St. George's ANGLICAN CHURCH

Guelph, Ontario



Annual Parish Report 2023

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Introduction

Welcome! This reading journey will take you on a trip through what's been happening at St. George's over the last year. You will hear from various ministries and groups around the church, and get a picture of St. George's financial situation. The report has been ordered to closely reflect the structure of the Council of St. George's and our Vision Action Plan, a plan that will help us as a church community to invest in ministry and mission. Thus the main sections you can read about are:

- Governance
- o Pastoral Care
- Worship, Music, and Faith Formation
- Parish Life
- Outreach & Social Justice
- o Finance, Operations, & Communications

Despite Covid-19, there were many exciting things that happened in 2023 at St. George's, so enjoy the read! Through it all, you will hopefully gain a picture of the vibrant community that is St. George's.

Our Vision Action Plan is a conversation with God and amongst ourselves that defines the real, measurable actions that we take as we live out our mission as a vital, life-giving community of believers.

Our Mission is to make Jesus Christ known.

Our Goal is to make St. George's a place of:

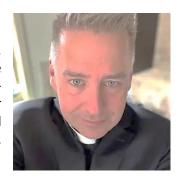
- † Prayer and seeking after God
- † Faith, where Christ and the gospel are proclaimed
- ♣ Outreach to those in need
- ♣ Engagement in the issues that confront us today
- ♣ Love, where all find a warm welcome

Together we will
be an effective
Parish going
further into the
21st century. We
will have a
missional focus
emphasizing our
commitment to
Christ and each
other, and we will
have a passion for
excellence in all
that we do.

From the Rector

Dear Friends in Christ,

As I reflect upon our first full year together, it is with a sense of amazement and thanksgiving. It is a privilege for me to be here at St. George's to minister with you, and I am always very proud of this parish. We have welcomed so many new people and started new ministries over the past year, while continuing to offer vibrant lifegiving worship and an abiding love for each other and our community. Our ministries were carried out with grace, compassion, generosity, and courage. And I believe as you read through this vestry booklet, you will see that we, put simply, focused on what we do so well: loving God and loving our neighbours.



I am continually refreshed and surprised by the ways in which the Holy Spirit is moving amongst us here at St. George's. In particular, I was overjoyed by the number of baptisms we had, including three adults. We included the high altar as part of our worship at Christmas and Easter. We had our first Evensong service in many years, we brought back soup and bun lunches, and just this past week we enjoyed a pancake dinner on Shrove Tuesday.

I believe that throughout the past year, we have strived to be a faith community in which everyone is welcomed and embraced as a brother or sister in Christ. In fact, in lots of ways, we are like a family. I can remember many examples where those who were suffering or grieving were supported and reassured, where those who were in need were taken care of and loved, where those who were lonely or fighting despair were encouraged and prayed for, and where those who had lost heart were lifted up and comforted.

This past year we also welcomed our new music director Jeff Enns in October. Jeff is an incredible musician, composer, and choir director and we are very fortunate to be able to enjoy his many talents and gifts every week. I particularly want to thank Matthias Schmidt for his phenomenal work with us during the transition, as well as all the members of the selection committee. Your patience, dedication, and good humour were sincerely appreciated.

In the year ahead, it is my intention to focus on our formation and spiritual growth as Christians by offering a number of opportunities for us to engage with scripture and learn about our faith through first communion classes, confirmation classes, Christian foundation classes, and open lectures on the New Testament. I believe the careful study of scripture is vital to understanding our faith, and I am very excited by the interesting discussions I'm sure we will have together.

Finally, I wish to express my heartfelt thanks to everyone in the parish for the kindness, love, and support that you have extended to me over the past year. You have made me feel so welcome and I am deeply honoured and truly blessed to be with you and serve you. May God continue to bless us as we love and serve the Lord!

Yours in Christ,

The Rev. Victor Kischak Pastor, Priest & Rector

Wardens' Report

As we reflect on 2023, Victor's inaugural first full year as Rector at St. George's, it's clear the Church has been thriving. We've witnessed plenty of positive transformations, sprinkled with the occasional hurdle gifted by our beautiful but aging building – like that memorable burst water pipe incident!

Personnel

Last summer, we welcomed Jeff Enns as our Director of Music and Organist, after bidding adieu to our interim maestro Matthias Schmidt. Matthias, we owe you a debt of gratitude for your ministry leading up to Jeff's hiring. Once Jeff was on board, he wasted no time in hitting the ground – or should we say, the organ pedals – running. His leadership has attracted new choir members, and his repertoire of choral arrangements has left us in awe.

We also would like to thank Laura McDonald, who oversaw the Director of Music search committee process, in her final project as Past Warden. Laura admirably served with Rani Varkey as Warden for a number of years during Covid, and we greatly appreciate Laura's many contributions.

The Spring of 2023 brought us Maryjane Oussoren, our Rental Coordinator, taking the reins from Ellen Luccock. As Covid slowly fades into the rear-view mirror (fingers crossed), we've seen a gradual uptick in outside activities, thanks in part to Maryjane's efforts.

Andrew Wilson rejoined our Sexton team, marking a homecoming of sorts as he returns to a role he held many moons

ago. Andrew was pleasantly surprised by the upgrades made to the buildings since his last stint!

And let's not forget Ashley Sukhdeo, who stepped in as part-time Sexton while her brother Bryce took a summer sabbatical.

Connections

Ah, Covid, the great disconnector! With the absence of in-person activities, many of us felt adrift. Over the past year, we've seen the resurgence of social gatherings like the Craft Guild, Coldest Night of the Year walk, Pub Nights, and even Pickleball. These events have allowed us to forge new connections and rekindle old friendships outside the Sunday services.

Volunteers

Our volunteers deserve a round of applause – or better yet, a standing ovation! They've been the glue holding our community together, whether ladling out homemade soups at our Soup-and-Buns luncheons, feeding over a hundred hungry souls at Saturday Night Suppers, or sorting through treasures at the Spring Rummage Sale. As St. Peter wisely said, "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others" (1 Peter 4:10).

Governance

The Council of St. George's is made up of Rector, Wardens, Treasurer, Synod Delegates, and Liaisons that represent a broad cross-section of the church. We carry out our mission through a responsive and effective model of governance that gives clear authority and responsibility to the working committees to make and implement appropriate decisions on behalf of the parish in a timely and informed way.

Our governance structure provides a means of effective day-to-day administration that allows the Parish to utilize the best gifts of the Rector in the most appropriate way, and facilitates clear and transparent communication to the Parish while maintaining the authority of decision-making within the appropriate bodies. Always feel free to approach Council with your ideas and concerns.

And we certainly have some gifted folks among us! With **over 100 volunteers last year**, we're seeing a significant uptick in participation, and we couldn't be happier with our collective progress.

One example of enlisting new volunteers comes from Shirley Griffin, who recently became Chancel Guild Coordinator. Shirley has begun recruiting new people to assist with this important ministry.

When speaking about volunteers, how could we not give a shout-out to Jean Mitchell? Jean has tirelessly worked behind the scenes, in addition to providing pastoral care to so many. With her encyclopedic knowledge of all things St. George's, Jean continues to be a treasured resource.

Our hope is that we will continue to see increases in participation in the coming year – should you wish to volunteer in some capacity, please feel free to reach out to any Warden or the Church Office.

Newcomers

Our Parish Photo Directory was published in August, and many parishioners indicated that they love looking at it. It's also been a help for Victor to put faces to names. However, in one sense, it is already out-of-date – and that's a good thing! We've seen a wave of newcomers flocking to St. George's, and we are confident that the next edition of the directory will be even more voluminous.

To welcome these fresh faces, the Wardens hosted a Newcomers' Lunch last fall. Over a spread of sandwiches and munchies (sorry, no fine dining here!), Victor and Susan Tough gave our newcomers a taste of what St. George's is all about. We plan to have another Newcomers' Lunch later this year. Our hope is that all who enter St. George's for the first time will feel welcome and want to come back!

Looking Forward

Ah, yes, the elephant in the room – rising costs. From insurance rates to heating bills, expenses are on the upswing. Recently, our donations have also seen a boost, although we are still playing catch-up, as detailed in the financial report. We humbly ask our generous contributors to keep inflation in mind when making their regular donations.

These donations not only help keep the lights on and support external missions, but they also help fund our programming. For example, following a small financial initiative, we've seen growth in our Church School, with over 20 different children having attended last year. Now that the school has been re-established on a solid foundation, we look forward to developing programming for youth and young adults. We also will continue to work on social and outreach programs — all within the lens of our mission, To Make Jesus Christ Known.

In the words of Jesus, "In my Father's house are many rooms" (John 14:2), and St. George's is no exception – it's a big tent where everyone is welcome. Here's to another year of serving God, fostering community, and meeting spiritual needs together.

