appear on the plaque. It was also decided that a memorial book would accompany the board, but this was considered too ambitious given the time available. Instead, a picture display was created that included the majority of the people being remembered. We still hope to create the memorial book, but to date, we have only received two biographies, for Ken Donoghue and Harold Sheard. I hope the others will contribute biographies. They can be as short as a paragraph or two or as much as a few pages. The Homecoming was perhaps our most successful ever, and many descendants of those being remembered, were in attendance. It was followed by a lunch and barbecue in the garden. We were truly blessed in 2023 with fine weather for all our outdoor events.



*Thanksgiving 2023  
Deb Donoghue*

Our church was beautifully decorated for Thanksgiving, as was the case for Easter and Christmas. I am thankful to those who contribute towards memorial flowers. It is special to remember those who were important in our lives but who are no longer with us. Let's keep their memory alive.

Our Annual Spaghetti Supper was held at the Senior's Centre next door on November 4<sup>th</sup>, and it was well attended. It was followed by lots of fun as we tried to figure out the guilty person in a murder mystery titled 'The Cold Case'. A big thank you to all who were involved in putting on the dinner, the bake sale, the actors in the murder mystery and our playwright, Brenda Houle.



*Spaghetti Supper – November 4<sup>th</sup>*



For 2023, we were determined to celebrate a 'normal' Christmas as we did before the pandemic. We started with Operation Christmas Child, the shoebox campaign, that our Rector's Warden, Vic Wootton champions each year, then the Christmas lighting program, which began with the official lighting on November 30<sup>th</sup>. This featured caroling and a reception with the community invited and of course, the lighting of the church and grounds. Families always come to this event. People do notice our Christmas lights and I hear positive comments every year. I hope we can maintain this outreach. As others have said, we need to focus our fundraising. If it is a basket raffle, it should be one large basket that includes several bottles of wine etc. We can also consider a 50-50 draw or a sponsorship of \$25 per light string. Another church does the latter. We might approach local businesses and commit to thank them on our website and Facebook page. Just ideas. Are there others?

As Advent progressed, we celebrated Christmas at the Bridlewood Retirement Residence on December 13<sup>th</sup>. We returned to Bridlewood on the 15<sup>th</sup> when our carolers sang to the seniors. Our group then moved on to Alta Vista Manor and finally the Donatucci residence. There were other suggested locations, but three locations are the max for one evening. December 17<sup>th</sup> was very busy as we prepared for Christmas with Lessons and Carols, a pageant, a 'new' blessing of treasured Christmas decorations and a luncheon. I thank Julie White for the suggestion of blessing treasured ornaments. I have one that remembers my mother.

We celebrated Christmas with a Christmas Eve family Eucharist on December 24<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. We had many visitors. Finally, on December 31<sup>st</sup>, we enjoyed a mini choir.

I am happy that there was so much joy at St. James over the Advent and Christmas season. Something I hope you shared. There were a lot of people involved in making our Christmas a great success and I thank every one of you, but I particularly wish to thank TAD Higginson for organizing the Christmas pageant. This all goes back to the members of the body of Christ where each of us share our varying gifts and talents. Our community is greater than the sum of its parts. Again, a big thank you to all.



*Christmas Lighting Night – November 30<sup>th</sup>*

It is always good to give back. We continue to contribute to our community and to the world through our donations to the Pavilion food bank, the Rotary Home, Primate's World Relief and Development Fund and through our support of the 'Mitten Tree' so that those in need may have some warm clothing during Ottawa's cold winter weather. I cannot thank everybody enough for allowing us to do as much as we do.



*Christmas Pageant – December 17, 2023*

*Behind the screens – Casey Higginson*

*Cast from the left – Mike Thomas, Brenda Houle, Amanda Higginson, William Green, Gracie Macintosh, Carole Ladouceur, Liz Green, Vic Wootton Sr. TAD Higginson*

*Foreground – Greyson Dowhan and as baby Jesus, Gryffin Dowhan  
Irene Thomas looking left.*

## **The Future**

The good news is that we ran a small surplus in 2023 but I continue to worry. Our numbers remain small, and we are aging. The city is growing around us, and literally we could be boxed in. We regularly see visitors and we try our best to make newcomers feel welcome but few stay. We endlessly say that we need more people, but God knows what is best for us. There is a plan that we don't fully understand.

The latest threat is road expansion (Bank Street), something that has been in discussion for at least 10 years. The project is to go ahead in 2024 and thankfully will start just to the south of the church. Our parking lot will be preserved for now, but a second project will come, when the Leitrim Road intersection is redesigned. We will see how and when this takes place.

Your wardens always welcome suggestions on how to make St. James more welcoming and attractive. I do not have all the answers. We should pray for God's guidance as we move forward together. Most important of all, remember those in our own church family. Please keep in touch especially when someone has not been around for while. As Reverend Nash has told us, we are our brother's and sister's keepers.

Respectfully submitted,

Glenn Clark

People's Warden



*St. James welcomes its newest member, Gryffin Dowhan with mother Elsbeth smiling.  
August 11, 2023*



## Statistics Up to the Year Ending 2023

Year	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Baptisms	3	0	2	1	0	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	0
Births	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Funerals	3	3	3	5	2	1	1	3	1	1	2	3	1
Confirmation	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Avg Wkly Att	26	23	26.8	28	22.8	23.6	20.5	20.2	18.1	23.41	17	U	19.39
# Families	U	42	46	45	46	42	31	43	36	49	51	47	48
#Known Giv	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	36	34	35	41
Avg Bridlwd	U	U	11.1	9.2	11.6	16.25	14	14.7	12.5	9.5	0	0	U
Cem srvc	U	U	24	15	32	12	18	9	U	N	0	0	19
Christ Eve	U	U	46	35	42	36	68	49	53	39	34	33	40
ChristDay	U	U	16	7	8	8	8	7	5	N	27	0	0
Palm Sunday	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	23	31	19	36	17	U
Easter Sunday	U	U	30	32	31	21	41	34	33	46	43	19	31
Lsns & Carl	U	U	38	48	40	45	43	42	53	23	44	33	U
Christ Light	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	32	U	22	U	U	U
Ash Wed	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	20	U	U	21	0	16
Maundy Thur	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	34	22	N	22	8	0
Good Friday	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	11	15	U	39	2	34
												5	
Canada Day	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	32	9	19

U – Means score is unknown or never taken

N – Means Not applicable or we did not have the service this year (Maundy Thursday)

## Wood's Cemetery Report for 2023

First, I wish to thank Vic Wootton Jr. for maintaining the cemetery during 2023 and keeping it in presentable condition throughout the year.

Clean-up of the cemetery continued following the May 21, 2022 derecho storm. While some tree clean-up took place in the summer and fall of 2022 with thanks to Vic and myself, the most difficult parts of the work, requiring a professional, were deferred until the spring of 2023.

Crowe Tree Services Inc. was hired in late 2022 and they completed the tree cleanup both along the front fence-line and around the back periphery of the cemetery using a bucket truck on May 15<sup>th</sup> and May 16<sup>th</sup> 2023. The cost was \$4,850 plus tax.

This allowed us to have a reasonably presentable cemetery for our memorial service held on June 11, 2023, and led by Reverend Nash Smith. This was the first memorial service held since before the pandemic in 2019. 19 were attendance however the borrowed battery pack was not sufficient to operate the audio system to be used during the service. This is something that needs to be addressed before the 2024 memorial service.

There was casket burial for Roy Cope on October 21<sup>st</sup>, son of Raymond Cope who had been buried in the same plot (the Hawn plot) in 2022. Reverend Nash Smith led the internment liturgy.

A new fence was installed on November 10<sup>th</sup> by McGee Fencing Ltd. at a cost of \$10,380 + tax. This replaced a fence that had been seriously damaged by the 2022 derecho storm and snow plough damage from previous years.

