



*The Congregation, November 2025*

**ANNUAL MEETING OF VESTRY**  
Sunday, February 1, 2026



## Mission

We have a vision for ministry at St John's that is uplifting, joyful, and nourishing for the soul. It involves people learning about Jesus and growing in discipleship as they seek to be active in the kingdom he proclaimed. It involves being a servant community in our city committed to outreach and issues of justice. It involves being good stewards of creation and of all the resources that have been placed in our hands.

## Leadership

Bishop of Toronto  
Suffragan Bishops of Toronto

Rector  
Honorary Assistant Priests

Rector's Warden  
People's Warden  
Deputy Warden  
Director of Music  
Parish Administrator

The Rt Rev. Andrew Asbil  
The Rt. Rev. Kevin Roberston  
The Rt Rev. Riscylla Shaw  
The Rev. Canon Brad Smith  
The Rev. Ruth Adams  
The Rev. Mary Bell-Plouffe  
The Rev. Steve Smith  
Colin Walsh  
Andrew Vreugdenhil

Robert Grandy  
Carolyn Porteous

The Anglican Church of St John the Evangelist  
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# The Anglican Church of St John the Evangelist

Annual Meeting of Vestry  
Sunday, February 1, 2026, 11:30 a.m.  
Chair: The Rev. Canon Brad Smith

## Agenda

Opening Prayer

Appointment of Vestry Clerk

Remembrance of the Faithful Departed ..... page 4

Acceptance of the Minutes of St. John's 2025 Vestry Meetings ..... page 5

Acceptance of St. John's Ministry Reports for 2025 ..... page 7

Acceptance of St. John's Financial Reports for 2025..... page 25

Approval of the Vision for Mission and Ministry for 2026 ..... page 36

Appointments and Elections ..... page 22

Business before the Vestry ..... page 22

Adjournment



*The Centennial Memorial Tablet in the Tower Vestibule*

**IN MEMORIAM**

**February 2025—January 2026**

In the past year, we commended the following  
brothers and sisters into the care of God:

*John Paul Burke*

*Judith Emily Nicholas*

*David McNaught*

*Gladys Catherine Roy*

*James Leonard Hill*

*Gwynneth Young*

*Eric Thomas Warburton*

*Sandra Hibbard*

*Mabel Deagle*

*Iris Webster*

*Bev Powles*

*Perce Powles*

*Barbara Kyselka*

Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them

**St John the Evangelist Anglican Church, Peterborough**  
**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Vestry**  
**Sunday 9 February 2025**

**Present In Person:** Jim Weldon, Jennifer Passmore, Walter Howell, Tammy Delahey, Doug Moulton, Eileen Moulton, Alan Brunger, Cathy Brunger, Don Freeman, Margaret Freeman, Maisie Watson, Neil Hill, Rosemary Mallin, Tim Middleton, Sidney Turner, John Balfour, the Rev. Steve Smith, Barb Smith, Mary Ann Hall, Diane Passmore, Adam Nymann, Colin Walsh, Lucas Paradis, Don Watkins, Sarah Jenkins, the Rev. Mary Bell Plouffe, Alex Meinhardt, Barbara Kyselka, Joyce Kane, Trish Murphy, John Earnshaw, Marion Fry, Gwedhen Nicholas, Sharon Watkins, Leah Thomson; Heather Steeves, Karen Turner, Jen Burke, Paul Burke, Keith Dobyns, Cole Hayward, Kris Dobyns, Gerri Currier, the Rev. Deb Wilson, the Rev. Ruth Adams, Sherry Weldon, Simone Zhu, Lucinda Hage, Murray Leadbeater, Paul Tiller, Daphne Molson, the Rev. Canon Brad Smith, Carolyn Porteous

**Present Via Zoom:** Peggy Kruger, Julia Ledgard, Issa Horani, Ellen Seddon, Dorothy McDonald, Molly Blyth

Called to order at 11:30 p.m. by the Rector

1. The Rev. Canon Brad Smith opened the meeting with prayer.
2. The Rev. Brad presented Sharon Watkins with a certificate of thanks for her leadership of the pastoral visitors' ministry
3. A moment of silence was held as the Rev. Canon Brad Smith read the names of the faithfully departed as printed in the vestry report.
4. Moved by Jennifer Passmore, seconded by Cathy Brunger that the agenda for this vestry as circulated be approved. **Carried**
5. Moved by Gerri Currier seconded by Cole Hayward the acceptance of the Minutes of the February 11, 2025 annual vestry and the September 29, 2024 special vestry be approved as printed. **Carried**
6. Moved by Doug Moulton seconded by Trish Murphy that the various ministry reports as printed be accepted. **Carried**
7. Income and Expenses 2025 – Walter Howell, presented the draft unaudited income statement for the period January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025. Moved by Walter Howell seconded by Tammy Delahey that the unaudited Income Statement with Income of \$585,682 and Expenses of \$578,961 be received. **Carried**
8. 2025 Vision for Mission and Ministry – Jim Weldon presented a 2025 draft budget with Gross Revenue \$534,300 and Expenditures totaling \$531,919. Moved by Jim Weldon seconded Jennifer Passmore the acceptance of the 2025 Budget. **Carried**

The Rev. Canon Brad Smith presented a Giving Analysis that showed if the average gift were \$32 per week or \$1,640 per year we would cover ministry personnel only. If the average gift were \$65 a week or \$3,388 a year the entire Vision for Ministry and Mission would be met.

The Rev. Canon Brad Smith explained how trusts were created and that they generate interest which is a key component of our revenue. If you withdraw capital from those reserves the interest will be less so in turn less revenue for the budget.

Rev Brad acknowledged that not everyone is in the same financial position but invited consideration when deciding how to spend discretionary dollars of giving to St John's to sustain the level of Mission and Ministry we offer. Please consider a increase in your monthly PAR and for those not on PAR consider switching over. Carolyn can answer any questions you have regarding making changes or signing up.

9. **Appointment of Auditors** – Moved by Jim Weldon seconded by Walter Howell that the Churchwardens be authorized to engage an appropriate auditor for the 2025 fiscal year. **Carried**

## 10. Elections and Appointments.

Moved by Sarah Jenkins, seconded by Daphne Molson that nominations for elections to offices as reported on page 29 of the Vestry circular be open:

Rector's Warden—Jennifer Passmore has two years left in her term

People's Warden – Andrew Vreugdenhil has agreed to move to People's Warden from Deputy Warden

Deputy Warden— Colin Walsh has agreed to be Deputy Warden

Lay Members of Synod: Ellen Seddon and alternative Karen Bisschop

Parish Advisory Board: Mary Ann Hall as elected member

Moved by Adam Nymann seconded by Gerri Currier that nominations be closed. **Carried**

Moved by Adam Nymann, seconded by Mary Bell-Plouffe that vestry acclaim the list of nominees for election. **Carried**

The Rev. Canon Brad Smith presented Jim Weldon with a thank you for his 7 years serving as Warden.

## 11. Motions before Vestry

Moved by Colin Walsh, seconded by the Rev. Deb Wilson that:

The Vestry affirms the two calls that the Parish Advisory Board chose for St John's to focus on in the coming year as part of the Season of Spiritual Renewal:

#2 – Reinvigorate and recommit to children's, youth, family, and intergenerational ministries.

#9 – Actively embrace collaboration among congregations and innovation in new forms of ministry.

Moved by Leah Thomson, seconded by Alex Meinhardt:

We, the parish of St John the Evangelist, Peterborough, in the Diocese of Toronto, urge the Province of Ontario to reverse the planned closure of safe consumption sites in Ontario, and to lift the ban on the creation of new sites, in order to expand life-saving harm reduction services to Ontario. **Carried**

12. A 200th Anniversary Committee will be struct in the next few months. 1826 was when the build was stoned, the 2nd Sunday in September 2026 the Diocesan Bishop will be here as part of the celebrations.

Moved by the Rev. Steve Smith that the vestry stand in adjournment at 12:56 p.m.

The Rev. Canon Brad Smith closed with prayer.

## Minutes of the Special Meeting of Vestry Sunday 29 June 2025

Called to order at 11:40 a.m. by the Rector.

**Present in Person:** John Balfour, Lucas Paradis, Cole Hayward, the Rev. Steve Smith, Barb Smith, Tammy Delahey, Marion Fry, Maisie Watson, the Rev. Deacon Deb Wilson, Eric Warburton, Gerri Currier, Diane Passmore, Lucinda Hage, Paul Tiller, Murray Leadbeater; P. John Bird, Daphne Molson, George Molson, Mary Ann Hall, Colin Walsh, Walter Howell, Alice Marshall, Joyce Kane, Joan Powers, Linda Vardy, Dianne Meittinen, John Morris, Trish Murphy, Don Freeman, Margaret Freeman, John Perkins, the Rev. Ruth Adams, Sarah Jenkins, Rosemary Mallin, Tim Middleton

Moved by Walter Howell, seconded by Colin Walsh, that the audited statements for the fiscal year January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025 with income of 718,015 and expenses of \$842,273 be received and approved. **Carried**

Moved by Walter Howell, seconded by Colin Walsh, that the Churchwardens be authorized to engage Peter Shennett Professional Corporation as the auditor for the year ending December 31, 2025, as approved at the annual meeting of Vestry held on February 9, 2025, or such other qualified auditor as shall be deemed appropriate by the Churchwardens. **Carried**

Moved by Steve Smith that the meeting be adjourned at 11:50 a.m. **Carried**

# St John's Ministry Reports for 2025

## Report of the Rector

*God is the source of your life in Christ Jesus,  
who became for us wisdom from God,  
and righteousness and sanctification and redemption,  
in order that, as it is written,  
“Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”  
—1 Corinthians 1:30-31*

Beloved,

As we share in our eleventh year of ministry together, I am delighted to write this report detailing what I see as significant highlights of the work we did in 2025, taking a chance that this “boasting” is consistent with the intent of St Paul in the verse I quoted above.

In my report a year ago, I shared both accomplishments from the previous year and some things that I thought still need attention. Since the pandemic, I have been talking about the desirability of better connecting with our immediate neighbourhood so that we might begin to understand the needs of the households and businesses around us and perhaps find ways to make a difference in the lives of people close by. One way that we will be invited to do some consulting with our neighbours in 2026 will be through engagement facilitated by volunteers from the diocesan Congregational Development Department as we undertake the Mission Action Planning process. This process is a diocesan initiative that assists parishes to do strategic planning with the goal of developing a mission and vision for the near future. It has been a while since St John's went through this exercise and our 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary is the perfect time to think about what ministry should look like going into our third century. A small steering team consisting of members of the Parish Advisory Board met with Janet Marshall, the Director of Congregational Development, in 2025 and we have commissioned a detailed demographic analysis of our part of the city which will help to inform some of our visioning. Watch for invitations to contribute to the conversation throughout this year.