Respectfully submitted, Giesela Goetz Bruce Carrick Laura Keller Paul Deacon Rani Varkey

Delegates to Synod

Report on the 149th Synod of the Diocese of Niagara – November 4, 2023

CALLED TO LIFE COMPELLED TO LOVE

Two lay delegates, one youth delegate, and the Rev. Victor Kischak attended the Annual Synod by a Zoom Video Conference on Saturday, November 4, 2023. The theme was "Stewarding God's Gifts for Mission" (1 Peter 4-8).

The agenda included a consent agenda, the Bishop's Charge to Synod, Capital Campaign Feasibility Study update, Mission Action Plan Reflection and an engagement exercise, the auditor's report and the 2024 Diocesan Budget Presentation, plus committee reports, brief Canon changes, and Elections of delegates to Provincial Synod and to Synod Council.

Bishop Susan began her charge by speaking about her choice of the Gospel passage and what it meant for stewarding God's gifts for mission, the theme of the Synod. She shared the many ways the Diocese has been living into this vision by helping 500 refugees to be resettled in Canada in the last decade and Niagara's support of the Primate World Relief & Development Fund and its partners in Ukraine and the Holy Land. The Bishop highlighted our diocesan commitment to the housing crisis locally and the Migrant Farmworkers Project and Mission in Acts in Oakville. She reported on the renewal of the Diocesan Mission Action Plan (MAP). She then turned to the proposed diocesan campaign and the current study which will help to discern whether the diocese should engage in the campaign. The Bishop spoke about the proposed 2024 budget describing it as a significant investment in ministry by developing a budget that reflects the challenges of the coming year, one that keeps expenditures flat despite cost increase, but highlighting the gradual recovery of parish finances. Bishop Susan thanked many people for their hard work and service to the Diocese, the regional deans and archdeacons, the members of the Synod and other diocesan committees. And she announced a number of new appointments and new roles in the diocese.

The Bishop concluded her charge by reminding the members of synod that God calls them to engage in the risk of faith; to become more and more like Christ and to live into the health and diversity of the mixed ecology – mission and tradition – the new and ancient Church. She asked all present to remember that without risk there is no growth and that with a vision, the people flourish.

The conference ended at noon with everyone coming away feeling hopeful about the future of the Anglican Church.

Respectfully submitted,

John Laidlaw, Jeanne Forsythe (lay delegates) and Paige Keller (youth delegate)

Minutes from Vestry Meeting (February 26, 2023)

1. Welcome and Opening Prayer

The Rev. Victor Kischak, Chair of the Vestry Meeting, welcomed everyone, opened the meeting at 11:11 pm and led the Opening Prayer.

2. Approval of Agenda (p.16)

Jeanne Forsythe moved the acceptance of the Agenda; seconded by Patricia Ing. All in favour. None opposed. Carried.

3. Appointment of Vestry Clerk

Bruce Mackenzie was acclaimed as the Vestry Clerk.

4. Approval of Minutes from February 2022 Vestry Meeting and Special Vestry Meeting (pp.11-15)

Nancy Hewat moved that the minutes from the 2022 Vestry Meeting on February 27, 2022, as well as the minutes from the September 18, 2022 Special Vestry meeting, as printed in the Annual Parish Report 2022, be approved; seconded by Michael Nurse. All in favour. None opposed. Carried.

Canon 4.1

In every congregation 1. (a) within the Diocese of Niagara there shall be a Vestry composed of all the baptized members of such congregation of the full age of 16 years, who for at least six months preceding the holding of a Vestry meeting have been identifiably involved in that congregation, through worship, fellowship, and financial support to that congregation, subject to the certification and appeal procedures outlined in 1(b.), (i) and (ii). (as amended, 1986)

5. Reception of All Reports

Paul Deacon moved that all reports in the Annual Parish Report 2022 be received; seconded by Hugh Spencer. All in favour. None opposed. Carried.

6. Rector's Report

Victor Kischak thanked everyone for the warm welcome. He is excited about where we are going as a parish family and appreciates the opportunity to do ministry together.

Ruth Thatcher requested that Victor preach from the pulpit. Victor responded that he can't fit a leaf blower in the pulpit, but he has and will preach from the pulpit during funerals and memorial services.

7. Wardens' Report

Laura McDonald noted that Rani and she are ending their term as Wardens and will be attending meetings of Corporation and perform other duties for one more year as Past Wardens to assist the new Wardens.

The last 6 or 7 years have been a time of transition, which was a challenging time.

We are investing in Children and Youth ministry; this is a priority. This investment includes the new family area at the back of the church.

The church is not static; it is dynamic. It has been an honor and privilege to serve as Wardens.

Rani noted that she was blessed to take on this position for five years. She encouraged people to get involved; getting to know people was the greatest gift to her during this time. She thanked all for their friendship.

8. 2022 Financial Statements (pp.42-50)

a) Approval of Audited Statements

John Laidlaw presented an overview of the financial statements. The Fund Balance is \$3 million. It was difficult to compare years, as last year at this time, the church was still closed. Expenses were \$452,000 – higher than the year before. User group income is listed as a negative expense, as it offsets the income which we report to the Diocese. John noted that we have no control of the DM&M and the cost of insurance. We brought in \$92K less than we expensed, but income from interest helped to offset this. There is a cumulative deficit of \$110,000. We need to look at creative ways to raise money; i.e., rental income. As pandemic restrictions are lessened, other sources of income such as room rentals and the rental of parking spaces are coming back.

Nancy Hewat moved that the 2022 financial statements as printed in the 2022 Annual Report be approved; seconded by Michael Nightingale. All in favour. None opposed. Carried.

- b) Acceptance of Auditor's Report (pp. 40-41) Christine Osborne moved that the Auditor's Report as printed in the 2022 Annual Report be approved; seconded by Dave Goetz. All in favour. None opposed. Carried.
- c) Appointment of Auditors for 2023 John Laidlaw moved that RLB Accounting be appointed as auditors for St. George's for 2023; seconded by Patricia Ing. All in favour. None opposed. Carried.

9. Approval of Nominations to Council (p.17)

Victor read the slate of nominations. Giesela Goetz will be Rector's Warden and Bruce Carrick will be People's Warden. Paul Deacon will be Deputy Rector's Warden and Laura Keller will be Deputy People's Warden. Rani Varkey will be Past People's Warden and Laura McDonald will be Past Rector's Warden. John Laidlaw and Jeanne Forsythe will continue as Lay Delegates to Synod. Michael Nightingale and Laura Keller will be Alternate Delegates to Synod. Paige Keller will be Youth Delegate to Synod, and Ashley Sukhdeo will be Alternate Youth Delegate to Synod. Hannah Keller moved that the Nominees for 2023 Council of St. George's be accepted; seconded by Dave Goetz. All in favour. None opposed. Carried.

10. Presentation of 2023 Parish Operating Budget

Highlights of the 2023 Budget were presented by John Laidlaw. Michael Nightingale moved that the Budget for 2023, as printed in the 2022 Annual Report, be approved; seconded by Matthias Schmidt. All in favour. None opposed. Carried.

11. Enabling Motions

- i) Moved by Dave Goetz; seconded by Patricia Ing: That this vestry authorizes the Incumbent and Churchwardens to consider and, if they deem it advisable, to approve leases, licenses, or space agreements of less than three years inclusive of all renewals AND THAT this authorization shall extend only to agreements that include the following provisions:
 - That the agreement may be terminated by St. George's upon sixty days' notice;
 - The lessee or licensee shall provide proof of liability insurance;
 - The lessee or licensee agrees to abide by the Sexual Abuse and Sexual Harassment policy of the Synod of Niagara;

AND THAT if there is any conflict between this resolution and any authorization or approval resulting from it, it is understood that the Canons of the Diocese of Niagara shall prevail.

All in favour. None opposed. Carried.

- Moved by Dave Goetz, seconded by Patricia Ing: to Empower the Corporation to enter into Site Use Agreements of more than 3 Years
 WHEREAS Workside Early Childhood Education Centre
 - Has provided proof of liability insurance;
 - Has agreed to abide by the Sexual Abuse and Sexual Harassment Policy of the Synod of The Diocese of Niagara;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT this Vestry authorizes the Incumbent and Churchwardens to sign a 10-year renewal (August 1, 2022 to July 31, 2032) of the space use agreement with Workside Early Childhood Education Centre to continue operating under the current terms and conditions presently approved by both Vestry and Synod Council. Reviews of the space usage fees will be undertaken yearly with Workside Early Childhood Education Centre.

The approval of the Bishop and Synod of The Diocese of Niagara will be sought. All in favour. None opposed. Carried.

12. Adjournment and Closing Prayers

The Closing Prayers were led by Victor Kischak. Ella Turnbull moved that the meeting be adjourned. All in favour. The meeting was adjourned at 11:45pm.