Two new signs were also purchased on November 22<sup>nd</sup> and installed by the end of the month. They were purchased from Ottawa Signs Superstore (formerly Pynn Signs) for \$160 + tax. One sign installed on the gate provided the cemetery name, address, and telephone number. It replaced a coroplast sign that was no longer usable. The second sign is designed to discourage snow plough damage at the south end of the fence. There had been snow plough damage in previous years.

It had been anticipated that the cemetery would need to borrow money from the church to cover the above expenditures, however, two generous donations were received during the year, allowing us to forgo the need of a loan.

Four trees, two shagbark hickories and two sweet chestnuts, are to be planted in the Spring of 2024 along the front fence to replace the Norway Maples that were damaged during the derecho and removed.

Our 2024 memorial service is planned for Sunday, June 9<sup>th</sup> at 3 p.m.

Respectfully submitted.

Glenn Clark  
Wood's Cemetery Committee



*New Wood's Cemetery Fence  
Installed by McGee Fencing Ltd. in November 2023*

## Christian Education Program

As I said last year, we are broadening our term “Sunday School” to “Christian education”. First, because the “kids” we have in our parish are like so many good kids just like them. They are busy. So... in order to make a meaningful difference in their Christian outlook we need to do what is necessary to meet them where they are at. This might include a drama on Good Friday, involving them as helpers at parish events like the Christmas Lighting even, suppers, yard sale and anything else that reminds them that they have home here at St James that’s is here for them and that they beloved in this community.

This year a true Sunday School began for the first time since before the Pandemic. Taught by Elsbeth and attended by Grayson. Yes that’s a small Sunday School, but we have grown strong Sunday Schools from just one before and they were very meaningful endeavours. I intend to help with the teaching so it’s not on all Elsbeth. Elsbeth is a really busy Mom! Right now the Sunday School runs when Grayson and Elsbeth are available. If we get more participation I am ready to do what is necessary to grow the program.

I would like to thank all the youth in the parish that contribute every big event we have. Will, Sam, and Max are always so helpful when called upon. They were especially great with this years yard sale. They were there for the setup, they participated in the sale itself and then they did the majority of the work in taking books to St Vincents de Paul - and there were just a ton of books!!!! Cousins of the Church (Amanda and Casey’s cousins actually!) Tristan and Connor Price have also been helpful and I thank them as well.

Speaking of Will, (I don’t anyone who makes me happier in this world than Will), Will made a return to our Annual Church Pageant. This year he mastered the role of Joseph. We were graced by Grace who returned as Mary. Grace is so involved in a busy and inspired life and it was SO nice to see her in our Christmas Pageant. What was so surprising to me is that young Grayson took on the role of the Donkey. He performed it magically – Hee Haws and all! We couldn’t do this pageant without the participation of enthusiastic and talented adults! Thank you/’s go out to Carole, Elsbeth, Janice, Mike, Brenda, Amanda, Sandra, Casey and his girl friend Samantha. All these people came together and eagerly learned there roles and went out and performed them wonderfully! Thank you to all! Of course the absolute star of our show was the newly born Gryffin. Thank you to Elsbeth and Greg for allowing us to have their precious baby as a real live Baby Jesus! What a gift to our congregation!

Who knows what opportunities will come in 2024, but we pray that we are mindful of every opportunity and ready to make the most of them as they come.

Respectfully Submitted,

TAD Higginson

# Report for the 143<sup>rd</sup> Session of Synod for the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa

## Introduction

This report is formatted in three sections:

- Highlights of the Bishop's Charge to Synod
- Highlights of the actual Synod itself
- Some relevant comments

The 143<sup>rd</sup> session of Synod for the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa took place at the St. Elijah Centre on Riverside Drive (*across from Mooney's Bay*) between Oct 19, 2023 and Oct 21, 2023. Synod was attended by 179 people - 56 clergy and 123 laity.

Things have changed over the years. I remember my first Synod (*the 107th*) in I believe 1984). There were over 300 people in attendance and well over 100 clergy.

St. James was represented by Vic Wootton and Carole Ladouceur. Both Carole and Vic sincerely appreciate the honour of representing St. James.

Things have changed over the years. I remember my first Synod (*the 107th*) in I believe 1984). There were over 300 people in attendance and well over 100 clergy. *I think I have lived too long.*

The first is highlights of the Bishop's Charge given by Bishop Shane Parker on Thursday Oct 19 at Christ Church Cathedral.

## The Bishop's Charge to Synod – 2023

**As for you, always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.**  
2 Timothy 4:5

**1** The first reading for the feast of Saint Luke is from Paul's second letter to Timothy, written near the end of his life. The tone of the letter is very personal, for Paul is writing to give encouragement to Timothy as he strives to continue the work Paul himself had passed on to him in Ephesus.

Paul's first letter to Timothy was much different, focusing on the organization and leadership of the church. Paul was concerned that the new church in Ephesus be properly ordered and well-run, with clear expectations around structure, roles, doctrine,



and worship. Paul was particularly concerned that the church's leaders—especially bishops—be properly qualified and committed to the building up of the church (rather than their own egos).

In his second letter, Paul understands Timothy and his church face many distractions and fears, and he knows maintaining good order, staying cohesive, and remaining focused on sharing the good news of Jesus Christ will see them thrive. He advises Timothy to keep his eyes wide open, to take loss in stride, to focus on sharing God's love, and to do his ministry whole-heartedly.

The theologian Henry Chadwick lectured at Cambridge and Oxford during his prolific career, and was an expert in the history of the early Church. His studies led him to describe the church as a stained-glass window—reflecting through its diverse panes the beauty of God's grace, love, peace, hope, reconciliation, and justice. And like a stained-glass window, which on its own cannot withstand the assaults of the elements in its environment, the church needs to be held in this world by the oak and iron of good order and discipline.

Much like Paul in his letter to Timothy, Professor Chadwick realized the structures and operations of the Church—being well-run and properly resourced—enable cohesion amongst its members and frees them to focus on serving outward.

**2**The people and clergy of our diocesan church have joined me in a three-year journey of honestly assessing where we are at, and of carefully and collaboratively discerning what God is calling us to do.

In 2020 the Shape of Parish Ministry Consultation (SPMC) was initiated, and during 2021 we heard that our parishes are challenged by volunteer fatigue, property and administrative responsibilities, finances, evangelism, and aging congregations. We also heard that our clergy and lay leaders are motivated to work together more, reach more people, enrich their discipleship, clarify and support shared roles, and to make changes.

In 2022 we crafted three major proposals which were resoundingly approved by Synod last October. Since then, we have focussed on developing and implementing the Eleven Actions called for in those proposals. During this Synod, we will see how each one of the Eleven Actions has been addressed, and how they combine together to bring about tangible changes to the way we operate and support our parish ministries.

Here is a synopsis of the results we hope to see as we make the changes called for a year ago:

- 1) there will be less reliance on parish revenues to fund the operating budget of our diocese;
- 2) diocesan staff will provide increased assistance and support to parish leaders as they manage parish finances, properties, stewardship, communications, human resources, and administration;
- 3) our Bishop will provide guidance to parishes facing major

changes, and will promote and enable innovation and collaboration; 4) parish officers and leaders will receive training and more learning opportunities, and there will be a clear understanding of how parishes operate; 5) a Learning Commons and a Program for Parish Development will provide resources, knowledge, and practical instruction on all essential aspects of parish ministry; and 6) we will learn how to practice contextual mission as we engage with the world and establish new worshipping communities.

If this year's Synod approves the proposed Plan for Parish Development, the Action Plan for Contextual Mission & New Worshipping Communities; and the Plan for a Future Fund, we will be poised to rapidly operationalize every one of the Eleven Actions called for in the SPMC Proposals we overwhelmingly endorsed a year ago.