We continued our post-pandemic recovery as more people returned to church on a regular basis and we saw several new people join the congregation. Some have jumped in with both feet, joining one or more ministry groups soon after their arrival. I am grateful both for the welcome that St John's provides to newcomers and for the willingness of newcomers to get involved, bringing their energy and new perspectives to our shared life. Two things that had been slow getting back on track after Covid were the sidespeople/greeter ministry and the hosting of fellowship after the 10:00 services on Sunday. I am delighted that Joyce Kane volunteered to recruit and coordinate greeters for the Narthex and Tower Door entrances to the church and we now have a roster that sees someone every Sunday saying hello as people come through the doors and handing them an order of service. We also now have a robust roster of hosts for Sunday coffee hour, meaning that, most Sundays, we have at least two people to set out the cups, milk, and sugar, and to prepare the coffee and tea, and, very often, to supply delicious baked goods (which is wonderful, but not a requirement for hosts!). Both greeters and hosts would benefit from a few more people to lessen the frequency of serving. I appreciate everyone who has volunteered for these ministries, both of which are an important part of the hospitality of the parish. We do not only rely on people to be welcoming as folks come to church, but we also have a dedicated team of visitors who go out to provide sacramental and pastoral care to those who are unable to come to church. Some people are aged and infirm and are now housebound; others are sick at home or in hospital and desire a visit. The pastoral visitors talk and pray with those whom they visit and either they or the clergy administer Communion when it is desired. This ministry brings the Church to people who cannot come to the Church, and in many cases, honours the long service of many of our older members who faithfully worshipped and served at St John's for many years and can no longer be physically present with us on Sunday.

Speaking of Sunday puts me in mind of worship. After our trial of a new worship schedule from Lent 2023 to Easter 2024, we returned to the previous pattern of the 8:15 BCP Communion and contemporaneous 10:00 Nave and Open Circle liturgies followed by coffee hour. One significant change, which was necessitated by our smaller clergy team, was that the Open Circle began to join the Nave congregation for Communion. After almost two years of this new pattern, with adaptations along the way based on feedback from worshippers and practical

considerations, we now have a schedule where both 10:00 congregations worship together on the first Sunday of the month, they worship separately on the second Sunday, and the Open Circle joins the Nave at the offertory on the third and fourth Sundays. On fifth Sundays, the 8:15 service is also combined with the two 10:00 services and we have lunch together afterwards. Our monthly Evensong has continued on the first Sunday of September through June at 4:00 p.m., with a faithful choir drawn from several Anglican and Lutheran churches in Peterborough and farther afield, and a congregation that is comprised of people from St John's and other churches as well. The Coventry Litany of Reconciliation has been recited every Wednesday at noon since 13 November 2024, and although the group is never very big, this weekly moment at the Tower Door with its prayers for peace and reconciliation is a powerful and faithful witness to the peace we all long for. Finally, new in November 2025 was a Contemplative Eucharist featuring the music of Taizé and silence for prayer and reflection. Meeting at 4:00 p.m. on the third Sunday of each month, worship takes place in the Guild Hall in a circle surrounding the altar and is followed by a simple potluck supper and fellowship.

*All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.*  
 The hatred which divides nation from nation,  
 race from race, class from class,  
 Father, forgive.  
 The covetous desires of people and nations  
 to possess what is not their own,  
 Father, forgive.  
 The greed which exploits the work of human hands  
 and lays waste the earth,  
 Father, forgive.  
 Our envy of the welfare and happiness of others,  
 Father, forgive.  
 Our indifference to the plight of the imprisoned,  
 the homeless, the refugee,  
 Father, forgive.  
 The lust which dishonours the bodies of men, women and children,  
 Father, forgive.  
 The pride which leads us to trust in ourselves and not in God,  
 Father, forgive.  
*Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another,  
 as God in Christ forgave you.*

*The text of the Coventry Litany of Reconciliation with the bombed-out Cathedral and words "Father Forgive" in the background.*

Food and fellowship are also part of some of our other initiatives. The St John's Young People's Society, which began shortly after the pandemic as a way to provide opportunities for prayer, spiritual growth, and fellowship for the young adults that we had a cluster of at the time, has mostly wound down in this season as many of its members have finished their schooling and moved on. One of the activities of the Society was to maintain a presence in the nave on Wednesdays between 11:00 and 5:00, opening the Tower Door so that anyone who wished to drop in for a moment of prayer, to look around the church, or to sit in silence, might do so. They also led Evening Prayer at 5:00, a mid-week praying of the Office to end the day. While some reflection on how we might continue our efforts to reach out to students and young adults will be part of our Mission Action Planning process, I wonder if anyone feels led to continue the ministry of hospitality that our young people began by being present in the church during an afternoon and opening the door so that people who feel led to come into the building might do so.

Another good news story at St John's is our First Friday All-Ages Ministry. Formerly called Intergenerational Ministry, the All-Ages Ministry moved from periodic gatherings through the year (5 in 2024) to monthly gatherings in 2025. This monthly schedule allows for a regular and predictable pattern of faith formation, worship, and fellowship for both the volunteers and the participants who attend. Just as many of us know that we are expected to attend worship weekly, we are building a culture of regular participation at All-Ages. It is more challenging for volunteers to plan and put on a monthly gathering, so if this is something you might be interested

in, please speak with me. There are opportunities for logistical support through buying supplies and set-up/take-down, leading faith formation activities (e.g. crafts), leading worship and story-telling, and preparing and serving dinner. All-Ages gatherings are where most of the kids we encounter at the church are to be found—investing in this vital ministry is an investment in the future of the Church.

Investing in the future is a faithful response to the gospel of Jesus. Over the past year, St John's supported a number of ministries and community services that provide affordable food, skills training, and affordable housing.



*Pentecost First Friday All-Ages Gathering*

We partnered with the Nourish food box program coordinated by the YWCA until the program came to an end. Our relationship with Homeward Bound continues, now in its seventh year. Last Lent, we had an excellent response to our outreach baskets, including a generous amount of grocery gift cards supplied to the moms and kids in the program. Building on that success, this Lent we will focus on gift cards alone through the season. We also contribute funds for Christmas shopping for the families and most years have helped to host a Christmas party in the Homeward Bound building. While I am speaking of outreach, as you will see elsewhere in this circular, we continue to earmark around \$10,000 each year to outreach donations, with annual contributions to the Anglican Foundation, Anglican Healing Network, Indigenous Ministries of General Synod, Migrant Worker Ministry, and other organisations whose mission we support. Our concern for the future of the world around us is not limited to people and monetary donations. In 2025, Karen Turner lead a workshop on Earth Sunday that challenged us to think about the human impact on the planet we call home. Out of the workshop emerged St John's Creation Care group which meets on a regular basis to discuss creation and environmental concerns and how we as Christians view them through a theological lens and what practical actions we can take to lessen the impact we have on the earth. The collection bins in the Narthex (which collect used egg cartons, pens and markers, printer cartridges, and batteries, among other things) are the result of Creation Care conversation. All of these form part of our faithful response to the world in which live, putting our faith into action, and seeking to proclaim good news not just for ourselves but for our fellow human beings and, indeed, the whole Earth community.



*Earth Sunday Workshop attendees*

At St John's we are a community of communities: we have multiple distinct worshipping congregations, a variety of ministry and small groups, and we are the home to several outside organisations and activities that gather here. Part of our wider community is the Regional Ministry of which we are part, although in this moment, it is unclear what our relationship with the other five churches of the region will be (beyond me being the clergy team leader). The Regional Council, which meets monthly, met with the Bishop recently to discern together the future evolution of the Regional Ministry and I hope to have more to say about that in the coming months. It has been a challenge for us to connect with the region, partly due to culture and partly due to geography, and I look forward to the continuing conversation on where St John's fits into the picture of the Regional Ministry.

Last year, I noted that one element of our participation in the wider cluster of churches is that, as priest-in-charge of the Parish of Belmont, part of my stipend is recovered here from that parish, which means that sharing me with Belmont brings St John's approximately \$20,000/year in income. Without that revenue, we would have a much more difficult time meeting our budget. Last fall, as it became clear that we were not on target to meet the budget for congregational offerings, I invited parishioners to consider making a gift of \$300 over and above their usual offering. If all approximately 160 identifiable givers made this extra donation, we would have had a nice little surplus. I am grateful to those who responded to the challenge; as the Treasurer's report for 2025 shows later in this circular, we ended the year with a deficit of around \$5,000, which is about 1 per cent of the budget. As with everything else in life these days, costs keep going up, even if we don't do anything extra, and that is true of the 2026 budget, which has a forecast deficit of around \$20,000. We do have reserves that can absorb a deficit that size for a few years, but that's not a sustainable financial approach. Statistically speaking, with the size and demographics of our parish, the revenue from the offerings of parishioners should be quite a bit more than it is.

Due to the generosity of previous generations we have been able to complete some much-needed work around the building this past year, including both routine maintenance such as masonry rehabilitation and occasional large projects such as rebuilding the failing tower doors and replacing the roof on the Guild Hall. A full list of capital projects undertaken in 2025 can be found in the ministry reports that follow. Our building is the oldest building in continuous use in both the city and county of Peterborough and so it takes a lot to keep it up. I am delighted, as I noted previously, that we are the home of not only a range of parish groups but also a variety of community groups. Almost every part of St John's, from the church to the Guild Hall, to the meeting rooms, and the Lower

Hall, are in use throughout the week. We are fortunate that our space is so inviting that we are able to share it with others and that the revenue from rentals contributes significantly to our income. We will be looking more closely at how we might be able to better leverage our real property to optimise the revenue we can realise from it.

Finally, a word about the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St John's. We began our bicentenary in September 2025, choosing to mark the year between the anniversaries of the first service on 4 September 1826 and the consecration of the church on 7 September 1843. We commissioned a new vector rendering of the south elevation of the church to use as the bicentennial logo and I wrote the Collect for the Parish Bicentenary that is used at every liturgy after the Collect of the Day. The report of the Bicentennial Committee later in this circular highlights some of the work the committee has done and events that are being planned, culminating in the visit of the Diocesan Bishop for the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary weekend 11-13 September. One of the initiatives that parishioners will already have participated in was the new photo directory which we undertook both as an update to the one we did seven years ago (when the amalgamation took place) and as an anniversary project to remember everyone who was part of St John's in this significant year. We hope the directories will arrive soon!