Bure Man	Victor Kischal
Bruce Mackenzie, Vestry Clerk	The Rev. Victor Kischak, Rector

Agenda for Annual Vestry Meeting (February 25, 2024)

- 1. Worship 9:30 AM
- 2. Welcome 11:00 AM
- 3. Approval of the Agenda
- 4. Appointment of the Vestry Clerk (Bruce Mackenzie)
- 5. Approval of the Minutes of Annual Vestry Meeting February 26, 2023
- 6. Reception of All Reports
- 7. Rector's Time
- 8. Wardens' Time
- 9. 2023 Financial Statements
 - a. Approval of Audited Statements
 - b. Acceptance of Auditor's Report
 - c. Appointment of Auditors for 2024
- 10. Nominating Report
- 11. Presentation of the 2024 Parish Operating Budget
- 12. Enabling Motions for Space Use agreements

ENABLING MOTIONS FOR VESTRY APPROVAL

1. Short term agreements:

Motion to Empower Corporation to Enter into Site Use Agreements of Less Than 3 Years BE IT RESOLVED

THAT this vestry authorizes the Incumbent and Church wardens to consider and, if they deem it advisable, to approve leases, licenses, or space agreements of less than three years inclusive of all renewals AND THAT this authorization shall extend only to agreements that include the following provisions:

- That the agreement may be terminated by St. George's upon sixty days' notice
- The lessee or licensee shall provide proof of liability insurance
- The lessee or licensee agrees to abide by the Sexual Abuse and Sexual Harassment policy of the Synod of Niagara;

AND THAT if there is any conflict between this resolution and any authorization or approval resulting from it, the Canons of the Diocese of Niagara, it is understood that the Canons shall prevail.

2. Long term agreements or renewals in their fourth year:

Motion to Empower Corporation to Enter into Site Use Agreements of More Than 3 Years WHEREAS Workside Early Childhood Education Centre

- Has provided proof of liability insurance
- Has agreed to abide by the Sexual Abuse and Sexual Harassment Policy of the Synod of The Diocese of Niagara;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT this Vestry authorizes the Incumbent and Churchwardens to sign 10-year renewal (August 1, 2022 to July 31, 2032) of the space use agreement with Workside Early Childhood Education Centre to continue operating under the current terms and conditions presently approved by both Vestry and Synod Council. Reviews of the space usage fees will be undertaken yearly with Workside.

The approval of the Bishop and Synod of The Diocese of Niagara will be sought.

Note: This motion would will be forwarded to Synod Council for its approval before it can take effect.

3. Proposal for remaining funds in the Cuba Church Building Project Cuba Account

<u>Background:</u> Most of the funds in this account were given in memory of Christine Nightingale by almost forty people, half of whom are friends living in the United Kingdom. Christine was actively involved in working with Shirley Griffin, Frances and Jeff Robinson, John Hopkins, Chris Hutchinson-Counsell, and others in arranging a visit from St. George's youth to live with parishioners of Holy Trinity Church in Bermeja, Cuba. The youth included Alayna and Hayden Griffin, as well as John and Philip Nightingale.

Motion:

Moved by Michael Nightingale Seconded by: Shirley Griffin

Be it proposed that the remaining funds of \$2,629.38 in the Cuba Church Building Project be sent to the Diocese of Cuba for the restoration of Holy Trinity Church (La Trinidad) in Bermeja or an adjoining parish where many of the parishioners work in the Cuban sugar fields.

- 13. Announcements and Thank-you's
- 14. Closing Prayer
- 15. Adjournment

Nominations for 2024 Council of St. George's

Rector's Warden Giesela Goetz
People's Warden Bruce Carrick
Deputy Rector's Warden Paul Deacon
Deputy People's Warden Laura Keller
Past People's Warden Rani Varkey
Lay Delegates to Synod John Laidlaw
Nancy Hewat

Alternate Delegates to Synod Michael Nightingale

Youth Delegate to Diocesan Synod Laura Keller
Alternate Youth Delegate to Diocesan Synod Ashley Sukhdeo

Alternate Youth Delegate to Diocesan Synod Ashley Sukhded Council Liaisons:

Outreach & Social Justice Maria Fage
Parish Life Debbie Marchment
Pastoral Care Jean Mitchell
Building & Grounds Harry Oussoren
Treasurer (appointed by Corporation) John Laidlaw

Pastoral Care

As this faith community is the body of Christ trying to extend the hands and heart of Christ into the wider community, pastoral care is a ministry to which every member of St. George's is called. While we have some designated forms of pastoral ministry, we know that there were many incidents where parishioners have quietly and readily responded whenever a situation presented itself.

Besides the informal contacts when individuals have responded pastorally, these are some of the formal aspects of pastoral care throughout the year:

- a) Honorary assistant Barbara Sykes tried to hold a communion service once a month at the Village of Arbour Trails. This service attracted an average of 31 people not only those who live in the retirement home but also others who reside in the wider Arboretum community. Because Barbara lives in the Arboretum, she tried to keep us informed about pastoral needs whenever she became aware of them.
- b) Besides making telephone contact throughout the year, we sent Easter cards to those who were unable to join us in church because of the frailties of age or illness. We were able to restart the "Christmas Caring Tree" where parishioners took a card and a small gift to those who are no longer able to join us on Sundays. Over thirty visitors participated in this ministry. Often the lives of the visitors are enriched as much as those of the ones they visited.
- c) During the weekly intercessions at both Sunday services, we remembered in prayer those who had special needs hospitalization, ongoing illness or other challenges and those who had died.
- d) Each week, the members of our Prayer Chain received an email with the names of people who were in need of our prayers. This is a ministry of prayer in which anyone can participate as you can do so while being in the comfort of your own home. If you wish to become part of this ministry, please mail the church office (office@saintgeorge.ca) or Jean Mitchell (priestassistant@saintgeorge.ca).
- e) We reached out to families who experienced the death of a loved one during the past year by sending them cards at both Easter and Christmas. Several of these families were able to join us for in-person services on the Sunday when we celebrated All Saints' Day and remembered their loved ones by name in the context of each liturgy. I check the obituaries of the local funeral homes online on a regular basis so that we are aware when there has been the death of a close family member parent, sibling, close relative and then try to make contact with the family so that we can include the name of the deceased person in our Sunday intercessions and in our list on All Saints' Day.
- f) With the Children and Youth Committee, we reached out to 26 university/college students with a connection to St. George's by sending them "care packages" near the end of each semester when they were facing the stress of completing assignments and writing final exams. Some of the students, particularly those who are living away from home, said how much they appreciated this support.
- g) A few people have reached out to those who can no longer come to church on their own by providing a ride for them on Sunday mornings. This arrangement was set up informally with individuals who live nearby or on their way to church.

- h) The clergy have tried to keep in touch with those who have been in greater need because of serious illness or injury, at the time of the death of a loved one, etc. It is encouraging to know that some regular contact continued to be made among members of Chi Rho, Chancel Guild, Book Club, the Choir and former members of Parish Guild, and that there were a number of parishioners who have regularly kept in contact with one another.
- i) An integral part of our pastoral ministry was carried out by our dedicated teams of videographers as our on-line Sunday services provided a weekly contact with those unable to come to worship with us. If any parishioners do not have a home computer, there are still some iPads available to be set up for anyone who wishes to participate in our on-line services which can be seen on YouTube. Contact the church office (office@saintgeorge.ca) if you know of someone who would benefit from having one.

Whenever there are particular situations of which the clergy should be aware, we ask that you contact the church office as soon as possible. If the office is closed, please do not hesitate to call Victor (1-519-505-0499) or me (519-824-2066) so that we can respond appropriately. The written notes, telephone calls, and emails that we received from appreciative recipients attest to how much the care and prayerful support of the parish has meant to them.

With blessings on our continuing ministry together,
Jean Mitchell, Priest Assistant and Liaison for Pastoral Ministry

Church Life

St. George's Church had the opportunity to be the spiritual home for many people in their significant passages of life.

Baptisms

"We receive you into the household of God. Confess the faith Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, and share with us in his eternal priesthood."

Henrik Ude Rosairus-Wilburn
Sophia Isabel Baker
Riley TJ Young
John Brody Young
Miles Finley Townsend
Mmesomachi Amari Ugoji
Scott Mark Wilson
Logan Daniel McLellan
Donald Bruce McLellan

Marriages

"May they so live together that the strength of their love may enrich our common life and become a sign of your faithfulness."

Erin Michelle Phillips & Thomas Josef Rolf

In Memoriam

"Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them.