**3** This Synod will also be asked to approve a new three-year operating budget. An important feature of the revenue side of the proposed budget is a significant decrease in the category we will now call Proportional Parish Share (PPS). This has happened because we combed through the trusts we hold collectively as a diocesan church, and, wherever possible, are now using dividends from them to support our operating budget. Using our central financial resources in this way places less demand on money from our parishes to cover our central operations.

The same approach will be used concerning Equalized Cost of Priestly Services (ECOPS): wherever possible, dividends from trusts we hold collectively as a diocesan church will be used to offset the pay fund—understanding that, at this time, the amount we can apply is relatively small.

This points to a new operational priority for us: to develop our central resources so we can continue to offset or cover the costs of our operations and staffing. Just as every one of our parishes must seek to engage in effective financial stewardship and develop three streams of revenue from offerings, property, and endowments, we, as a diocesan church, must do the same.

The resources to be provided through our new Learning Commons and Parish Development Plan will help build the financial capacity of every parish, and Ascension House will follow suit—relying on the guidance of our Director of Communications and Development to increase our capacity to contribute to the costs of our parish ministries and to increase our ability to fund our community ministries. Our five community ministries, in turn, will continue to rely on their excellent reputations to increase fundraising, with close support from Ascension House.

Remember: our diocesan church is a body with two arms: parish ministries and community ministries. Our diocese, not the diocese. We, not they. Every parish is ours. Every community ministry is ours. And it all belongs to Christ. We are in communion with one another, deeply and inextricably. We are strong together and we can build our capacity to serve those who seek God's love in a community of faith and those who cry out for justice, compassion, shelter, and respect.

**4** In our baptismal covenant we vow to seek and serve Christ in all persons, to strive for justice and peace among all people, and to respect the dignity of every human being. This is clearly intended to be accompanied by meaningful action.

This Synod will hear about the intensification of need and danger on the streets of our diocese, and how our community ministries are being called upon to meet this rising tide. The opioid crisis is a very real part of the distress on our streets, and the housing crisis is a major contributing factor.

We continue to do our part to increase the stock of affordable housing, but as we wrap up our goal of providing 125 new units for our 125th anniversary, we need to restate our commitment. At a recent meeting with our Homelessness and Affordable Housing Working Group (HAWG), we agreed to define a new affordable housing strategy for our diocese, to be adopted by Synod in 2024. In the meantime, we will continue to seek out opportunities to support new affordable housing initiatives—as many of our parishes are doing in their local communities.

Our church has consciously chosen to walk the path of reconciliation, enabling indigenous and non-indigenous people to form relationships based on mutual respect. Reconciliation is a way of life and our many efforts to stay on the path and enliven it are commendable. In the new year, I look forward to inviting National Indigenous Archbishop Chris Harper to visit St Margaret's Inuit congregation and to share with all of us stories of Sacred Circle, the new self-determining Indigenous Anglican church.

Reconciliation includes a commitment to anti-racism, acknowledging the inherent racism of the Indian Act and the disproportionate suffering of Indigenous People in our country, as well as the abhorrent racism directed at Black and other racialized people. We continue to address racism and to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion through Project Anti-Racism, which has moved from creating awareness among key diocesan leaders to educating people in congregations. Our commitment to anti-racism is now built into the Action 8 plan to train and support parish leaders, and has already begun with in-person parish workshops facilitated by trained clergy and lay people.

**5** We are in a cherished partnership with the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem. Archbishop Hosam Naoum and I first met in 2004, when he was a parish priest in Nablus on the West Bank. Our friendship has been integral to the partnership between our dioceses—which has roots in the 1990's and early 2000's before it was formalized about 15 years ago. It has comprised pilgrimages, visits, courses, exchanges, advocacy, a women's conference, parish partnerships, and financial support for health care institutions operated by the Diocese of Jerusalem. In March, at St George's Cathedral in Jerusalem, I had the honour of naming +Hosam as a Canon of Christ Church Cathedral Ottawa, to mark the close bonds of affection between our diocesan churches.



It is with heartfelt joy that we warmly welcome to this Synod the Very Reverend Canon Richard Sewell, Dean of St George's College Jerusalem, and his wife JulieAnn, who works at the Jerusalem Princess Basma Center—two institutions well-known to many of us. And it is with heart-breaking concern and sorrow we see the obscene violence unfolding in Israel and Palestine. On October 17, as we joined in Archbishop Hosam's call to pray for peace and reconciliation, hundreds of displaced Palestinian citizens, gathered in the courtyard of the Al Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza City, were decimated by an exploding weapon. The hospital is run by the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem. We will listen well to the first-hand news Richard and JulieAnn bring to us, and we will continue to support our beloved partners who are surrounded by war and mayhem in the land of the Holy One.

**6** Like Paul's advice to Timothy, and like Professor Chadwick's observations on the church, we come to this Synod rightly concentrated on the oak and iron that holds our church together, and we will soon be well-positioned to guide change and thrive rather than be changed by external factors.

The reason we need to be well-run and well-resourced is so we can focus outward with humble confidence and expansive generosity—as a resource to the wider community around us, sharing in God's mission to bring the whole world into the orbit of Christ's love.

We need to learn how to do this. We need to remind ourselves God is already at work in the world, and our task is to participate in God's work by listening in a new way to the Holy Spirit—because we cannot afford to repeat the colonial mistake of thinking we have the agenda in hand and have to get others to follow it.

Instead, we must learn new skills which allow us to discern and understand how the Holy Spirit is already active in the people and communities around our churches—and when we have done this, we then need to ask how God is calling us to use our gifts and resources to enable God's work in the rural areas, villages, towns, and cities of our diocese.

This is what contextual mission is all about. It is Spirit-led and we need to learn how to be led and how to discern what work God is doing—and where we are being called to share in it.

We will continue to attend to the oak and iron because it holds the glass that reflects the beauty God has placed in us, the beauty of God's grace, love, peace, hope, reconciliation, and justice. From a place of renewed strength, we can listen more attentively to the Holy Spirit and share that beauty wherever God calls us to be.

**Amen+**

# 143rd Synod Highlights of the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa

## ADO Synod 2023 Summary Highlights

In his Charge to the Synod of the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa at the opening Eucharist service on October 19, 2023, **The Right Reverend Shane Alexander Donaldson Parker** used an image from theologian Henry Chadwick who described the church as a stained-glass window. **Bishop Shane** explained that while the beauty of God's grace, love, peace, hope, reconciliation, and justice shines through its colourful panes of glass, "the church needs to be held in this world by the oak and iron of good order and discipline."

That good order has been a major focus for our diocesan church in a three-year journey of "honestly assessing where we are at, and of carefully and collaboratively discerning what God is calling us to do," he said.

## Shape of Parish Ministry Consultations and The Eleven Actions

During diocesan-wide **Shape of Parish Ministry Consultations (SPMC)**, parishes reported being challenged by volunteer fatigue, property and administrative responsibilities, finances, evangelism, and aging congregations but also spoke of their desire to share God's love and engage with more people in their communities in new ways. Three proposals were resoundingly approved at Synod in 2022, and in the past year, the Eleven Actions called for in the proposals were developed. At this Synod, the Bishop said, we will see how each of the Eleven Actions has been addressed, listing the hoped-for results:

1. There will be less reliance on parish revenues to fund the operating budget;
2. Diocesan staff will provide increased assistance and support to parish leaders as they manage parish finances, properties, stewardship, communications, human resources, and administration;
3. Our Bishop will provide guidance to parishes facing major changes, and will promote and enable innovation and collaboration;
4. Parish officers and leaders will receive training and more learning opportunities, and there will be a clear understanding of how parishes operate;
5. *A Learning Commons* and a *Program for Parish Development* will provide resources, knowledge, and practical instruction on all essential aspects of parish ministry;
6. We will learn how to practice contextual mission as we engage with the world and establish new worshipping communities (NWCs).