*The Staff*

In closing, I offer a word of gratitude and acknowledgement. First, to the people I work with most closely on a regular basis, the staff. Carolyn Porteous is a vital part of the team as our Parish Administrator. She answers the phones, welcomes people as they walk in the door on a weekday, prepares worship bulletins, schedules many of the liturgical ministries, looks after the buildings, does our bookkeeping and banking, arranges memorial flowers and seasonal decorations for Christmas and Easter, and many more tasks that fall under the “and other duties as may be assigned from time to time” rubric. As the other full-time staff, we work closely together and I am grateful for her professionalism, love for our church, and friendship. I appreciated the friendly presence of Jay Perkins as our custodian for five years up until his retirement last summer. Our shared interest in history and politics made for many

lively conversations! I was delighted when Jennifer Passmore took on the role of custodian in the fall, following the footsteps of her great-grandfather. Jen has been zealous in her cleaning and organisation of spaces—many of them forgotten—all around the church and Guild Hall. The women of the parish, I am sure, are grateful for Jen's handiness: one of her first projects was to fix the gap in the stalls in the women's washroom! I am also delighted to work alongside Bob Grandy who directs our music programme with sensitivity and skill. We have two growing choirs under Bob's leadership, the handbell choir is going strong and is in demand to play at outside venues, and the selection of hymns, anthems, ensemble pieces, and service music pay attention to the propers of the day and traditions of the congregations. For 2025, Bob arranged a setting of the Evensong responses and he revived a pre-Covid tradition of the Advent organ recital series which was masterfully composed and well-attended.

I also have the privilege, through the Corporation of St John's, of serving alongside the Churchwardens. For most of the year, Jennifer Passmore and Andrew Vreugdenhil were the wardens and Colin Walsh the Deputy People's Warden. When Jen resigned to become an employee of the parish, Colin stepped into the role of Rector's Warden. For the last few months of 2025 we did not fill the vacant Deputy position but the Congregation will elect a new Deputy at Vestry. The Incumbent and Churchwardens are the legal entity of St John's and thus are entrusted with the stewardship of all of the assets of the parish: monies, buildings, and people. We have very thoughtful and prudent leaders in the current wardens. We are also blessed in our team of retired clerics who assist in a variety of ways, too many to name here, but the most obvious of which is the leadership of a variety of liturgies, some on a regular basis, and others when I am away. Thank you to the Rev. Ruth Adams, Mary Bell-Plouffe, Keith Dobyns, Kris Dobyns, and Steve Smith; and to the Rev. Deacon Deb Wilson, who helped us launch the Lenten Outreach Project in 2019 and the All-Ages Ministry in 2024 and has now moved on to do similar work with St John's, Ida.

My last word is to all of you. Last November was my tenth anniversary as your Rector. We have had some challenges: working through the amalgamation of St Barnabas' and St John's, weathering the pandemic, managing the stress of operating and then winding down One Roof Community Centre, and the ongoing struggles of churches everywhere. But we have had far more causes for celebration, including the strengthening of what were two communities by joining forces; the renovation of the nave and other projects that have made our buildings

more accessible, user-friendly, and adaptable; the restoration of much of our worship, faith formation, and fellowship activities post-pandemic; and the myriad ways that so many of you give of yourselves to help lead worship, to take care of one another, to offer hospitality...the list goes on. In the words of St Paul, "I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you" and pray that "we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith" (Romans 1:8, 12). As we labour in God's vineyard in our eleventh year of shared ministry and on the threshold of the third century of St John's, may we, indeed, be encouraged in our ministry through "God [who] is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, 'Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord'" (1 Corinthians 1:30-31)

In the peace and love of Jesus,

*Brad +*

## Report of the Churchwardens

2025 saw a shakeup of the Wardens. At the last meeting of vestry, we thanked Jim Weldon for his seven years of service as People's Warden. Andrew Vreugdenhil was elected to take his place, and we welcomed Colin Walsh as Deputy Warden. Further change came in September, Jennifer Passmore stepped down as Rector's Warden to take on the role of custodian, and Colin was appointed in her place.

This year was another busy one in the parish as we kicked off our bicentennial celebrations. Popular social events such as the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and the Fish & Chips Pub Night returned, with thanks to the Men's Club. It was encouraging to see the All-Ages Ministry continue to flourish with their now monthly evenings of prayer and fellowship. We look forward to many more events in 2026.

We encourage you to invite your family, friends and neighbours to join us at our upcoming anniversary celebrations.

St. John's undertook many capital projects in 2025. The Guild Hall roof was replaced with a metal roof to match that of the church, presenting a striking, refreshed look. A much needed, comprehensive restoration of the masonry got underway in the summer months and will continue over the coming years. In November, the tower door was removed, carefully restored, and returned just in time to welcome worshippers to our Advent and Christmas services.

As ever, we are grateful for the steadfast leadership of our Rector, the Rev. Canon Brad, and congratulate him on his recent appointment as an Honorary Canon of St. James's Cathedral. We also give thanks for our honorary assistant clergy: the Rev. Ruth Adams, the Rev. Mary Bell-Plouffe and the Rev. Steve Smith. In September, we were sad to say goodbye to our deacon, the Rev. Deb Wilson. We give thanks for her time at St. John's and wish her well as she continues her ministry at St. John's, Ida, and Trinity College School.

As Wardens, we would be lost without our parish administrator, Carolyn Porteous. She works tirelessly behind the scenes to coordinate our rentals and ensures that all parish activities, from social events to each Sunday's Eucharist, run smoothly. Jay Perkins retired as parish custodian in August. We thank him for all his hard work keeping our church and churchyard pristine and wish him well in retirement. As mentioned, our own Jennifer Passmore has taken his place and has jumped in headfirst.

We are blessed to be the stewards of this beautiful church, which has stood as a beacon to the city for almost 200 years. We are grateful for your generosity to the various fundraising activities over the past year. St. John's was proud to be a part of the Anglican Foundation of Canada's 2025 *Say Yes! to Kids* campaign, which raised \$5,305 to support the All-Ages Ministry, exceeding our goal of \$5,000. The Rector's recent budget balancing challenge



*The Churchwardens, Andrew and Colin*

through Advent and Christmas has brought us closer to tackling the deficit. We encourage parishioners to reflect on how you can contribute to the sustainability of this wonderful building and community – be it through a monetary donation or a donation of your time and talents. It takes a village.

As we look forward to 2026, let us reflect on our long history, and look forward to the future. We wish to thank you all for your support and devotion in 2025.

“And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching” (Hebrews 10:24-25).

Respectfully submitted,  
The Churchwardens – Colin Walsh and Andrew Vreugdenhil

## All-Ages First Fridays



All Ages/First Fridays has finished another successful year where we moved from once-a-quarter to monthly gatherings. Our evenings are designed for anyone and everyone, families, singles, any age or ability. We generally have crafts on our theme for the evening, worship, and dinner. Our time frame is 5:00-7:00 p.m. All are welcome to attend. If you would like to attend please call or email Carolyn in the office with how many are coming so we can plan food amounts for dinner (but if you forget to RSVP don't let that stop you from coming!).

Some of the themes of the last year were: Candlemas and the Presentation of baby Jesus in the temple (Anna and Simeon); Shrove Tuesday pancake supper - Explore the nave with Bingo and put away the Alleluia (We also paraded through the pancake supper with noisemakers, streamers, and mardi gras masks and beads); Easter themes; Pentecost; a summer outdoor picnic with games, food, and worship in August; preparing food grab bags for the Youth Emergency Shelter (YES); other themes included prayer, care of creation, the Lord's prayer, and making simple nativity scenes for Christmas.

Crafts and worship are designed for all ages and skill levels. There is usually a snack table when people arrive. Dinner is casual, we are seated together around tables making it easy to visit and get to know new people.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kris Dobyns, Coordinator



## **Bicentennial Committee**

As 2026 is the bicentennial of the founding of the congregation of St John the Evangelist, plans are underway to celebrate in various ways during the year. The principal dates of celebration are:

- May 3rd – Feast Day of St. John the Evangelist will be celebrated on this Sunday. The focus will be on the Evensong that afternoon.
- The weekend of September 13th – Founding of the congregation in 1826. Diocesan Bishop Andrew Asbil will be presiding at the joint 10:00 a.m. service that Sunday. A special anniversary dinner will be held in the Guild Hall either on the Friday or Saturday. St John's will be part of Ontario's Doors Open on the 12th. We are considering what information, music, and activities St. John's will present that day.

Discussions are in progress regarding various supports for the Bicentennial: fundraising, new dedicated music, publicity media, involvement of other churches. Throughout the year there will be plentiful ways for congregation volunteers to get involved in this once-in-a-lifetime historic event in the life of St. John's Anglican Church.

Members of the committee are: Karen Bisschop, Bob Grandy, Joanne Gray, Peggy Kruger, Lucas Paradis, Carolyn Porteous, Colin Walsh and the Reverend Canon Brad Smith

Respectfully submitted,  
Alice Marshall, Committee Chair

## **Bridge Groups**

### Ladies Bridge

Presently, there are 12 bridge players in the St. John's Ladies bridge league. This is casual bridge, with two teams playing at a host's home. Five games are played from November to May. Although scores are kept, there is no league fee, thus no prizes for the winning team.

If you are interested in a playing in this league, please contact Brenda Smart (705 772 8990) .

Respectfully submitted,  
Brenda Smart

### Mixed Bridge

The 2025/26 season is underway. There are 8 who play once a month. The games are at a single table per home, so host monthly. We have been relaxed about the rules and so some chose to play changing the partners after four games and others don't. The scores for only twelve games are submitted. The games take place at a time and place of the hosts choosing after consultation with their partner and the other team. The season is 7 months long – October through April.

We have shrunk in size from three tables per month to two tables. As we are in the main retired most games are held on a weekend afternoon and our abilities cover a wide spectrum. The emphasis is on an enjoyable time together. If you think you might be interested in joining us and would like to know more, speak to George or Eleanor Hamilton. oacham100@gmail.com, jehamilton@gmail.com, 705 745 8893. The group will be happy to welcome you.

Respectfully submitted,  
George Hamilton

## **Chancel Guild**

I sincerely thank all Chancel Guild members for their dedicated service over the past year. I very much appreciate how well this group of ladies work together and help each other out. We work in teams of two and serve for two weeks at a time several times a year. We work closely with clergy, servers, and sacrists. We thank the Rev. Canon Brad Smith and Head Sacrist Ian Storey for their guidance and support.