Mary Buchan-Rae Stuart Rae Douglas Evan Millikin Nancy Elizabeth Walcot Mary Lorine Rogers Mark Gordon McDonald Patricia Wiggins Phyllis Shute John Price Readman Robert Alan Logan Doreen Ann Finlayson Joan Ethel Robinson Roger Langrick Ellis Gordon Harry Barnes Bruce Allan Wayne Billings Brian Rothwell
Howard Douglas Robinson
Helen Gertrude Brimmell
Gerald Day
Freda Gertrude Dean
Winnifred Ruth Jones
Gordon Richard Walls



Saturday Night Suppers at Royal City Mission

Parish Statistics

Services	2023	2022
Total Services	187	175
Holy Communion Services (including those with only spiritual communion)	155	154
Services at Retirement Homes/ Long-term Care	11	8
Baptisms	9	0
Confirmations	0	3
Weddings	1	2
Funerals	17	21

Average Weekly Attendance	In-Person + Online = Total	
	2023	2022
8:30 am Sunday	29 + 41 = 70	24 + 32 = 56
10:30 am Sunday	83 + 94 = 177	61 + 91 = 152
10:00 am Wednesday	11 + - = 11	10 + - = 10
Totals	123 + 135 = 258	95 + 123 = 218

Special Services	In-Person + Online = Total	
	2023	2022
Holy Week and Easter Attendance	609 + 627 = 1,236	471 + 478 = 949
Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Attendance	528 + 501 = 1,029	379 + 472 = 851

Parish Roll	2023	2022
Total Number of Households*	522	523
Total Number of Individuals (Souls)*	1,193	1,180
Number of Identifiable Regular Donors	240	238

^{*}Includes both active and peripheral members

Worship, Music and Faith Formation

The term Worship, Music and Faith Formation covers a number of ministries at St. George's. These include the choir and choral scholars, communion assistants, live-streaming, children's and youth ministry, the carillonneurs, servers, chancel guild, hospitality/greeters, readers, and adult Bible study.

Music Director's Report

The first time that I was at St. George's and played the organ was when I was nineteen years old. I fell in love with the instrument and thought that someday I would like to be the music director at the church. It has taken me a number of decades to realize that dream, and I am thrilled to be making music with other wonderful people at St. George's.

In many ways it seems like I have been at St. George's for much longer than four months, and I do mean that in a good way. My arrival in October felt like quite a smooth transition. The choir was very welcoming, as was the congregation. Matthias Schmidt was incredibly helpful in answering my many questions about how things worked and what had been going on musically in the past years. I was already great friends with Victor, and we had worked together for a number of years at Holy Saviour in Waterloo, so it was a wonderful reunion to be able to minister together again.

I have inherited some wonderful choral scholars, and continue to be very thankful for their presence. Laura Fleming, Megan Smith, Lucy Gouthro and Fin Janleigh continue to enhance our choir and worship services weekly. This continues to be possible thanks to the money set aside in the annual operating budget and the Gilmor Fund, which was initiated by Valerie Gilmor in memory of her late husband Pauls' strong support for this musical initiative.

The choir has resumed Thursday night rehearsals, as well as rehearsals on Sunday mornings before the service. This has enabled us to have more time to rehearse more challenging repertoire, which in turn serves to enhance our worship service. We have welcomed some new members into the choir and our numbers are anywhere between eight and twenty-two.

Some musical highlights of the past four months have been including trumpet and bagpipes in our Remembrance Day service, a wonderful Advent Lessons and Carols service, multiple services on Christmas Eve and Day, and the re-introduction of monthly Evensong. Evensong is a particular favourite of mine and I will look forward to continuing this beautiful service in the coming months and establishing it as a tradition at St. George's. The choir has also been essential to encourage more singing throughout the liturgy, including singing of the Psalms, the Lord's Prayer and the Agnus Dei.

I look forward to continuing the long tradition of choral excellence at St. George's as we move into the season of Lent and look forward to Easter.

Jeff Enns, Organist and Music Director

Report from the Carillonneur

We continue to enjoy the blessing of our carillon bells. The regular Sunday addition of carillon bells before the 10:30 service seems to be well received by the congregation, judging from comments provided.

We have had several Sunday concerts provided by Deborah Hennig, a highly-trained and much accomplished carillonneur now living in Stratford. The weather did not support our intention to have an audience sitting outside on a pleasant spring to summer day, but for those brave enough, the music was the reward for their tenacity.

With assistance of funds provided for the project, we were able to bring Dr. Andrea McCrady from Ottawa to play on Sunday June 7 for the Coronation weekend. The Dominion Carillon is still not playable as significant restoration work is going on in the Parliament Buildings and the Peace Tower.

Another university carillon group, this time from University of Chicago, have a tour scheduled to Ontario this spring, and will visit us on Monday, March 11 in the afternoon. They play a 100-ton instrument, so it will be interesting to visit with them here at St. George's.

I am enjoying both our new Rector Rev. Victor Kischak and the new organist Jeff Enns as very significant additions to the future of the parish and our musical journey.

Don Hamilton, Carillonneur

Live-Streaming Report

St. George's continues to live-stream all services on YouTube. We also have been able to provide live-streaming services for funerals when requested. Since live-streaming began in March 2020, we have maintained a steady and loyal group of viewers (our online congregation) who tune in every week. And many of our older parishioners who are shut in enjoy the chance to go to church, from home.

The ATEM system that was installed in 2021 continues to provide us with the ability to live-stream quality video productions of our services. Towards the end of the year, we upgraded the laptop used for live-streaming, and added some battery back-up to guard against blips in power. Our internet speed was upgraded as well. All these changes have resulted in a much smoother and less "glitchier" broadcast each week.

Our video team consists of Nancy Hewat, Paul Deacon, Bruce Carrick, John Laidlaw, and Laura Keller. We look forward to expanding the capabilities of the system and would love to have more members on our team.

Respectfully submitted, Laura Keller

Chancel Guild

As we enter into a post-Covid era, the Chancel Guild has been rebuilding this past year in order to best continue its role in preparing and tending to the altar and chancel areas as well as maintaining all of the linens, brass, and eucharistic vessels. This is a ministry of love undertaken in the name of Christ working in partnership with the rector. We offer our heartfelt and sincere gratitude to Hazel Smith who retired in her role as director this year. Hazel's dedication, resilience, kindness, and faithfulness continue to inspire us as we reflect upon and give thanks for her ministry with us. Shirley Griffin has now taken on the role of director as we continue to rebuild and train new members.

Chancel Guild Report

January - December 31, 2023

Revenue	
Donations	\$500.00
Total Revenue	\$500.00
Expenses	
Flowers	0
Total Expenses	0
Excess (deficiency) of Revenue over Expenses	\$500.00
Fund Balance, beginning of year	\$5,952.89
Fund Balance, as of December 31, 2023	\$6,452.89
Respectfully submitted by Tracy Jewell, Bookkeepe	r

Children and Youth at St. George's

The Children & Youth Committee is a group of nine. We have met throughout the year to coordinate and deliver programs for our younger parishioners ranging from ages 4 to 24.

We focus on the following three age groups: Young children 4-10, Youth 11-17 and University/College 18-24.

Hannah Keller continues in her role as Church School Coordinator at our 10:30 a.m. service. We have a core group of children who attend Church School. We have enjoyed watching them grow and learn about our Christian faith under the enthusiastic leadership of Hannah and her helpers.

Our Church School's refurbishing was a long overdue project that was completed in the summer of 2023 to make a more inviting space for our children and youth.

To support our university/college parishioners, we assembled and delivered "care packages" in the fall and spring to help alleviate stress at the beginning of the school year and during exams.

Prayer shawls were also given to first year university/college students to remind them of their connection to St. George's and that they are an integral part of our congregation.

Our goal is to pass along God's love through kindness as we continue to reach out and connect with our children and youth.

We look forward to further discussions and exploring creative ways to keep this vital ministry growing.

Respectfully submitted, Debbie Marchment, Chairperson

Church School

The past year has been such an exciting time for children's faith formation at St. George's. The children of the parish were kept busy with weekly lessons that covered both Bible stories and liturgical traditions. Some activities included making pancakes to learn about the Season of Lent, planting bean seeds to explore the Parable of the Sower and throwing a Pentecost party to mark the birthday of the Church. The spring saw the Church School conclude its third and final term of the school year on June 25th, 2023 with an End-of-Year Party.

While weekly lessons were on break for July and August, Church School's ministry continued into the summer by offering a (Vacation Bible School) VBS-in-a-Box program. Twenty-four packages were distributed to children across the parish, each containing eight interactive lessons that explored the Lord's

Prayer, the Sermon on the Mount, the Book of Psalms, and the Parable of the Good Shepherd along with the stories of Ruth & Naomi, David & Goliath, Queen Esther, and the Prophet Noah.

The classroom space also underwent a large refurbishment process while class was out. The large and cumbersome table, along with the bulky metal cabinet and large altar were removed. The room was then decluttered, and most items were moved out to allow the room to painted. A new bookshelf, Lego play desk and set of folding tables were added to the space and the



carpeting was deep cleaned. This was a major task, but it has helped to breathe new life and energy into the space. A very special thank-you to Elizabeth Adams, Harry Oussoren, Ella Turnbull, and Toni Atieh for their tireless support during the process.