## Focus outward with humble confidence and expansive generosity

Finally, the Bishop reminded those who attended that “the reason we need to be well-run and well-resourced is so we can focus outward with humble confidence and expansive generosity—as a resource to the wider community around us, sharing in God’s mission to bring the whole world into the orbit of Christ’s love.” ([Read Bishop Shane’s Charge to Synod here](#) )

## **ADO Synod 2023 Guest speaker: The Very Reverend Canon Richard Sewell**

**The Very Reverend Canon Richard Sewell**, Dean of St George’s College Jerusalem and his wife JulieAnn, who works at the Jerusalem Princess Basma Center (JPBC) travelled to Ottawa to join us. They began the first day with powerful, moving messages about the situation in Israel and Palestine, where war has raged for two weeks, killing and injuring thousands and traumatizing the populations on both sides. JulieAnn explained that the Princess Basma Center, which specializes in rehabilitative work with children who have disabilities, serves people living in both the West Bank and Gaza, but it is often difficult or impossible for their patients to travel to Jerusalem. She thanked the diocese for its support over the years.

**Dean Sewell** read a letter of greeting from Archbishop Hosam Naoum, Anglican Archbishop of Jerusalem and primate of the ecclesiastical Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East, who was invited to our Synod but was unable to attend. The Dean spoke of the profound trauma and grief cause by the war on both sides and of the shock of the October 17 bombing of the Al Ahli Hospital in Gaza, run by the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem. He reported that at least 471 people died, and many others were injured while sheltering in the grounds of the hospital. “We will never forget the people who have died and the assault on our holy ministry to tend to the sick, to heal the diseased and to bind up the injured. It is, in the words of Archbishop Hosam, a ‘crime against humanity’.”

“It is going to be a long hard road towards justice, peace, and reconciliation from here. It will begin by building bridges of understanding and those bridges cannot be built out of hatred,” the Dean said. “Let Christ be our way, our truth and our life, drawing us together in unity so that the world may know that we are the disciples of Jesus Christ.”

The full text of his address is available for download from the [ADO website](#).

Local representatives of The Primate’s World Relief and Development announced that PWRDF has committed \$30,000 in aid to the Al Ahli Hospital in Gaza and are accepting donations for their long-standing partner.

## The Eleven Actions – Strategic Priorities

### Presenters: Jamie Tomlinson & Sandra M. Hamway

**Jamie Tomlinson** provided an overview of way the **Shape of Parish Ministry Consultation (SPMC)** resulted in the three proposals resoundingly approved at Synod 2022 and how they transformed into the Eleven Actions that now form the top strategic priorities of the diocese, highlighting a few details from the Actions that are already being developed or implemented:

**Action 1 – Building ministry resources and knowledge** – Establishing a mutual and collaborative space, online tools to share existing and emerging knowledge, learnings, and wisdom.

The *Learning Commons* and a *Program for Parish Development* will provide resources, knowledge, and practical instruction on all essential aspects of parish ministry.

**Action 2 – Developing strategies to engage with the world** (see Contextual Mission and New Worshipping Communities section below)

**Action 3 – Guiding major parish changes** – a helpful guide of steps to take and resources available to a parish or congregation and its incumbent, as they embark on major change, has been created.

**Action 4 – Stimulating innovation and collaboration** – An Episcopal panel is being formed to develop and implement a plan for stimulating innovation and collaboration between parishes.

**Action 5 – Reviewing parish fair share** (amount now reduced and renamed Proportional Parish Share – see re: Budget presentation below)

**Action 6 – Using dividends for parish ministry costs** (One of the ways Proportional Parish Share has been reduced is by using dividends produced from an undesignated and Bishop-discretionary trust held by our diocese in the Consolidated Trust Fund towards the costs of parish ministry.)

**Action 7 – Bringing clarity to parish governance** (increasing understanding of different models of parishes and how they operate) (also see amendments to Canons, Bylaws, and Regulations below)

**Action 8 – Training and support for parish leaders** (see Parish Advancement Program below)

**Action 9 – Providing services to parishes** – Diocesan staff will provide increased assistance and support to parish leaders as they manage parish finances, stewardship, communications, human resources, and administration.

**Action 10 – Equipping parishes to thrive** (This sets out a plan for parish development that will equip congregations with core knowledge and skills.)

**Action 11 – Funding parish engagement with the world** (see motion on Future Fund below)

**Sandra Hamway**, ADO director of communications and development, added that communications campaigns will be crafted to raise awareness of these new tools and resources through the new diocesan website, our print newspaper and a soon-to-be launched digital edition, newsletter subscriptions, and social media channels. She noted that the diocesan website will have a second-phase gated portal with a password to keep parish resources separate from information on the public site which aims to appeal to target audiences including, young adults, global Christians, and church seekers.

## **Synod adopted A Plan for Parish Development (Action 10)** **Presenter: The Reverend Kerri Brennan**

Parish development is about equipping congregations with core knowledge and skills that are essential to thrive—particularly during times of significant change. Knowledge and resources from diocesan participation in the School for Parish Development will be combined with new educational and training resources to create a program of modules for parish development. The modules will be short (maximum 30 minutes) low-cost, slide-based videos, easily accessible from our ADO website, initially addressing **five key areas**:

- parish governance
- building healthy communities
- visioning and priority-setting
- effective stewardship
- engaging with the wider community

It is expected the leadership teams (corporations and councils) of each parish and congregation will complete the modules in a timeframe that will be determined later.

## **Synod approved the Action Plan for Contextual Mission and New Worshipping Communities**

**The Venerable Mark Whittall, the Reverend Thomas Brauer, Reverend Simone Hurkmans, and Paul Mugarura** collaboratively explained the meaning of contextual mission and new worshipping communities.

Archdeacon Whittall explained that contextual mission begins with the question “How is God calling us to proclaim the Good News in our time and our place?” In 2023, in a post-pandemic, multicultural, largely secular culture, the church has to find new ways to engage with the people and communities around us.

The Reverend Thomas Brauer offered an example from the experience of St. James Perth when kids broke into the church basement with their skateboards. The church’s initial reaction was to put up “No skateboarding” signs, but when challenged by a young adult parishioner, it changed course and instead added skateboarding ramps to welcome and engage with the community. Not every effort in contextual mission will lead to an opportunity to create a new worshipping community, but it offers an opportunity to engage, build relationships, and to explore potential.

The vision is that every parish and congregation will initiate or collaborate at least one identifiable new venture by 2028. By 2032, the 135<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of our diocese, we will have created 35 new worshipping communities, in a great variety of shapes and sizes.