Members assist in preparation for liturgy; setting out vessels used for Communion; cleaning and polishing; hanging altar frontals, pulpit falls, and bookmarks according to the season or holy days; keeping the chancel and sanctuary clean; filling the candles with oil; laundering and ironing linens; and other duties that facilitate our worship. It is “behind the scenes” but essential ministry.

We welcome new members and provide training. I encourage anyone (of any gender) who might be interested to speak to any member about our experience.

We lost one Guild member, Joan Duncan, after many years of faithful service, when she moved. We have welcomed two new members- both volunteers with previous chancel experience. Welcome Pat Passmore and Tricia Black. Other members are Ellen Seddon, Leslie Sherman, Peggy Kruger, Trish Murphy, Gerri Currier, Betty Hinton, and Sandy Hoult.

We appreciate and thank Patsy Harper for sewing linens when we need her assistance.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gerri Currier

## **Coffee Hour (Sunday)**

Teams of two continue to prepare and serve refreshments after the Sunday morning worship services. September through June that means coffee and tea in the Guild Hall. During July and August lemonade was served at the back of the Nave and we invested in a mini fridge to have at the back to make things easy. The roster could always use a few more volunteers so if you are at all interested in helping, even just once in awhile, please contact the office. Schedules are prepared in roughly 2 month time periods.

Thank you to everyone who has helped over this last year.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carolyn Porteous

## **Director of Music**

As I reflect on last year’s musical accomplishments of the various groups here, I marvel at the dedication and the musicianship of the various groups under my direction. Their willingness to learn new music and their diligence in working on whatever I put in front of them on a weekly basis is so appreciated by yours truly.

**CHANCEL CHOIR:** The Chancel Choir continues to rehearse on Thursday nights from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., and on Sunday mornings from 9:20am to 9:40am. They once again sang a wide variety of choral music, from short Introits by Don Anderson and yours truly, to traditional Anglican anthems and motets; from plainsong chants to upbeat contemporary selections. Several things the choir managed to do which made a Sunday anthem special to me were the rhythmic spiritual feeling of Jay Althouse’s “Follow Me to Jordan”, the driving vitality of Pablo Sosa’s “El Cielo Canta Alegria”, sung in Spanish(!), the heartfelt romanticism put forward in John West’s “Hide Me Under the Shadow of Thy Wings”, the crispness and sprightly articulation in Vivaldi’s “All Earth Rejoice”, and the ensemble sound and Renaissance understanding of Tallis’ “If Ye Love Me”.

In the late fall of 2025, I requested an extra fifteen minutes from my choristers on Thursday evenings in order to properly prepare for the Annual Service of Lessons and Carols. That extra little fifteen minutes of rehearsal each week paid off in my opinion, as the Chancel Choir rose to the occasion of providing nine carols at that service, several of which were brand new and not easy. A few parishioners mentioned that this particular Carol Service was one of the best they have ever attended, so bravo to the Chancel Choir!

**CANTABILE RINGERS:** Our resident handbell choir rehearses on Thursdays from 5:15 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. I want to first thank the numerous ringers who are not regular members of St. John's for their continued and valued participation and interest in ringing handbells with us. Without them we would indeed be an extremely small group, unable to ring three-octaves of handbells and handchimes.

Cantabile once again rang a variety of music, from arrangements of hymns to original handbell selections. They also accompanied hymns several times last year, playing along with the organ, and adding marvellous descants to last verses. 2025 was also a Festival Year. A majority of the ringers attended the biennial Ontario Guild of English Handbell Ringers' Festival in Hamilton, where they rang with over 300 ringers from all across Ontario and Quebec. As a prelude to attending the festival in June, Cantabile presented a short recital in late May of six of the pieces they were working on. A small but appreciative audience was in attendance to witness the dedication and hard work that goes into getting six pieces prepared for a major handbell festival.



In December, Cantabile were the invited guests at Lang Pioneer Village where they rang a short program of Christmas numbers throughout a Saturday and Sunday weekend to a revolving crowd of listeners, who would wander into the venue, sit and listen to several numbers and then continue their visit to the Village. Our audience that day was always different, and they were delighted to come forward and inspect the bells and to be given the opportunity to ring them. Some folk said that they had never heard a handbell choir before and were pleasantly surprised!

**CHORAL SCHOLARS:** With your financial support, we continue to have a wonderful Choral Scholar Program here. Our long-time Tenor Scholar, Cole Hayward, moved on to begin his divinity studies last year. In his place, we welcomed Lucas Paradis, a wonderful addition to the Chancel Choir. In mid-March we welcomed Robyn Hawthorne to the choir, a wonderful addition to the soprano section. They attend their own rehearsals on Thursday evenings before joining with the rest of the choir for the main rehearsal at 7:30. These three young singers are given the opportunity to sing the weekly psalm, sing solos in anthems, and to offer their own solos, duets and trios. We heard each of them this past year in a number of selections – from Bach (Sheep May Safely Graze), sung by Robyn, to a beautiful rendition of “The Star of Bethlehem”, sung by Alex, to the southern United States folk carol “I Wonder as I Wander”, sung as a trio, to the ever popular “O Holy Night” sung in French by Lucas. I thank them on your behalf for their dedication to the music program here.



**MUSICAL GUESTS:** We welcomed back trumpeter Pat Remy to St. John's in November who offered several selections as a prelude to our Remembrance Evensong. We also enjoyed listening to “The Whistling Saints”, our in-house recorder quartet, as they offered several Advent and Christmas selections on December 14th . I thank all of them for their wonderful musical additions to those services.

**ADVENT ORGAN RECITALS:** In honour of our bicentennial, I arranged to play a series of four noon-hour organ recitals in Advent, in support of our Music Program here. The musical selections ranged from early baroque

compositions by Pachelbel and Buxtehude to contemporary organ pieces by the young New York composer Nico Muhly, as well as a good number of Canadian works. Attendance increased over the weeks as word got around I think about these recitals, despite our advertising. Look for another series of recitals here in Lent of 2026.

In wrapping up, I want to thank all the musicians from St. John's and all the musical guests who helped make 2025 another memorable musical year. A final thank you goes to Brad, Carolyn, Jay, Jen, my assistant Julie, the Wardens and to all of you for your support of and kind words about the music program here. It is truly a joy to be your Director of Music.

Respectfully submitted,  
Robert Grandy, Director of Music

## **Greeters**

On June 1, 2025 the Greeters Group was reactivated once again. This Group had been a part of St. John's Services but had gradually dispersed and was non-existent.

Thanks to the people who have offered to be a greeter for the 10 a.m. Services. We now have 13 people, but if you think this is a ministry you would like to be a part of, we would welcome you. The main task is greeting regular Church attendees to both the Traditional Service and the Open Circle Service, but especially welcoming and interacting with new people to one of the Services is an important part of the job.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Joyce Kane, Coordinator

## **Grocery Card Program**

Kathy Clysdale and Brenda Smart order and distribute gift cards (the first Sunday in the month) for Sobeys, Freshco, Foodland and Loblaws, No Frills, Independent.

Thank you to the 24 participants in this program. The Church made a \$3,297 profit for the sale of the cards. If interested in supporting this fundraising program, contact Carolyn at the Church office.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kathy Clysdale (Sobeys, Foodland cards)  
Brenda Smart (Loblaws, No Frills, Independent cards)

## **Hilliard Street Kids Klub**

Another milestone has been reached in the life of the Hilliard St Kids Klub and based on the past year's experience there is no sign that the interest or enthusiasm has in any way diminished since the we began this outreach in the summer of 2014. It's heartwarming to see the number of parents and children involved and the time spent enjoying the benefits of being outside and socializing with others and having the satisfaction of growing and eating their own vegetables. They were often joined by other tenants at 999 Hilliard who enjoyed visiting with their friends and neighbours. Sharing and exchanging vegetables is quite a common practice, it's also interesting to note that that some of the more ambitious gardeners have developed the art of preserving and canning which to many is an added benefit for growing your own vegetables.

This past year a number of families took part on a regular basis in the All-Ages Gathering put on by St Johns. This event has become quite popular with a number of families, especially the children. We still keep in touch with children (now adults) who we got to know way back when we first started the garden a number of years ago.

We would like to thank the church for its financial support for the cost of plant materials, etc., and also the purchase of gift cards which we provided to a number of families this past Christmas. We would also like to thank Michael Corner of CI Assante Wealth Management for the donation of Christmas hampers—it was much appreciated. And thanks to Peterborough Housing for its help in meeting expenses. We are giving consideration to carrying on for another year all things being considered. Happy New Year.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gerry and Sidney Turner

## **Homeward Bound**

During Lent 2025, the Parish Lenten Project was in support of the mothers and their children of Homeward Bound. Baskets were provided in the Narthex, for items listed in the Grapevine, and a list on the Bulletin Board. This year, added to the list were gift cards from President's Choice and Sobey's. Except for the basket for children's crafts, the other baskets were less full than in previous years. There was an overwhelming response to the gift cards.

The decision has been made during Lent 2026, to request gift cards only for the women and children of Homeward Bound. Three from St. John's were invited to their annual Christmas party; due to a snowstorm, the event was cancelled. We did give each mother and her children President's Choice gift cards. The women are so very appreciative of our ongoing support. These women are strong, courageous, and focused.

Thank you Maisie Watson, Rev. Deb Wilson, Marion Fry, Carolyn Porteous.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sharon Watkins

## **Journey Group**

We are so blessed to have the opportunity to gather once a month on a Thursday morning and enjoy friendship, deepen our understanding of the spiritual journey and study scripture. Come and See!

We deeply miss Judith Nicholas who died in April, her daughter Gwedhen who moved to Warkworth, and Jill Adams who has found that it is difficult to attend morning meetings. We welcome Linda Vardy and Sarah Jenkins who have joined the group.

Each month we study a topic of interest.

- The Virgin of Guadalupe refers to when the Virgin Mary appeared to a man named Juan Diego in Mexico in 1531.
- Where do we find joy these days? John 15: 11, "These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full".
- Celebrated the Eucharist together on Maundy Thursday.
- Lenten Study "Coming Back To Life"
- A reflection called, "Coming Down to Earth" by Barbara Brown Taylor
- Losing My Trust", a reflection on decision making
- A quote from *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Kimmerer: "The trees act not as individuals, but somehow as a collective. Exactly how they do this, we don't yet know. But what we see is the power of unity. What happens to one happens to us all. We can starve together or feast together." Discuss!
- Advent/Christmas Study, "Starry Nights"

Respectfully submitted,  
The Rev. Ruth M. Adams and the Journey Group

## Men's Group

St. John's men and friends meet for an hour at 9:00 a.m. every Thursday morning. Many weeks we talk about whatever topics come up in the course of the conversation but we also have had some themes and the odd guest speaker. Some weeks we do some jobs around the church, like Nave Christmas decorating. The weekly meetings are a highlight of the week for many and we have gotten to know some of the people at St. John's better than we did sitting in church with them for 20 years before! There is always coffee and tea and a treat. The group has organized the Pancake Supper and Pub Night for the past few years.