Classes recommenced on September 10th and are planned to run until mid-June of 2024. The Spark All Kids program continues to be the primary curriculum for the year. Highlights from the fall term included a Godly Play lesson on the Creation story, attending a service for the sacrament of Holy Baptism, an Advent wreath-making event and a pageant put on by the children of St. George's on Christmas Eve.

We currently have 27 children registered for this year and average 3 to 9 students on any given Sunday morning. While consistency in attendance continues to be a work in progress, the enthusiasm of the children for both the Good News and the spiritual life of the parish is undeniable. We have also witnessed how this ministry has brought newcomers to our parish, who had been seeking out a place where both parent and child can grow in faith and spirit. Looking to the future, we hope to deepen our faith-formation capacity by incorporating a more varied and interactive curriculum.

Finally, St. George's Church School would not be able to run without the continual enthusiasm and volunteer support of teaching assistants. This team consists of John Laidlaw, Laura Keller, Kateri Fage and Paige Keller. We are always looking to grow our team and expand our missional reach even farther. If you are interested in taking part in this transformational ministry, please feel free to stop by our classroom after a Sunday Service to talk about joining our lessons.

Respectfully submitted, Hannah Keller, Church School Coordinator

Parish Life

As our Parish Life representative, I am the liaison between Council and Chi Rho, Book Club, Crafting Guild and Chancel Guild. I ensure there is an open dialogue between Council and these important church groups.

We are excited to be meeting in person once again. This has been a year of rebuilding and getting reacquainted after the pandemic.

New parishioners are always welcome as we look for opportunities to grow our membership.

- Debbie Marchment

Chi Rho Fellowship

St. George's Chi Rho Fellowship went through tremendous change in 2023!

As Covid ended, our group wondered what was truly in store for us. Membership had dropped during those 3 years, and – with the decision made to meet in the daytime, adequate space was no longer available at St. George's. What to do?

With quick thinking, a few queries were made, and here we are – still a vibrant group but now comprised of all three Guelph Anglican churches. Gathering under the St. George's Chi Rho Fellowship umbrella, parishioners from All Saints' (formerly St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran and St. David/St. Patrick Anglican), and Church of the Apostles (formerly St. James, and St. Matthias) have joined in the fun! Chi Rho now meets for our inside gatherings in the activity room of All Saints. Our members are revitalized and back once more to participating in exciting activities on the second Thursday afternoon of each month.

Programmes have included the Director of the Humane Society who gave an overview of our new Animal Shelter on Hanlon Blvd. In the fall, a member of our Police Force Fraud team provided insightful information on self-protection for seniors. Another meeting focused on cards and board games. We also attended a group noon luncheon at the north-end Swiss Chalet. Our new Rector of one year, Victor Kischak, also spoke to us about his life journey. And, for a wrap-up in December, Rocky Mumford from Einstein's catered a delicious turkey Christmas Dinner!

For 2024, a variety of activities are scheduled. In Lent, Rev. Brian Wilker from All Saints will lead a discussion on commonalities and differences between our Anglican and Lutheran denominations. Some other pursuits ... an outing to our wonderful Riverside Park for a social gathering including a brown bag lunch, a trip to the colourful Butterfly Conservatory, and yet another learning adventure to the Wellington Museum in Aboyne are planned. Please check our bulletin board to see what is next for St. George's Chi Rho Fellowship.

We would love to have you join – new members are always welcome!

Respectfully submitted, Susan Pulleyblank, Secretary

Chi Rho Fellowship Financial Statement For the year ended December 31, 2023

\$ 150.00
\$238.80
\$ 35.00
\$1,080.00
\$1,503.80
\$ 300.00
\$ 100.00
\$ 115.80
\$ 60.00
\$ 10.70
<u>\$ 935.86</u>
\$1,521.83
(\$18.03)
\$1,083.87
\$1,065.84

Book Club

St. George's Book Club continued to meet on the third Tuesday of the month. At the same time, we incorporated a hybrid meeting style, whereby members could participate with attendance in the Church Library or via Zoom – whichever worked best for them.

We read a variety of books from well-known authors to some not so well known. Our discussions are very lively, thought provoking and entertaining. Everyone has an opportunity to share his/her thoughts on the current book we are reading. We welcomed 3 new members and now have 11 active members.

The list of books we are currently reading is posted on the Bulletin Board in the Cloister.

Respectfully submitted, Audrey Conway, Treasurer

Respectfully submitted,

Anne McGee

Social Justice and Outreach

Saturday Night Suppers

Royal City Mission offers meal programs and support services to the most vulnerable in our community. In past years St. George's has supported the drop-in meal program through the purchase, preparation and serving of the Saturday Night Suppers three times each year. The goal of these meals is to provide a full and nutritious meal at no cost, in a safe and loving environment, to anyone in the community who is in need.

In 2023, we returned to full in-person meal service. We have had a tremendous volunteer response and have had no problem with finding ample coverage for all volunteer roles such as meal preparation, food serving and clean-up. We are grateful for the involvement of so many members of the St. George's community in making each Saturday Night Supper a success.

Over the course of 2023, meals were served on April 1, July 29 and November 11. The number of meals served has rebounded back to pre-pandemic levels, with approximately 120 meals served at the most recent supper. The staff at the Royal City Mission has asked that we plan for approximately 150 meals for future suppers as the need for this outreach is expected to continue to grow in the future.

Refugee Sponsorship

In collaboration with St. James' Anglican Church in Dundas and the Refugee Office at the Diocese, St. George's supported the application for a Syrian family of 3 (mother and two young adult sons). In early 2023, confirmation was received that the family's applications were accepted by Immigration Canada. Regular contact was maintained with the family through their extended family who live in Guelph. St. George's held the family in prayer each week during the Prayers of the People. At the end of 2023 the family continued to wait to be issued visas.

Coldest Night of the Year (CNOY)

St. George's participated in the CNOY walk on February 25, 2023. CNOY is a national fundraising effort in support of local charities serving people who are experiencing hunger, hurt or homelessness. Fifteen parishioners and friends came out to walk either the 2km or 5km routes. Fundraising efforts by the walkers and other supporters raised \$6,355 for Hope House. St. George's had a friendly competition among downtown churches, and emerged as the top fundraiser.

Respectfully submitted, Maria Fage



Social Justice and Outreach Report

Fiscal Year ~ January - December 2023

Revenue

Donation	\$737.38
Soup & Buns	\$1,048.80
Rummage Sale	\$1,935.81
	\$3,721.99

Expenditures Saturday Night Suppers	\$868.77
Soup & Buns	\$259.90
	\$1,128.67
Excess (deficiency) of Revenue over Expenditure	\$2,593.32
Fund Balance, beginning of year	\$9,281.57
Fund Balance, as at December 31, 2023	\$11,874.89

Respectfully submitted, Tracy Jewell, Bookkeeper



Pub Night at the Woolwich Arms

Finance, Operations & Communications

This year we added Maryjane Oussoren to our staff in a newly revamped role of Rentals Co-Ordinator, and Andrew Wilson joined our Sexton team. There continues to be much demand in keeping the buildings and grounds well maintained and we thank Harry Oussoren (Chair) and the Building & Grounds Committee for their diligent oversight and care.

Building & Grounds Committee

Members of the committee in 2023 were Bruce Carrick (warden), Steve Conway, Victor Kischak (exofficio), Michael Nightingale, Harry Oussoren (chair).

The following is a list of building items which were identified and addressed in 2023:

- The boilers in the main building were serviced with repairs ongoing.
- The kitchen near the office was painted.
- Water penetration with consequent deterioration of the plaster at the north window has been observed. While the problem does not appear to be getting worse, plans call for the parapets to be clad in metal to minimize water penetration.
- The condition of the east window appears to be stable. Repairs to the plaster will be delayed until the work on the north window is completed.
- Ongoing inspections of the kitchen, the elevator, the fire protection the heating systems have passed the minimum requirements.
- Twelve parking places are being rented weekly which generates about \$22,000 in revenue. In addition, rental of parking spaces during Guelph Storm games generates about \$7,000.
- The walls of the cloister were painted.
- The north exterior wall of Mitchell Hall was painted to remove graffiti. A security camera has been set up and a sign advising of such has been posted.
- The light bulbs in Mitchell Hall and in the chapel have been replaced. The original power consumption was about 6,000 watts using incandescent bulbs and this has been reduced to about 1,300 watts using LED bulbs.
- A locking crash bar has been installed on the double door leading to Mitchell Hall. This was done to restrict access when the back doors are unlocked before services.
- Blistered paint in the nave ceiling (light and dark blue) have been removed and the areas repainted. Also, blisters on the upper nave wall (beige) have been repaired. Blisters in the south transept ceiling are too high to access without powered equipment or extensive scaffolding.
- The door to the Church School room has been repaired and the room painted,
- Workside has replaced some of the floors in the former rectory.
- It was decided that there is no need for a sexton to be on duty when long-time renters (AA and TaiChi) use the building. This will result in lowered staffing costs.