### **The Action Plan has Six Components:**

1. **A Time of Prayer – Listening for Divine Sparks in our Midst** – A diocesan-wide initiative, A Time of Prayer, was launched on the final morning of Synod. It calls on all parishes, groups, and individuals to participate in regular prayer to discern where God wants us to act. The Bishop will appoint a working group to pray for, oversee, and implement “A Time of Prayer.” Each parish and group will identify a point person. Prompts, resources, and prayers will be generated.
2. **Establishing and overseeing the practice of Contextual Mission** – the Bishop, Diocesan Council and other lay and clergy leaders will play an essential role in the support, monitoring, evaluation, and communications.
3. **Supporting Leaders, Lay and Clergy** – with resources such as a knowledge network, qualified coaches, symposia, opportunities to participate in courses and workshops.
4. **Supporting Parishes and Congregations** – with a step-by-step guide to engaging in contextual mission and new worshipping communities; multiple sources of funding and other resources.
5. **Financial Resources** – Parish funds used to support new contextual mission initiatives and NWCs will be exempt from assessment for Proportional Parish Share and a microgrant program will be established to support contextual mission and NWCs and will be financed from the Future Fund.
6. **Timeline**

**A Time of Prayer – Listening for Divine Sparks in our Midst** – Oct 2023 Launch

**Establishing and overseeing the practice of Contextual Mission**

- Nov 2023 Contextual Mission Subcommittee appointed
- March 2024 First Quarterly Review of Contextual Mission and New Worshipping Communities

### **Supporting Leaders, Lay, and Clergy**

- Feb 2024 Courses and Workshops for Leaders available
- April 2024 Launch Knowledge Network (peer support)
- June 2024 Coaching for Leaders available

### **Supporting Parishes**

- March 2024 Step-by-step Guide available
- May 2024 Facilitators available
- Sept 2024 Multi-session course available

### **Financial Resources**

- May 2024 Launch first round of microgrant

## **Synod approved the Proposal for a Future Fund** **Presenter: Sandra M. Hamway**

**Sandra Hamway** presented the proposal and first discussed the 2022 Synod to **rename and repurpose the existing Second Century Fund as the Future Fund** to provide resources for contextual mission and new worshipping communities.

The fund (currently about \$1.6 million) will essentially function as an endowment, maintaining its principal while offering about \$62,000 in dividends each year for use as microgrants, with some possibility for draw downs on the principal, which will not fall below \$1 million. The fund will be overseen by a panel and the Bishop.

## **Canons, Bylaws, and Regulations** **Presenter: Chancellor Canon Henry Schultz**

Motion 6, which clarified that once any remaining liabilities of a disestablished parish have been paid, assets of the parish go to the Diocese, and Diocesan Council decides how they will be allocated on the recommendation of the Bishop. It also established that three months after a parish is disestablished, the Bishop or the Executive Archdeacon may act on the Incumbent or wardens' behalf to transfer property. **Chancellor Henry Schultz** explained that having this clearly outlined in the CBRs is necessarily legally



required and helps with any tax questions. Motion 7 updated the names and mandates of Diocesan Council's standing committees. Both motions were passed unanimously.

## Budget

**Presenters: Tracy Albert & Sanjay Grover**

**Synod approved a balanced budget for the three-year cycle 2024 to 2026.** In the presentation to Synod, **Tracy Albert**, chair of the Property and Finance Committee, said this budget is projecting an overall increase in revenue by about 5% in 2024 to \$4.5 million. "We are assuming revenues will decline a little bit in 2025 and 2026. And on the expense side, so true to its name, a balanced budget assumes expenses are kept in line with revenues. And we do assume a growth rate of 5% over 2023, then decrease slightly from 2024 levels in 2025, 2026."

Of key interest for parishes was the reduction in Parish Proportional Share (PPS renamed from Parish Fair Share). In keeping with a resolution from Synod 2022, PFS was reviewed and reduced by 22% (or about \$460,000 collectively.) Albert explained that this decrease is expected to be more than offset by a projected increase in revenues from the diocesan central funds and distributions from the Cathedral Hill Foundation and property income.

**Sanjay Grover**, director of financial ministry, offered Synod delegates assurance that any money used is from diocesan-owned funds, and parish funds are not involved. More detailed information and graphs are available on the [ADO website](#).

## Anglican Community Ministries report

**Presenter: The Reverend Canon Peter John (PJ) Hobbs**

**The Reverend Canon PJ Hobbs**, director general of the Anglican Community Ministries, spoke of the challenges the ministries face alongside the vulnerable population they serve.

Describing his long habit of surveying the situation on the streets as he walks through downtown Ottawa, he said he was struck two years ago by the evidence of homelessness and poverty on almost every block. "It was like nothing I had ever seen. I could not imagine it getting worse. Sadly, today it is." Hobbs spoke about the challenges of dealing with the opioid crisis. "The incident of drug overdoses is on an exponential rise as toxic, deadly drugs are hitting the streets. People are dying. We are struggling to keep people alive for just another day."



He noted that these problems are not only in Ottawa. In Cornwall, Ont., an estimated 120 people are sleeping in tents or under tarps in three large encampments, and rural parishes have found that people are sleeping on church properties.

The question, “What can we do?” falls squarely within the framework of contextual mission, Hobbs said, recommending learning about the complex problems, volunteering, being an advocate with elected officials. In the broadest and most profound sense, however, he said the answer to the question, “what can we do?” is simply this, be ambassadors...for Christ.... We are called to the greater community, to collaboration and partnership, confident the Spirit moves in our midst.”

## Last words

In his final address to Synod, **Dean Richard Sewell** spoke of the stark contrast between his context in Jerusalem, “the Old World,” where signs of people’s faith are visible everywhere (though also at the root of painful divisions) and the secular, post-religious culture in “the New World” of the West. He offered encouragement to the people of the Diocese of Ottawa in the challenges of offering the love of God and their faith in that context. “I perceived in you a sense of holding on to something that you feel really is very, very precious and ... that spark that you want to fan into something bigger. Yes, I did hear a sense and a fear that maybe what you’ve got is so fragile it could actually be lost,” But he said, “The promised world of the post-religious framework has failed to deliver most of those great promises....We live in a world that perhaps, certainly as much as ever, maybe more than ever, needs to hear the gospel that God is love and that Christ has promised to be with us till the end of the ages. We have this heritage and if we keep it sheltered amongst ourselves, we are denying our people the gift that changes the world.”

**Bishop Shane** concluded with an echo of a message from his Charge about the importance of contextual mission. “We need to learn how to do this. We need to remind ourselves God is already at work in the world, and our task is to participate in God’s work by listening in a new way to the Holy Spirit, because we cannot afford to repeat the colonial mistake of thinking we have the agenda in hand and have to get others to follow it. Instead, we must learn new skills which allow us to discern and understand how the Holy Spirit is already active in the people and communities around our churches. And when we have done this, we then need to ask how God is calling us to use our gifts to enable God’s work in the rural areas, villages, towns, and cities of our diocese.”

## Concerns and Questions

(from **Synod approved the Proposal for a Future Fund**  
**Presenter: Sandra M. Hamway**)

*The fund (currently about \$1.6 million) will essentially function as an endowment, maintaining its principal while offering about \$62,000 in dividends each year for use as microgrants, with some possibility for draw downs on the principal, which will not fall below \$1 million. The fund will be overseen by a panel and the Bishop.*

We have some questions and concerns:...

### **Parish Fair Share**

The proposed reduction of the Parish Fair Share to 22% lower than what it is now sounds like good news. But will \$62,000 (Dividends) be enough to cover this reduction in Parish Fair Share (PFS)? The diocese says they will use the principle to cover any shortfall. The diocese also promises to not let the principle of the Future Fund fall below \$1 million.

Our question is:

**What happens if all the funds taken from the Future Fund Dividends is not enough and we took the amount needed from the principle. BUT taking any more of the principle at some future time would put the principle below \$1 million?**

**Would the cutoff to keep the principle at least \$1 million dollars be changed to \$900,000? Then maybe \$800,000, etc?**

### **Involving New Members to our Parishes**

The diocese expects us to recruit new members. It is understood that these new members may very well have another way of thinking. Our liturgies and customs may have to change.

Any time this was mentioned to the diocese their response was a blanket “*Your job is to be welcoming*”. If we have to effect changes to our service and customs, I do not think the diocese really cares. To bring this into a perspective that you could easily understand:

Suppose a group of people wanted to join us at St. James but they had a few requests. We would have to:

- a) use water instead of wine during eucharists
- b) drop all prayers and references to the King and the Royal family

c) We have already adopted not using the practice of the common cup

I realize I am only being factious as the three conditions listed above are very serious and mostly unlikely but **how would you feel about them? What is your red line that you would never cross?**

What about requests that are not so serious? In 35 years at St. James I have noticed the following:

- a) people quit because St. James was a 5 minute drive longer they did not want to make
- b) people stopped coming because we had a female priest-they wanted a male
- c) people left because they had gotten into an argument at a parish council meeting and could not get over it.