Respectfully submitted,  
The Men of the Church

## Outreach

St John's has committed to financially supporting through our outreach fund a number of ministries and other programs that serve either our local community or other communities as chosen by the Advisory Board. Funding for outreach comes from three sources: a 2% fund transfer from the congregation's offering in the general operating budget, a retainer of 15% of the amount designated for FaithWorks coming from St John's, and other designated donations. In 2025, parishioners donated \$10,943 to FaithWorks; St John's retained \$1,700. When we invited people to donate grocery cards as part of the Lenten Outreach Project for Homeward Bound, \$2,315 was collected and used to purchase grocery cards. A number of years ago, the Advisory Board adopted the principle of making several large donations each year in amounts that would make a difference to the recipients. In the list below, the first four disbursements are recurring annual donations that we have chosen to make to invest in ministries to migrant workers in the Durham-Northumberland region, the grants and ministry facilitation of churches across the country provided by the Anglican Foundation, and the funding of initiatives for language and cultural reclamation amongst Indigenous peoples and the Indigenous Ministries department of General Synod (the national Church) including the Office of the National Indigenous Archbishop. A special donation was made to the Church of St Stephen-in-the-Fields, Toronto, after the Rev. Canon Maggie Helwig came to speak to us in November about her book, *Encampment*, a memoir of the last several years of her parish's experience of hosting an encampment of unhoused people and their response as a Christian community. In the absence of more "hands-on" outreach such as One Roof Community Centre and the Nourish food box program used to provide, these are important ways for us to support meaningful community outreach work. Thank you to all who contribute to both the general budget through your offering and through special projects like the Lenten partnership with Homeward Bound. Your generosity enables us to make these donations possible.

|                  |                          |                |
|------------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| Budget for 2025: | 2% of Budgeted Offering  | \$5,800        |
|                  | Retained from FaithWorks | \$1,700        |
|                  | Homeward Bound Donations | <u>\$2,315</u> |
|                  | Total to be Disbursed    | \$9,815        |

|                |                               |                |
|----------------|-------------------------------|----------------|
| Disbursements: | Migrant Workers' Ministry     | \$1,000        |
|                | Anglican Foundation of Canada | \$1,000        |
|                | Anglican Healing Fund         | \$1,500        |
|                | Indigenous Ministries         | \$1,500        |
|                | St Stephen-in-the-Fields      | \$500          |
|                | Homeward Bound                | <u>\$3,715</u> |
|                | Total Outreach Expenses       | \$9,215        |

Respectfully submitted,  
The Rev. Canon Brad Smith

## Pastoral Visitors

The pastoral visitors are a small group of parishioners who visit ill and/or housebound parishioners on a regular basis to maintain contact with the parish and to provide sacramental and pastoral care. This is a vital ministry that ensures that people who can no longer be with us in person due to age or infirmity remain connect to their church, receive visits for conversation and prayer, and may also receive Holy Communion when desired. Visitors, in consultation with the people they visit, determine how often visits take place (generally once a month) and in what format (e.g. by telephone or in person). Last Vestry, Sharon Watkins retired from her role as convenor and I am now coordinating this ministry. We meet three times a year to update the list of people being visited in private and retirement homes, to share insights on pastoral care, to pray together, and to do training as needed.

If you feel you have a calling to visit people for conversation and prayer, please reach out to me for a conversation.

Respectfully submitted,  
The Rev. Canon Brad Smith

## Prayer Chain

The members of the Prayer Chain continue to pray for those who had requested intercessory prayers on a regular basis. These intercessions are confidential. There are 9 members on the team. If you wish to join the team, request prayers, or would like more information, please contact Joyce Evans at [jlevans@bell.net](mailto:jlevans@bell.net).

Respectfully submitted,  
Diane Passmore and Joyce Evans

## Property

In addition to the usual routine maintenance of the buildings, several large projects were undertaken in 2025. The Guild Hall had a new roof installed matching that of the church. New eavestroughs and fascias were installed around the whole building. The Tower Doors were removed for a restoration which, upon closer investigation, turned into a significant rebuild. Some substantial masonry work was completed, particularly on the east transept (where the sacristy, servers vestry, and archives are) and around the Tower Door. Acoustic tile was installed in the lower hall to minimise the loud echo when there are lots of people in the room. The hardwood floors in the Guild Hall and St Nicholas' Hall had not been attended to since before the pandemic so it was time for them to be stripped, sanded, and refinished in order to prolong their lifespan. The sustaining of the oak floors throughout the church and halls is one reason why we have invited parishioners and visitors to remove winter footwear in the Narthex before entering a space with hardwood floors. A summary of the cost of the five capital projects completed in 2025 follows:

|                            |                 |                                      |
|----------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|
| Masonry                    | \$66,894        |                                      |
| Tower Doors                | \$29,823        |                                      |
| Guild Hall Roof            | \$72,310        | (plus \$15,000 deposit paid in 2024) |
| Eavestroughs               | \$24,322        |                                      |
| Lower Hall Acoustic Tile   | \$10,126        |                                      |
| Hardwood Floor Refinishing | <u>\$11,632</u> |                                      |
| Total Capital Expenditures | \$215,107       |                                      |

While we had a roof reserve from when we replaced the church roof, it was insufficient to pay the entire cost of the Guild Hall roof. The lower hall sound abatement was funded from the lower level reserve. Ultimately, the funding for all of these large capital items was from reserves held in the Diocesan Consolidated Trust Fund (CTF) for the purposes of restoration. While this is the reason we have the reserves, the withdrawal of capital funds from them means that we do not have that money for future needs and, because the interest revenue in the operating

budget comes from dividends paid on the CTF, depleting capital also results in a reduction of the interest income. We expect that in the near future a capital/legacy campaign will be needed to replenish these reserves.

Looking ahead to 2026, we will continue with the masonry on the exterior of the church. The Jackson Creek limestone used to build to St John's is not particularly high quality so, unfortunately, maintenance of the stones and mortar is a perpetual responsibility and, while it costs some money every year to do the work, not doing it and letting the required maintenance accrue would end up being a catastrophic stewardship decision (think of what happened to the former St Paul's Presbyterian Church across Victoria Park from us when they failed to do routine maintenance). The Guild Hall door will be replaced as it is in even worse shape than the Tower Door was. We are currently looking at proposals to refinish all the exterior window frames and sills which are reaching a critical state. The sound system in the Nave will be replaced in the late winter with a custom system designed for our building and hopefully eliminating many of the issues we deal with using our cobbled-together current system, some of whose components are 40 years old!



*Strapping the Guild Hall roof to get ready to install the steel.*

Our parish buildings were professionally inspected in early 2025 as required by the Diocese every ten years. No significant issues were reported by the engineer.

Respectfully submitted,  
The Rev. Canon Brad Smith

## **Guild of Servers and Sacrists**

The past year was a relatively quiet year, with "business as usual" most of the time. We are now well adjusted to the challenging variety of Altar placements and we endeavour to perform the traditional Anglican liturgy with dignity and dedication. For that I thank the members of the Guild (and in some instances, their parents) and for another year of excellent service. There were some changes in Guild personnel this year. Adam Nymann left for



Toronto, where he now attends St Peter & St Simon's church on Bloor Street, and my deputy for several years, Cole Hayward, graduated from Trent and is now in the first year of a Master of Divinity programme at Trinity College. Two younger servers are in training, Avery Tucker and Lucas Rumble; they are performing very well. I would thank Tom Robinson for his faithful service at the 8:15 service. A collage of photos was assembled after a Guild Sunday in June and was displayed on the notice board by the entrance to the Chapel. Also our Deacon, Deb Wilson, with whom the Guild worked closely, has departed for St John's in Ida. Our best wishes to her.

The services on Christmas Eve went very well, I thought, and it was a pleasure to have two former servers/ Sacrists (Emily Coombes, Talia Vreugdenhil) take part at the later service. I would thank Brad for his constant support. Also Carolyn in the Office, Jen Passmore, and Caelan McMurray who as my deputy assists me admirably in the Sunday-to-Sunday running of the services.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ian Storey, Head Sacrist

## St Margaret's Guild

"Almighty and eternal God, enable us through worship, learning and service to live a life in Christ that, strengthened by the Holy Spirit, we may show forth your love to others throughout the world. Amen." The words of the Anglican Church Women's prayer are the guiding principles of St. Margaret's Guild. All our church women are considered Anglican Church Women. We invite you to join us at one or more of our meetings.



Meetings are held the second Tuesday each month (except July and August) at 1:30 p.m. in the Choir room. A noon lunch and socializing replaces our meetings in December and June. Meetings start and end with prayer. We have a short devotion, hear minutes of our last meeting, our treasurer's report, and discuss any pertinent business. Tea and refreshments follow every meeting.

We invite a guest speaker approximately four times a year. Anyone interested is welcome to attend. A notice will be in the Grapevine and clergy will make an announcement at the previous Sunday services. Our speaker is introduced and speaks at the start of our gathering. The monthly formal meeting is held afterwards if pending business decisions are required. Those in attendance can leave or stay for the meeting. It is our practice to give each speaker an honorarium.

Our members continue to host coffee time monthly on the third Sunday after the 10 am church service. Thanks to all who regularly help.

Fundraising continues to be a challenge. In 2025 we introduced a new initiative by placing used books and puzzles, sometimes plants etc. on tables in the narthex for sale. We participated twice at sales held at Activity Haven Jill Adams and Joanne MacKirdy (and daughters) once again manned table(s). Jewellery and crafts were sold. Disbursement of funds raised are voted on by members at our meeting in January. Each year we choose to give a larger amount to a particular recipient; e.g. in past years: Kawartha Food Share, Children's Breakfast program, PATH (Peterborough Action for Tiny Homes). Last year a donation was made toward the deficit. This year an early donation was made to the Bicentennial efforts. We also gave a donation of \$500 to the "Right to Heal" program after having its leader Peggy Shaughnessy, head of the Redpath Wellness Centre as guest speaker in October. St. Margaret's Guild does have some reserve funds invested and when larger disbursements are made we do rely on pulling some money to help with our donations. In an attempt not to deplete these funds we are very careful to raise as much as we can so that money in this fund is still available for future need.