Going forward, planning is in place to:

- move the audio-visual controls to the back of the nave,
- clad the parapet walls above the north window,
- with the help of the Guelph fire Department, make the fire plan current. Training of staff and wardens is planned for March.
- paint the gingerbread at the rectory,
- continue efforts to discourage local artists from using the north wall as a canvas by erecting a fence and placing more angular stones along the wall.

Thanks go to Toni Atieh, Andrew Wilson, Bryce Sukhdeo for their continued care of the buildings and Ella Turnbull and Elizabeth Adams for assistance with painting, and to the members of the committee for their continued support.

Respectfully submitted, Harry Oussoren, P.Eng. Facilities manager Chair, Building and Grounds Committee



Rentals Co-ordinator's Report

2023 saw more activity with ongoing rentals. Ongoing rentals continued for: Tai Chi, Miss Eggroll, AA and Tango. New ongoing rentals include: The Great Big Theatre company, a yoga group, and a rehearsal venue for the Elora Singers. Currently, we have ongoing rentals every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings as well as Saturday mornings.

One-off rentals for 2023 included the Kiwanis Music Festival, The Elora Singers Concert and The Guelph Youth Music Singers Spring Concert. There were also a few Christmas Markets in the Fall.

Our Parking lot is rented out for Storm games – thanks to Rani Varkey for organizing a 'Parking Attendant' for every game.

We will be reviewing and re-examining our rental rates this Spring due to the significant increase in costs to us.

Respectfully submitted,

Maryjane Oussoren, Rentals Co-ordinator

Stewardship Committee

The Stewardship Committee for 2023 consisted of Laura Keller, the Rev. Victor Kischak, John Laidlaw, Ella Turnbull and Jeanne Forsythe. We worked hard to encourage parishioners to identify their gifts, to be grateful for these gifts, to use them responsibly, to share them lovingly and to return them back to God. We also planned some fun events!

Highlights from this year include:

- The return of our **Rummage Sale!** Donations to the sale were almost overwhelming there was no shortage of items to sell. We had a small army of volunteers over several days to help sort items, sell items, and then pack up the leftovers after the sale. Unfortunately, the weather on the day of the sale did not cooperate, with monsoon-like rains for most of the day. We still ended up generating a little over \$1,900 in sales and will certainly try again this year. Save the dates of April 20-21, 2024, and pray for sunshine.
- Soup and Buns Lunches returned in 2023, with lunches happening in both April and October. Funds generated from these two events support the Saturday Night Suppers ministry. Again, many thanks for the folks who help set up, make soup, clean up, and come for lunch. Without you, these lunches couldn't happen.
- Our first **Apple Fundraiser** took place in September, with moderate interest. The feedback from those who took part was very good, and we will hold another apple fundraiser in the fall.
- **Giving Tuesday** once again demonstrated the generosity of our parish. Although we fell short of our goal, we still managed to raise \$12,997.91 in one day! Every penny from Giving Tuesday goes to support our operating budget so that we can continue to grow our ministries and other programs. Again, Giving Tuesday will certainly be something we participate in this year so save that date, too December 3, 2024!

How else can you support St. George's financially?

- 1. Pre-authorized Giving
- 2. E-transfer to bookkeeper@saintgeorge.ca
- 3. Credit or Debit card
- 4. Stock / Share Transfer
- 5. Planned giving / Legacy giving
- 6. Donation Envelopes contact the office
- 7. Online on our website through Canada Helps, Facebook "Donate Now"

Pre-Authorized Giving

Please consider participating in the PAG (Pre-Authorized Giving) program at St George's Anglican Church. How it works:

- You authorize the church to take a given amount from your bank account at regular intervals.
- Amounts can be changed at any time.

How it helps St George's Church:

- The consistent flow of funds helps with the budgeting process for the Corporation.
- We could go "green" as there would be no need for envelopes or cheques.
- Frees up your time and energy as there would be no need for you to write cheques.
- Church would not have to spend time and fees to deposit your cheques.
- Reduces the need for playing catch up at the end of the year.

Extra gifts can be given in the special envelopes that are distributed at Lent, Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas. Please talk to Tracy Jewell, our Bookkeeper, or look for the forms on our website.

Stock or Share Transfer

Donate your securities to the Church. The fair market value is determined on the day the securities are received and sold by the Church. There may be benefits to you donating stock to the Church as it can help you save on capital gains tax.

How does this work? For example, if you bought 10 shares in a company at \$50/share and they are now worth \$100/share, you would have a capital gains of \$50/share. If you donate those shares to St. George's, your donation would be valued at \$1,000. You could then take the \$1,000 cash you would have given to the Church and invest it. You would get a tax receipt of \$1,000 and eliminate the capital gains.

Download the form from the website or contact the office.

Planned Giving / Legacy Giving

For many of you, the work of Christ in today's world through the Church is an important part of your lives. Thus, you are regular contributors to St. George's Church through your regular offerings for the general operating budget of the church and through the various special appeals. You usually make these donations from your regular source of income.

While you enjoy the benefits of your assets during your lifetime, you can plan now for how they will be used after your death. Family and friends are at the heart of such a plan and you need to make sure that they are looked after, but please also consider how you can continue to help with the work of the Church in the future.

This is where Planned Giving comes in. In simple terms, Planned Giving is a way of ensuring the ongoing mission and ministry of the Church from your accumulated assets. A Planned Gift is a deferred gift; that is, you decide now how your assets will be used later.

The simplest form of Planned Giving is to remember St. George's Church in your Will. If you should decide to leave a bequest to St. George's in your Will, you would simply state: I hereby give, devise, and bequeath to the Corporation of St. George's Church, 99 Woolwich Street, Guelph, (here state the nature

or amount of the gift). This is relatively straightforward and may also provide some tax benefits for your estate.

You could also continue to remember St. George's through either an annuity or a life insurance policy. These options may provide tax benefits for you today, give you a guaranteed income for life, or enable you to give a significant future gift at a modest cost to you now.

You may want to contact the Bookkeeper or Treasurer for additional information. They will gladly discuss, in confidence, any questions or concerns that you may have.

Please prayerfully consider some of these Planned Giving options when you are doing your personal planning.

CanadaHelps & Facebook

With CanadaHelps, you can now give with your credit card. This convenient option allows people to give a one-time or regular payments and collect points on their credit card! CanadaHelps is also able to handle stock transfers in a secure way. Tax donation receipts are emailed at the time of the gift directly to the giver, or you can log into your personal account to access donation receipts at any time. Go to www.saintgeorge.ca and click on "Donate Now" or use your mobile device to click on the QR code.



You can also click the "Donate Now" button on our Facebook page.

Respectfully submitted, Laura Keller

Christmas Market Report

The St. George's Christmas Market took place on December 3, 2023, with many much-loved features such as the Penny Table, the Raffle Basket, the Craft Table, Tea-Room-to-Go Boxes, and the Children's Market.

We added a Christmas Café this year, which allowed guests to have a seat and enjoy a free cup of coffee or tea, or to purchase a butter tart. This proved to be very popular with guests and will certainly be expanded next year to include a few more tables. We also offered tours of the church sanctuary for the first time. Several people took advantage of the opportunity and enjoyed learning about our beautiful building.

The Baking and Preserves Table made a welcome return to the Christmas market. The baking was a huge hit, but the star of the show was St. George's famous mincemeat! Attic Treasures also returned and was very successful – there wasn't much left by the end of the market!

The Tea-Room-to-Go Boxes were a big hit again this year with over 130 boxes being sold. We also had 20 outside vendors join us and most have already asked to return in 2024.

All our hard work paid off – this year our market generated \$6,484.82 in net revenue for our church, which is a 45% increase in one year! A huge thank-you goes out to the many, many folks who helped put the day together, especially our planning committee of Don Hamilton, Donna Kentner, Brenda King, John Laidlaw, Sue Makwich, Karen Mantel, Debbie Marchment, Stephanie Power, Brenda Roelofsen, Earla Smith, Wilda Waldron, and Jan Wilson.

Respectfully submitted, Laura Keller

Christmas Market

Fiscal Year ~ January - December 2023

Revenue	
Market Proceeds	\$8,438.18
	\$8,438.18
Form and distance	
Expenditure	
Market Expenses	\$1,953.36
	\$1,953.36
Excess of Revenue over Expenditure	\$6,484.82
Fund Balance, beginning of year	\$1,209.15
Fund Balance, as at December 31, 2023	\$7,693.97

Respectfully submitted, Tracy Jewell

Treasurer's Report

In 2023 St. George's has had its first full year with Victor and without Covid. Attendance at the various services was up and with that, the givings to the church, while many parishioners watch the services online. We also had a very successful Christmas season with the weather cooperating this year.