We are not saying that any of these requests are unfair or not important. But only that all people have red line they will not cross. Some red lines are very firm and rigid. Others are very easily ignored by most. **What is your red line?**

Thank you all for your patience and understanding.

Vic Wootton

Carole Ladouceur

St. James Synod delegates 2023/2024.

**Auditor's Report – December 31, 2023**

I have carefully reviewed the financial records of St. James' and also the Ladies' Guild and Wood's Cemetery. In my opinion, all fairly represent the financial status of each organization.

I wish to thank our treasurer, Mr. Mike Thomas and the Ladies' Guild treasurer, Mrs. Karen McPeak for maintaining excellent accounting records and both are to be commended for this.

Respectfully submitted,

Glenn Clark

Auditor

# St. James Anglican Church Leitrim

## 2024 Events Schedule

**All Dates are Subject to Revision**

Sunday, January 28, 2024 – **Vestry Report Due Date**

Tuesday, February 13, 2024 6:00 p.m. – **Mardi Gras Pancake Dinner and Mini-Auction**

Wednesday, February 14, 2024 7:00 p.m. (On-Line) – **Ash Wednesday Service**

**Sunday, February 11, 2024 Noon – Annual Vestry Meeting**

**Monday, March 18, 2024 7:00 p.m. – Parish Council Meeting**

Saturday, March 23, 2024 5:00 p.m. – **Kitchen Céilí Dinner**

Thursday, March 28, 2024 7:00 p.m. – **Maundy Thursday Service (on-line)**

Friday, March 29, 2024 10:30 a.m. – **Good Friday Service**

Sunday, March 31, 2024 10:30 a.m. – **Easter Sunday Service**

**Monday, April 15, 2024 7:00 p.m. – Parish Council Meeting**

**Monday, May 13, 2024 7:00 p.m. – Parish Council Meeting**

Tuesday, May 21, 2024 6:30 p.m. – **Frank and Elizabeth Lawler Garden planting night** (Rain night – May 23<sup>rd</sup>)

Saturday, June 1 and Sunday June 2, 2024 - 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. – **Doors Open**

Sunday, June 2, 2024 10:30 a.m. – **Blessing of the Animals Service**

Sunday, June 9, 2024 3:00 p.m. – **Wood's Cemetery Service**

**Monday, June 17, 2024 7:00 p.m. – Parish Council Meeting**

Saturday, June 22, 2024 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. – **Strawberry Social**

Sunday, June 23, 2024 10:30 a.m. – **National Aboriginal Day of Prayer**

Sunday, June 30, 2024 10:30 a.m. – **Canada Day Service**

Sunday, September 8, 2024 10:30 a.m. – **Homecoming Service (Blessing of the Backpacks etc., ) – BBQ and Garden Party**

**Monday, September 16, 2024 7:00 p.m. – Parish Council Meeting**

Sunday, October 13, 2024 10:30 a.m. – **Thanksgiving Day Service**

**Monday, October 21, 2024 7:00 p.m. – Parish Council Meeting**

Saturday, November 9, 2024 5:00 p.m. – **Italian Spaghetti Supper (Murder Mystery evening)**

Sunday, November 10, 2024 10:30 a.m. – **Remembrance Day Service**

**Monday, November 18, 2024 7:00 p.m. – Parish Council Meeting**

Thursday, November 28, 2024 7:00 p.m. – **Official Christmas lighting of Church**

Friday, December 20, 2024 6:00 p.m. – **Christmas Caroling**

Sunday, December 22, 2024 10:30 p.m. – **Carols and Lessons Service, Pageant, Christmas Lunch**

Sunday, December 24, 2024 7:00 p.m. – **Christmas Eve Service**

**Monday, January 20, 2025 7:00 p.m. – Parish Council Meeting (Budget Meeting)**

## St. James Anglican Church, Leitrim

### Comparative Balance Sheet

ASSETS	31-Dec-23	31-Dec-22
<b>Cash &amp; Equivalent</b>		
General Fund Allocation	16,535.58	17,779.41
Gift Allocation	0.00	0.00
Ottawa Centre Deanery	311.28	311.28
Building Fund Allocation	9,677.95	13,494.25
Memorial Fund Allocation	2,929.65	2,788.70
Church Accessibility Fund	1,425.56	1,425.56
Xmas Church Lighting Fund	(609.37)	(84.85)
PWRDF Special Support	0.00	-
<b>Total Cash</b>	30,270.65	35,714.35
<b>Investments</b>		
Synod - Consolidated Trust Fund	14,244.99	14,244.99
<b>Total Investments</b>	14,244.99	14,244.99
<b>Accounts Receivable</b>		
Prepaid Expense	238.54	0.00
HST Receivable	475.00	231.01
P.S.T. Receivable	1,215.59	580.11
<b>Total Receivables</b>	1,929.13	811.12
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	46,444.77	50,770.46
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Accounts Payable	0.00	0.00
Payable PWRDF Special Appeal	0.00	0.00
Payable Ottawa Centre Deanery	311.28	311.28
Payable Woods Cemetery	0.00	0.00
Accounts Payable - Printing Costs	0.00	0.00
Reserve Xmas Lighting	0.00	0.00
Reserve - Backflow Prevention	0.00	4,448.87
Accounts Payable Food Bank	0.00	0.00
Reserve Church Accessibility Fund	0.00	0.00
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	311.28	4,760.15
<b>EQUITY</b>		
<b>Net Worth</b>		
Total Prior Years Equity	46,010.31	46,188.54
Current Earnings	123.18	(178.23)
<b>Total Equity</b>	46,133.49	46,010.31
<b>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	46,444.77	50,770.46

## St. James Anglican Church, Leitrim

### Comparative Income Statement

REVENUE	31-Dec-23	31-Dec-22
<b>Offerings</b>		
Envelope (Including Par)	37,683.00	36,690.00
Bridlewood - Open	330.25	0.00
Initial	48.00	50.00
Open	1,878.49	982.55
Maundy Thursday	10.00	15.00
Shrove Tuesday - Dinner	109.60	0.00
Shrove Tuesday - Auction	236.00	0.00
Ash Wednesday	80.00	0.00
Easter	1,379.23	995.00
Thanksgiving	716.25	635.00
Christmas	1,129.00	1,214.94
Memorial - Clara Stuart	0.00	250.00
Memorial - Maureen Kemp	0.00	900.00
Ukraine Humanitarian Relief	0.00	640.00
Memory - Mrs. Edna McNeely	100.00	0.00
Caeli Dinner Revenue	0.00	0.00
Xmas Church Lighting Donations	4,618.60	4,363.80
Donations Fundsript	0.00	40.00
Donations - Raffle Xmas Lights	1,381.50	0.00
Interest, Dividends Earned	8.03	17.34
PWRDF Donations	115.00	155.00
The Ottawa Rotary Home - Donations	130.00	150.00
The Greenboro Pavillion Food Bank	0.00	0.00
Hymn Book Donations	0.00	0.00
Flower Donations - Altar	805.00	902.00
General Donations	758.05	611.37
History Books Income	0.00	0.00
Booklets - Bible Study Material	0.00	0.00
Donation Foster Family Farm	1,367.64	862.92
Miscellaneous Income	0.00	0.00
Yard Sale Income	2,034.74	2,249.07
Strawberry Social	1,254.00	0.00
Calendar Sales	30.00	75.00
Ladies Guild Donations	0.00	0.00
<b>Total Receipts</b>	56,202.38	51,798.99
<b>Building Fund</b>		
Bldg Fund Offerings	294.00	289.00
Deferred Donation 2022 Backflow Prevention	3,955.00	0.00
Bldg Fund - Ladies Guild Donations	0.00	0.00
Bldg Fund - Other	0.00	551.13
<b>Total Bldg Fund</b>	4,249.00	840.13