The Deanery Days held once or twice a year—the opportunity for ACW members throughout the Deanery of Peterborough to get together for worship and fellowship—were stopped due to the pandemic and missed by women everywhere. In an effort to restart these times together, St. Margaret's Guild took the initiative and organized a Deanery Day on a Wednesday in October when we already had a mid-week Communion service and pianist here. We welcomed women from 9 different churches. Our guest speaker's choice of topic was "Ministry through Music". A delicious lunch was served, followed by entertainment by "the Bluebirds" (3 women singing). Our day was very well received and it is hoped another church will host such a day.

Our June Lunch was a catered lunch followed by the Bluebirds singing. In December our Guild invited the congregation to our Pot Luck Christmas lunch (pictured). It was enjoyed by all.

Our Guild has membership on both the Deanery Executive and the Toronto Diocesan ACW.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gerri Currier, Past President and contact person

## Appointments & Elections

### Churchwardens

The Churchwardens serve terms of three years and generally serve two terms before retiring from the position. Rector's Warden: Jennifer Passmore resigned in the fall to take the position of Parish Custodian, Colin Walsh agreed to finish the year in that position. He will begin his first term at this Vestry.

People's Warden: Andrew Vreugdenhil has two years left in his first term.

Deputy Warden: Tammy Delahey will stand for election.

### Lay Members of Diocesan Synod

The Lay Members of Synod are elected pursuant to the Constitution of the Diocese of Toronto, which stipulates "Except in cases of death, resignation, or removal from the Diocese, the term of office of an elected Lay Member shall commence on that member's election at an annual or special meeting of the Vestry or Designated Ministry and shall continue until that member's successor is elected or until that member has served for three (3) consecutive Regular Sessions, whichever comes first" (Art. 3(5)). Two of our elected members continue in their current terms, having served for one Regular Session: Ellen Seddon and Karen Bisschop. We will need to elect a new alternate Lay Member of Synod.

### Parish Advisory Board

The Terms of Reference of the Parish Advisory Board allow for two Members-at-Large, one to be appointed by the Rector and one to be elected by the Vestry. A Youth Member (aged 30 years or younger) is elected by the Vestry. Members serve for a maximum of two terms of three years each.

Rector's Member-at-Large: Rev. Dr Don Freeman has one year left in his second term.

People's Member-at-Large: Mary Ann Hall has two years left in her first term.

Youth Member: This position is vacant.

## Business Before the Vestry

### **A Look at Mission Action Planning**

A quick overview of the Mission Action Planning Process that St John's is starting facilitated by the Congregational Development Department of the diocese.

### **Social Justice Vestry Motion 2026: Recommitting to "protect, sustain, and renew the life of the earth."**

We, the Parish of St John the Evangelist, Peterborough, in the Diocese of Toronto,

- pledge to honour our baptismal commitment to "safeguard the integrity of God's creation"; and,
- urge the Government of Canada to honour its commitments to the Paris Accord, 2015: to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 40-45% below 2005 levels by 2030 and to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050.

+

In our baptismal covenant, we pledge to "safeguard the integrity of God's creation and respect, sustain, and renew the life of the earth." This is part of our duty of care for our neighbour, particularly those who are most vulnerable to the ravages of climate change, and for whom Christ had a preferential bias.

Over 88,000 peer-reviewed scientific studies on the damage caused by CO2 point in the same direction: that the planet is warming at a rate that poses significant threats to Creation.<sup>1</sup> The consequences of the warming include:

1. More frequent and more severe weather events (hurricanes, floods, fires, tornadoes);
2. Increased desertification of land and acidification of the oceans;
3. Reduced food production capability from the land ;
4. Rising sea levels from glacial melt;
5. Loss of freshwater resources; and,
6. Loss of habitat and sustainability for plants, animals, and other organisms.

Secondary consequences of global warming are already massive.

1. Wars over resources;
2. Increased numbers of people displaced by climate impacts;
3. Diminished biodiversity;
4. Increased numbers of invasive species of plants and insects due to the changing climate zones;
5. Increased economic inequality (the most vulnerable nations and people will suffer the most); and,
6. Increased health issues from heat, smoke, and water scarcity.

Our lived experience of 2025 offers independent confirmation of the science. It was the hottest summer on record (following the previous hottest summer of 2024).<sup>2</sup> It was the second most destructive forest fire season in Canada, with attendant smoke hazards for much of the country.<sup>3</sup> While harder to quantify, we have also experienced many significant floods following torrential rains.<sup>4</sup>

Despite these growing impacts, and the overwhelming scientific evidence, the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> has increased every year.<sup>5</sup> Scientific data alone has failed to persuade governments and industry to protect the most vulnerable and future generations by ensuring a livable planet. As Christians, we must embody our faith commitment with actions that show our care for those whom we may not know, but who will be most susceptible to the climate emergency.

Our faith informs the way we act. We proceed in hope – not fantasy, not wishful thinking – but Christian hope, which means living ‘as though’ we already dwell in the kingdom of God. Consistent with living this way, we celebrate all of creation, and protect woodlands and animals, birds and sea creatures, oceans watersheds, clean air and the rains, thanking God for their variety and working to ensure their vitality.

If we live this way, we will plant more forests, not chop them down.<sup>6</sup> We will use less energy, particularly in transportation, industry and agriculture. We will not consume more than our basic needs. We will recycle and repurpose, sharing more with our neighbours who have less.

We will also advocate for governments to honour their climate commitments. In 2015, 196 countries adopted the landmark Paris Agreement, a legally binding international treaty on climate change. The goal of the Paris Agreement is to limit global warming to well below 2 degrees Celsius, preferably to 1.5 degrees Celsius, relative to pre-industrial levels. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, to achieve this goal and a net-zero-emission world by 2050, countries must significantly reduce their greenhouse gas emissions without delay. Yet, current global commitments fall far short of this, leading to projections of warming by 3 degrees Celsius by 2100.<sup>3</sup>

Since 1990, the Government of Canada has made many domestic and international commitments to address climate change, including commitments to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions and reach net-zero emissions by 2050<sup>7</sup>. Yet Canada’s greenhouse gas emissions have decreased by only 8.5% in the 19 years since then.<sup>8</sup> Oil production from the tar sands generates as many CO<sub>2</sub> emissions as all Canada’s other human-generated sources combined.<sup>9</sup> Canada is the worst performing of the G7 countries in terms of meeting its targets.<sup>10</sup>

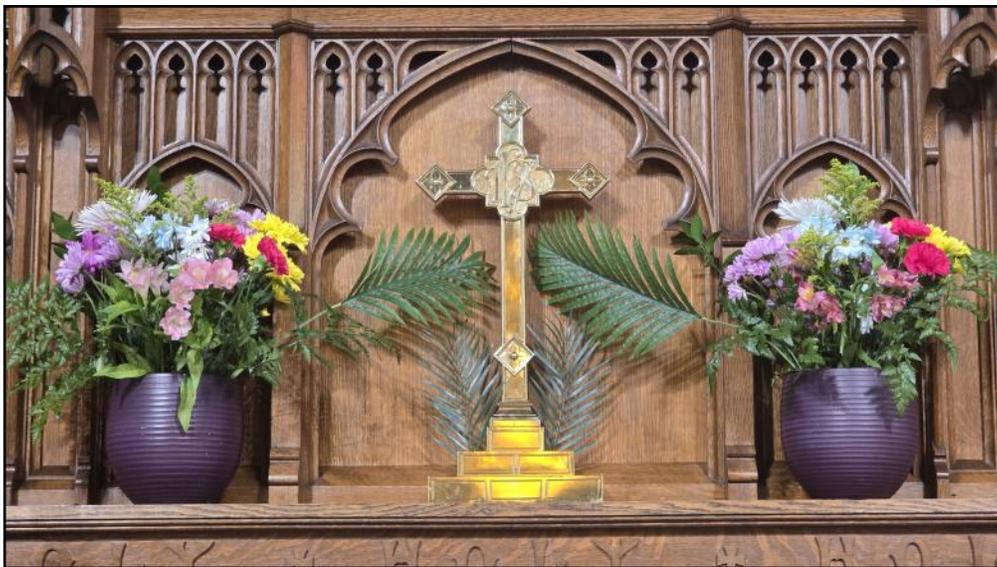
In June 2025, the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada passed Resolution A200 endorsing the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty, and urging the federal government to:

- End expansion of any new coal, oil or gas production in line with the best available science as outlined by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the United Nations Environment Programme;
- Phase-out existing production of fossil fuels in a manner that is fair and equitable, taking into account the respective dependency of countries on fossil fuels and their capacity to transition; and,
- Ensure a global just transition to 100% renewable energy globally, support dependent economies to diversify away from fossil fuels, and enable all people and communities, not least the Global South, to flourish.<sup>11</sup>

This vestry motion, which urges the government of Canada to honour its commitments to the 2015 Paris Accord, aligns with General Synod’s Motion. Moreover, it aligns with our Diocesan Cast the Net Call #8 “Intensify advocacy and action in response to the climate crisis,” and our own baptismal commitments. There are many ways in which we can bring action and advocacy to bear on the climate crisis. To learn more, please refer to the additional resources in support of this motion, which will be made available on the Diocesan website at [www.toronto.anglican.ca/vestrymotion](http://www.toronto.anglican.ca/vestrymotion).

## Notes

1. <https://news.cornell.edu/stories/2021/10/more-999-studies-agree-humans-caused-climate-change>
2. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/science/risky-heat-climate-central-1.7636309>
3. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/climate/wildfire-season-2025-1.7606371>
4. <https://www.theweathernetwork.com/en>
5. <https://ourworldindata.org/co2-emissions>
6. <https://www.toronto.anglican.ca/diocesan-life/social-justice-advocacy/creation-care/communion-forest-movement/>
7. <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/environment/weather/climatechange/climate-plan/climate-plan-overview/healthy-environment-healthy-economy.html#toc14>
8. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/environmental-indicators/greenhouse-gas-emissions.html>
9. Nature Briefing, January, 2024
10. [https://www.oag-bvg.gc.ca/internet/English/att\\_\\_e\\_43947.html](https://www.oag-bvg.gc.ca/internet/English/att__e_43947.html)
11. <https://fossilfuel treaty.org/faith-letter#faith-letter> laying out a binding global plan to



## Treasurer's Report

### 2025 Unaudited Final Results

Thank you to everyone who contributed financially to the work of the Church and who answered the budget deficit challenge. We recorded a small deficit this year. This was a pleasant result, given our forecast deficit of \$28,619. PAR giving continued throughout the year. We presently have 85 supporters on PAR (down from 89 in 2024) contributing approximately \$12,767 a month toward the general expenses of the church and \$1,216 to FaithWorks and Outreach. Rental income from Hilliard Street and the apartment building continued to be received in full. Our investments at the Diocese continue to do very well and the interest and dividends received from them (\$114,185) is a substantial portion of our total revenue for general expenses. Altogether these items contributed to our total revenue of \$541,500 for the year. We continue to set aside money (\$7,200 yearly) for Hilliard St. in the anticipation of some capital spending in the near future. General expenses were \$544,217, leaving us with a deficit of \$5,183. Capital Expenses in 2025 were \$215,107, details of which are in the Property Report. Reports for Outreach are included elsewhere in this Vestry report.