Weekly Collections were up for the first time in years by almost \$6K over 2022. This may not seem like a large increase, but the numbers are now heading in the right direction, and we need to keep the momentum going. Most of that increase was due to Giving Tuesday and a substantial increase in open collections. Harvest was also up slightly, but Easter, Lent and Christmas were down, and the total Festival line was down from 2022. Other revenue is up considerably from 2022 as we now have a rental agreement for some of our parking spaces during the week. This rental agreement along with charging for event parking for Storm games and events at the River Run Centre helped to bring in over \$20K in 2023. Total income was \$374,846 which is up from \$359,872 in 2022 and only \$8K off the budget. Again, this is the first time in many years that the overall income has gone up and we have come this close to making the budgeted income.

The income we receive from groups that use our building has continued to come back after the last lockdown ended. Rental income of \$69K from Workside Early Childcare Centre helped to offset expenses. Other user income was up slightly to \$18K, bringing the total income from outside users to almost \$85K. We hope to bring in even more income from outside users in 2024 to help offset building expenses. All the funds received from these sources are used to offset expenses and are not shown as income. Without this income, our finances would be much worse off.

Two of our largest expenses are non-discretionary and out of our control – those being our insurance and our Diocesan assessment (DM&M). The Diocesan assessment was down \$14K from 2022 totaling \$82K. Although it may look positive that this expense is down, it was because our income had been dropping and not due to a decrease in the percentage of income taken. There was a significant increase in our insurance cost again this year - up \$7.5K to \$82K – an increase about the same as the previous year.

It will come as no surprise that inflation has hit St. George's, as it has all of us. Our Buildings and Grounds expenses were up over \$31K due to an increase in the costs of natural gas, insurance, and repairs and supplies. This line has been increased in the budget going forward to reflect these increases, while we continue to look for ways to reduce these expenses.

Although our income was up overall, our expenses exceeded our income for the operations at St. George's totaling \$114,027. This was an increase of about \$21K from 2022. A sum of \$36,467 was moved from the Mission & Ministry funds to help offset the deficit reducing it to \$77,561. This amount will be covered by cash reserves. This will bring our cumulative deficit to \$188,304.

Thanks to the dedication and generosity of our parishioners, St. George's has started to recover from several years of declining income and is in better shape than most Anglican churches. Thankfully, the Church has now started to get back to normal. With more and more parish activities starting and restarting, we will be able to get the Church's finances back in order.

Respectfully submitted, John Laidlaw

Financial Statements

St George's Anglican Church Financial Statements Year Ended December 31, 2023

(With comparative figures for the year ended December 31, 2022)

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Clergy, Church Wardens and Parishioners of: St. George's Anglican Church

Qualified Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of St. George's Anglican Church, which comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 2023 and the statements of revenues and expenditures and fund balances for the operating fund, capital fund, restricted funds, and legacy fund and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, except for the effects of the matters described in the Basis for Qualified Opinion paragraph, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of St. George's Anglican Church as at December 31, 2023 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not for profit organizations.

Basis for Qualified Opinion

In common with many not for profit organizations, the Church derives some of the revenues from donations, the completeness of which is not susceptible to satisfactory audit verification. Accordingly, our verification of these revenues was limited to the amounts recorded in the records of the Church and we were not able to determine whether any adjustments might be necessary to donation revenue, deficiency of revenues over expenditures and cash flows from operations for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, current assets as at December 31, 2023 and 2022, and net assets as at January 1 and December 31 for both the 2023 and 2022 years. Our audit opinion on the financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2022 was modified because of the possible effects of this limitation in scope.

Canadian accounting standards for not for profit organizations require that capital assets be recorded at fair value the date of contribution when fair value can be reasonably determined. Capital assets of the Church are expensed in the year of purchase. The fair value of the land and buildings and net assets invested in capital assets cannot be determined.

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of St. George's Anglican Church in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our qualified audit opinion.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not for profit organizations and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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GUELPH OFFICE 103-197 HANLON CREEK BLVD, GUELPH, ON * TEL: 519-822-9933 * FAX: 519-822-9212 * RLB.CA

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Church's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to a going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Church or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Church's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements, as a whole, are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are
 appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of
 the Church's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Church's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Church to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Guelph, Ontario February 15, 2024 Chartered Professional Accountants Licensed Public Accountants

St. George's Anglican Church Statement of Financial Position As At December 31, 2023

ASSETS	Operating <u>Fund</u>	V.000000	oital <u>ınd</u>	Restricted <u>Fund</u>	Legacy <u>Fund</u>	2023 <u>Total</u>	2022 <u>Total</u>
Current Assets Petty cash Royal Bank (See Note 3) Miscellaneous receivables and prepaids Receivable from other funds Investment savings account (Note 4)	\$ 100 - 8,919 - - 9,019			\$ - - 92,450 - 92,450	\$ - 183,757 - 366,210 98,550 648,517	\$ 100 183,757 8,919 458,660 98,550 749,986	\$ 100 200,843 27,384 414,812 10,202 653,341
Long Term Investments (Note 5) Diocesan Investment Fund Guaranteed investment certificates RBC Dominion Securities Canadian portfolio USA portfolio Global portfolio Anniversary Lecture Fund GIC's	- - - - - - \$ 9,019	\$	-	- - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -	774,970 281,404 1,003,619 827,706 236,853 3,124,552 \$ 3,773,069	774,970 281,404 1,003,619 827,706 236,853 - 3,124,552 \$ 3,874,538	692,702 351,807 948,757 667,226 210,208 3,000 2,873,700 \$ 3,527,041
Current Liabilities Accounts payable Clearing accounts (See Note 7) Payable to other funds Fund Balances	\$ - 45,489 151,834 197,323 (188,304 \$ 9,019	30	- 06,826 06,826 06,826)	\$ - - - - - 92,450 \$ 92,450	\$ - - - - 3,773,069 \$ 3,773,069	\$ - 45,489 458,660 504,149 3,370,389 \$ 3,874,538	\$ 17,954 39,901 414,812 472,667 3,054,374 \$ 3,527,041
Approved on behalf of the Corporation:	<u> </u>	7		Z	16		

The notes and schedules form an integral part of these financial statements

People's Warden

St. George's Anglican Church Operating Fund

Statement of Revenue, Expenditure and Fund Balance Year Ended December 31, 2023

Revenues (Schedule 1)		Budget 2024 naudited)	Actual 2023	Budget 2023 (Unaudited)		Actual 2022
Weekly collections Festival offerings Other income	\$	357,000 13,700 47,650	\$ 343,147 11,331 20,368	\$ 354,500 16,050 12,300	\$	336,049 14,448 9,375
	<u> </u>	418,350	374,846	382,850	_	359,872
Expenditure (Schedule 2) Clergy ministry Worship, music and education Outreach Building maintenance Program support Communications	_	119,616 49,756 85,400 145,950 91,222 (350) 491,594	113,472 42,463 82,613 154,537 95,615 174 488,874	110,850 49,050 82,514 112,678 88,266 750 444,108	_	99,685 36,870 96,856 122,812 96,663 (280)
Deficiency of Revenue Over Expenditure before other items	\$	(73,244)	(114,028)	\$ (61,258)		(92,734)
Fund Balance, beginning of year			(110,743)			(52,509)
Transfer from Mission & Ministry Fund Transfer from Christmas clearing account			36,467 		_	28,500 6,000
Fund Balance, end of year			<u>\$ (188,304)</u>		\$	(110,743)

St. George's Anglican Church Operating Fund Detailed Schedule of Revenues Year Ended December 31, 2023

Wookly Collections		Budget 2024 naudited)	Actual 2023		Budget 2023 Inaudited)		Actual 2022
Weekly Collections Identified givers (Note 8) Giving Tuesday Open collection Weddings	\$	350,000 - 6,000 1,000 357,000	\$ 321,241 12,998 7,908 1,000 343,147	\$	350,000 - 2,500 2,000 354,500	\$	323,289 10,393 2,367 - 336,049
Festival Offerings Christmas Easter Harvest Lent	_	7,000 3,500 3,000 200 13,700	4,658 3,217 3,311 145 11,331	_	8,000 4,500 2,800 750 16,050	_	6,730 4,300 2,773 645 14,448
Other Income Sundry receipts Fundraising Course fees and books Parking		150 25,000 - 22,500 47,650	90 258 5 20,015 20,368		300 - 12,000 12,300		54 - 185 9,136 9,375
	\$	418,350	\$ 374,846	\$	382,850	\$	359,872

St. George's Anglican Church Operating Fund Detailed Schedule of Expenditures Year Ended December 31, 2023