<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<u>60,451.38</u>	<u>52,639.12</u>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>31-Dec-23</b>	<b>31-Dec-22</b>
<b>Cost of Priestly Services</b>		
Remuneration - Incumbent	29,145.00	23,444.00
Honorarium - Substitute Priests	0.00	0.00
Discretionary Fund	0.00	0.00
<b>Total Priestly Services</b>	<u>29,145.00</u>	<u>23,444.00</u>
<b>Diocesan Support</b>		
Fair Share	8,941.00	9,502.00
Insurance	<u>1,267.00</u>	<u>998.00</u>
<b>Total Diocesan Support</b>	<u>10,208.00</u>	<u>10,500.00</u>
<b>Building Fund Expenditures</b>		
Signage and Cross	0.00	727.58
Backflow Prevention Program	<u>3,637.90</u>	<u>551.13</u>
<b>Total Bldg. Fund Expenditures</b>	<u>3,637.90</u>	<u>1,278.71</u>
<b>Misc</b>		
Conferences	160.00	160.00
The Ottawa Rotary Home	300.00	300.00
PWRDF Donations Paid	300.00	300.00
Canadian Red Cross - Ukraine	0.00	740.00
Misc	0.00	2.18
Church Calendars - For Sale	62.36	62.36
Worship	273.00	260.00
Memorial Board	16.31	469.57
Xmas Church Lighting	6,538.96	6,896.38
Hydro	3,044.12	3,038.13
Telephone	0.00	0.00
Internet Services (Data Processing)	1,435.70	1,469.18
Water	262.87	253.95
Postage	115.72	201.30
Stationary Supplies	1,729.13	910.31
Bldg. Mtce. Supplies	252.50	242.78
Signage and Cross	0.00	0.00
Maintenance & Repairs	767.81	72.11
Church Sanitary Supplies	19.24	12.45
Yard Sale Expenses	366.86	494.29
Flowers	570.30	573.85
Celebrations, Gifts, etc.	514.02	468.18
Groceries - Pancake Dinner	117.91	0.00
Visual Display/Virtual Trans. Equip	0.00	255.45
Bank Charges/Interest	136.40	179.94
Candles	141.87	136.23
Host/Palms	76.07	18.71
Wine	50.21	0.00
Purificators/Pall	0.00	17.14

Hymn, Prayer, Liturgica books,	85.94	60.15
<b>Total General Expenses</b>	<u>17,337.30</u>	<u>17,594.64</u>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<u>60,328.20</u>	<u>52,817.35</u>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	123.18	(178.23)

## REPORT OF ENVELOPE SECRETARY

### Summary of Receipts Issued for the year ended December 31, 2023

<b>Summary of Regular Givers:</b>		
<b>Dollars</b>	<b>Doners</b>	
Zero to 500	17	2557.00
501 to 1000	4	3105.00
1001 to 1500	4	5200.00
1501 to 2000	5	8307.00
2001 to 2500	2	4400.00
2501 to 3000	0	0.00
3001 to 3500	0	0.00
3501 to 4000	2	7300.00
4001 to 8000	3	15394.73
Total	37	46263.73
<b>Receipts issued to Visitors</b>	9	6712.00
Total		52975.73

**Respectfully submitted by Mike Thomas, Envelope Secretary.**

## Wood's Cemetery - Income Statement

31-Dec-23

### Revenue

Trust Fund Dividend	(See note below)	3098.77
Offerings - Cemetery Service June 12, 2023		240.00
Misc Donation	James G Dropp	658.05
Misc Donation	Mary M. Cope	250.00
Misc Donation	John Halpenny	6000.00
Interest Earned	Bank	4.58
<b>Total Revenue</b>		<b>10251.40</b>

### Expenditures

Cemetery Maintenance	Vic Jr.	3102.60
Cemetery Maintenance	Glenn Clark	45.82
Tree Cutting		5041.09
New Fence		10705.82
New Sign		166.30
<b>Total Disbursements</b>		<b>19061.63</b>
		<b>19061.63</b>
<b>Surplus/Deficit</b>		<b>-8810.23</b>

Balance in Bank December 31, 2022	14803.39
Surplus/Deficit for the period ended December 31, 2023	-8810.23
Balance in Bank December 31, 2023	5993.16

Note: .Woods Cemetery has a Trust Fund administered by TD Canada Trust and the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa, from which we receive an annual dividend which is to be used primarily for the maintenance of the cemetery. The capital cannot be accessed.

The dividend received in 2023 was \$3098.77

The amount in our Trust Fund is as follows:

Balance December 31, 2022		208390.30
Net Capital Gain 2023	(info not available)	.
Balance December 31, 2023		.

Dividend to be received in 2023

## St. James Ladies Guild Financial Statement December 31, 2023

### RECEIPTS

Bank Interest	3.73	
Spaghetti Supper	835.00	
Total Revenue		838.73

### EXPENDITURES

Hall Rental & Groceries - Spaghetti Supper	116.08	
In Memorium Donation	52.00	
Total Expenditures		168.08
Surplus 2023		670.65

### Summary of Assests

Bank Balance December 31, 2022	7,746.70	
Surplus 2023	670.65	
Bank Balance December 31, 2023	8,417.35	
GIC Maturing June 16, 2024	4,433.14	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>12,850.49</b>

<b>St. James Leitrim 2024 Budget Receipts - General</b>	<b>Actual 2021</b>	<b>Actual 2022</b>	<b>Forecast 2023</b>	<b>Actual 2023</b>	<b>Forecast 2024</b>	<b>Difference 2023-2022</b>
Envelopes (Including Par)	34634.23	36690.00	37000.00	37683.00	37000.00	993.00
Initial	35.00	50.00	50.00	48.00	50.00	-2.00
Open	42.80	982.55	500.00	1878.49	1000.00	895.94
Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas	3588.35	2844.94	3000.00	3224.48	3000.00	379.54
Biblestudy material	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Interest	260.22	17.34	200.00	8.03	200.00	-9.31
Flower Donations	415.00	902.00	500.00	805.00	500.00	-97.00
Donations - General	1611.27	611.37	700.00	758.05	700.00	146.68
Memorial Fund Donations	800.00	1150.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	-1050.00
Ladies Guild Donations	0.00	0.00	1000.00	0.00	1000.00	0.00
Maundy Thursday, Ash Wednesday	5.00	15.00	50.00	90.00	100.00	75.00
Shrove Tuesday, Dinner and Auction	0.00	0.00	345.60	345.60	300.00	345.60
Good Friday	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Bake Sale - Spaghetti Dinner	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Bridlewood Offerings	0.00	0.00	0.00	330.25	400.00	330.25
Misc. Income //Cheer Basket	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Miscellaneous Income	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Donations - Ukrainian Relief	0.00	640.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-640.00
PWRDF Donations	480.80	155.00	300.00	115.00	300.00	-40.00
The Ottawa Rotary Fund - Donations	20.00	150.00	300.00	130.00	300.00	-20.00
Donations Center 454	140.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Operating Revenue	42032.67	44208.20	43945.60	45515.90	44850.00	1307.70
<b>Miscellaneous Events</b>						
Yard Sale and Strawberry Social	0.00	2249.07	2500.00	3288.74	3000.00	1039.67
Calendar Sales	60.00	75.00	75.00	30.00	75.00	-45.00
Fundsript	0.00	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-40.00
Caeli Dinner Proceeds	0.00	0.00	700.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Church Lighting Donations	9027.69	4363.80	5000.00	6000.10	6000.00	1636.30
Church Accessibility Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Foster's Market	1660.98	862.92	1367.68	1367.64	1000.00	504.72
Total Misc. Events	10748.67	7590.79	9642.68	10686.48	10075.00	3095.69