### 2025 General (Operating) Budget Results

|                        |                               |             |                    |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------|--------------------|
| Our revenue sources:   | Offering/Donations            | \$ 285,142  |                    |
|                        | Rents/Investments             | \$ 230,030  |                    |
|                        | Other Income                  | \$ 33,419   | <b>\$548,591</b>   |
| Our expenses included: | Ministry Personnel            | (\$275,572) |                    |
|                        | Worship and Faith Formation   | (\$ 14,987) |                    |
|                        | Supporting the Wider Church   | (\$ 79,536) |                    |
|                        | Stewarding our Built Heritage | (\$141,056) |                    |
|                        | Resourcing Ministry           | (\$ 30,097) | <b>(\$541,248)</b> |

|  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| We continued to set aside reserves for future capital expenses at Hilliard St. | (\$7,200)        |
| Yearly outreach commitment from general donations                              | (\$5,326)        |
| leaving us with a deficit of   | <b>(\$5,183)</b> |

### 2026 Budget

The proposed budget for 2026 forecasts a deficit of **\$24,811**, with income of \$544,886 and expenses of \$566,697. Top line giving was \$285,000 in 2025, and we strive to make that \$290,000 in 2026. If anyone would like to sign up for pre-authorized remittance (automatic donations made once a month from your bank account), which helps in our monthly budgeting, please contact Carolyn in the office. We expect rental income to continue along with the interest and dividends provided from our Diocese investments. Details are in the narrative in the following pages.

### Trust Funds

Our funds in the Diocesan Consolidated Trust Fund continue to perform well. When funds are deposited with the diocese, they are "converted" into units. The unit value from December 2024 to December 2024 increased by 9.6% (an improvement over the 8.2% from a year ago). The total funds held on our behalf at the diocese are as follows:

|                                   | <u>December 2025</u> | <u>December 2024</u> |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Unrestricted (can spend capital)  | \$1,406,846          | \$1,447,953          |
| Restricted (capital is locked in) | <u>\$1,534,965</u>   | <u>\$1,383,491</u>   |
| Total Funds                       | \$2,941,811          | \$2,831,444          |

We are truly fortunate and blessed to have these funds available for income and capital items.

### Audit

On a final note, the wardens have retained John Rubie, CA, as the auditor for the year ended December 31, 2025. He should be starting work shortly.

Respectfully submitted,  
Walter Howell, Treasurer

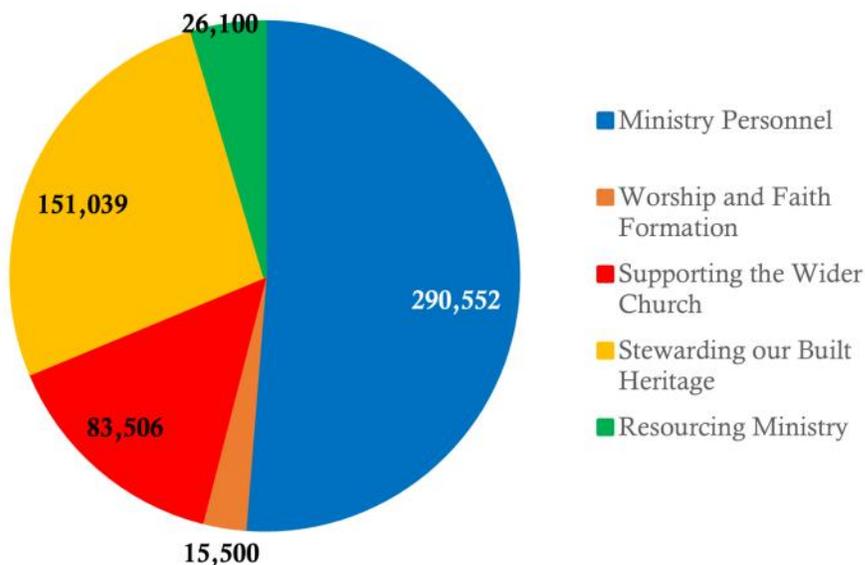
## 2026 Vision for Mission and Ministry (the Budget)

The budget is presented in narrative format in keeping with the practice of churches which have strong financial health. This format consolidates line items into several categories that represent key areas of expenditure. The point is to tell the story of our mission and ministry and not just reduce our faith community to numbers in a spreadsheet. To be clear: the bottom line remains the same and the management team will continue to maintain and work from the detailed budget, but for the purposes of governance, the narrative is the format we will use.

There are several sections to this narrative. Beginning with the vision for ministry and mission, our plan is to invest in five major categories as outlined below. This is the “expense” side of the traditional budget. Then we will look at anticipated revenues based on past performance. Finally, there will be an invitation to reflect on how we as givers to the work of the parish can do our part to bring the vision to life.

### THE VISION

In 2026, we seek to sustain our ministry by allocating money to five major ministry and mission categories as listed to the right.



### MINISTRY PERSONNEL

**\$290,552**

*And how can they hear about Christ unless someone tells them?  
And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent?  
That is why the Scriptures say, “How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring good news.”  
Romans 10:14-15*

The largest investment in ministry in most parishes is staff, both clergy and lay. Clergy preside over worship, work in outreach ministries, establish relationships with other clergy and community organisations, provide pastoral care, teach, participate in the councils of the Church, and take care of some of the administration required by civil authorities and the Diocese. At St John’s, while we have a large clergy team consisting of six priests, the clergy staff cost is for the Rector and anticipated supply clergy. The Rev. Canon Brad Smith, who celebrated his tenth anniversary at St John’s in November 2025, is responsible to the Bishop for all ministry that happens in and on behalf of St John’s and works with the Churchwardens as a member of the Corporation to administer the temporal and spiritual affairs of the parish. Staff costs also include the lay staff. Our full-time Parish Administrator, Carolyn Porteous, manages facilities rentals, building upkeep, scheduling, accounting, correspondence, preparing orders of service, coordinating hospitality, and a whole host of other jobs that are too numerous to list. With Jay Perkins’ retirement in August 2025, Jennifer Passmore has taken on the part-time position of parish custodian, responsible for smaller maintenance jobs, gardening, and yard care, and cleaning in the building. Director of Music, Robert Grandy, works part-time with the choir, Cantabile Ringers of St John’s (handbells), and guest musicians throughout the year to provide inspiring musical accompaniment to our worship.

## WORSHIP AND FAITH FORMATION

\$15,500

*They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.*  
Acts 2:42



*Candlelight and Communion for the Blue Christmas Contemplative Eucharist in December.*

Worship and faith formation are the heart of our ministry together. It is about growing disciples who then go out and make new disciples. We gather throughout the week to sing, pray, and hear God's Word. Our gathering for worship reminds us of who we are as Christians and we receive guidance, inspiration, and nourishment through Word and Sacrament to prepare us to return to our daily lives and our vocations as Christians in the world. Some of the costs that are reflected in this part of the budget include church supplies like wafers, wine, candles and other consumables and other resources to enhance worship (like altar linens). The music budget helps to buy new music and to keep our instruments tuned. In 2026, we are looking to purchase new cassocks for the choir (if you've wondered why some choristers are in cassock and surplice and others in black "street clothes", it's because we do not have sufficient cassocks for our growing choir!).

Supplies and food for the All-Ages Ministry gatherings are funded from Worship and Faith Formation as we seek to grow this important new ministry in the parish. Money is also set aside to fund occasional Faith Formation opportunities and to subsidise the purchase of study books to keep the cost to parishioners lower.

## SUPPORTING THE WIDER CHURCH

\$83,506

*The churches...have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. For, as I can testify, they voluntarily gave according to their means, and even beyond their means, begging us earnestly for the privilege of sharing in this ministry to the saints.*  
— 2 Corinthians 8:1-4



The Anglican Church of Canada



Council  
of the North

Each year, we send money to the wider Church through the diocesan assessment, which is calculated using a formula that takes into account various kinds of revenue and expenses. This ministry "beyond our borders" includes the Diocesan and Suffragan Bishops, the Diocesan Centre and staff, and the General Synod. Part of the money from the General Synod portion is shared with the dioceses of the Council of the North, which are the dioceses in parts of northern Canada that are far less wealthy than the churches in the south and which experience costs of living that are extremely challenging. Our money therefore not only makes our own ministry possible here in Peterborough but facilitates the ministry of our Anglican siblings across the country who do not have the resources we do.

## STEWARDING OUR BUILT HERITAGE

\$151,039

*Together we are his house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets.  
And the cornerstone is Jesus Christ himself.*  
— Ephesians 2:20

St John's Church is the oldest building in continuous use in the City of Peterborough. Begun in 1834, eight years after the parish was established, it has housed the worshipping congregation and been a base of ministry and mission for 192 years. We are fortunate that generations of parish leaders have taken good care of the fabric of the building and we are now entrusted with the stewardship of this beautiful place of worship. Property costs include utilities, insurance, and security; repairs and maintenance on the church, Guild Hall, 1957 addition (the part that joins the church and the hall and includes the washrooms and offices), Glebe House, and the former St Barnabas' Church. Anything that requires the replacement of consumables or any periodic item is generally categorised here rather than as restoration, which is a capital expense rather than an operating expense. Despite cost increases for both utilities and labour & materials, our property costs have been relatively stable over the past several years. Insurance is one expense that has increased significantly over the past few years (up 8.75% in 2025 over 2024 and is increasing another 8.12% in 2026). This is a global phenomenon and is largely attributable to the huge increase in insurance claims related to natural disasters: fires, floods, earthquakes, hurricanes, and other severe weather events. There are a limited number of insurers who will take churches as clients so the playing field is limited, but we are insulated to some degree by the fact that we are covered under a diocesan policy and have some buying power due to our size.

We continue to set aside money every year for the former St Barnabas' Church, building a reserve fund to deal with eventual replacement of large-ticket infrastructure (although those costs are not reflected in the operating budget being described here).