	Budget 2024 (Unaudited	Actual 2023	Budget 2023 (Unaudited)	Actual 2022
Clergy Ministry Salary and benefits Housing Pension assessments Clergy honorariums	\$ 79,050 23,160 12,800 4,600 119,610	22,275 12,145 4,543	\$ 73,225 22,275 13,200 2,150 110,850	\$ 70,870 22,984 3,809 2,022 99,685
Worship, Music and Education Music consultant Music consultant supply Choral scholarships Choir music and instrumentalists Organ, piano and carillon maintenance Music continuing education	35,056 1,500 2,500 1,500 1,000 300 41,856	2,560 1,070 947	36,000 - 2,500 1,000 1,000 300 40,800	28,250 2,500 1,600 2,966 130 35,446
Family life ministry Sunday school (net) Other expenses Sacristy supplies	6,900 1,000 49,756	- 1,401 0 1,149	7,500 - 750 49,050	286 195 943 36,870
Outreach Diocese of Niagara (Note 9) Synod registration	85,000 400 85,400	400	82,214 300 82,514	96,381 475 96,856

St. George's Anglican Church Operating Fund Detailed Schedule of Expenditures Year Ended December 31, 2023

	Budget 2024 (Unaudited)	Actual 2023	Budget 2023 (Unaudited)	Actual 2022
Building Maintenance Salaries, subcontracts and benefits Insurance Inspections and contracts Heat Hydro and water Repairs Supplies Property tax Cost-sharing, other users	88,600 79,500 6,500 30,000 17,000 9,000 7,000 550 (92,200) 145,950	81,017 81,762 4,147 29,411 16,567 13,525 12,404 537 (84,833) 154,537	78,828 75,000 6,500 19,000 17,000 6,000 7,000 550 (97,200) 112,678	72,164 74,214 6,432 21,866 16,869 6,182 6,975 511 (82,401)
Program Support Salaries and benefits Bookkeeping and auditing Office equipment rental Telephone Office and general Postage and courier Printing and stationery Sundry expenses, net Bank charges and interest (net)	49,047	51,376	47,216	54,153
	19,500	18,035	17,000	15,877
	3,525	3,516	3,535	3,534
	4,200	4,009	4,315	3,203
	8,000	11,318	8,000	6,779
	2,000	1,694	3,000	3,339
	3,000	3,581	3,000	7,334
	750	921	1,500	1,760
	1,200	1,165	700	684
	91,222	95,615	88,266	96,663
Communications Advertising Publications for resale	(500)	174	500	(500)
	150	-	250	220
	(350)	174	750	(280)
	\$ 491,594	\$ 488,874	\$ 444,108	\$ 452,606

St. George's Anglican Church

Capital Fund Statement of Revenue, Expenditure and Fund Balance Year Ended December 31, 2023

		2023		2022
* *				
Revenue	\$	720	\$	4,100
Expenditure	_	9,482	£	170,017
Deficiency of Revenue over Expenditure		(8,762)		(165,917)
Fund Balance, beginning of year		(334,440)		(196,657)
Drawdown from Legacy	_	36,376	_	28,134
Fund Balance, end of year	\$	(306,826)	\$	(334,440)

St. George's Anglican Church
Restricted Funds
Statement of Revenue, Expenditure and Fund Balance
Year Ended December 31, 2023

Fund Balance, end of year	Transfer to Operating Surplus Drawdown from Legacy	Fund Balance, beginning of year	(Deficiency) Excess of Revenue over Expenditure	Expenditure Flower memorials Other expenditures	Revenue Flower memorials Gifts received Other revenue	
\$ 2,630		2,630	4.		↔	Cuba Project (Externally Restricted)
\$ 24,570		24,420	150		\$ 150 - 150	Choral Music Scholarship (Externally Restricted)
\$ 8,034		8,095	(61)	661	\$ 600 -	Thatcher Youth Bursary (Externally Restricted)
\$ 4,635		7,985	(3,350)	6,230 6,230	\$ 2,880 2,880 2,880	Gilmor Music <u>Fund</u> (Externally Restricted)
\$ 32,442		32,384	58	3,153 3,153	\$ 3,211 -	Memorial Funds (Externally Restricted)
\$ 164		164	T		₩	Prayer Shawl Fund (Externally Restricted)
€9	(36,467) 36,376	91	1		φ 	Mission & Ministry Fund (Externally Restricted)
\$ 11,235		11,167	o 8		© 68 1 1	Lecture Fund (Internally Restricted)
\$ 10,553		11,046	(493)	493 493		Guelph Connections <u>Fund</u> (Internally Restricted)
\$ 19,823		19,823	D		₩	Housing Ministry Fund (Internally Restricted)
19,823 \$ (21,636) \$ 92,450		(23,385)	1,749		\$ 1,749 - 1,749	HEP Fund
\$ 92,450	(36,467) 36,376	94,420	(1,879)	3,153 7,384 10,537	\$ 8,590 68 8,658	<u>Total</u>

The notes and schedules form an integral part of these financial statements

St. George's Anglican Church

Legacy Fund Statement of Revenue, Expenditure and Fund Balance Year Ended December 31, 2023

	2023	2022
Revenue Bequests received Memorial gifts Realized loss on foreign exchange Interest and dividends earned	\$ 93,108 - (398) 77,099 169,809	\$ 394,750 60 (3,632) 41,197 432,375
Expenditure Advisory fees paid	(36,410)	(10,654)
Excess of Revenue over Expenditure, before unrealized gains or losses	133,399	421,721
Fund Balance, beginning of year	3,405,137	3,445,801
Unrealized (loss) gain on foreign exchange Unrealized (loss) gain on investments during the year Drawdown transferred to Capital and Ministry Funds	56,563 250,722 (72,752)	(93,983) (312,133) (56,269)
Fund Balance, end of year	\$ 3,773,069	\$ 3,405,137

St. George's Anglican Church Statement of Cash Flows Year Ended December 31, 2023

		2023		2022
Cash provided by (used in) operating activities				
(Deficiency) excess of revenue over expenditures for the year Operating fund deficiency of revenue over expenditure Capital fund deficiency of revenue over expenditure	\$	(114,028) (8,762)	\$	(92,734) (165,917)
Appropriation of clearing account funds Restricted funds excess of revenue over expenditure Legacy fund excess of revenue over expenditure Legacy fund unrealized gain (loss) on foreign exchange Legacy fund unrealized gain (loss) on investments		(1,879) 133,399 56,563 250,722 316,015	SI.	6,000 18,587 421,721 (93,983) (312,133) (218,459)
Changes in non-cash working capital Miscellaneous receivables and prepaids Clearing accounts Accounts payable	_	18,465 5,588 (17,954) 322,114		(15,048) 2,430 17,954 (213,123)
Cash provided by (used in) investing activities Long term investments		(250,852)	ĥs-	31,981
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents		71,262		(181,142)
Net cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year	_	211,145	8	392,287
Net cash and cash equivalents, end of year	\$	282,407	\$	211,145
Represented by: Petty cash Cash Investment savings account	\$	100 183,757 98,550	\$	100 200,843 10,202
	\$	282,407	\$	211,145

St. George's Contacts for 2024

Ministry leaders can be contacted through the church office by phone or email:

Position	Name	EMAIL
Rector	The Rev. Victor Kischak	rector@saintgeorge.ca
Priest Assistant	The Rev. Canon Jean Mitchell	priestassistant@saintgeorge.ca
Wardens	Giesela Goetz, Bruce Carrick Paul Deacon, Laura Keller, Rani Varkey	wardens@saintgeorge.ca
Treasurer	John Laidlaw	treasurer@saintgeorge.ca
Parish Administrator	Bruce Mackenzie	office@saintgeorge.ca
Bookkeeper	Tracy Jewell	bookkeeper@saintgeorge.ca
Sextons	Toni Atieh, Bryce Sukhdeo, Andrew Wilson	
Synod Delegates	John Laidlaw, Nancy Hewat, Pa Alternates: Michael Nightingale	
Pastoral Care	The Rev. Canon Jean Mitchell	priestassistant@saintgeorge.ca
Worship, Music & Faith Formation		
Music Director	Jeff Enns	music director@saintgeorge.ca
Carillonneur	Don Hamilton	carillonneur@saintgeorge.ca
Chancel Guild	Shirley Griffin	dymerfas@hotmail.com
Church School Program	Hannah Keller	churchschool@saintgeorge.ca
Children & Youth Working Group	Debbie Marchment	marchmentm@rogers.com
PARISH LIFE	Debbie Marchment	
Chi Rho	Ross Moore	dorros 1938@gmail.com
Book Club	Anne McGee	amcgee995@gmail.com
SOCIAL JUSTICE & OUTREACH	Maria Fage	
PWRDF Representative	Vacant	
Craft Guild	Laura Keller	thekellerkrew@gmail.com
FINANCE, OPERATIONS, & COMMUNICATIONS	Bruce Mackenzie, Tracy Jewell	
Facility Manager	Harry Oussoren	facilities@saintgeorge.ca
Rentals Co-ordinator	Maryjane Oussoren	bookings@saintgeorge.ca
		