	<b>Actual 2021</b>	<b>Actual 2022</b>	<b>Forecast 2023</b>	<b>Actual 2023</b>	<b>Forecast 2024</b>	<b>Difference 2023-2022</b>
<b>Building Fund</b>						
Offerings	408.00	289.00	300.00	294.00	300.00	5.00
Donations - Furnace	2670.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Donation - Renovation Projects			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Donation - Backflow Prevention Program	0.00	551.13	2500.00	3955.00	0.00	3403.87
Total Building Fund.	3078.40	840.13	2800.00	4249.00	300.00	3408.87
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	55859.74	52639.12	56388.28	60451.38	55225.00	7812.26
<b>EXPENSES</b>						
C.O.P.S.	22687.00	23444.00	25645.00	29145.00	27011.00	5701.00
Priest Honorarium (Replacements)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Priest's Expenses	22687.00	23444.00	25645.00	29145.00	27011.00	5701.00
<b>Diocesan Support</b>						
Fair Share	9102.17	9502.00	8941.00	8941.00	6753.00	-561.00
Insurance	870.83	998.00	1267.00	1267.00	1406.00	269.00
Total Diocesan Support	9973.00	10500.00	10208.00	10208.00	8159.00	-292.00
<b>Building Fund Expenditures</b>						
Backflow Prevention Program	0.00	551.13	2500.00	3637.90	214.00	3086.77
Signage and Cross		727.58	0.00	0.00	0.00	-727.58
New Furnace	2989.81	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Building Expenditures	2989.81	1278.71	2500.00	3637.90	214.00	2359.19
<b>General Expenditures</b>						
Conferences	0.00	160.00	200.00	160.00	160.00	0.00
Outreach Including Donations to Other Charities						
The Rotary Home	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	0.00
Centre 454	240.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
P.W.R.D.F.	600.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	0.00
Bible Study	0.00	0.00	50.00	0.00	50.00	0.00
Ukraine Releif		740.00		0.00		-740.00
Advertising	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sub-total	1140.00	1500.00	850.00	760.00	810.00	-740.00

	<b>Actual 2021</b>	<b>Actual 2022</b>	<b>Forecast 2023</b>	<b>Actual 2023</b>	<b>Forecast 2024</b>	<b>Difference 2023-2022</b>
Sub-total (from Page 2)	1140.00	1500.00	850.00	760.00	810.00	-740.00
Worship	260.00	260.00	260.00	273.00	273.00	13.00
Christian Education	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Hydro	2349.26	3038.13	3100.00	3044.12	3100.00	5.99
Telephone	901.77	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Water	249.82	253.95	250.00	262.87	265.00	8.92
Internet Services - Telephone	776.16	1469.18	1500.00	1435.70	1470.00	-33.48
Postage	106.72	201.30	200.00	115.72	200.00	-85.58
Supplies, Stationery & Printing Supplies	527.87	922.76	1000.00	1729.13	1500.00	806.37
Mtce. & Repairs	704.41	72.11	800.00	767.81	800.00	695.70
Bldg. Maintenance Supplies	329.81	242.78	250.00	252.50	250.00	9.72
Memorial Expenditures	11.22	469.57	0.00	16.31	0.00	-453.26
Celebrations, Gifts and Garden	173.58	468.18	300.00	514.02	300.00	45.84
Hymn, Prayer, Liturgica Books	103.08	60.15	110.00	85.94	100.00	25.79
Bible Study Material	0.00	0.00	50.00	0.00	50.00	0.00
Yard Sale Expenses	0.00	494.29	500.00	366.86	500.00	-127.43
Caeli Dinner Expenses	0.00	0.00	300.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Pancake Supper Expenses	0.00	0.00	117.91	117.91	120.00	117.91
Hall Rental Expense	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Bank Charges/Interest	198.97	179.94	200.00	136.40	150.00	-43.54
Church Calendars	59.67	62.36	60.00	62.36	63.00	0.00
Host/Palms/Purificators	0.00	35.85	50.00	76.07	50.00	40.22
Wine	0.00	0.00	25.00	50.21	50.00	50.21
Flowers	267.70	573.85	500.00	570.30	500.00	-3.55
Candles	75.26	136.23	100.00	141.87	150.00	5.64
Air Purifier	530.75	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Audio Visual/Virtual Trans. Equip	213.18	255.45	200.00	0.00	200.00	-255.45
Church Lighting	7616.69	6896.38	5000.00	6538.96	6000.00	-357.42
Church Sanitary Supplies	0.73	2.18	5.00	19.24	25.00	17.06
Total General Expenses	16596.65	17594.64	15727.91	17337.30	16926.00	-257.34
Total Operating Expenses	<u>52246.46</u>	<u>52817.35</u>	<u>54080.91</u>	<u>60328.20</u>	<u>52310.00</u>	<u>7510.85</u>
Operating Surplus or Deficit	<u>3613.28</u>	<u>-178.23</u>	<u>2307.37</u>	<u>123.18</u>	<u>2915.00</u>	<u>301.41</u>





## Report of the Nominating Committee for 2024

The following persons have been appointed or agreed to stand for election or nomination for 2023

People's Warden	Glenn Clark
Deputy Warden	
Members of Synod	Vic Wootton / Carole Ladouceur
Alternate Members of Synod	Chuck Wootton
Auditor	Glenn Clark
<b>Parish Council at Large</b>	Brenda Houle Julie White Vera Guy Chuck Wootton Wendy Taylor Irene Thomas Deb Donoghue *TAD Higginson *Sandra Donatucci Carole Ladouceur

**Wood's Cemetery Representative** Glenn Clark

\*TAD and Sandra attend meeting alternatively – normally only one of the two will attend.

Respectfully submitted  
Vic Wootton  
Glenn Clark  
Reverend Nash Smith

## Appointments for 2024

<b>Rector's Warden</b>	Vic Wootton
<b>Treasurer</b>	Mike Thomas
<b>Envelope Secretary</b>	Mike Thomas
<b>Children's Activity Superintendent</b>	TAD Higginson
<b>Children' Activity Teacher</b>	TAD Higginson
<b>Children' Activity Teacher</b>	Elsbeth Dowhan
<b>Altar Guild Contact</b>	Irene Thomas
<b>Ladies Guild Contact</b>	Karen McPeak
<b>Building Superintendent</b>	By Committee
<b>Editor/Creator Pew Bulletin</b>	Vic Wootton
<b>Publisher of Pew Bulletin</b>	Glenn Clark
<b>Telephone Secretary</b>	Sylvia Thomas
<b>Web Master</b>	Glenn Clark
<b>Food Bank Contact and Deliverer</b>	Vic Wootton
<b>Operation Christmas Child Representative</b>	Vic Wootton

## Intercessors and Readers 2024

Dave Picklyk  
 Glenn Clark  
 TAD Higginson  
 Mike Thomas  
 Carole Ladouceur  
 Wendy Taylor  
 Chuck Wootton  
 Irene Thomas  
 Deb Donoghue  
 Sandra Donatucci  
 Vic Wootton

## Servers 2024

Vic Wootton  
 TAD Higginson C  
 Carole Ladouceur  
 Julie White

**Ladies Guild 2024**

Karen McPeak  
Sylvia Thomas  
Irene Thomas  
Brenda Houle  
Vera Guy  
Deb Donoghue  
Marilyn Donnelly  
Wendy Taylor  
Tammylee Sisson  
Sandra Donatucci  
Brenda Houle

**Altar Guild 2024**

Irene Thomas  
Sylvia Thomas  
Vic Wootton Sr

Respectively submitted  
Vic Wootton  
Glenn Clark  
Reverend Nash Smith