In 2025, our building was busy. We host parish and outside groups every day of the week and many people in the City consider St John's a home in one way or another. Some of the outside groups that regularly make use of parts of the church and hall are: Community Care, Al-Anon, Narcotics Anonymous, Scottish Dancers, Sacred Circle Dancers, Iaido, the Buddhist Place, Peterborough basketball referees, Canada CPR, Hollow Woods Recorder Group, the Cantabile Ringers, and Drum Rock Jerk (catering). Parish groups use every part of the building through the week. At the end of the year the room that was the nursery was converted to an additional meeting room which we have named in honour of the first Rector of Peterborough, the Rev. Samuel Armour, as we observe our bicentenary. A change table and comfortable chair with subdued lighting remains for when they are needed. While, at times, we wish we had more space to accommodate all of the people and activities that happen in the church, we are blessed to have a well-maintained, welcoming, and beautiful building.

## RESOURCING MINISTRY

\$26,100

*Father, enliven the Church for its mission that we may be salt of the earth and light to the world.*  
— A New Zealand Prayer Book

Some elements of our budget don't fit neatly in the other categories, but all are essential to resourcing the ministry and mission of the people of St John's. We include administration costs such as church supplies not related to worship, office supplies, professional fees for lawyers, the bookkeeper, and the auditors, interest and bank charges, advertising and postage, and a small amount included for miscellaneous expenses and travel.

## ANTICIPATED REVENUE SOURCES

Anticipated revenues are calculated based on amounts received in previous years and any gifts or other sources of funding we know of in advance of preparing the budget. Just over half (54%) of the revenue we expect to receive in 2026 comes from the offerings of our parishioners and other people who value the ministry of the parish. Without these generous gifts, we would be unable to continue the good works that are outlined in the sections that follow.



| Revenue               |                  |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| Offering/Donations    | \$290,000        |
| Rents/Investments     | \$229,186        |
| Other Income          | \$35,700         |
| Transfers to Reserves | \$(13,000)       |
| <b>Total</b>          | <b>\$541,886</b> |

Revenue is also brought in through land rents and fees charged for renting our facilities. We receive interest paid on a quarterly basis on the monies that are invested in the Diocesan Consolidated Trust Fund. Other income includes fundraisers, specific program donations, grants and the Grocery Card program.

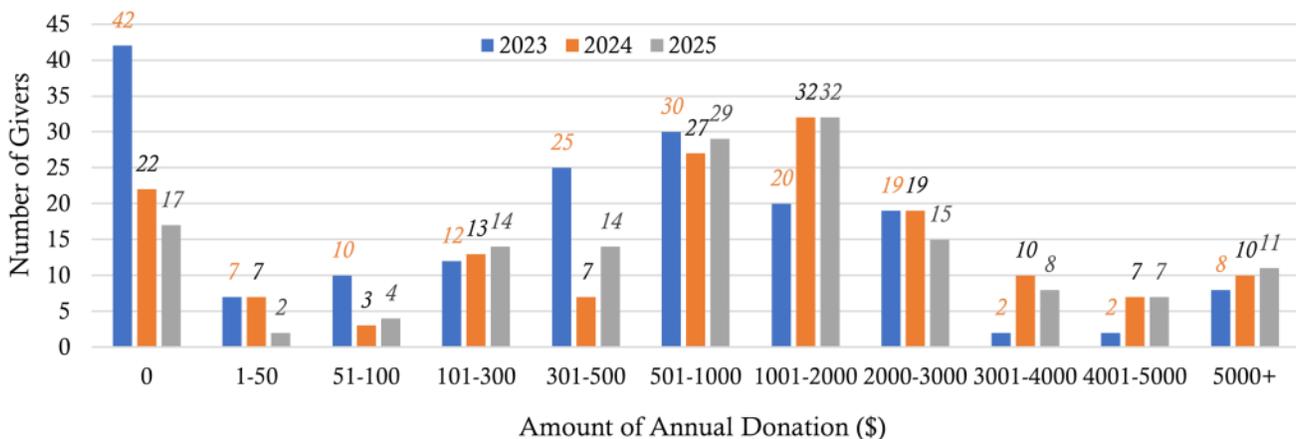
St John's is very fortunate that we are able to derive 42% of our income from renting the Glebe land under the Churchill Manor apartment building and building rentals as well as the interest from the money we have in the Diocesan Consolidated Trust Fund (see the Treasurer's Report on page 25 for information on the trust funds). Without these important sources of revenue, the congregation's giving on its own would not support our mission and ministry. Part of the Mission Action Planning that we will do this year will look at potential diversification of the use of our buildings and land to optimise the revenue we can realise from them as we seek to find other ways of funding ministry in a time of declining offerings.

Using data from our church management software, we are able to track "identifiable givers": individuals or households who are engaged with the parish who support us financially, or might be expected to do so. One easy measure of this is how many people have envelopes or use pre-authorized giving. Here's a snapshot of some parish statistics:

|                     | <u>2023</u> | <u>2024</u> | <u>2025</u> |
|---------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Identifiable Givers | 177         | 157         | 153         |
| Individual Members  | 255         | 236         | 229         |

Due to deaths, people moving away, and some non-donors being removed from the list, in the last two years we have lost 24 donors, a few of whom were extremely generous. As 2025 donations are finalised, the donation amounts of the current 153 identifiable givers are categorized by amount. Those categories are shown in the chart below, which also includes for comparison the 2023 and 2024 numbers.

**Identifiable Givers by Amount of Annual Donation**



In 2025, the number of identifiable givers who gave nothing to the church was the lowest it has been since 2023, falling from 42 to 17 in two years. This is due, in part, to removing some people from the list who may have taken envelopes previously but have never used them. But there was also some movement upwards in the donation categories as people who were able to manage to do so gave more money.

St John’s has generally operated according to the principle that the general offering (the money donated by parishioners and others through envelopes, open offering on the plate, and pre-authorized giving) should cover at least the cost of our ministry personnel, and the rest of our income, from land and space rents and interest on investments, will cover the rest of our budget. In 2025, the ministry personnel cost was just under \$276,000 while our offering was budgeted for \$290,000 and we ended the year with \$285,000. This year, the ministry personnel category figure is \$290,552 (see the narrative on page 26 for more details). We have kept the Offering line at \$290,000: this is the first time that the top lines in both income and expenses are virtually the same: we need to make that Offering budget figure in order to pay the ministry personnel. Going forward, given annual cost of living increases, our personnel costs will very likely begin to be larger than our congregational offering: food for thought.

To put it in terms of how much each identifiable giver might be expected to contribute if everyone gave the same amount, here are two figures to suggest what it will cost per giver to achieve our vision for ministry and mission in 2026. The first figure is if we look only to cover the ministry personnel category (as described in the previous paragraph), leaving the remainder to be paid for through the other means listed in the previous paragraph. The second figure is if we really stepped out and decided to fund the entire vision ourselves, which would leave our other revenue streams as a source of support for new ministries, such as the possibility of hiring additional clergy, a coordinator of our growing youth/family/all-ages ministries, a community ministry developer, or something else that would be an investment in building the St John’s of the future, of establishing a bedrock foundation for the next hundred years of ministry.

|   | <u>Weekly</u> | <u>Annual</u> |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| Average gift—Ministry Personnel only              | \$37          | \$1,899       |
| Average gift—entire Vision for Ministry & Mission | \$71          | \$3,704       |

To put \$37 per week in perspective, it represents approximately 8% of the income of someone making \$25,000/year or just over 2% of an income of \$75,000/year. While the Old Testament calls for the faithful to give a tithe (10%) and Jesus holds up the sacrificial giving of the widow, who gave everything she had, as an example, we would like to invite every parishioner of St John’s to prayerfully reflect on the ministry you would like to see in the parish and consider if you can contribute this amount.

Of course, we know that everyone is in their own unique set of economic circumstances and, for those who have precarious incomes, any form of financial support will be a burden. We would like you to consider this, however: money is a spiritual matter even the smallest gift as a thank-offering makes a powerful statement about our relationship to God, the source of all things. As a spiritual discipline, especially as we head into the season of Lent, why not reflect on the Biblical principle of giving from your abundance rather than from what’s left over.

We return now to the vision that we have for ministry and mission in 2026. As you have read through the pages of this report, you have hopefully seen the amazingly faithful work and witness that individuals and groups are doing in and through St John’s. There is so much going on in the parish, both for building up our own community and also to make a difference in the wider community. People are giving generously of their time, energy, and financial resources in order to make this all happen. We’re putting our faith into action and it’s exciting to see. As you’ve had a glimpse of in the reports contained in this circular and will hear more about at the annual meeting, we are poised for some really inspiring worship and ministry in 2026.

The budget for 2026 will sustain what we have now—and we hope that you will be a part of that. In the midst of our bicentenary, there’s lots of hope for the future and, as we proceed with a Mission Action Plan with the help of the diocese this year, we will engage in listening to our parishioners and the wider community to develop and implement a vision for mission and ministry that will carry us well into the third century of the Church of St John the Evangelist!

**SUMMARY**

Once again, here are the total revenues and expenditures budgeted for 2026:

| <b>Revenue</b>               |                    | <b>Expenses</b>            |                  |
|------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|------------------|
| Offering/Donations           | \$290,000          | Ministry Personnel         | \$290,552        |
| Rents/Investments            | \$229,186          | Worship & Faith Form.      | \$15,500         |
| Other Income                 | \$ 35,700          | Wider Church               | \$83,506         |
| <u>Transfers to Reserves</u> | <u>\$ (13,000)</u> | Stewarding the Bldg        | \$151,039        |
| <b>Total</b>                 | <b>\$541,886</b>   | <u>Resourcing Ministry</u> | <u>\$26,100</u>  |
|                              |                    | <b>Total</b>               | <b>\$566,697</b> |

**NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)**  
**(\$24,811)**

*You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity,  
 which will produce thanksgiving to God through us;  
 for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints  
 but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God.  
 —2 Corinthians 9:11-12*





*From top left, clockwise: The St John's contingent at the Pride Parade in September; humans and their companions at the Blessing of Animals service in October; Parish Pub Night with fish and chips in September; once in the past decade has Sunday worship been cancelled: when you see the snow in the Memorial Garden from last February, you know why; the Peterborough Deanery ACW Day at St John's in November; St Simeon visits the First Friday All-Ages Gathering at Candlemas; the congregation returns after the Palm Sunday procession around the outside of the church; there's always a variety of crafts and faith formation activities for every age at First Friday All-Ages Gatherings.*